



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

April, 2016 Volume 11 Issue 4

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

347

5 went home in March



Check out Capstone
on Facebook.



**Your Thrivent Choice Dollars
expire on March 31. Remember to
direct your Choice Dollars to
Capstone this month.**

"The cow that took children to school"

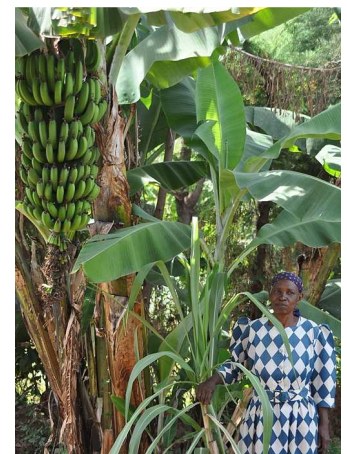
Death may be cruel but hope beyond death renews faith and joy. Jane Iminza is a living testimony of this Easter hope. Jane lost her grandchildren's parents to death many years ago. Grandparents are not designed to raise children a second time but many are doing just that in Africa. Jane, who is also a widow, is the sole provider for her three grandchildren. She has no other support than her own two hands, and the deep and abiding love of her Savior.

All three of her grandchildren are in secondary school now. That is an expensive proposition in Kenya because high school is not free. School fees run between 40,000-100,000 Kenyan shillings per year. (\$400-\$1000)

Jane is only a poor rural peasant farmer. She has no job. She has only a small mud house and a small plot of land. There is no government safety net in Kenya, no welfare system, no ADC. Yet she is paying these high school fees from the meager resources she has. You might assume there is a generous donor involved but there is none. Jane is doing all this alone.



**Left: Jane
in her
simple
home.**



**Right:
Jane next
to her
prolific
banana
trees.**

Years ago when Jane discovered she was HIV+, (Oh, I forgot to tell that little detail) she joined the Maseno Tumaini Support Group and discovered just how powerful faith and hope really is in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges. Over time Jane learned how to raise a hybrid cow, chickens, and rabbits. She learned which plants treat the diseases of her animals, which grass is best for milk. (cont. p. 2)

(cont from. p. 1) When missionaries Delano and Linda Meyer came to conduct their third agricultural training for the Tumaini Group, Jane was there, as she was the previous two years. One the second day of the training, the group chooses a small scale farm to visit. The group had chosen Jane's place. It was an astounding visit for Delano and Linda. They saw first-hand how this amazing elderly grandmother was supporting herself and her grandchildren in school.

Every corner of her small plot of land is being utilized: composting here, fruit trees over there, medicinal plants, a zero grazed cow, chickens at every age level from newly hatched chicks to hens sitting on eggs, only a few rabbits as she just sold a bunch to pay for school fees



Janes shares with Delano and Linda about some of the medicinal plants she grows to treat her cow and chickens.

The amazing part of the visit wasn't the income she was producing, or the cow that gives 23 liters of milk per day or even the knowledge Jane has about everything she is doing. It was the glint in her eye as she took us on the tour. She was filled with hope and joy. That was priceless.

Not all poor rural families are doing what Jane is doing. And that is sad. Because it is possible. She is industrious and proud in the face of insurmountable odds. She did not give up when life threw her multiple curves. She sought help from women in the same situation. She did not go begging from a mzungu (white European). She did it on her own. She learned. She worked. She persevered. She believed.

Our prayer is that more and more people would meet people like Jane Iminza. All too often, western well-wishers think they know what the poor in the world need and they give it to them. The result often is that hope, faith, and perseverance is sidelined, replaced with dependency, begging and envy.

Capstone Ministries is founded on the concept of families taking care of their own children. Sometimes the challenges are great! But Jane reminds us that challenges strengthen us and can be overcome with hard work, a heart of faith....and some Easter hope!

Photos of the month: We took our staff to Rondo Retreat for our annual Capstone Retreat and got some special pictures of monkeys and the young juvenile eagle who was testing his wings. (More on the retreat 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.

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

Prayers, Praise and News

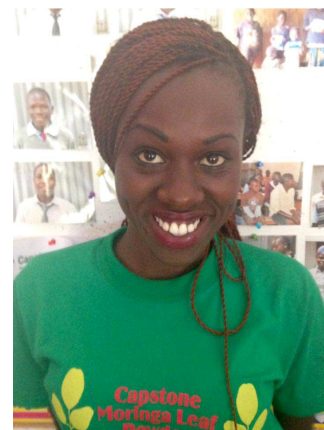
1. Please pray for friends in Kenya and the US who are experiencing challenges.
2. Thank God for good friends Delano and Linda Meyer who visited with us for one week, giving an agricultural seminar to the Maseno and Emuhaya support groups.
3. Pray for those dealing with cancer treatments. Pray for healing and strength of faith.

New faces at Capstone



Allan is serving as an intern at Capstone from Kisumu Polytechnic where he is studying social work. He will be with Capstone for three months.

Beryl is serving at Capstone as a marketing intern. She promotes the sale of moringa at local shops in Kisumu



Diana was recently hired as an accountant for Capstone, relieving Patty of some of her administrative accounting duties.