



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

November, 2013 Volume 8 Issue 11

In this Issue

- Page 1: "Joy in Mission Work"
- p. 2: "Joy...." cont.
- p. 2: The Cundiff Clippings
- P. 3: Condiff....cont
- p. 3: Savemart Shares update
- p. 3: Capstone Camp Sponsorship needed
- p. 3 High School Sponsorship needed
- P. 4: Prayers and Praise
- p. 4: Donor slip, Fund Raising Schedule



USA Address:

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



Kenya Address:

Dan and Patty Schmelzer
P.O. Box 3962
Kismu, Kenya 40100

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

271
1 went home in Oct.

Select Capstone
Ministries for your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars. Go to:

<https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/index.html>



Email: CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com
Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org

Joy in Mission Work

"49) The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. 50) But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their region. 51) So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. 52) And the disciples were filled with joy (emphasis mine) and with the Holy Spirit." Acts 13:49-52

The enemy resents and fiercely opposes those who take what is his. That is true in warfare and in mission work. As Paul and Barnabas journey through Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) on Paul's 1st missionary journey, they are welcomed warmly in Antioch...at first. Paul is asked to speak in the synagogue. Much of chapter 13 of Acts includes Paul's sermon. In it, he recounts the history of God's people from slavery in Egypt to the period of judges and King David. With moving words he then proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the synagogue in Antioch. Boldly he states, *"Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses."* (13: 38, 39) On the next Saturday, we are told that *"almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord."* But in the hearts of many Jews, the devil was having his way. Resentment and jealousy was building. This gave birth to abusive talk and subterfuge. In response Paul turns and offers the Gospel to the Gentiles. This, in turn, brings more violent reactions from the Jewish sector. High positioned men and women are aligned against Paul and he is expelled from Antioch.

The applicable and stunning words in this chapter however are the final ones in vs. 52: *"And the disciples were filled with joy..."* What?! Joy? Paul and Barnabas are betrayed by their own people and rejected! They are the victims of abuse and defamation. And they don't respond with vindictiveness or even disenchantment or feelings of frustration. They are joyful! Stunning, isn't it!? Those who have spent any length of time in the mission field know all about rejection, betrayal and abuse. After a few years of experience, you actually begin to expect it. You are very aware that the work you do for the Gospel of Jesus Christ incites the devil to respond. Often he responds through those in the same way he worked through the Jewish leadership in Antioch. Jealousy can fill the heart of those who initially warmly supported the mission work.

Cont. on p.2

The Cundiff Clippings

(Jennifer and Joel Cundiff have been in Kenya serving as volunteers at Capstone for one month. They are on their own now after a month of orientation. They are filling in for Dan and Patty while they travel in the US. During their stay I wanted to share some of their experiences with you. Below is one of their blog posts. For those of you who don't know the Cundiffs, Joel serves as associate pastor at Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury, CT)

This week I had the opportunity to share a Bible study with one of the two HIV women's support groups that raises moringa for Capstone. What a blessing to be able to share God's Word and encourage these hard working ladies. On second thought

though-
what would I say to them? What would you say to encourage them?

[Joel shares the Word at Maseno Growers Group](#)



I kept coming back to something inspiring that I have seen in these women. We have been visiting these HIV women's groups almost every week since we arrived here in August and every time I see the same thing. These women exude true Christian joy! They always have a smile on their faces. When you hear about their circumstances and their obstacles in life though, you wonder how they manage to put a smile on at all. One lady this week walked 10 km (6.2 miles) on a dusty gravel road during the hottest part of the day with a heavy sack of moringa slouched over her shoulder and her first response when she arrived after two hours was, "Praise God, I can't wait to hear your message today pastor!" But then again, I am not talking about happiness. I am talking about Christian joy. Happiness is something that is based on our circumstances. We are happy when life is good and we are sad or even angry when life is difficult. But, Christian joy is something completely different. It is something that nothing can take away. It is not based on our circumstances. True Christian joy comes from knowing Jesus and what He has done for us through the Cross.

That is why my Bible study for these women was about encouragement from the Apostle Paul. He is known as the greatest missionary ever! He planted churches all around the known world by walking thousands of miles. You would think that by being God's servant that nothing EVER went wrong and he ALWAYS had a good day. Not true- when we read 2 Corinthians 11:23-30. Here Paul doesn't just share with us his bad day, but a series of unfortunate events throughout his walk as a Christian. He writes: "I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. **Cont. p.3**

Like Paul, the key is in how one responds to this opposition. Paul did not focus personally on the betrayal. Instead he looked at the bigger picture and saw the doors God was opening. For him, the "Antioch betrayal" was a sign that the message of eternal life was now to be proclaimed openly for all people. He even says, "**Since you do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.**" Vs. 46 Instead of focusing on the pain, Paul looks at his rejection as an opportunity to move in another direction. Here is his joy! Paul is not rejoicing in the suffering but instead sees God's hand guiding him through the suffering to focus his efforts in another area.

Patty and I have been through numerous circumstances just like this one Paul experienced. Warmth, initial acceptance, even generous support turns into jealousy and even abuse that attempts to undermine the work. The key to continuing and not becoming disenchanted or frustrated is to see the opposition for what it is. The devil is not pleased when his territory is taken. And he counter attacks. He uses people. He attempts to divide and conquer. Every time, this experience has moved us to focus on new areas of ministry we may never have thought about had it not been for the opposition. In a way, the devil's opposition is used to accomplish what God really intended. (Sometimes I quietly wonder if the devil is aware that even his efforts glorify God)

The next time you experience this kind of spiritual warfare, taken inventory of your circumstance. Check to be sure you are, first of all, in the will of God. Make sure the opposition you are facing is not, in fact, God himself correcting you. Then look at the opposition in terms of what God may be moving you to do. Is he challenging you to move in another direction? Perhaps you have become stuck in a rut and His gentle nudges have not moved you. He may be using opposition to get you out of the ditch. It took Paul awhile to realize the Gospel really was for the Gentiles and God used Jewish opposition to move him in that direction.

As we move on after opposition, it is critical to do so with the right mindset. It is tempting to look over your shoulder and curse the darkness, even dwell on the pain and heartache. But notice there is none of that mentioned in these words from Acts 13. It simply says, "**And the disciples were filled with joy.**" May joy be our focus. Joy that God deems us worthy to be used by Him for His good purposes. Rejoice. I say it again, Rejoice!

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.



Capstone has received a total of \$3969.89 to date from the "S.H.A.R.E.S." Program. Keep swiping!

Capstone Camp Sponsor(s) needed

Every year Capstone Ministries holds a one week camp for boys who have been reconciled with their family during the past year. This camp provides encouragement for those boys who have remained at home and in school. The activities include teaching in preparation for Baptism, activities, games, community service and training by two of the district's Boy Scout trainers. It is a wonderful time for the boys and our staff. The budget for the camp is \$2000. If you would like to be a partial or total sponsor of this camp, please indicate so under specific designation on page 4 or write to us for more information at Capstoneministries@gmail.com.

High School Educational Scholarship

Capstone has a unique opportunity for those who would like to sponsor a well deserving and needy student in high school. While primary education is free in Kenya, public high school fees can be beyond the capability of most rural poor families. For those boys who are both needy and achieve an above average score level on their finishing exams in primary school, Capstone offers a scholarship subject to sponsorship funding. If you are interested in making a 4 year commitment to sponsor a needy and deserving high school student, the cost is \$600 per year. We project that we will have five students who will qualify for a possible scholarship. Primary exams are coming up this fall. We will send you a photo and description of your sponsored boy along with ongoing academic reports. If we are visiting your congregation this fall, ask us more about this program or write to CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com.

"Cundiff" Cont. from p. 2

Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak...If I must BOAST, I will BOAST of the things that show my weakness."

What? Paul is boasting about his hardships!?! He is proud to have suffered difficult times? He isn't angry with God? What is going on? You have to read the rest of the story in the book of Philippians. This is the book that Paul wrote during his time in prison. In this small four chapter book, Paul mentions JOY more than any other book of the Bible. He is in the middle of his worst hardship and all he can write about is "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" How? Well, Paul explains it a couple verses later when he states, "I can do ALL things through HIM who gives me strength." With Jesus we have a hope and a future, despite the circumstances we are facing right now. Even when things are as bad as they can get, Jesus has won for us eternal life. Jesus has done it, so it is not left up to wonder or speculation. Our destiny IS secure. The message of Christianity is about HOPE in the midst of DESPAIR. It's a paradox for the paradox of the human condition. When all hope is lost, we don't give in to despair because the same Jesus entered the despair of this world by being crucified, died and buried. Yet, when all hope was lost He did something that has never been done before or since in the history of the world- He rose again to life. He broke the stronghold of despair with the triumph of hope. When all hope seems lost, we put our trust in Jesus who has never failed us. This is what Christian joy is all about.

Today, these women came from far and wide, with numerous circumstances against them, but they all had one thing in common- a smile revealing their joy. They have taught me an invaluable lesson of faith in these few months. God's Word calls all of us to continue to fight the good fight of faith, despite our circumstances. When we are having a bad day or a bad week, we can always find joy in knowing that we are children of God.

Prayers, Praises

1. Dan and Patty are in California. Pray for safe travel.
2. Pray for all the Ambassadors of Capstone who spread the word in their churches.
3. Pray for the families of those killed in the Westgate Shopping Mall shooting in Nairobi. The enemy would have us live in fear and doubt. God is our refuge.
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. Pray for those battling flu and colds across the US. Patty continues to wage war against allergies in California. It seems we are healthier in Kenya.
6. Praise for our mothers, Josey and Chrysta, who are both strong and active in their 80's.
7. Thanksgiving for those who hosted us in Ohio and Minnesota, and now California. You know who you are. God bless you.
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. Pray for sponsors for our primary school graduates who will enter high school next year. Final exams are coming up soon and we may have as many as 5 boys who will qualify for a scholarship. Only boys who qualify by finishing with a score of 250 and above are eligible for this program.
11. Pray for sponsors for Capstone Camp 2014. This camp will be held at the Kima International School of Theology while students are on break in August.
12. We offer the following names for intercession, trusting the Lord knows their circumstance: Jennifer, Pat, Barry, Eunice, Gabriel, Christian, Troy, Phil, Liz, Mary Anne, Mike, Jim, Joel, Jen, Jan, Susan, Landon, Ernie, Lori, Timothy, Curt, Alexa, Nicole, Elisabeth, Rod, Donna, Delanna, Bob, Daniel, Raj & Jegatha, Patricia.

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 have almost finished our time in the US. As of this writing we have just 3 Sundays remaining. There are still some open dates however and we available for presenting in your church, to your school, LWML on days during the week. All Sundays are already book 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, Herman, MN
Sept. 29 Lutheran Layman's League, Wheaton Zone, Western Minnesota
Oct. 6 Trinity Lutheran, Redding, CA
Oct. 8,9 CNH District Pastor's Conference, Fresno, CA
Oct. 13 St. Andrew's Lutheran, Stockton, CA
Oct. 16 St. Peter's Lutheran School, Elk Grove, CA
Oct. 17, 10:00 AM Trinity Lutheran Church, Stockton, CA
Oct. 18 LWML, Messiah Lutheran, Citrus Heights, CA
Oct. 18 Evening presentation, St. Peter's Lutheran, Elk Grove, CA
Oct. 20 Our Saviour's Lutheran, Patterson, CA
Oct. 24 Semiahmoo Rotary Club, White Rock, BC, Canada
Noon – North Delta Rotary, North Delta, BC
Evening – Langley Rotary Club, Langley, BC
Oct. 27 St. Paul's Lutheran, Tracy, CA
Oct. 30 St. Paul's Lutheran School Chapel, Tracy, CA
Nov. 3 Good Shepherd Lutheran, Turlock, CA
Nov. 6 St. Peter's Lutheran School Chapel, Lodi, CA
Nov. 10 United Lutheran, Manteca, CA
Nov. 13 Grace Lutheran School Chapel, Modesto, CA
Grace Lutheran Church, Evening Presentation
Grace Lutheran LAFFS luncheon.
Nov. 17 St. John's Lutheran, Valley Home, CA

There are still a few days here and there available on our schedule. If you would like us to visit your church or group, feel free to write to us at the email address provided. Or you can call us on our US cell phone (209) 380-9980.

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:

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