



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

January, 2015 Volume 10 Issue 1

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

302



Check out Capstone on Facebook.



You can donate a portion of your premium for a policy from Thrivent Insurance. 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

Where's the Peace?

"...to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." Luke 1:79

It is the single most attractive element of Christmas to the world. The idea of "peace on earth." It is also the greatest desire of man through the ages. God's people Israel even used the word to greet one another. In fact, they still greet each other with the Hebrew word "Shalom." God commanded Moses to teach Aaron and his sons to bless the people in a specific way. The final words of the blessing? "***The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace!***" Numbers 6:26 Peace was the essence of who the Messiah would be. Isaiah proclaimed: "***He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***" Isaiah 9:6 Zechariah, priest of the living God and father of John the Baptist proclaimed the words above in declaring the work of the one his son would prepare. And just a few months later, the skies above the fields of Bethlehem would rip open to the host of heaven who would declare in unspeakable joy: "***Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.***" Luke 2:14

But when the first Gentiles came from a distant land to worship this Prince of Peace, they were met with fear, deceit, insecurity, and mass murder. Herod, welcomed the King of Kings with the Roman sword. Peace? Ask those parents, the descendent children of Rachel who were snatched from their mother's arms and killed by Herod's order.

A few weeks ago in extreme northeastern Kenya in the town of Mandera, right on the border with Somalia a similar execution took place. Occupants of a bus were removed at gun point, lined up alongside the road, asked to recite a verse from the Quran, renounce their Christian faith. Those that did not were lined up and shot in the head, one by one. Peace on earth? Hardly!

So where is the peace? It seems it is not only elusive, but absent from our world lately. But peace by its very nature is not something that can be imposed by force. God involves us in the process of finding, enjoying and living in His peace. He guides and directs but does not impose peace. Zechariah's words teach us that important truth... "***to guide our feet into the path of peace.***" The Prince of Peace would, in fact, arrive in the midst of darkness and in the shadow of death. Out of the darkness of fear, violence and unbelief, the Lord guides us on a path of peace. He calls, nudges, encourages, enlightens, reveals, and finally sacrifices himself for our peace! But he does not force himself. His Gospel Word, not a weapon, reshapes our will!

Capstone Ministries Achieves RSO Status in LCMS



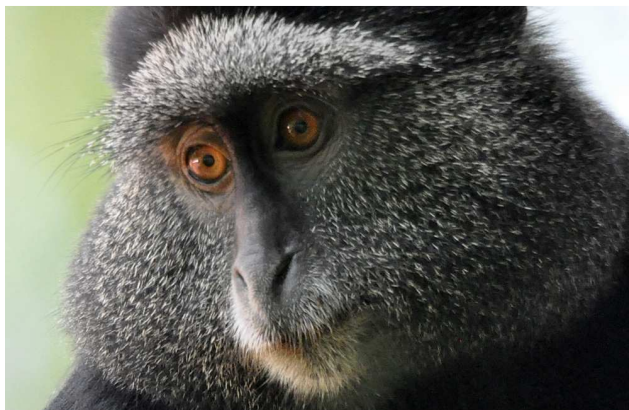
We have been talking about it for more than two years. Finally, we can show you with an issued certificate that Capstone Ministries has been granted RSO status by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We pray that this provides greater opportunities for Capstone to expand the work of reconciliation of street children in Kenya. May God strengthen us for the task ahead.

Quotes to Note

“Another universal principle of family life transcending cultural or ethnic differences seemed to be that whatever their affliction, individuals who are cut off from their families generally do not heal until they have been reconnected.” from “A Failure of Nerve” by Edwin Friedman

Photo of the Month

While at Rondo Retreat over Christmas, we spotted this Blue Monkey posing for us. He made this portrait photo easy. 99% of the time good photography is about getting lucky!



Peace is also an intricate part of the reconciliation of street kids with God and family. In almost every case, the family has been ripped apart because peace is lacking. Shrouded in selfishness and fear, manifested in thievery, drunkenness, and marital unfaithfulness; peace isn't just lacking, it has been thrown under the bus! Discarded! Rejected!



But the Prince of Peace does not surrender his redeemed so easily to the Prince of Darkness! He fights for them and the most powerful force in the universe—the Gospel message of peace through the life and death of the Jesus—changes hearts, bends knees and humbles proud hearts. There is no greater joy than to see this happening first hand in the lives of reconciled children with their family.

However the Gospel of peace does not clear the road of stumbling stones. There are still challenges. This peace, won so dramatically on Calvary's cross by the Good Shepherd, still resides in the hearts of weak and frail sheep.

This is why Capstone Ministries focuses not just on the physical restoration of a street boy with his family but the needed ongoing discipleship of the entire family. This is why the majority of the time spent by Capstone staff is in counseling follow up visits, encouraging Bible study attendance in one of the 11 small group studies, teaching families how to use a Bible, where to look in the Catechism for answers to questions. Using Scripture where it is useful! Just as Paul taught Timothy: ***“for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”*** II Tim. 3:16

Peace may seem hidden in these last days. But the Prince of Peace is not absent. His faithful still seek Him and the peace that passes understanding. It may not make the lead story on CNN but the Good Shepherd is still in control. He is still the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And he still guides ***“our feet into the path of peace.”*** Pray that He continues to guide the feet of Capstone Ministries in this little corner of Africa.

Christmas Gifts for Families

Capstone was able to provide a food and supplies basket to 31 of the neediest families who have had a boy reconciled at home. We are very grateful to those who designated their gift in December for this purpose. Below are some pictures of families who received the Christmas basket of cooking oil, flour, sugar, tea, soap, sweets, and rice. A big Christmas thank you from these families.



Designated Gifts

You can make a designated gift to Capstone Ministries and direct your gift to a specific aspect of the work. We praise God that the following needs have been met by generous donors:

- Christmas food bags for 31 families
- Staff Retreat
- Study Bibles for staff
- Capstone Camp
- 2015 Vocational Training
- High School Sponsorship for 3

Capstone has identified several non-budgeted needs that still need funding for 2015. Included are the following:

- Staff medical insurance. Estimated annual cost: \$1000
- Joint Bible Study Gathering. \$500
- Weekend of Prayer \$500

If you would like to make a donation for one of the above items, in whole or part, just note it either on your check or a separate paper like the one at the end of this newsletter.

Vicar JZ to visit Capstone in 2015



Vicar John Zimmerman will be visiting Capstone late July, 2015 for one month to learn more about Capstone, learn more about cross cultural ministry in a third world country and to volunteer where appropriate. If you would like to assist in supporting him, you can send a check to: "Vicar Trip" 419 Castro, Norman, OK 73071. John is currently serving his vicar year in Norman, OK at Trinity Lutheran and is a student at Concordia Theological Seminary – Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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.

Prayers, Praise and News

1. Dan is making plans to visit congregations in the Midwest this next April and May. Please write if you would like him to visit your church to preach/present and share more about what God is doing through Capstone in Kenya. Reserve your weekend, weekday or both now for your church or school. Weekends are filling fast!

2. Praise God that the 3 boys who finished their Grade 8 with exam marks above the qualification for sponsorship have all received sponsors.

3. Pray for continued support of Capstone Ministries and for our ongoing search for missionaries to join us in the work. Please prayerfully consider serving either part time (several months while Dan and Patty are stateside) or full time. You can write directly to Dan and Patty for more information at capstoneministries@gmail.com

4. We are looking forward to welcoming Delano and Linda Meyer again to Kenya. The Meyers plan to visit in February and do some follow up agricultural training across East-Africa. We will be hosting them for a week and they will be visiting our moringa growers groups, Capstone staff and the Capstone Bible study groups. Their teaching is empowering. Their approach is the result of many years of experience in the field and has great application to actual local farmer needs. Karibu Del and Linda!

5. 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, Tom, Kathleen, Monica, Jim.

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**

Donation: **“Designated Gift”**

Name _____ 

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Check here if you do not need a hard copy of the newsletter and prefer to read it online _____

Families sponsored _____

Donation Amount _____

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries.

All donations are tax deductible.

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Send to:

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