



# 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**

**February, 2014 Volume 9 Issue 2**

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

# 278



**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](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice)

## **God, Poverty, Mercy**

*"When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord...and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Luke 2:22,24*

What is the best way to respond to poverty? Is mission work the same as poverty alleviation? Why did the Lord send Jesus to live in a family beset by poverty?

The purification laws of Leviticus 12 required a Jewish couple to bring a burnt offering and a sin offering 40 days after the birth of a boy. A lamb was to be presented as the burnt offering and a dove or a pigeon as a sin offering. As devout Jews Mary and Joseph knew this and came to Jerusalem to present the required sacrifices. However we are only told that they brought pigeons or doves. Leviticus allowed for a poor family to present one dove or one pigeon for a burnt offering in the place of the lamb and the other for a sin offering. This is what Mary and Joseph did. This detail tells us much about the economic status of the holy family.

God the Father could have ordained that his only Son take on flesh and blood within a family with the means to support Him with all that he might require: a comfortable house, a good school, plenty of food and clothing. These are all things that every parent prioritizes for his children. But these things did not seem to be on the top of the Father's list for his Son. Instead he selected a poor couple with little in material goods to offer his Son. Joseph, his adoptive father was a common laborer. He does however show himself to be a man of integrity and sensitivity. When Mary is found to be pregnant, we are told *"Joseph, her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly."* His human mother was a young, devout good girl. Mary's Magnificat recorded in Luke 1 shows her to be spiritually mature despite her young age. She knew her Lord well and links Gabriel's description with her words *"my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."* Mary and Joseph were poor but Godly people.

So it is obvious that the Lord choose the spiritual over material. A loving and faith filled home was more important than a better house, more food or better economic opportunities. Even the message of the Prince of Peace prioritized the spiritual things of life over the material. He doesn't say in his Sermon on the Mount: "blessed are those who hunger and thirst for more stuff" but rather *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness."* Mt. 5:6 (cont. on p. 2)

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

Eleven years! That's a long time in Kenya! Long enough for a 10 to 12 year old boy to now be a man. Dan and I arrived in Kenya last November on a night flight. By the time we got through the visa line and released from customs it was past 10 pm. When we stepped into the arrivals area we were met by a young man who is very special to us. Bennard was about 10 years old when we first came to know him. He was resistant to the idea of going home back then. Home was a scary place filled with less than positive memories.



Today Bennard's attitude about home is completely changed, so much so that he painted this picture for us and proudly held it up at the arrivals gate to welcome us back to Kenya. We are so proud of Bennard and his accomplishments. He is a fully certified auto mechanic and working for a tour company in Nairobi. He just completed training for his driving license, which-- by the way--he did on his own... no help from us. He also just enrolled in an adult high school program so that he will get his high school certificate, also without any pushing or help from us. We have been parents to Bennard for the last 11+ years and could not be more proud of his accomplishments. From the street to manhood, with more than a few bumps along the road, but by the grace of God he has persevered. Another special young man in our lives is George. George was the first boy Dan and I had a part in rescuing from the street. We found George selling plastic bags in the market. Times were tough at home so instead of going to school George went to the street to live. Often he took money to his mom to help feed his siblings. Fast forward.... George just completed his high school education and is now working for us doing some yard work while our full time employee is on leave. We are happy to witness the accomplishments of these former street boys!

Capstone Ministries works with the poorest of the poor. Most are lucky to have one good meal a day, much less three. When we reconcile families with their sons from the street, the family is hard pressed to care for another mouth to feed. Most are challenged to provide the basics. Few can offer their prodigal son even a mattress to sleep on. The physical needs are obvious when our staff visit the families.

Even though we do, at times, help families with their physical needs, it is not our priority. Even as the Father wanted stable, righteous and God-fearing parents for the King of Kings as he grew and developed in Nazareth so Capstone works with families to establish the same for these reconciled boys. Parents who love God more than the trappings of life will also love their children more than anything else. This is why our budget plan focuses on home visits by staff. Encouragement, correction, reconciliation, Bible studies, and counseling all necessitate travel of our staff to the homes of reconciled boys. Sharing the Gospel is always best done face to face. People grow and develop in their faith when a trusted friend, pastor or counselor takes the time to visit with you, cry a few tears, laugh a little and talk over the important things of God.

There is a growing trend even in churches and religious circles to prioritize the physical needs of the poor. Some even call this "mission work." While caring for those in need certainly should be part of "loving our neighbor as ourselves", Jesus reminds us that "man does not live on bread alone." An empty stomach is a sad thing but an empty heart is even sadder. St. Francis was quoted as saying, "Preach the Gospel, and if necessary, use words." I say "Preach the Gospel, and because it is necessary, use words."

## 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!



## Moringa Project



Capstone's Income Generating Project continues to develop. Two new clients have been added to our retail clientele. Healthy U, a health food chain of 24+ stores buys our moringa for resale in their shops. Faith is pictured above packaging moringa in 50 gram sachets for sale. We are also happy to receive the news that the Semiahmoo Rotary Club in Vancouver, BC, Canada has approved a grant proposal for marketing of moringa in Western Kenya. The proposal includes radio spots, sandwich signs in front of retail shops, posters for windows, T-shirts for promotional personnel.

## Security Issues

*"So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised...But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved." Hebrews 10:35,36,38,39*



Recently we experienced a lapse in our security at our home. We have responded with some upgrades to the wall and added an outside dog to patrol at night. Our watchman named him "Delta" for the army unit called Delta Force. More of a concern has been the sense of confidence and peace we normally had living in Kisumu. For a-while this confidence was tested. Then in my regular Bible reading I happened to read the verses above. They were not only encouraging but convicting. As we go through life, we cannot allow ourselves to be captive to fear and those who use it to undermine our faith. God promises us that our confidence placed in him will be richly rewarded. But he also reminds us that perseverance is also part of the mix. Perseverance is an internal struggle to really believe what comes out of your mouth. Instead of listening to the voices of darkness that would tempt you to shrink back, recoil, hide or take the easy rode, trust your Lord and Savior. Each of us has our own areas of struggle when it comes to security and faith. Let us live by faith each day, remembering the one in whom we have confidence.

## Prayers, Praises

1. Pray for Delano and Linda Meyer who will visit Capstone in late February. They will stay with Dan and Patty for one week, learn more about Capstone and also present an agricultural training seminar for the three groups growing moringa for Capstone.
2. Pray for all the Ambassadors of Capstone who spread the word in their churches.
3. In Jan. we traveled to Nairobi and found that our work permits had been renewed for another three years. With all the current controversy surrounding the Immigration Department, we are most grateful. Dan will travel to Nairobi on Feb. 5 to have the permit stamped in the our passports.
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. A meeting will be held in February from which we will learn more about our application.
5. With the rise in insecurity in Kisumu over the last few months, the Capstone board is asking for a volunteer to come and stay with Patty while Dan visits the East Coast, specifically the New England District of LCMS. The time frame needed are the months of April & May.
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 Feb. 5 8.
9. Patty safely returned to Kenya on June 4. Praise God.
10. A new program is being used for the monthly newsletter of Capstone. Dan is on the steep side of the learning curve and will be getting some training this next week. Pray that old dogs can learn new tricks.
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, John, Tim, Delano, Linda, Patricia, Steve, Ryan.

## “4S” Sponsorship

March marks the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the launch of our “4S” sponsorship program. If you support this project annually, please remember your gift next month.

## Photo of the Month

This is the Blue Turaco. It is found in the Kakamega Rain Forest, just 40 miles north of Kisumu. It has almost cartoonish coloring and shape. This one is full grown and measures about 20 inches from crown to tail. Its relative—the plantain eater—visits our yard regularly.



Donation: For Capstone & Dan and Patty Support

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Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

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