



# 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, 2015 Volume 10 Issue 3**

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

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

# 307

**2 went home in Feb.**



**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

## **"Mission and Self Reliance"**

***"Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God...God is not unjust; he will not forget your work...We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised." Hebrews 6:7, 10, 12***

Is it possible to be effective in mission by combining mercy activities with Gospel activities? Some would say, "Yes, it is!" Others, like veteran missionaries Delano and Linda Meyer—long time farmers from western Minnesota and former missionaries for LC-MS in Liberia and Ghana would beg to differ. In reality, when you combine hand-outs with a sharing of the Gospel, you send a mixed message. On the one hand the Gospel encourages faith, patience and trust in God's love, on the other hand the giving out of "goodies"—whatever form they may take—tells people to trust in man. The result is often confusion and



**Delano and Linda at the farming seminar with the Capstone moringa growers in Maseno.**

dependency; sometimes even jealousy, laziness, and division.

Delano and Linda take a different approach. They combine the message of the Gospel with personal stewardship of God's resources. The result is a people who trust God not only for their salvation but also their daily bread as a result of hard work, innovative farming techniques and family cohesiveness.

Delano and Linda been traveling all over Tanzania, Kenya and now Uganda as of this writing teaching farming techniques that help subsistence farmers to produce more, trust God and become better stewards of God's provision. This was the Meyers second visit to Capstone Ministries. We have connected them to the 50 farmers--



## Capstone Ministries Achieves RSO Status in LCMS

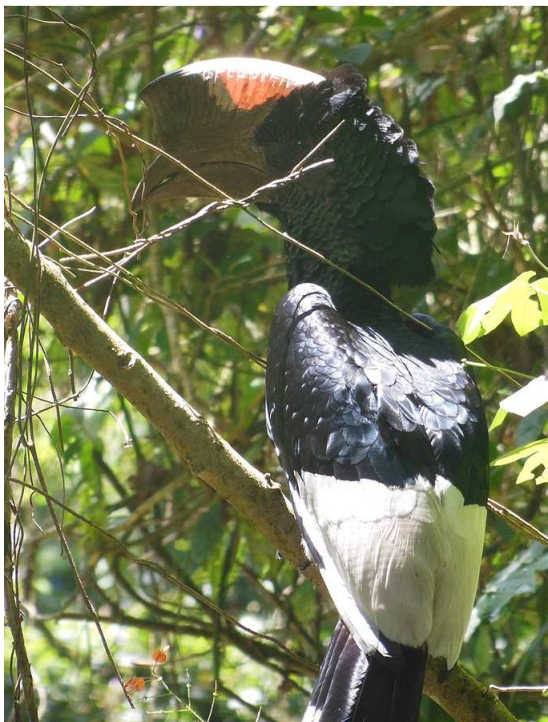


### Link to Kakamega Outreach

Recently we met a young missionary couple—Mark and Lucy Cavell—working with street kids in Kakamega (about 30 miles north of Kisumu). We were referred to them by good friends Derek and Penny Oliver (also mentioned in this newsletter). Here is more about the work of Mark and Lucy: <http://hopeisgreater.co.uk/family-is-worth-fighting-for/>

### Photo of the Month

This is the great hornbill and is found in the Kakamega Rainforest. On this particular occasion the sun caught the bill just right and revealed his orange crown on his bill.



Linda Meyer shows a picture of a “small pot”, picturing when food is scarce.

--mostly women—who grow moringa for Capstone. The four groups met in Maseno for the morning seminar that included inspiring testimonies from those who had applied the techniques taught by Delano and Linda last year.



These are just a few of the farmers from the 55 who attended the seminar. These farmers gave testimonies about how the techniques taught by the Meyers improved their crops.



The Meyers then spent two days visiting a farm from each group to give “hands on” advice on ways to improve. Each group met at the respective farm and gained valuable insights from this “on the ground” observation of farming techniques being practiced by the group.

God reminds us in the Hebrews Scripture quoted at the outset that he blesses hard work. The Meyers not only love this important Scriptural promise having farmed for years in Minnesota, they are teachers of this important stewardship principle.



Delano talks about the “hungry time” in farming.

## Welcome Derek and Penny Oliver

We met Derek and Penny a few years ago over coffee at a local café. At the time they were trying to discern how to best minister to vulnerable children in Kakamega. God has since blessed them with an appreciation for the work of Capstone Ministries and the unique family and Gospel oriented approach of Capstone. They are still seeking God's direction for their long term calling and they felt that experience volunteering with Capstone while we travel in the US on our fall fund raising trip would not only be a wonderful way to serve the needs of Capstone but also give them valuable insights into the inner workings of Capstone from the ground. Derek and Penny will visit Kenya from the UK in April and May while Dan is traveling in the US. They will shadow Patty during this time and also assist her in Dan's absence. Then in late August they will return, live in Dan and Patty's home and take over as interim directors through December. Here is a bio from Derek and Penny Oliver:



### Introduction

Husband and wife, Derek and Penny Oliver, share a common desire to see people know and experience the love of their Father God – as revealed through His Son Jesus.

Until recently they spent 3 years working as volunteers for [The Kenyan Children's Project](#), living in community with a family, consisting of vulnerable children and Kenyan staff, and overseeing the work of the charity in and around Kakamega, Western Kenya.

Through this time Derek and Penny learnt many valuable lessons in effective cross-cultural parenting and leadership – the result being a significant transformation within the home. Many of the children had horrendous stories of abuse, loneliness, rejection and addiction, but through the work of Derek, Penny and The Kenyan Children's Project (KCP), the children received hope and restoration – both physical and emotional.

### Why Capstone Ministries?

They passionately believe that they are called to promote dignity, respect and self-worth, with everyone they meet. It is because of these values, which are so evident in the work of Capstone Ministries, that Derek & Penny would like to be aligned with this project and everyone involved with it.

### Previously...

Before being called to full-time ministry, Penny taught and trained adults in Further Education Colleges and Derek was 'Head of Sales & Marketing' for an international IT distributor – both based in the UK.

## 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:

- Joint Bible Study Gathering. \$100
- 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 April and May. Please write if you would like him to visit your church/school to present and share more about what God is doing through Capstone in Kenya. All the Sunday mornings are committed and there are a few weekdays still available. Here is the schedule. Please do visit if you are near one of the following:

April 12: Zion Lutheran LCMS, Brainerd, Minn.

April 13-15 Minnesota North Dist. Convention –LCMS

April 18: African Mission Auction. Trinity Lutheran, Freistadt, Wis.

April 19: Trinity Lutheran LCMS, Freistadt, Wis

April 22: Trinity Lutheran School Chapel, Toledo, OH

April 26: St. James Lutheran, W. St. Paul, Minn

May 2,3: Timothy Lutheran LCMS, Blue Springs, MO

May 4-6: New England District Pastor’s Conf. LCMS

May 10: New England District Congregation TBA

May 17: Trinity Lutheran LCMS, Norman, OK

May 24: Zion Lutheran LCMS, Hoffman, Minn

May 27: Trinity Lutheran School Chapel, Freistadt, Wis.

May 31: Trinity Lutheran LCMS, Toledo, OH

June 7: Immanuel Lutheran LCMS, Valparaiso, Indiana

June 7,8: South Wisconsin District Convention LCMS, Milwaukee, Wis

June 9 – Return to Kenya

2. 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, 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](mailto: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](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

Send to:

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