



Capstone Ministries



Restoring Children! Strengthening Families!

“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone” Psalm 118:22

A prayer letter from Dan and Patty Schmelzer, Kisumu, Kenya June, 2013 Volume 8 Issue 6

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The number of
street boys
reconciled with
family by Capstone
Ministries to date:

259

4 went home in May



Check out Capstone
on Facebook.



Important changes are ahead for Thrivent’s Choice Dollars program. Learn more about steps you need to take to ensure you can take full advantage of this program and continue your support of Capstone Ministries through this program. Go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice

Sacrificing Children on the Altar of Greed

“They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan.” Psalm 106:37

One of the most reprehensible signs of ancient Israel’s apostasy was the worship of Moloch, the god of the Canaanites. The worship of this ancient false god, mentioned by Milton in “Paradise Lost” as one of the greatest rebel angels of Satan, was marked by human sacrifice, specifically children. There is a connection between Moloch and Baal worship in ancient manuscripts. This gives a hint regarding the motivation of God’s people in sacrificing their own children to Baal and Moloch. Baal was a fertility god in ancient Canaan. He was worshipped with his partner Asherah to secure his blessing on crops and herds. In other words, God’s people were tempted to kill their children because they were greedy for wealth.

Of all the deadly sins, greed seems to be linked to the most base and idolatrous of all sins. In greed, the heart is made a slave to a desire for the temporal. It is the antithesis of faith which hopes and longs for the “unseen.” Greed exchanges the worship of God Almighty for the desires of self.

You may ask, what does all this have to do with mission work in Africa or the reconciliation of street children? One of the most common questions we are asked after presenting Capstone Ministries is “*What causes children to run to the street?*” Many assume that there is someTHING lacking in the homes of these children that causes children to run away. Others think that because HIV-AIDS has killed so many millions of parents in Africa, children are the innocent victims of his pandemic and have no other option than to beg and steal. While these are contributing negative factors to the social problem of street children; they are not the foundational cause. The real cause is that there is someONE missing at home. A fervent love for the Lord and Savior is missing. And by extension, missing are parents who live and love their children as a true heavenly blessing. Specifically, where there is a spiritually mature, God-fearing father in the home, children do not run away.

Recently our staff returned Frederick (not his real name) to his rural home. Fred had spent time in the Juvenile Detention Center in Kisumu. He had been picked up after spending time on the street. Our staff visit the Center every week and identify boys who can be reintegrated with their family. Fred was one of these boys. But when our staff visited the rural home, they were shocked to discover that Fred did not grow up in a typical mud and thatch house. The parents

.....Patty's Post-It.....

The moringa project for Capstone has really grown over the past year. One can now buy the powder in seven different locations in Kisumu. Most recently the Ukwala Supermarket chain has placed it on their shelves along with several pharmacies.

We have approached a health food chain in Nairobi to sell it in their 23 outlets in the suburbs around Nairobi. We hope also to reach supermarkets in Kakamega, Eldoret, Webuya, Voi, Malindi, and Nairobi within the next few months.

All this is possible because of the expansion of supply. On our compound we grow about 3000 moringa trees. Most are more than 3 years old now and produce leaves year round. Three different



Faith holds the new 100 g. package of moringa powder. Faith does the grinding and packaging of moringa for Capstone.

support groups also grow it for us. Two are HIV-Women's support groups connected to another self-help organization. The third is a Lutheran pastor and his congregants who have caught the vision and started planting the tree. On May 29 the Maseno Women's group called Tumaini (Hope) brought a record 99 KGs to their gathering.

Moringa income generating project is part of the 3 year strategic plan of Capstone to increase the self-sustainability of this mission. Dan and Patty will be carrying the new package of moringa with them when they visit the states this fall. We hope you will try it. More information on moringa and its health benefits can be found online at www.treesforlife.org.

Cont. from p. 1

were not simple subsistence farmers. The father was a successful business man with a large house on a sprawling compound. Inside the house was a large flat screen TV, a library, a large kitchen with all the modern appliances.

What was missing was not external. What was lacking was internal; a deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ was nowhere in evidence. As a result the relationship between father and son was strained, at best. Both father and mother showed a relaxed attitude toward parenting as well. Fred didn't feel loved. So...he went looking for it. He walked away from all the signs of prosperity because something more important than the "stuff of life" was lacking.

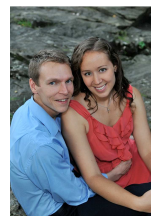
Now certainly this family was unique. Most families we deal with have many fewer tangible blessings. But it does not change the fact that it is not the temporal blessings that bind families together, it is the love of God.

This is important in framing a mission approach in a third world country stricken with poverty. We dare not make the mistake that the "one thing needful" is more stuff. Rescuing children from the arms of Moloch means proclaiming the good news to families. It means teaching, correcting, and training in righteousness. It means caring for the true wealth that lasts to eternity.

Pastor Joel and Jennifer Cundiff to join Capstone

On Aug 1, Pastor Joel Cundiff and his wife Jennifer will be flying to Kisumu from Danbury, CT to join Dan and Patty and Capstone Ministries. Pastor Joel is associate pastor at Immanuel Lutheran. Immanuel has supported Capstone for a number of years and now--not unlike the congregation in Ephesus--they will be sending these two missionaries to join Dan and Patty while they are in the US on a fund raising tour. Previously Dan had to travel alone and leave Patty behind in Kenya for a few months at a time. Now they will both be able to travel together for much of the 3 months they are in the US. Joel and Jen will receive some orientation with Dan and Patty for a few weeks before they fill in for four months. Like all missionaries, Joel and Jen will be raising funds for the time they will be serving Capstone in Kenya. If you would like to support them,

make out the check to Immanuel Lutheran. **Send to: Joel and Jen Cundiff, 10 Sharon Ct, Bethel, CT 06801. Attn. Joel and**



SaveMart S.H.A.R.E.S. benefits Capstone

SaveMart Supermarket in Northern California has a program that benefits various non-profits organizations. When you shop at SaveMart, you only need to present your card before purchase and 3% of the value of your purchase is kept in the account you have designated, in this case Capstone Ministries. Capstone receives a check quarterly from all those who have participated by taking the extra 5 seconds to hand the cashier your S.H.A.R.E.S. card. To date



Capstone has received \$3,969.89 from this program. Do you live in Northern California? Do you shop at SaveMart? Why not help Capstone while you shop! Ask for your card on the form on p. 4 of this newsletter!

“4S – School Sponsorship and Spiritual Support Project”

Street children stay at home when two important things happen: 1. The family matures spiritually, 2. The boy goes to school. With this in mind Capstone is launching a new project in which you can participate by sponsoring these two important areas of development. Called “4S – School Sponsorship and Spiritual Support Project”, this project provides a way for you to be involved in these two critical areas of a boy’s stability at home.

In 4S, a sponsor supports one child with a \$25 gift every month. This relatively small commitment provides:

- A school uniform for one child
- A Lutheran Catechism in Kiswahili
- A Bible in the tribal language of the child
- Ongoing spiritual and emotional support through Capstone staff visits to the family.

In return, you will receive

- A one page description of your sponsored child.
- A recent photo suitable for framing.
- Updates as available

You can make your contribution monthly, quarterly or annually. You can donate by VISA or MC from the Capstone website.

You can make a difference in the life of a child. Write to Capstoneministries@gmail.com Lutheran Church of the Cross of Evergreen, CO displayed this framed poster in their church foyer.



Join us in observing the World Weekend of Prayer

On June 8, 9 Capstone Ministries will join with 13 Lutheran congregations and Sunday School children to observe an annual weekend of worship, prayer, teaching, games and excitement. Capstone will be observing this weekend of prayer for 8th year in partnership with the Lake Diocese of the ELCK (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya)

The weekend will take place at the Rarieda Parish just outside Kisumu. Saturday will be a day of teaching, competitive games, songs and a special showing of “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Dawn Treader”.



Photos from last year



Sunday will be a morning of worship in which children will participate with song, prayer, Scripture readings, dramas, poems and even in the sermon. The intent of the weekend is to encourage children to pray for other children in vulnerable circumstances around the world. Each year a child says a prayer for other children in Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas. Issues such as child trafficking, child abduction, child slavery and labour, child prostitution, children living in poverty, orphans, and street children become part of the emotional prayers during this service.



We invite your congregation to join us by also praying for vulnerable children around the world on this day. When Dan and Patty visit the states in the fall, they will show the short video of this weekend to Sunday Schools and Christian Day Schools they visit.

Prayers, Praises

1. Pray for Jael, staff of Capstone on maternity leave. Jael gave birth to a boy in early May
2. Pray for all the Ambassadors of Capstone who spread the word in their churches.
3. Pray for the upcoming World Weekend of Prayer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, June 8, 9.
4. In early August, 2012 Capstone applied for RSO status with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We have completed all necessary documentation. Pray it is well received and approved. We should hear any time now.
5. Dan's right knee was examined at Kijabe Mission Hospital, outside Nairobi, in late April. X-rays were taken and sent to Dr. Jim Weir in Michigan for observation. Dan will see Dr. Weir on August 19th and have surgery on August 22. Dr. Weir is a respected orthopedic surgeon in Saginaw, Michigan and a schoolmate of Dan's. Meanwhile Dan will deal with the discomfort with pain killers.
6. Praise for our mothers, Josey and Chrysta, who are both strong and active in their 80's.
7. The next meeting of the Capstone Board will be Aug. 1
8. Pray for the new program that gives supporters the opportunity to sponsor a boy who has been reconciled with his family. This new program, called School Sponsorship & Spiritual Support (SSSS) provides a school uniform, a Bible and Luther's Catechism and to pray regularly for the specific needs of boy in Capstone's Program.
9. Patty will return to Kenya on June 4 from a visit with family in California.
10. We will be redesigning the newsletter in the coming months. Watch for changes.
11. Some of you may remember Norman whom Capstone took to Mater Hospital for life saving open heart surgery several years ago. Norman has suffered a setback and will undergo another surgery at Mater in the coming days.
12. We offer the following names for intercession, trusting the Lord knows their circumstance: Jennifer, Pat, Lee, Barry, Eunice, Gabriel, Christian, Troy, Phil, Liz, Mary Anne, Mike, Jim, Joel, Jen, Jan, Susan

Donation: For Capstone & Dan and Patty Support

Name _____ 

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Specific Designation? _____

Need a S.H.A.R.E.S Card ? _____

Check here if you do not need a hard copy of the newsletter and prefer to read it online _____

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries.

All donations are tax deductible.

CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com

Send to:

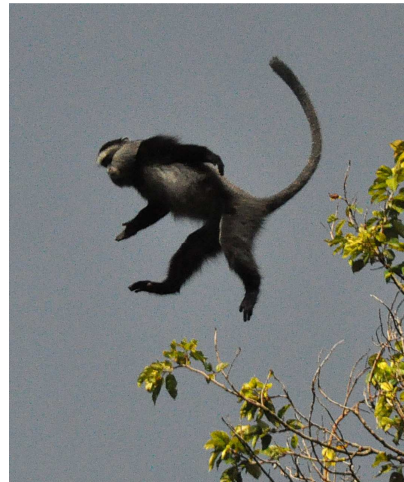
Capstone Ministries, P.O. Box 2080,
Oakdale, CA 95361

Coming to California

We want to make our friends in California aware that we will be spending most of our time this fall on the West Coast. We are available for preaching/presenting in your church, to your school, LWML and others as you see appropriate. We will be in California for all of October and most of November before spending a few days on the East Coast before leaving for Kenya. An email has been sent to all supporting congregations in California. Feel free to speak to your pastor about a day we can visit. Unfortunately we have more congregations than we do Sundays so we cannot be with all churches. Those who contact us first will be given priority. Dan's surgery and rehab has impacted our plans this fall.

We are also looking for anyone who might have an empty house or apartment, as well as a vehicle, we can use for our stay in October and November.

Photo of the Month



Flying monkeys of the Kakamega Rain Forest. This one appears to be doing a dance as he hops from branch to branch.

Donation: "4S Primary School Sponsorship"

Name _____ 

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Check here if you do not need a hard copy of the newsletter and prefer to read it online _____

Donation Amount _____

Student name(s) _____

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries.

All donations are tax deductible.

CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com

Send to:

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Oakdale, CA 95361