



Capstone Ministries

Child and Family Restoration Outreach

"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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A heavenly homesickness

"John left them to return to Jerusalem" Acts 13:13

I've been thinking a lot about John Mark lately. John started out as a missionary with Paul and Barnabas on his first missionary journey. With great enthusiasm, he went along as a helper. Acts 13:4-13 records the brief experience of John Mark as a missionary on the island of Cyprus. But shortly after the three sail from the western port of Paphos and land in Perga along the coast of Galatia, Mark heads back to Jerusalem. No reason is given but later Paul says that John Mark had deserted them.

Many have tried to explain why John Mark left Paul and Barnabas. Some say it was homesickness, others illness, still others a conflict with Paul's leadership. It is in fact true that many missionaries do not remain for long in the field. The reasons are many. Cultural adjustment, the overwhelming needs, danger and crime, expectations of others, conflicts, health concerns, family separation, the pressure of raising funds, loneliness and disappointment. All these can leave one sympathetic to John Mark.

After six years of living in Kenya, Patty and I have realized that it is not because of any innate goodness in us that we remain here but rather by the grace of God. It is the song of God's love that resonates in our hearts. It is the sense of mission and purpose. That may be what was lacking in John. It may have been the excitement of sailing to a new land the suddenly wore off when the reality of facing demons like Elymas sent him running back home. The burning desire of God's call on the heart to share God's love may have been just flash paper in Mark. And when the song bird has forgotten his song, when the mission goes out of the missionary, when the grace of God is gone, it is easy to understand why missionaries like John Mark run back home.

But in a very real way, we are all missionaries with a song in our heart. We have all been sent to a distant land. We have all been sent to proclaim the wonders of God's grace. And... we are all homesick.

It is encouraging to discover that John Mark found his song again. Later he would write the second Gospel of our Lord. He is mentioned favorably by Paul in Colossians 4 and some twenty years later Paul asks a young pastor Timothy to *"bring Mark with you because he is helpful to me in my ministry."* II Tim. 4:11.

May God fill your heart with the grace of our Lord Jesus so that you may serve him in your "distant land."

First step to Self- Sustainability

Two projects are on the agenda for 2009 will begin a process toward reaching self sustainability at Capstone Ministries. One is hybrid goat breeding. The project will take some time to develop and the building of the goat houses will begin very soon. The other is the selling of Moringa Leaf Powder. Moringa has many medicinal properties well documented by studies done in US Universities. It is growing in popularity among the people of Kenya and the demand currently far exceeds supply. Currently we have more than 200 trees producing the leaves and the goal is to expand that to 2000 by the end of the year. Pictured below is the first sale of 100 grams of the powder which sells locally for 100 shillings or about \$1.25. The ceremonial sale was made to Paul Gimode, interim manager of Capstone Ministries.



Other news: A team of 11 visited Capstone recently from New Hartford, CT. Below Pastor Jimmy Coffey teaches at the CYC outreach of Capstone. The topic is forgiveness. He is using the Biblical story of Joseph.



Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. **Pray** for the boys currently at the CTC: Thomas, Kevin, Joseph and the newest boy Ryan.
2. Praise God for the students of Kenya who have recently been able to return to school after a teacher's strike against the government which employs all public school teachers.
3. **Praise** God for the recently concluded Sunday School teacher's Seminar conducted by Lutheran Churches from Connecticut. 11 people including two pastors and a vicar conducted a two day Seminar at the Lutheran Church and supplied six churches, the Special School next to the Cathedral and Capstone with Sunday School materials from Concordia Publishing House. CPH donated the materials that include large pictures of the lesson of the day. (See picture on front) these supplies and the training will greatly enhance the development of the church programs and the daily lessons of Capstone
4. Pray as we look for a dedicated national pastor to enhance the spiritual program of Capstone Ministries.
5. **IN MEMORY.** We want to take a moment to remember 2 special men who passed away recently. One is Manley Bean, father of good friend Mark Bean. Manley was the donor for Norman's heart surgery. The other is Pat Massengill from our home congregation in Patterson, CA. Pat was a dear friend, a loving husband to Audine and a man full of faith. He will be dearly missed.

S.H.A.R.E.S. Program! SHARES is a program initiated by SaveMart Supermarkets in N. California. Capstone has been approved for this program and you may request your card through the attached receipt, the email printed on the left or calling the telephone number in Patterson. You will receive a card and instructions by return mail. The program allows you to do your regular grocery shopping at SaveMart and upon check out, have your card swiped by the cashier. SaveMart will then donate 3% to Capstone. Feel free to ask for additional cards for friends and family or members of your church.

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Patty's Post It

It's a boy! Faith has been faithfully helping us in the house since we arrived in Kenya in 2002. When we first knew Faith she was a very young, shy and newly married woman. Feeling a bit self conscious about her English speaking skills, she rarely spoke. Now, six years later Faith and Moses are the proud parents of two beautiful children, Patty age 3 and now Edwin who was born on 10th February. Patty was obviously named in my honor. I coached Faith through the labor and witnessed the birth and was the first to hold the new little miracle. Edwin has Dan's middle name and his dad's name. Faith was very close to Dan's mom when she visited four years ago.

On the day of Edwin's birth Faith came as usual in the morning. About mid morning I was telling her about a plan I had for the next week. She looked at me and said, "I don't think I'll be here then" Instinctively I knew, she must be in labor. She confirmed she had been feeling some contractions. A while later I noticed her grimacing so I inquired more specifically, "just how close are those contractions?" She responded that she was not timing them but she had "a lot of water come out last night" Oh my goodness, I said, "Faith you have to get to the hospital right now" She insisted she must finish washing the dishes so I dropped what I was doing and said, "ok, but I'm going to help you, then I'm driving you to the hospital"

Faith never argues or complains about anything but this time she was very insistent that she was going home first. I drove her home at around noon but unfortunately I had to leave her on her own because Dan and I were traveling out of town and had to leave by a certain time to reach there before dark. Little Edwin was born at about 4:00pm. Good thing I didn't insist that she finish the laundry before leaving! We saw Edwin when he was about a week old. Did you know that black babies are born white? It takes a few weeks for their pigment to come in. We really laughed about Edwin being a mazungu (white) baby. Sister Patty is very proud of her new baby brother and is a big help to mama. We praise God for the new member of our Kenyan family.

We have developed a label and started packaging our Moringa Leaf Powder. If anyone has marketing skills or any idea of how we can market this product in the states let us know. We are excited about the possibilities for this income generating project for Capstone.

We also have mulberry trees growing in our yard and it's harvest time. Soon I'll be making mulberry freezer jam. We also have an avocado tree, lemon trees, loquat, papaya and bananas. It's no wonder the monkeys try to sneak past the dogs at night for a bite or two from our Garden of Eden.

We have beautiful birds that visit our yard especially the feeder where we put out grains and seed. Our kitty, we call her the "queen" Kiboko has decided she likes to drink from the bird bath and even takes a nap at the base of the feeder. Bad kitty! As spring approaches in the US, I pray you also have new life, flowers, and jam!

Donations are tax deductible. Make checks payable to: Key Ministries, Kenya Mission
As our partners we encourage you to spread the word about this ministry.
Feel free to share this newsletter or write to Dan and Patty to add a friend to this mailing.