



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

March, 2014 Volume 9 Issue 3

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

283

5 boys rescued in Feb.



**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

Missions and Farming

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it...By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground." Genesis 2:15; 3:19

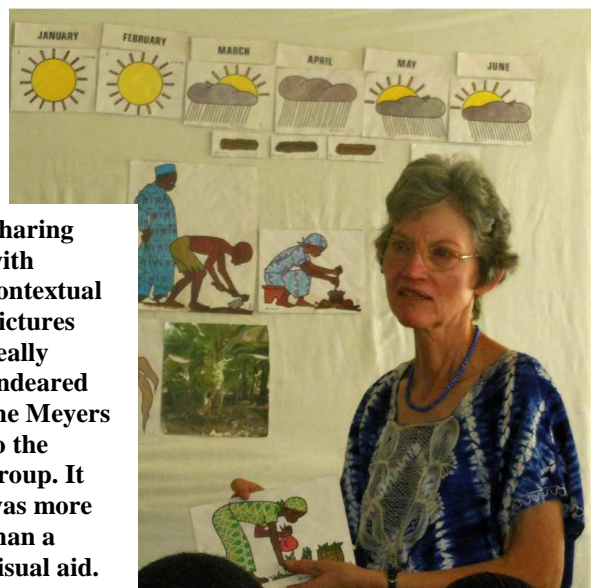
They came with nothing in their suitcases to give away...except knowledge. There was nothing distributed at their gatherings...except experience. The pockets of participants were not filled with any handouts but joy filled their hearts. No one took anything away from the day-long seminar on farming...except skills. No T-shirts, no new sport shoes, nothing at all was given away. But each left with a renewed sense of personal responsibility, faith in God's provision and enthusiasm to be better farmers and faithful Christians.

From creation God designed man to work for his daily bread. Moses makes this clear in the verse above from Gen. 2:15 in his words about Adam and Eve's shamba (farm) called Eden: "to work it and take care of it." This was the emphasis of long time missionaries Delano and Linda Meyer who recently visited the Kisumu area to share their knowledge about crops, hard work, soil management, stewardship, fertilizer and God's provision. They have been sharing their expertise all over Kenya in small group church gatherings in a joint effort coordinated by LCMS and the ELCK. When we found out these two experienced missionaries and long-time farmers would be coming back to Kenya we organized for them to visit our three moringa growers groups. Capstone staff were also given the day to attend. (cont. on p. 2)



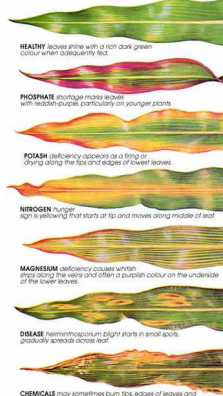
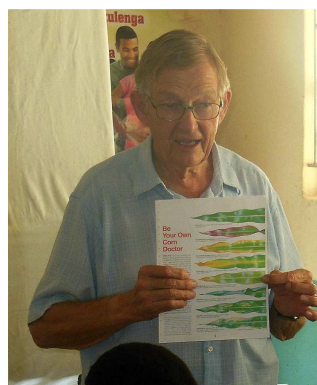
"Farming by calculation." Delano Meyer shares with the group how to profit by knowing when to sell your crop

Sharing with contextual pictures really endeared the Meyers to the group. It was more than a visual aid.



We met Delano and Linda a year ago when they carried some Luther's Catechisms to Kisumu for us. It didn't take long to discover these two veteran missionaries from various parts of Africa knew their Biblical missiology. They knew and had experienced the results of simply giving things to those in need. They had seen first-hand the dependency that results, the shifting from Christ centered faith to "white man" centered begging, the loss of dignity and self-esteem that results when you no longer do for yourself and instead depend on others, the spoiling, the corruption, etc. So, we made sure they were scheduled for a stop in Kisumu on their next volunteer trip to Kenya.

Their presentation was eye opening and inspiring for all of the 40+ participants. Their focus was on how the soil allows plants to grow, the importance of crop management, weeding, and preparation. Of particular interest to the group was the focus on how—with just a little extra effort—much more of a crop can be harvested. That extra harvest means the family will have the needed food until the next harvest.



Delano shares how to be a "corn doctor" and know what nutrients your corn is lacking simply by looking at the leaves. "God designed your maize to tell you what it needs to give you a good harvest."

Travel Schedule in the USA

Dan will be in the US visiting churches and attending various gatherings during April and May. Here are the dates confirmed thus far.

April 6 – Island Lutheran Church, Hilton Head, SC

April 20 – Easter services at Holy Cross Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran, Fort Wayne, Indiana

April 27 – Trinity Lutheran, Toledo, Ohio

(Travel to Boston on May 1)

May 3 – Rotary District Convention on Cape Cod

May 4 – Boston area churches

May 5-7 NED Pastor's Conference, Stowe, Vermont

May 11 CT area churches

May 18 CT area churches

May 25 Boston area churches

June 1 Boston area churches



Participants listen intently to the session on becoming a corn doctor.

Capstone staff took special note of how the lessons applied to the poor families they visit. 90% of the families of reconciled boys are subsistence farmers. Food insecurity is one of the factors that places stress on families and often can lead to a child running away. Staff members were eager to implement the changes on their own farms so as to share practically with the vulnerable families they counsel. Pastor Zadok shared on a recent visit to his "Nema Moringa Group" that those who attended had already started making changes in how they are preparing the soil for planting. Feb and March are the months when farmers prepare the soil. Planting is in April when the "long rains" come.

We praise God for these two veteran missionaries who still have a "fire in the belly" for sharing Jesus in the context of their farmer expertise. Thanks Meyers. You are a blessing!

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. Ask for your card on the form on p. 4 of this newsletter!

Patty's Post-It

I made three promises at the beginning of this year. (I don't like New Year's Resolutions, so I think of them as promises to myself) So far, I'm doing well to stick to them!! First: I decided it's time to read the entire Bible cover to cover. Yep, you can call that a confession. I've never done it. Oh, I've tried on numerous occasions but could never stick with it. This time I signed up with a Bible app on the Ipad. It's a guide to reading the Bible in one year....chronologically. So far it's working well. I feel committed! I developed a new interest in the Bible by looking at it from a more cultural perspective. The deeper I dig the more I crave!

Second: We have been in Kenya for almost 12 years. We have poured ourselves into the development and work of Capstone. That's not a complaint. We are blessed beyond description but I've been feeling drained (it could also be an age thing). I was feeling isolated from people of our own culture. We've had special friends who have come and gone over the years, but there was no one and nothing I felt attached to on a regular basis. I decided to join the Ladies Bible Study Group in Kisumu. We meet once a week at various homes. Next week is my turn to host the study in our house. There are several ladies from the UK, a couple of ladies from Germany, Canada and even a few from California. This weekly activity also dove--tails nicely with my new commitment to dive deeper into God's word. I'm growing in so many ways!

Third: I wanted to exercise my gift of hospitality more. I decided we would invite local missionaries over to share a meal so we could get to know them better on a more personal level. Our first event was a couple of weeks ago. It was on a beautiful Saturday morning. We had an American couple and a British couple over for brunch. The menu included French toast casserole, bacon wrapped egg cups, potato salad and watermelon. For dessert we had parfaits of layered granola and yogurt topped with fresh mangos and whipped cream. Of course we had wonderful Kenyan coffee!! What a joy! I'm praising God for new found friends and dedication!

“Can they really go home?”

This was the question asked by an inquisitive pastor regarding the reconciliation of street boys with their families. His question was asked with the assumption that they could not go home. That same question was stated to us as assumed fact when we started Capstone Ministries more than 8 years ago. Then it was spoken in derision, even condescension. “You can't take these children home! The problems are too big. A rescue center is the only way.” This month we reconciled the 283rd former street boy. John Onyango is 12 years old and was taken home this past week by George Owiti.



John came to us as a result of our partnership with the Kisumu Juvenile Detention Center, a government holding facility. Every week two Capstone staff visit the center, counsel boys, share the love of God and seek God's will on which boy the Lord has in mind for us to work with. John was a little hesitant to go home. His apprehension was the result of his fear of a strict father. John, a sensitive boy, did not like his father's harsh demeanor and ran away because of it. During the reconciliation, George took some extra time to counsel with the father. He talked about how he communicates with his son.

The visit otherwise was jubilant! More than 20 family and neighbors came to see this prodigal returning home. There was dancing, singing and praying. John's grandmother (on right) prayed a prayer of thanksgiving over her grandson on his return. Yes Pastor, they can go home...and they do!



Prayers, Praises

1. Praise for Delano and Linda Meyer who visited Capstone in late February. They stayed with Dan and Patty for two weeks, learned more about Capstone and also presented an agricultural training seminar for the three groups growing moringa for Capstone. At this writing they are in the Southwest Diocese of the ELCK.
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. We have finished the process and the permit was stamped in our passports. The Kenyan government in its infinite wisdom gave Dan a 2 year work permit and Patty 3 years. Hmmmm?
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 late 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. This need has been filled by a current volunteer in Kisumu.
6. Praise for our mothers, Josey and Chrysta, who are both strong and active in their 80's.
7. 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.
8. 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, Peggy

Endorsement by NED

We are proud to announce that the Kenya Mission Committee of the New England District has endorsed Capstone Ministries as a mission project of the New England District of LC-MS. Dan will be traveling to the New England District in the Month of May to visit the spring pastors conference of the district and to visit some of the congregations in the district. We praise God for this development and the confidence of God's people in the NED of LCMS

"4S" Sponsorship

March marks the 1st anniversary of the launch of our "4S" sponsorship program. If you support this project annually, please remember your gift this month.

Photo of the Month

This is the Greenback Heron. His name in Luo means "one who sits and waits patiently." This bird will catch a small insect, place it in the water just below him and wait for a small fish to come to eat the insect. Then it will dive and catch the fish.



Donation: For Capstone & Dan and Patty Support

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Specific Designation? _____

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All donations are tax deductible.

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