



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

December, 2010 Volume 5 Issue 12

“Traps and Trappings”

“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” Galatians 5:6

One of the most time honored traditions of Christmas is gift exchange. In my childhood home, the most distinguished honor one could have was to “play Santa” and hand out the gifts from under the tree. It was by far the most anticipated time of the year. December was a month filled with Christmas programs, the Christmas Cantata, decorating the tree and prayers for snow on Christmas Eve. But gift giving on Christmas morning was the highlight by far.

Over the years Christmas has changed. In Kenya, we don’t decorate a tree or put up lights. Christmas has become less about the trappings



and more about worship, faith and love.

The Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians because the believers in Galatia had become lost in the trappings of their faith. Most of the Galatians were Jewish Christians and some had fallen victim to teachers who insisted that laws like circumcision still applied. Paul replies, ***“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.” 5:1***

December is a month filled with the trappings of Christmas and at times we can be left with the feeling that Christmas has us trapped in

the trappings. Even the giving of gifts can, at times, seem more like a burden to bear than a joy filled experience. Perhaps we need Paul’s reminder again today: ***“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”***

We wanted to take this opportunity to have you meet those who serve Capstone Ministries year round, giving their time regularly to the extension of this ministry to the street children in Kenya.

In the left column is pictured the Capstone Board and below are the ladies from Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Patterson who meet monthly to send out the Capstone Newsletter. As 2010 draws to a close we want to thank them for their service, their gift of time, their faith expressing itself through love. Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year



Pictured opposite: Back row: Tom Gingerich, Lee Kucker, Judie Brown, Bryan Hoffman, Paul Johnson, Lou Wiebe. Front: Patty Schmelzer, Mary Louise Kucker, Pat Gingerich. Inset: Bob and Sandi Schipul

Missing: Jane Wiebe, Karen Johnson & Sue Hoffman. **Pictured above:** L to R: Dorothy Amaro, Rosemarie Starcher, Melba Osnes, Barbara Keeney, Jane Chaney, Barbara Torrison, Patty Schmelzer. **Missing from the picture:** Bunnie Yoppini, Emilie Hove, Virginia Wheeland, Nancee Maya.



Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. Praise God for the Capstone Board members and the volunteers who put together the newsletter each month.
2. Pray for journey mercies as we travel back to Kenya.
3. Praise God for the Kenyan staff who have faithfully carried on the work of Capstone.
4. Pray for the children on the streets of Kisumu and in the rural market areas that they will come to their senses and go back home
5. Praise for Paul Gimode who has served as interim director of Capstone on the ground while we are in the states.



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Patty's Post It

We did it! We managed through the amazingly busy schedule Dan organized for our furlough tour of the US! What a blessing it was to see dear old friends and to have opportunity to meet so many new friends! Our heartfelt thanks to all of you especially those across the US and Canada who hosted us in your homes, loaned us your vehicles and fed us wonderful meals. We are blessed beyond measure.

As I type this and think about returning to Kenya I'm looking at a small white tea pot I recently purchased for \$5.00. Since my purchase I've been reflecting on that tea pot and what it represents. In Kenya sharing tea is a very personal and loving form of fellowship. A visitor never leaves a home without sharing a cup of tea. I just finished reading the book, *Stones into Schools* by Greg Mortenson who also wrote *Three Cups of Tea*. In his books he describes the importance of sharing tea in the middle-eastern culture. The first cup of tea is shared with a stranger, the second cup with a friend, but by the time the third cup of tea is shared it signifies a family relationship.

While visiting on the East Coast Sandy Schipul put together a Capstone Fund Raiser called "Tea with Patty" What joy we ladies found in our fellowship surrounded by sharing tea together. In preparation for that event I polished a beautiful silver tea pot that had long been in Sandy's family. Imagine if that teapot could talk; tales of long ago, of friends and family enjoying tea together. Although my little white inexpensive teapot doesn't have much history, it certainly has a charm of its own, adorned with a swirly handle that caresses a delicate tulip shaped body and a perfectly curved spout. I found a quote that says it all, author unknown: *"Strange how a teapot can represent at the same time the comforts of solitude and the pleasures of company?"*

In the midst of your busy holiday season take some time out to find solitude or the pleasures of company with a pot of tea. Dan and I wish you blessed Christmas as we remember the birth of our precious Savior Jesus Christ!



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.