



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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The number of
street boys
reconciled with
family by
Capstone
Ministries since
2005

595

Rescued to date



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on Facebook.**



**Capstone Ministries is an RSO of the LC-
MS (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)**

"Fruit that will last"

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: 'Love each other'" John 15:16,17

As John begins chapter 15, he continues to quote the words of Jesus from Thursday evening in Holy Week. John is the only Gospel writer to quote the discourse of Jesus that covers portions of John 13-17. It is my belief that the words of John 15:1-17 were spoken by Jesus as He and the disciples pause at a vineyard on the road leading to the olive grove called Olivet just outside of Jerusalem. Jesus talks with his disciples frankly about the process of pruning by the Father. Pruning is necessary for grape vines if they are to produce fruit the following fall. In fact, the timing and precision of the vinedresser will determine the quality of the wine from the grapes. Jesus' implication is that the Father—just like a vinedresser—prunes those who are producing spiritual fruit so that they will be even more fruitful in the future. Those who have experienced "pruning" will attest to the relationship between a painful event in life and the reality of the fruit that followed.

The disciples would pass through some very painful moments in the coming days. They would scatter at Jesus' arrest shortly after Jesus spoke these words. Most of them would hide in a room with the doors locked. Word would be reported to them by Peter and John that Jesus had been crucified. John, who wrote these words of Jesus, was the only disciple that stood at the cross as Jesus died.

How devastated the disciples must have been; devastated by their own failure and their dashed expectations. They fully expected Passover to be a weekend filled with glory and deliverance. Now their dreams lay shattered like shards of a crystal vase on the floor. It was a painful pruning. The Lord allowed them to endure it because He knew there would be fruit to follow, fruit that would last.

All of these same disciples would become strong witnesses to the risen Lord. Many would lose their lives in remote regions of the world rather than abandon the Lord again. These same men who failed miserably on that Thursday evening would

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turn the world upside down. The good news would spread to Asia, Africa and Europe.

We are reminded in this that failure is not final. It may in fact be the Lord's way of pruning your life for a fruitful future. Just like a grape vine that looks dead and lifeless after the early spring pruning, yet this experience produces new growth in abundance in the fall. So also, from a devastating experience we have our lives shifted in a dramatic fashion, the Lord initiates and induces new growth and an abundant harvest in the end.

This fall, Patty and I are celebrating 19 years on the mission field in Africa. Initially it was painful and hard. A new culture, challenging living arrangements, strange foods, infections, and malaria all put us to the test. It was in many ways, a pruning. But the Lord did not leave us alone. He taught us, nurtured the idea of reconciliation for Kenya's most vulnerable, and strengthened us during those early years when the harvest was small. Many of you stood with us during those early years of learning and growing. You trusted the Lord of the harvest just as we did. For that we praise God.



Once in a while the Lord allows us to see just how vital this work of rescue, reconciliation, and restoration really is. Just this past week, we heard about a boy called Peter. Peter had run away from home and had been living on the streets of Kisumu. While there, he ate very poorly and did damage to his intestines. He recently underwent a second operation to repair the damage. He has not been able to resume eating food. The family has raised the money for the surgery and so he can be fed through a feeding tube. Capstone is assisting. He is being ministered to by our staff.

We are very grateful to all of you who have kept us in prayer and supported the work of Capstone Ministries with your generous gifts. May God bless you so that you also enjoy the fruits of your labors.

Schedule of Visits

Dan and Patty have begun their visitation of churches and individuals who have or are interested in supporting Capstone Ministries. Below is the schedule thus far.

July 11.....Messiah Lutheran, Beloit, WI

July 18.....Risen Savior Lutheran, Franklin, WI

August 1 ...Trinity Lutheran, Toledo, OH

August 8...Immanuel Lutheran, Scranton, PA

August 15 Resurrection Lutheran, Waterville, ME

August 22...Open

August 29...Open

Sept. 5....Open

Sept. 11,12 Our Savior Lutheran, S. Windsor, CT

Set. 18,19 Redeemer Lutheran, Lebanon, CT

New Book Published

Dan has completed his fourth book. This one is on the life of Joseph and is based on the events in Genesis 37-43. It includes a six session Bible Study at the back of the book. It is available on Amazon.