



Capstone Ministries



Restoring Children! Strengthening Families!

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

A missionary update letter from Dan and Patty Schmelzer, Kisumu, Kenya

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Capstone Ministries

P.O. Box 2080

Oakdale, CA 95361

Kenya Address:

Dan and Patty Schmelzer

P.O. Box 3962

Kisumu, Kenya 40100

Email: CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com

Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org



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

263

3 went home in July



**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

A Heritage of Faith

"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Deuteronomy 6:6,7

As Moses stands before the children of Israel on the east side of the Jordan, he gives his farewell address. In a matter of days Joshua will lead them across the Jordan into the promised land. Moses speaks to children of the desert. Every adult that walked out of Egypt 40 years earlier is now dead—except Joshua, Caleb and Moses himself. 40 years earlier the adults among them had failed the test of faith. They listened to the stories of "giants in the land". And one by one they were buried in the desert. Now the next generation stands on the banks of the Jordan listening to Moses again.

These are children of trauma and social dysfunction. They are now grown with children of their own. They lived as children of slaves in Egypt, grew up as young adults in the desert. Now they will witness God's power in victory at Jericho and beyond. Soon they will settle and grow old in a land of their own.

The great concern in Moses' heart is that the wonders of God's working among them be passed on to the next generation. The great covenant of grace that God first promised to Abraham is about to unfold before them. The great Redeemer of all humanity will come from these people.



**Moses and his Mom
proudly display their
new Bible and
Catechism**

How shall the fragile flower of God's promise of grace and peace be preserved? How shall the sweet aroma of God's love for His people pass from one generation to the next? Israel will know judges, kings, prophets, and priests in the years to come. In our time, we have churches, pastors, missionaries, international mission boards and the like. But,...Moses appeals to parents. ***"Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."*** Cont. p. 2

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

"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2

In Kenya a visitor in the home is a great blessing. Dan and I agree, it is a blessing indeed. We've even suspected that a few of them have been angels. Earlier this year we had an email from a dear friend in Canada introducing us to some of his friends who were coming to Kenya in June. Izac is the son of our long time friends Raj and Jegatha who relocated to Canada a few years ago. We were happy to meet and host Izac's friend Lynn and her three traveling companions. We only had one evening with these fun and lovely ladies but what a joy it was to share stories about our "friend in common" Izac. In July we hosted Beth Anderson for one night. Beth is from a Capstone supporting church Lutheran Church of the Cross in Evergreen, CO. Beth was excited to get a taste of Capstone firsthand although she came to Kenya with a Rotary team. Also last month our long time missionary friends Don and Nancy asked if we would host three of their project missionaries and "mentor" them. We were humbled to be thought of as "mentors." Curt, Bob and Alexa are working with the community and children in Mbita at Don and Nancy's project called SEEK. Their youthful energy and enthusiasm inspired us, as they claimed our "mature experience" also inspired them. We enjoyed about 5 days with these young servants of God.

Dan has been busy preparing for our fund raising furlough to the US putting together the power-point presentation. He also wanted to have a short video presentation to show in Lutheran schools. It just so happened that one of our visiting "angels" is a student of multimedia. Alexa and Bob returned to Kisumu this past weekend while Alexa prepared a Capstone video. She is talented in her field for sure! I won't give any hints about the video but encourage you to join us somewhere in Calif. so you can see it for yourself!

We also had the chance to visit with the Murfitts who were back in Kenya for a visit. Dan met Luke 14 years ago when he came to Kenya the first time. Luke is now married with two children and is thinking of a time when he can return from the UK to live in Kisumu. How wonderful it was to share this new calling of God on their hearts.

Also over this weekend a couple of Pastors we know through other missionaries were here. We had the opportunity to invite them for Sunday brunch. Along with Pastor Rod and Pastor Andy came MaryAnn a former missionary in Kenya and also Ruben who has returned to Kenya to serve at a Theological University. We hadn't met these people before but by the time they left we felt certain that in the past month or so we must have entertained angels and we know for sure, we have been blessed!

Much like the children who grew up in the families who were constantly grumbling against the Lord and Moses, so are the children we are restoring and reconciling in Kenya. They too have not had the best example in their parents. But just because families are dysfunctional doesn't mean we give up on the concept of family. Instead we are working to minister to families that they might minister to the next generation. And ministry begins with the Word of God.

The "4S Project: School Sponsorship and Spiritual Support" has two components. One is the provision of a school uniform. This insures that a child who has been reconciled with his family will be enrolled in school. The second component is the spiritual aspect. Pastors Isaiah and Zadock on Capstone staff instruct the family on the importance of and how to have family devotional time. With this comes a Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. Each is described in detail. The Bible and Catechism are for the entire family to use, not just for the boy who has been reconciled. To date, about 10 of the 30 sponsored boys and their families have received a Bible and Catechism.

The objectives of this program are:

- Enhance stability by providing educational and spiritual support.
- Provide substantive spiritual support with training.
- Encourage a Heritage of Faith in families



With the birth of Jesus, we see the Lord fulfilling his covenant with man. Through the generations, there was a pattern of rebellion, backsliding, repentance and renewal. The Bible records numerous times when Godly families persevered even when the state and the religious leadership was corrupt, even evil. At Capstone Ministries we believe whole heartedly in the concept of family. Families are the future of the Faith in Kenya just as they always have been. Churches, synods, ministries and Christian agencies will come and go but the Words and Promises of God will be preserved when you ***"Teach them to your children."*** Deut. 4:9

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!

Welcome to Pastor Joel and Jennifer Cundiff

Patty met the Cundiffs at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on Aug. 30th as they arrived for a four month stay in Kenya with Capstone Ministries. We praise God for all He has done in making this moment possible. To family and supporters of the Cundiffs at Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury, CT, Timothy Lutheran in Blue Springs, MO we assure you they have arrived safely and are ready to learn and grow.

**Jen and
Joel meet
Shaun and
Krista
Trump with
their two
boys.
Nairobi,
Kenya**



After a day of touring Nairobi and sharing lunch with Rev. Shaun Trump, LCMS Regional Director for East Africa, the Cundiffs flew into Kisumu International Airport on Aug. 31 and are now sharing our guest room in our home. We will take the weekend to show them the rural countryside, help them to adjust their body clock and do some orientation at Kweisos House. Go to: <http://www.kenyaholidayhouse.com/properties/kweisos-house-in-koru/> After that they will hit the ground running on Monday morning as orientation begins.

We are trusting God in His leading with Joel and Jen as they serve Capstone during these four months and enable Dan and Patty to visit churches in the Midwest and California together. Keep them in your prayers.

Steps to Reconciliation – Pt. 2

Home and Family Restoration

-This article is a continuation of the process of Capstone's work in reconciling street children with their families.

Many people attempt to work with orphans and vulnerable children. Some even attempt the most difficult work of working with street children. There are many challenges that make this work the most difficult. One of them is the emotional upheaval that churns within the heart and mind of a child who has lived on the street. Street children have a tendency to distrust adults because of experiences they have had at home and from adults on the street. They may have been neglected, abused by police and other members of the public. They are subjected to child labor and at times are forced to steal in order to survive. This compromise with their God-given conscience numbs and desensitizes them to the normal processes in decision making. Restoring them to their family then, is an even greater challenge, for they have been accustomed to their freedom and find it a challenge to live under the authority of an adult family member.

Why home then?

Home is best for all children for God placed children in families. He did this from the beginning of time when he asked a man and woman to "be fruitful and multiply." That command to Adam and Eve to have and rear children was given to two adult married people: a man and a woman. He did not give that command to a social worker, an institution, the state or even the church. He gave parents that responsibility.

Home is best in Kenya as well because of the strong cultural emphasis on family. Even when parents have died, Kenyan relatives accept the responsibility to take up the task of raising the children of their extended family. Children also naturally recognize the authority of adult relatives. This has been the culture of Kenyan society for hundreds of years. Our role then as missionaries is not to violate culture, particularly where it honors the Biblical role of family. Orphanages are not a natural substitute for family. Those hired to care for children do not have the natural emotional bonds of family. Even "Save the Children – Sweden" recognized in a study that an orphanage or rescue center should be the last resort in the care of a vulnerable child. Certainly if a secular organization understands the Biblical principles of family, the Church should as well.

The process of taking children from the street to their home is a delicate one and takes insight, discernment, and experience. Capstone staff reintegrate children after taking time to counsel the child. It is critical that the child is "on board" and committed to going home. This step takes time and patience. Sometimes a pre-visit to the home is necessary to assess the situation, determine the truth of the child's story and—at times—determine if a better place is more suitable for the child.

During the reintegration process, Capstone staff consult with local officials: District Children's Officers, chiefs and assistant chiefs.

Next month: The Importance of Follow-up visits

Prayers, Praises

1. Praise God, Jael has returned from maternity leave after receiving God's blessing of a child in early May.
2. Thanks and Praise for the safe arrival of Joel and Jen Cundiff from Danbury, CT. They will be spending 4 months with Capstone. They will be learning and growing in their understanding of Capstone's approach to vulnerable children while they fill in for Dan and Patty.
3. Pray for the upcoming joint gathering of all our Bible study groups in Kisumu on Aug. 8.
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. Pray for Dan's safe travel on Aug. 13.
6. Praise for our mothers, Josey and Chrysta, who are both strong and active in their 80's.
7. Praise for a wonderful board meeting on 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.
12. We offer the following names for intercession, trusting the Lord knows their circumstance: Jennifer, Pat, Barry, Eunice, Chrysta, Gabriel, Christian, Troy, Phil, Liz, Mary Anne, Mike, Jim, Joel, Jen, Jan, Susan, Landon, Ernie, Lori, Rod, Andy, Alexa, Bob, Curt, Delanna, Joel, Jennifer, Mary Anne,

Coming to the Midwest and California

We want to make our friends in California, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and surrounding area aware that we will be spending most of our time this fall in your area. We are available for presenting in your church, to your school, LWML and others as you see appropriate. All Sundays are already booked but we would be happy to meet you during the week. Here is the schedule to date:

Sept. 22, Concordia Lutheran, Toledo Ohio
Sept. 29 Bethlehem Lutheran, Hermann, Minnesota
Sept. 29 Evening Presentation -Lutheran Layman's League,
Wheaton Zone, Western Minnesota
Oct. 6 Trinity Lutheran, Redding, CA
Oct. 8, 9 CNH Pastor's Conference, Fresno, CA
Oct. 13 St. Andrew's Lutheran, Stockton, CA
Oct. 16 St. Peter's School Chapel, Elk Grove, CA
Oct. 18 - 9:30AM - LWML, Messiah Lutheran, Citrus
Heights, CA
Oct. 18 - Evening Presentation at St. Peter's, Elk Grove, CA
Oct. 20 Our Saviour's Lutheran, Patterson, CA
Oct. 24 Semiahmoo Rotary Club, White Rock, BC, Canada
Noon - North Delta Rotary Club, Delta, BC
Evening - Langley Rotary Club, Langley, BC
Oct. 27 St. Paul's Lutheran, Tracy, CA
Oct. 30 Belle Vista School Chapel, St. Paul's Lutheran,
Tracy, CA
Nov. 3 Good Shepherd Lutheran, Turlock, CA
Nov. 10 United Lutheran, Manteca, CA
Nov. 13 Grace Lutheran School Chapel, Modesto, CA
Nov. 17 St. John's Lutheran, Valley Home, CA

We still have some week days open for presentations. Just send us an email and inquire about a time for your church, Bible study, club or small group.

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
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Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries.

All donations are tax deductible.

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Donation Amount _____

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