



# 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**

**September, 2015 Volume 10 Issue 9**

## **In this Issue**

Page 1: "I am with you always"  
p. 2 : "I am with you always" cont.  
P. 2: RSO, Photos of Month  
P. 3 Patty's Post It: "Value of Friends"  
p. 3 "Reality vs Expectations" by John Z  
p. 4: Thrivent procedure  
P. 4 Fundraising schedule  
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](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:

# 326

2 went home in August



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

## **Capstone Camp 2015**

### ***"I am with you always"***

Change! Some say it is not possible, unrealistic! But change is what God does. Paul opens his book to the Romans by saying, ***"I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."*** Romans 1:16. The good news (gospel) contains and is the power to change hearts. At Capstone Ministries we not only believe that but it is also the strategy and implementation as well. It is what we do. From the first meeting with boys on the street to reconciliation, follow-up, Bible study groups, Capstone Camp, secondary school and vocational training, it is the Gospel that predominates.

This year at Capstone Camp, 20 primary school and 3 secondary students attended Camp held once again at KIST in Kima. (Kima International School of Theology). The theme was Jesus' words from Matthew 28:20 "I am with you always." Below and on p. 2 are pictured some of the many activities during the six day camp. HI lights were the many children's CHE (Community Health Evangelism) lessons, scouting activities, lessons and shouts, Baptism of 10 boys on Friday, an articulate and moving speech during the Saturday closing program by Eddyson who spoke of the many things he had learned during the week.



**Spiritual activities and scouting  
filled the days with joy, discipline and enhanced self-worth!**



## Transportation Need in CA

We praise God that we have been blessed by a friend in California who is willing to lend us a vehicle for our time there. A personal and heartfelt thank you from Capstone Ministries and from us. God bless you.

## Capstone Ministries Achieves RSO Status in LCMS



## Photos of the Month

This is a photo of Mwshoti the baby elephant. Patty sponsored this baby at Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage in Nairobi as an anniversary gift. Mwshoti was rescued from a poaching snare last year. Notice the scare on his front left leg



A bee pollinates a day lily at Rondo Retreat Center



Dan awards Brian as Best Boy in Dramatics at Camp



Scouting dances and various antics brought laughs



Every Kenyan boy loves football!



Here are the Grade 8 candidates who will need sponsors for High School next year

# Patty's Post-It

## "The Value of Friends"

The Hauger family...



Mark: the Dad, was raised in a Christian family, accepted the Lord as his Savior at 17 and attended Bible College where he studied missions and met Mom.

Lisa: the Mom, was a beer-guzzling-drug-dealing-living-on-the-streets-rebel teen who got seriously sick with a debilitating muscle disease that threatened to take her life. It didn't. She got saved, attended Christian University and studied missions/ education.

This unlikely couple got married, adopted 2 kiddos and started a not-for-profit that helps families navigate the adoption journey. To pay the bills Mark worked as a mechanic and Lisa as a teacher. In 2011 they headed off to the mission field of Kisumu, Kenya where they work with the local church helping to develop culturally relevant programs that assist widowed/single mamas who need to raise their children.

Yep. That's us. And the best part? God brought us so far simply by His grace. The story belongs to Him; we are merely partakers who embrace great mercy, endure challenging conditions and enjoy sweet fellowship with awesome friends like Dan and Patty.

You can find us at

[tilitbalance.blogspot.com](http://tilitbalance.blogspot.com)  
[amongtheleast.org](http://amongtheleast.org)

Please pray our newest member of the family gets adopted soon!

Mungu akubariki sana.

Mark, Lisa, Tavin, Taleah, and Henry.

That's Mark and Lisa in a tiny nutshell. Dan and I have the joy of spending time with this inspiring couple every Saturday at our small Bible Study Group. I'm not sure where to begin with these two. Dan and I enjoy their wit and charm, their encouragement in all things and the dedication they show in their call to missions. We are blessed beyond measure to call them friends! Please check out their blogspot, as you can already tell, Lisa is a wonderful writer.

## Anticipation and Expectation

By John Zimmerman

*John visited Capstone for the last month. He is in his last year at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I asked him to write a short description of how his expectations compared with reality after his visit to Africa, Kenya and Capstone for the first time.*

Entering a new environment for the first time for a longer-than-vacation stay allows for one to be shocked a bit. You start to observe more of real life, even if on a limited short-term visit. Coming to Kisumu, I was prepared in my mind to be challenged by the visuals and stories of poverty on a scale that I've never seen before. While there is plenty of urbanization in the country, I was not prepared to see so many small brick and mud homes scattered throughout the countryside and people walking on the major roads and highways in western Kenya.



That shock being stated, I am impressed by the work of Capstone Ministries by the locals that travel near and far to bring the boys home and the on-going long haul of continued home visits and counseling sessions. To see the income generating projects of moringa and the women's group crafts that "live with hope" was awe-inspiring.

Capstone Ministries is not a "hand out" organization and for that, I'm thankful. The dependency model doesn't work out well long term. To see the shift of restoring children in their God-given homes instead of an orphanage model shows a well-reasoned response to the local issues with locals working on the ground to make changes happen with the help, grace and blessing of God. There is great Christian love being shown here.

I don't know if international mission work is for me. However, this month-long exposure trip has been great blessing for my pastoral formation. Lord willing, the visit was good for Capstone as well.

In Christ,

John Zimmerman - Seminarian  
CTS - Fort Wayne, IN



# 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. Praise for the safe return of Dan and Patty to Kisumu. Dan returned in early June from two months of travel and fund raising in the Midwest. Patty returned from a personal visit with family in California.

2. Thanksgiving for Derek and Penny Oliver who filled in while Dan and Patty were traveling. They spent two months with Patty learning the various aspects of the ministry and then took over for the one month she was away. They will be returning in September to be interim oversight for Capstone while Dan and Patty travel on the East Coast and California.

3. Below is the schedule of visits Dan and Patty will be making Sept-Dec this year

Sept. 6 – Christ Lutheran, Scituate, MA

Sept. 13 – Redeemer Lutheran, Gorham, ME

Sept. 15 – Falmouth Rotary Club, Falmouth, MA

Sept. 16 – Scituate Rotary Club, Scituate, MA

Sept. 18-19 NED Pastor’s Wives Retreat

Sept. 20 – Lutheran Church of the Savior, Bedford, MA

Sept. 25-27 – Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury, CT

Oct. 3 Shepherd of the Hills, 4:00 PM, Morris, CT

Oct. 4 – St. Paul’s Lutheran, New Hartford, CT

Oct. 11 – Fairfax Community Church, Fairfax, VA

Oct. 18 – Island Lutheran, Hilton Head Island, SC

Oct. 25 – Our Savior Lutheran, S. Windsor, CT

Oct. 25-27 NED Pastor/Teacher Conf, Enfield, CT

Nov. 1 – Peace Lutheran, Fresno, CA

Nov. 8 – St. Peter’s Lutheran, Elk Grove, CA

Nov. 15 – St. Peter’s Lutheran, Lodi, CA

Nov. 22 – Grace Lutheran, Modesto, CA

Nov. 25 – Thanksgiving. United Lutheran, Manteca, CA

Nov. 29 – Our Saviour’s Lutheran, Patterson, CA

Dec. 6 – St. Andrew’s Lutheran, Stockton, CA

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**