



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, 2015 Volume 10 Issue 2

In this Issue

- Page 1: “Mercy, Ministry & the Poor”
- p. 2 : “Mercy, Ministry & the Poor” cont.
- P. 2: RSO, Quotes to Note, Photo of Month
- P. 3: Christmas Gift for Needy Families
- P. 3 Vicar Zimmerman visit, Designated gifts
- p. 4: Thrivent procedure
- P. 4 Prayers and Praise
- p. 4 Donor slip



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

Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org

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

305

3 went home in Jan.



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

“Mercy, Ministry & the Poor”

10 Keys of Cross Cultural Ministry to the Poor and Vulnerable

“You restored me to health and let me live. Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish.” Isaiah 38:16b,17a (Words of King Hezekiah reflecting on his life threatening illness)

In the Jan. 19 issue of “The Star” newspaper Caroline Mutoko addresses a topic that hits home for many of us who have spent some time in Africa. The specific topic is something called “slum tourism”: groups of Americans or Europeans who visit the slums of Kenya, specifically Kibera slum in Nairobi. She quotes Kennedy Odede, executive director of Shining Hope for Communities in Kibera who wrote an article on the subject for the New York Times in 2010. In it, he bluntly talks about the delicate topic of what happens when tourism comes to Kibera. *“Slum tourism turns poverty into entertainment, something that can be momentarily experienced and then escaped from. People think they’ve really ‘seen’ something—and then go back to their lives and leave me, my family and my community right where we were before.”* Later in the same article Odede speaks even more candidly, *“Slum tourism is a one-way street: They get photos; we lose a piece of our dignity.”*

That article was food for thought, reflection, self-examination and provided the fodder for this article. In it I hope to address, in brief, the ten key elements of working with the poor as a white person (perceived as wealthy) working among the poor black community. They are not listed in order of priority.

1. Understand thoroughly the 3 main approaches to the poor!: Mercy, Empowerment, the Gospel. Mercy or hand-outs seldom make any difference in the lives of the poor and often create dependency, corruption and irresponsibility. Empowerment has many facets but has a clear and timely outcome that incorporates accountability and reward for faithful stewardship. The Gospel is the only approach that changes hearts and therefore changes lives forever!

2. In empowerment projects, go slow and start small. It is a western idea—and a poor one—that good projects are big projects that move quickly. Often driven by a desire to report results and numbers to donors, more often than not such projects that flash lots of money, big cars and bigger personalities attract the wrong crowd and communicate the worst possible message.

3. Guard your heart against pity and ego! This is a temptation that is devilishly tricky. It plays on our desire to help and our need to feel important. It may begin innocently with that good feeling when you

Capstone Ministries Achieves RSO Status in LCMS



Quotes to Note

“I have already spoken of the 2000 native evangelists at work in the country. These are all maintained by the native church. The same is true of the 27 native clergy. Nor is this all. The churches and schools of the country—some 700 in number—are built, repaired and maintained by the natives themselves. In one word, the whole work of the native Church—its educational, pastoral, and missionary work—is maintained entirely from native resources. Not one single halfpenny of English money is employed in its maintenance.”
Bishop Tucker, Anglican missionary to Uganda speaking at a missionary conference in Brighton, England, 1901. From “When Charity Destroys Dignity” p. 32

Photo of the Month

At this writing Dan is celebrating his 59th birthday. Here is the same day 53 years ago.



help someone. Before long you have stopped analyzing objectively and continue with a project simply because of how it makes you feel.

4. The burden to adjust is on you! Bridging the gap between cultures can be challenging. Different food, customs, language, hospitality issues, poor infrastructure, government services and the list goes on. Remember, you are the one who has come to assist and as such the burden to adjust is on you not the indigenous people. Be patient and polite!

5. Be teachable and adaptable. “Type A” personalities will be especially challenged on the mission field. Professional theologians will also find it hard to adjust to “not knowing what they don’t know.” Be open, discerning, learn from your mistakes—there will be many and don’t marry your initial approach. Adapt, adjust, humbly repent.

6. Use locally available resources. This includes human resources. Allowing indigenous people to minister to their own people is encouraging, empowering and more effective. Buy local. Never import what is available and if you feel tempted to bring that latest gadget that will: “Do the job faster and better”, just don’t! It won’t!

7. Sow Gospel seeds! Water! Cultivate! Wait! Understand the theology of spiritual change! It took time for sin to take root; it will most likely take even longer to remove those roots and see new life!

8. Empowerment brings dignity! Let it do its work. The objective of every empowerment project should be to empower people who are able to solve their own problems through hard work. Dignity and self-esteem are the fruit of the individual him/herself. You cannot give self-esteem to someone. They earn it themselves. Let them.

9. Challenges teach the most valuable lessons. Challenges teach us to trust in God. Poverty can have a Godly purpose. We should not intervene where God is teaching that important lesson. It is ok to let people struggle. *“He humbled you, causing you to hunger...to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”* Deut. 8:3

10. Hand-outs are for emergencies and life threatening situations only. This is a tough one to learn. Often it is a lesson that has to be learned in the field. A hand out may help for the moment but the effects that linger are almost always negative. It can create jealousy, divide families, tempt recipients to be lazy beggars, destroy initiatives, and replace trust in God with dependency on man.

These are the Top 10, if you will. There are many others but these are some the lessons we have learned the hard way and implemented in Capstone Ministries

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 take great care in choosing families for this Christmas gift. We make sure that families understand that this is a one-time gift and not something to expect on every follow up visit. It is often an emotional visit for our staff with no few tears shed. 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
- Staff medical insurance. Estimated annual cost: \$1000

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

- Joint Bible Study Gathering. \$250
- 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! More in the March newsletter.

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.

CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com

Send to:

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