



# 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**

**August, 2014 Volume 9 Issue 8**

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### **USA Address:**

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](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

Website: [WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org](http://WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org)

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

# 294

2 boys rescued 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. Step by step procedure given on p. 4

## **“How to help people in need”**

***“Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few...They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring.”***

***II Kings 4:3,5***

A woman finds herself in a desperate situation! Her husband, a revered pastor, has just died. She has no income. Her husband had accrued a huge debt and the creditors are calling, even threatening to enslave her two sons. She calls the spiritual leader of the area. Call him the Bishop, District President, Senior Pastor, Prophet. His name is Elijah. If you were he, how would you respond? Take a special offering? Call one of your wealthy friends and explain the need?

In the Biblical account of this story, the real Elijah has even more options. He can call upon the Lord of heaven and earth to do the miraculous, to intervene in an other-worldly way, to materialize the cash and food on the spot. But Elijah does none of these. He asks the woman to involve her community. She is to send her sons throughout the community and ask for empty jars. Empty jars in the days of Elijah had value. It was not the “throw-away society we live in.



**Patty holds the “fly-catcher” made from a 2-liter soda bottle. A small amount of honey is placed in the bottom of the bottle. The top is cut off and inverted into the bottom part of the bottle. The fly flies in but cannot find the hole to fly back out trapping it thereby reducing the number of flies around a home.**

Faith and initiative, personal involvement and community support. No assistance from outside save from the Lord himself blessing the activity. The result? Oil flowed, debts were paid, the woman and her sons survived. Read the entire story in II Kings 4.

This story is an illustration and an example of how to help people in need. The temptation is to do too much too fast, to rely on those from the outside. But Elijah knows that this woman has resources she is overlooking. In her desperation and panic she answers Elijah’s probing

# Capstone Attains RSO status in LC-MS

Just a few days before this writing the final letter and certificate arrived at the home of Capstone Board Chair Dave Hudon's home indicating that Capstone has received RSO (Recognized Service Organization) status in the LC-MS (Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod). This concludes a two year long process of application that began in June of 2012. This recognition elevates Capstone in the LC-MS and provides many blessings, not the least of which is the assurance to LC-MS members that Capstone stands with the LC-MS in doctrine and practice.

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

### Time for those summer BBQs!!

### Get out your "Shares" Card!!

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 \$5,031.16 from this



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

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## Fruits from Missionary Meyer Seminar

Missionaries Delano and Linda Meyer visited Kenya in February of this year and their visit was noted in our March newsletter. Just a few days ago, the farmers who attended that seminar began to harvest their maize. Many of them employed the techniques for fertilizing their crops that they learned in the Meyer seminar. Pastor Zadok of the Lutheran congregation in Emuhaya—who also works part time for Capstone reported that the farmers in his congregation are experiencing a 30% increase in yield. Pastor Zadok also mentioned that he plans to buy maize now when it is cheap and storing it to sell in a few months when the price will have doubled. This technique for self-empowerment was taught in the seminar as well. Praise God!

question: *"What do you have in your house?"* with the quick retort, *"Your servant has nothing there at all....except a little oil."* Grief and stress filled her heart. Little faith if any. No awareness that "little can be much in the Lord's hands."

Capstone staff deal with these kinds of desperate situations every day. The temptation is be merciful, solve the situation on the spot instead of trusting that the Lord wants those in need to show faith and use the gifts He has already placed there.

In May three members of Capstone attended a one week conference lead by long time missionary and friend Jody Collinge. Jody works with the poor in Mexico, employing the same principles as Elijah in a structured approach called "CHE": Community, Health, Evangelism. The focus is on linking



Patty demonstrates the "Tippy-Tap", an inexpensive, easy way to wash hands for rural families that may have a limited water supply. Notice she engages the tap by pressing on a stick with her foot.



community-identified needs with empowerment, community involvement and the Gospel. The objective is to do more than solve problems. The approach focuses on the community analyzing and prioritizing their problems and finding ways to address them with locally available materials, not highly technical devices that depend on outside knowledge for repair and maintenance. Much like Elijah's approach to the woman's circumstance, CHE engages the individual and the community in a faith based approach that couples concepts to Biblical teaching that empowers the community at the same time. Several of these practical, Biblical lessons (pictured above) will be used in the upcoming Capstone Camp. More on that next month.

# ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS?

If so, it is easy to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars for the work of the Capstone Ministries!

Online:

Step 1 – Visit **Thrivent.com/thriventchoice**.

Step 2 – Click on **“log in”** at the top right of your screen & enter your MyThrivent user ID & password. (If you haven’t registered on Thrivent.com, click on **“register now”** to register for full access.)

Step 3 – Look for your designated Choice Dollars on the right side of the screen.

Step 4 – Click on **“Direct Choice Dollars”** on the Thrivent Choice box on your MyThrivent page.

Step 5 – Search the catalog of organizations to find and select the **“Capstone Ministries”**

Step 6 – Click on **“Direct Choice Dollars Now”** to direct your designated Choice Dollars to benefit the reconciliation of street children with God and family!

By phone:

Step 1 – Call **1-800-847-4836** and when prompted, say, **“Thrivent Choice.”**

Step 2 – When prompted, say, **“Choice Dollars.”**

Step 3 – Say or enter your Social Security number.

Step 4 – **Press 1** to direct Choice Dollars or **press 2** to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions.

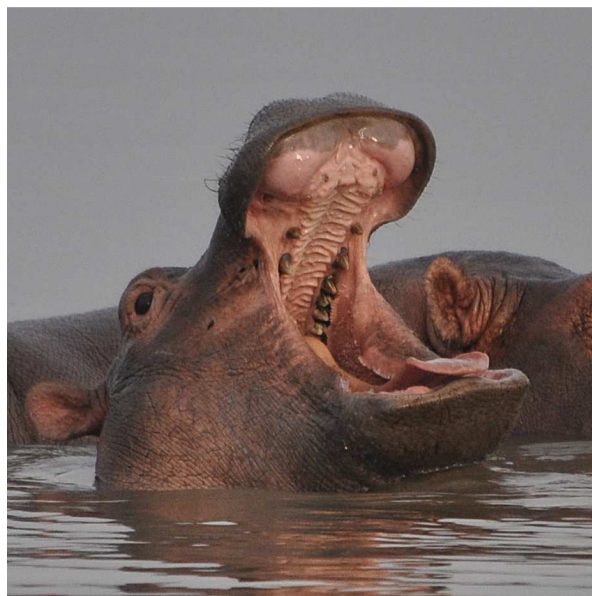
Step 5 – A representative will then work with you to direct Choice Dollars for Capstone Ministries.

## “High School” Sponsorship

This year Capstone has 13 boys taking their Grade 8 Final Exams to qualify for High School. We expect 4-5 boys to meet the standard Capstone has set for school sponsorship. They must also demonstrate a need to the extent that parents are unable to afford the high fees of secondary school. We have 3 who have expressed an interest in sponsorship of one of these boys. Please write to us if you are interested. Cost is \$600/year for 4 years.

## Photo of the Month

We love to take visitors on a boat tour of Lake Victoria when they come. On this trip, we encountered some very cooperative hippos who gave us a look at their gaping mouths. Say “Ahhhhh”



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](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

Send to:

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

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](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

Send to:

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