



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

August, 2022 Volume 17 Issue 8

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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

Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org

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

634

*Rescued to date
 3 rescued in July*

Check out Capstone
 on Facebook.



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

"Compliance and Mission"

"Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's" (Luke 20:25)

These words of Jesus are His response to a question posed by the chief priests and teachers of the law, in an attempt to trap Him and turn Him over to the authorities. They had asked, *"Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"* (20:22) Jesus asked for a denarius coin and asked whose image was on the coin. When they answered, "Caesar," Jesus responded with this well-known expression.

The question by the chief priests was loaded with nationalistic overtones, a Roman occupation that was oppressive, and even the practice among some religious nationalists who refused to even touch a Roman coin.

Jesus deft answer not only silenced the duplicitous priests, it has provided guidance for Christians around the world who live under oppressive dictators and governments that are hostile to the Gospel.

During our time in Kenya, we lived in a country fraught with rampant corruption on every level. The temptation can be great to simply disregard rules, reporting, and regulation that is often ignored by others. We have, at times, experienced subjective interpretation of laws by officials with the specific objective of securing a bribe. It can seem logical to compromise one's personal ethics for the sake of time and convenience. I remember one incident: A police officer maintained that I was speeding on the road and suggested "something small" would take care of the matter. Knowing that the "roadside fine" was really money that would find it's way into his pocket, I opted to accompany him to the police station where the matter could be settled. He declined and waved me on.

Regularly missionaries are targeted, knowing that many have deep pockets and would rather pay than be detained. There are, as well, a myriad of forms to file for personal work permits and activity of the ministry. "Giving to Caesar" can be complicated and often seems pointless as forms and reports are seldom read. Jesus knew that the question from the chief priests had a similar complex back story. But, He still said it was

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necessary. His command is clear: obey the law of the land, no matter how corrupt and unjust the government.

That command does, at times, seem difficult and challenging. But if we seek the blessing of the Lord Jesus on the work we are doing, how can we disobey him when it appears inconvenient or time consuming? Maintaining one's ethical standards is a silent witness. But it can often ring loudly in the ears of those you may seldom hear from.

We are very grateful to all our donors who have continued to support Capstone Ministries despite inflationary pressures. God bless you.

New Capstone Board Member



At our last board meeting, we were pleased to welcome a new board member: Karl Roeske.

Karl currently serves as Director of Missions and Outreach at First Immanuel Lutheran in Cedarburg, WI. He had previously served at FIL as Youth Director and middle school teacher. He has led many mission experiences to Mexico, Guatemala, and Ghana. He also organizes and directs volunteer ministry beyond FIL on local, national and international levels.

Karl is a graduate of Concordia College Mequon with a BA in Elementary Education. He had previously served as an elementary teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School in Luxemburg, WI, and St. Paul Lutheran School, Milford Center, OH

LWML Grant Application

Capstone is applying for a national LWML grant. The application will be reviewed by the grant committee and if selected, be presented at the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee in June 2023. The grant will provide for secondary school and vocational school scholarships for 32 former street boys. It will also assist with funding for Capstone Camp 2023 & 2024, 100 Bibles and 100

copies of Luther's Small Catechisms in Swahili. Capstone will be an exhibitor at the LWML Convention. Stop by the Capstone table if you plan to attend.

Prayers and News

Keep these individuals in your prayers:

Dan and Patty as they travel to Kenya in Sept. The LWML grant process. Digital fund-raising initiative.

Pray for peace in Kenya. National elections are Aug. 9

The following by first name: Robert, Delano, Roger, Michael.

Dan & Patty's Travel Schedule

Aug. 14 St. Peter's Lutheran, Elk Grove, CA

Aug. 21 Our Saviour's Lutheran, Patterson, CA

Aug. 28 St. Matthew's Lutheran, Sonora, CA

Sept. 4 St. Matthew's Lutheran, Sonora, CA

Sept. 7 Return to Kenya

Sept. 11-13 International Lutheran Conference, Kisumu, Kenya (Host is ELCK)

Nov. 9 Return from Kenya

Direct and regular contributions

If you would like make regular contributions from your Mastercard, Visa, checking, savings, or investment fund, you can do so through a program called "Zelle." You can set it up easily through the Zellepay APP or your bank, without a fee. You will need the Capstone account information, however. For security purposes, please email CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com or call 209:289:3025. In the coming weeks we will announce other ways to give digitally. Your personal checks are and will always be welcome.

Rescues: 3 boys were rescued in July

They are from L-R: James, Aggrey, Ephy.

