



Capstone Ministries



Restoring Children! Strengthening Families!

“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone” Psalm 118:22

Monthly Newsletter of Capstone Ministries, Kisumu, Kenya

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In this Issue

- Page 1: “Your own people”
- p. 2: “Your own people” cont.
- p. 2 Travel Schedule, Thrivent Instructions
- P. 2: Prayers and Praise
- p. 2: Donor slip



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The number of street boys reconciled with family by Capstone Ministries to date:	413
	2 boys went home in August

Select Capstone Ministries for your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Go to:
<https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/index.html>



Email: CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com
 Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org

“Your own people”

“The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying “Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him” Luke 8:38, 39

Jesus command to the church in Matthew 28 is clear! *“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing... and teaching....”* What is less clear is the approach and level of involvement of those sent. In the incident above, Jesus sent a healed demoniac from the Geresenes to his home town to witness about Jesus healing. If I may posit a probing question: why did Jesus send this man and not one of his followers? Certainly Jesus had his own time table set by His Father. He was and is the Redeemer first. Mission flows from his work as Redeemer. That is certainly part of the answer to that question. Another aspect has to do with where this man was from. He is from the region known as the Decapolis, the region settled by the soldiers and generals of Alexander the Great. Hellenism was not only a culture, it was a worldview based in humanism. In many ways, it parallels the direction of culture in the West today. For a Jew to bridge that culture and be a witness would have been fool hardy. Instead Jesus saves one of their own and sends him as a witness to the Decapolis. His effectiveness is noted later when many residents of the Decapolis become followers of Jesus.

At Capstone we have found this same principle of “same culture” witness to be just as effective. The interaction with boys on the street to home visitation, small group Bible study, teaching at Capstone Camp is done almost entirely by our national staff. We have found it to be a practical and effective approach, much like the Geresene witnessing to his own people. Here are some of the specific thoughts and principles involved in this approach.

Trust flows from commonality. Human beings tend to give credence to information that comes from a trusted source. Trust is enhanced when there are common experiences. A white missionary who by his speech, appearance, language and experiences cannot produce or develop the common background of someone from the same culture. No matter how much education or cultural experience he/she has, the fact remains he is and always will be seen as an outsider. Those who refuse to acknowledge this obvious fact will eventually become frustrated and disillusioned. Our national staff have the natural advantage in talking with a boy on the street or with a parent/guardian because they are seen as one of them who cares about them.

Prayers, Praises

1. Dan is traveling on the east coast in September. Trinity Lutheran, Keene, NH – Sept. 3, Messiah Lutheran, Fitchburg, MA - Sept. 10, Our Savior Lutheran, So. Windsor – Sept. 16,17, Island Lutheran, Hilton Head, SC – Sept. 24

2. Praise God for recent visits at St. Paul’s Lutheran, New Hartford, CT – Lutheran Church of our Savior – Enfield, CT, Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury CT - Bethany Lutheran – W. Hartford, CT, .

3. Pray for our Capstone Board as they serve selflessly in support of Capstone Ministries in the USA. They are

Dave Hudon – Chairman – Canton, CT

Pastor Bob Schipul – Hingham, MA

Pastor Randall Pekari – S. Windsor, CT

Pastor Philip Reimers – Evergreen, CO

Judie Brown – Manteca, CA

Ann Jedele – Winfield, KA

Pastor Peter Kelm – Cedarburg, WI

Delano Meyer – Chokio, Minnesota

Jeff Long – Plymouth, MI

Jan Fehr – Lakewood, CO

4. Pray for the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Instructions:

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.

Perception creates distraction. We have seen it happen repeatedly. It has happened to us many times. Someone from the West stands up to speak-- in a meeting, at church or in a school. No matter what is said, his/her comments are accepted even adopted as policy or practice because the culture that is polite and relational assumes the visitor knows more and he would never dream of contradicting or correcting an analysis that is faulty. Or, his words are listened to politely and the response is a litany of needs that the listener assumes the visitor has come to address. The visitor assumes he is effective because the response was polite and positive.

Owned problems become owned solutions. Real change begins in the heart, individually and collectively. Cultures that sit down together, are honest about themselves and their circumstance have their problems 90% solved. Repentance and change happens without the distraction of having to “save face” in front of someone from outside. Most of the problems in families that have resulted in a boy running to the street are interpersonal. In fact most if not all sin is relational. It is easier for a trusted member of our own culture to challenge us in the areas of our weakness. With repentance comes forgiveness and from forgiveness comes life.

Humility, Ego and Missiology. Every missionary loves to tell his story. Which story would you rather hear or tell: A. How I saved a community. Or B. How God used our staff to save one person? Sometimes we resist taking the seat of service because we love the kudos of sitting at the head table. We may even defend our missiological approach by putting words in God’s mouth just so we can bask in praise. May God save us from ourselves and our own inclination to self-orientation, especially in missions. May our “To God be the glory” be both genuine and an encouragement to examine our hearts and motives.

God bless you for your support of Capstone Ministries!

Donation: Capstone Ministries & Dan and Patty support

Name _____  Address _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email: _____

Special Designation if any _____ Donation Amount _____

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries. All donations are tax deductible.

Email: CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org

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