



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

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In this Issue

- Page 1: "The Widow's Oil"
- p. 2: "Widow's oil cont."
- p. 3 "D&P Travel schedule in USA"
- p. 3 Savemart changes.
- p. 3 Donor slip, Prayers needed
- p. 4 Photos of Month, 3 reconciled boys in June.



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

397

3 went home in June.



Check out Capstone
on Facebook.



"SHARES" CARD HOLDERS

For those in California who use the "Shares Card" with Savemart supermarket, the program has changed to an E-Scrip Program. Easy instructions on p. 3

"The Widow's Oil: Little Can be Much"

"The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves." 2 Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a small jar of olive oil." 3 Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. 4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side." 5 She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. 6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing. 7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left." II Kings 4:1-7

Desperate times! Life threatening poverty! That was the circumstance of a prophet's widow as she approached Elisha with her need. She demonstrates her desperate psychological state as she answers Elisha's question about her current resources. Her first thought is, "I have nothing, except..." Oh, how often we do the same when we are faced with something beyond our control. Panic sets in. Negative thoughts arise. I have nothing...there is nothing I can do. That is seldom true of course and the widow shows her faith in coming to the right place when she is in need. By approaching Elisha, she is bringing her circumstance to the Lord. Good for her! And good for us when we run to God instead of away from Him.

Elisha shows us a godly approach to this poor woman. He validates the need and then involves the community surrounding this needy woman in the solution. It is not mentioned in the story but I imagine a community that heard about and rejoiced in the miraculous provision. Elisha also involved the woman and her two sons in the solution as they approach neighbors for containers. That might not seem like much of an "ask" but containers in ancient times were treasured, cleaned, recycled and used again. It was not the throw-away society in which we live.

It is quite the dramatic scene as the woman and her sons pour her "little oil" into the containers her sons had received from neighbors. I'm sure she knew exactly how much oil she had in her lone clay jar. Imagine the look on the faces as her container continues to pour oil, filling one after another, after another, after another...

(Cont. p. 2 left column)



I'm sure there was a skip in her step as she returned to Elisha to report what had happened. Elisha gives her some sage advice about her new found food security. Be responsible with the excess, Elisha tells her. Pay your debts, then secure your livelihood. Ever wonder why Elisha made a point to tell her how to handle her new found security? Anyone who has spent time working with the poor in a third world country for a while knows immediately why he said that! Greed and selfishness is not a temptation reserved for the rich. It is, perhaps, even more difficult a temptation for the former poor who have just received a windfall.

No one can live just on oil of course. The woman had to go and barter with her "miracle oil" for some grain from those who perhaps because of the draught had grain but no oil. So her provision helped other families survive during these desperate times also. When God blesses us, there is an opportunity to be a blessing to others that naturally follows. I would even say he expects us to be a blessing.



Kenya has been experiencing some desperate times recently. Maize production was down at the last harvest. Many local farmers have lost their entire current crop to the pest called the "army worm" which consumes the maize stalk before it matures. The manipulative political landscape that has sought to play the blame game instead of releasing food from storehouses has only made the situation worse. And when people are hungry, families are under stress. And when there is stress, children suffer. Instability at home is why many boys are on the streets to begin with.



During the Friday meeting of all Capstone staff, we were discussing how we might be able to help the most desperate of the families with whom we work. A story of a grandmother who was caring for many of her grandchildren yet had absolutely no food at all in her house--not even a little oil--was heartbreaking. A decision to purchase some food for her in particular was made. That same day, a government food truck pulled up in front of our gate with food we had heard about but were not counting on. Suddenly we had more than enough food to help not just one grandmother but multiple families in need. In all 20 families were assisted with enough food to last them until the next harvest. Each family was given food based on the number of people in the home but on average each received the following: 22 pounds of maize, 1.5 liter of oil, 5 pounds of beans, 5 pounds of rice and 5 pounds of porridge. This may not seem like much but little can be much in the Lord's hands! Many of the families shed tears of joy upon receiving this food. Praise God for friends like you for your support of Capstone Ministries!



Do you use the “Shares” Savemart card when shopping?

Attention: Program Change

The Shares card is being changed to an e-scrip program. Savemart has made it easy for you to make this change from scanning your card. Here are the easy steps the next time you are shopping in Savemart in California or Nevada:

It’s as simple as providing your phone number at checkout:

1. Sign up for the NEW* Shares program by registering your phone number or Save Smart Rewards Card with eScrip.
2. *You will no longer use your S.H.A.R.E.S. card (effective April 1, 2016). Register your phone or your Save Smart Rewards card number (this will not be your S.H.A.R.E.S. card)
3. Shop at Save Mart Supermarkets and provide your registered phone number or card at checkout.

You can also go to the following web address to make the switch:

<http://www.escrip.com/merchants/identity/savemart/index.jsp>

| |
|--|
| Donation: For Capstone and support for Dan & Patty |
| Name _____ |
| Address _____ |
| City _____ State _____ Zip _____ |
| Email _____ |
| Donation Amount _____ |
| Designation? _____ |

Dan and Patty’s Fall Travel Schedule

Below are the dates and locations where Dan and Patty will be visiting this fall. Some are still tentative which means the host has not yet confirmed.

August 1 Arrive in Boston

August 6 – St. Paul’s Lutheran, New Hartford, CT

August 13—Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Endfield, CT

August 19,20 Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury, CT

August 27 Bethany Lutheran, W. Hartford, CT

Sept. 3 – Trinity Lutheran, Keene, NH

Sept. 10 – Messiah Lutheran, Fitchburg, MA (tent)

Sept. 17 – Our Savior Lutheran, S. Windsor, CT

Sept. 24 – Island Lutheran, Hilton Head, SC

Sept. 26-29 Capstone Board Retreat, Waterford, WI

Sept. 30, Oct. 1 Trinity Lutheran, Freistadt, WI

Sept. 8 – Zion Lutheran, Morris, MN

Sept. 10,11 CNH Pastor’s Conference, Fairfield, CA
-Preaching for worship

Sept. 15 Victory Lutheran, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada

Sept. 22 Good Shepherd Lutheran, Turlock, CA

Sept. 29 St. Peter’s Lutheran, Elk Grove, CA

Nov. 5 St. Andrew’s Lutheran, Stockton, CA

Nov. 12 – open

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

Nov. 19 – St. Paul’s Lutheran, Tracy, CA (tent)

Nov. 22 – United Lutheran, Manteca, CA
Thanksgiving Eve

Nov. 26 – St. Peter’s Lutheran, Lodi, CA

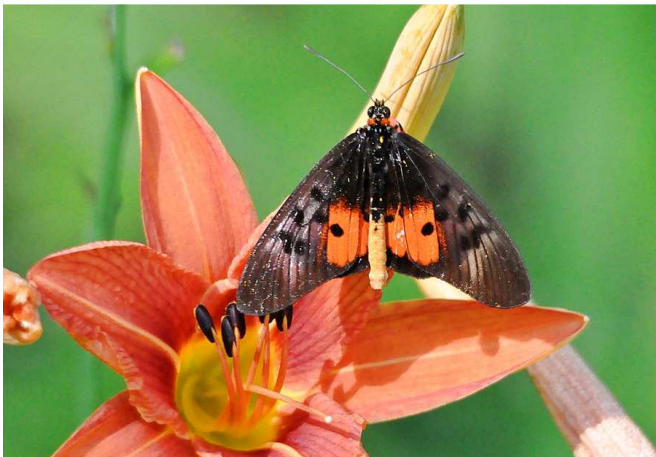
Nov. 28 Return to Kenya

Board Member Peter Kelm battling cancer

Please keep Pastor Peter, Angie and his family in your prayers. Peter serves as Associate Pastor at First Immanuel in Cedarburg, Wis and recently joined the Capstone Board. At this point the chemo drugs have been ineffectual but at least the cancer has been slow growing. Please keep them in your prayers!

Photos of the Month

During a few days at our favorite retreat at Rondo in the Kakamega rain forest, we got these nice shots. We celebrated our anniversary a few weeks early.



New Rescues

Capstone has rescued and reconciled at home three boys in June. They are pictured below. Pray they remain at home. Letters behind the number of the rescue indicates a rescue in cooperation with another organization. R="Remand" Children's Detention Center in Kisumu. K= "Kuap" Kuap is part of Pandipeiri, a Catholic center Capstone has been working with for a number of years.



#395R
Elvis Juma



#396
Paskall Owilli



#397K
Robert Ogolla