

# inMission

the magazine of cms ireland

issue 33  
spring 2010



**all things new...**

the God who brings life and hope



Credit: Rey Kamensky

The process of restoration

## making all things new

Sometimes, you have to take inspiration from wherever you can get it!

I've just been speaking to a friend who lives in County Devon, on England's southern coast, and he was enthusing about an apartment he recently viewed in Exeter. I've rarely heard Chris so animated, describing in vivid detail the site, features, layout and character of this 'perfect apartment' and recalling the excitement that he felt about the possibility of living there.

And then Chris told me something that ensured any hint of 'writer's block' for this editorial simply evaporated. The apartments had been converted from a row of small, rundown tenements, which had originally been established in the 15th Century from a charitable gift, to provide poor widows with accommodation and a modest income. These buildings were part of Exeter's network of almshouses. As Chris observed, 'They've basically taken the poorest of the poor houses and transformed them into something spectacular'.

It strikes me that the language used to describe some of our modern building developments offer us a useful lexicon for mission. We're familiar with the concept of buildings being 'repurposed', 'restored' or 'redeveloped'. We hear of areas that are 'regenerated' or 'rejuvenated'. These are all helpful images when we consider God's work of transforming lives.

To those whose sense of direction or value is lost, God restores, redevelops and offers a new purpose. God takes what is decayed and broken and he regenerates. He takes people, churches

or mission initiatives that have lost their way and lost their verve, and He rejuvenates. God makes all things new: you, me, our churches, our mission agencies, our world...

As with the wine at Cana or Ezekiel's Valley of Bones, our God brings about miraculous transformations and offers new beginnings. He takes that which is stagnant, dirty and useless and changes it into the choicest of pleasures. He takes that which is dry, unformed and lifeless and provides structure and flesh before breathing His spirit and forming something powerful and ready to serve.

Our God makes all things new.

In this Spring and Easter edition of inMission, we celebrate this God of beginnings, who brings life from death, offering a fresh start and new possibilities, even in the bleakest of circumstances.

In the pages that follow, you'll read of opportunities to breathe new life into our magazine and our website, you'll find stories of spiritual renewal, hope and transformation from Ethiopia, DR Congo, Rwanda, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda and you'll learn of individuals who have been rejuvenated and repurposed through their engagement with God, in mission.

As you read these stories, may they inspire and challenge you towards a greater involvement with mission and a deeper encounter with the God who offers life and hope.

**Roger Cooke**



## getting to grips with the issues

sharing stories of change in mission

Over the last eight years, *inMission* magazine, like CMS Ireland, has seen many changes in shape, structure and content. But underneath the cover, the essence remains the same: we're committed to sharing stories of what God is doing to bring about new life, hope and transformation for individuals and communities around the world.

Our magazine provides a window on just some of the things that are happening within the Society, with our partners overseas and with churches and individuals here in Ireland. In terms of the quantity, range and 'immediacy' of stories and news, our website tends to be more informative and 'up-to-date'. But we recognise that the quarterly *inMission* publication is still the main way in which our stories reach lots of our members and supporters. We want to ensure that we make the most of this opportunity...and we want your help.

### sharing your ideas

*inMission* is our magazine, but it's also *your* magazine. Given the amount of time and money that is spent producing each issue, it's important that we listen to feedback and suggestions from those who read them.

Enclosed with this copy of *inMission*, you should have received a response slip, allowing you to share with us some of your thoughts about our magazine and our website. There's a chance for you to suggest ideas for stories or features and to let us know how things could be improved. Please

use this slip, or the online form (on our website), to help us develop your magazine.

We'd also ask you to consider making a one-off contribution to the cost of your *inMission* magazine – each copy costs us just over £1/€1.15 to design, print, package and post.

### sharing your story

With both our magazine and our website, we want to be better at telling stories: ordinary stories of growth and change as individuals, communities and parishes have encounters with the God who is making all things new.

We are inviting individuals to submit or suggest a story that reflects the impact of mission; an example of how they have seen mission bringing transformation in another place or in their own lives. We'll try and include as many of these as possible on our website and one or two may even be included in the magazine. Do you have a simple story you could share? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

CMS Ireland is committed to helping the Church engage in mission. To this end, our publications and our website provide us with great opportunities to share stories, offer ideas and highlight resources. We want our 'products' to look good, but much more importantly, we want them to be effective. Through your prayers and feedback, please help us to get inside the issues.



Members of the Opo community at the Christmas Day service.

## an ethiopian nativity

### a story of birth and growth

*God's gift of new life is for all people, everywhere. **Bishop Andrew Proud**, Area Bishop of the Horn of Africa, shares a story of spiritual awakening and discipleship in Ethiopia.*

For the past five years we've enjoyed increasing contact with the Opo, a very small, remote people group who live in the forest and thorn scrub, ten-hours' walk away from our nearest Church, in Itang (Gambella regional state). From very small beginnings, we now have five congregations, serving some 400 Christians.

The Opo people face many challenges, not least of which is their isolation, which means that they do not benefit from electricity, running water, schooling, healthcare or any of the other things that you and I take for granted. Their language has never been written down and only a few of them have managed to gain access to higher education in Gambella.

Our leader in the region, David Onuk, has done much to develop our work among this people. At Christmas, Janice and I were able to join David for our first visit to Opo. It was quite an experience.

On Christmas Eve, David came and invited us to join everyone for the evening programme. Just by the grass church, they had prepared a circle of school desks, brought from the

nearby school, now crammed with the whole community. Two candles and the LED light we had brought from Addis provided the only light. Overhead, a watery half moon lay on its back shedding its dim light on the few remaining patches of high evening cloud, making them appear ink-black. I read Luke's account of the birth of Christ (David read in Amharic – there is no bible in Opo) and then re-told the story of salvation history, from the Creation and Fall to the Incarnation, as David translated. Everyone listened: people leaning forward on their desks, women sitting on the floor nursing babies and the young people who would be acting out the same Christmas story later on.

After I'd finished, I was asked to take questions, which I answered as fully and honestly as I could. Each response seemed to increase their confidence to ask more. "Aren't we all Christians – why different denominations?" led to "Why do the Seventh Day Adventists worship on Saturday and not keep Christmas?" which led to "When some of our people go to Gambella, they see Mosques – what do they believe?" I was also asked, "Are some foods unclean?" and finally, "Who made Satan?"

We finished at 10:30pm and sat under the clearing sky waiting for the Christmas drama to begin. Around us, small groups rehearsed their parts, women sat on the floor and talked,

children slept and we listened to the noises of the night. And then, came the drama.

David Onuk took the part of Gabriel, wrapped in a sheet, in the style of a gabi. All the familiar elements of the narrative were presented, but with some delightful twists. For example, Joseph, having been told Mary was pregnant, hit the bottle. A very tall man with clothing stuffed up his T-shirt represented Herod, who strutted around, leering at us and pointing to us each in turn. Whoops of delight were uttered from everyone as he approached us and then left, to usher in the three kings, who hovered indecisively over the manger – but we never saw the baby.

The grand finale was Herod inexplicably collapsing (in a fit of rage?) and being bodily carried off stage by his soldiers to hoots of laughter from everyone there. It was now past midnight – Christmas Day. All went quiet; we prayed and set off for our beds. As we settled, we listened to the sounds of laughter all around us as, like us, everyone talked excitedly about what we had just seen.

On Christmas Day, I was led to the tiny grass church to begin the liturgy. But with so many people, we could not all fit into the church so, after the first couple of songs, David decided we should all move out under the trees. Desks were passed over people's heads and soon, all the desks from the previous night were rearranged, classroom-style, under the trees for the readings and the sermon.

After the sermon, all those who would receive baptism or confirmation stood to make their vows and we were led through the fields of grass, between the small, shaggily roofed tukuls, down to the river for the baptisms. Everyone gathered at the water's edge as I waded out, surprised at the strength of the current that pulled at my alb. One by one, adults were helped into the fast running water; they crouched forwards, some with their faces right in the water, as I baptised them.

In all, 32 adults were baptised, including one of the elders from the community. The children were baptised on the bank, in water scooped up into a large aluminium saucepan. I waded

from the river, my alb and sandaled feet muddy, to walk back with everyone to the church for the confirmations. 43 adults were confirmed, after which I blessed and named eight babies, one who was no more than two weeks old. The liturgy was in our new translation, just printed off in Addis. This was the first ever written material in Opo.

I came away from our visit feeling deeply encouraged and humbled by these wonderful people, who remain cheerful in adversity and who are ready to do whatever they can to improve their lot – without being dependent upon outside help.

### **Bishop Andrew Proud**

*This story from Ethiopia, and others like it from our Global Partners in Nepal and Sudan, remind us that God's Church is still growing, as many people embrace His gift of new life. Please pray for the Opo people and for the evangelism and discipleship programmes of our Global Partners in Africa and South Asia.*



Bishop Andrew baptises one of the Opo believers.



Students practising their skills at the WNEVTC.

## laying firm foundations

### stories of new starts in uganda

*CMS Ireland Mission Partner **Aart den Breejen** shares some stories of hope and new beginnings from the West Nile Ecumenical Vocational Training Centre, where he acts as Co-ordinator.*

In many ways the West Nile Ecumenical Vocational Training Centre or "The Centre" as we call it, is all about new starts.

One of the aims of the Centre is to help disadvantaged people. The group we are currently targeting is young people who have dropped-out of the school system, mostly due to financial problems or educational issues. This results in not being able to get a job or not being able to pursue further training, which can lead to idleness or despondency. For these people, the Centre is often an opportunity for a fresh start.

Let me tell you about three of these young people.

The first is Joseph. He was a driving/mechanics student in 2008. Yesterday I met him while doing some shopping in town. After the normal social chat, he told me that he was now studying at the Arua branch of Uganda Christian University (UCU). Before joining the Centre, Joseph had completed 'Senior Six' in school (which is unusual for our students), but he had been unable to afford the school fees and continue with his studies. As a result of his time with us, he does some driving jobs and occasional vehicle repairs, and this gives him enough income for his University fees. In Joseph's own words: "The Centre has formed the foundation for what I am able to do now".

The second story is that of Godfrey. He was a building student in the same year as Joseph. As an orphan he lived with his grandmother and lack of finances meant that he couldn't study further. He became one of the better building students that year so with two of his training fellows he did a lot of renovation work at the Centre and was paid for this work. At

times when there was no work at the Centre he has been able to do work in the community. Through all this, Godfrey has been able to start saving money for the future; a sensible thing in his situation and an altogether new start for him as well.

The last example is a bit special, even for us here at the Centre. It is the story of Temia, a girl who has been deaf from an early age. She came to the Centre last year but was unable to continue her studies as she couldn't afford to pay our school fees (which are already very low compared to other private or government vocational schools).

In order to be able to join us, Temia took part in a sewing course elsewhere, which was provided free of charge. By doing sewing work she earned enough to start saving for her school fees and last year, she visited us to see if she could still enrol some time in the future. But she said she needed still at least one more year to work for the fees. Given Temia's determination and efforts, we discussed the situation in the Centre and decided that we would try and get money from somewhere to cover her fees and we would be happy to accept her for this year's course. So Temia is ready to start the building course and with her determination, I'm quite sure she will be a very good builder in the future.

In addition to the new vocational opportunities that are offered to young people, the Centre also invests in new starts or continued building for students spiritually by daily devotions, student worship services and weekly studies. This reflects the Centre's holistic approach to laying firm foundations for these young people.

The Centre itself is actually working on a new start after it was closed for some years until 2006. A lot of physical work needs to be done in terms of renovation and expansion. Besides this structural work, there is a commitment to develop the quality of education, the management of the Centre and guidelines for Christian living. These things will ensure that we can lay firm foundations for many years to come.

The fact that the Centre was reopened,

something not common in Uganda, is already a sign of the importance of vocational training for the Church here. Both the Anglican Diocese of Madi West Nile and the Catholic Diocese of Arua are participating in the project. Late Bishop Semi of Yei Diocese in Sudan had a vision for a training centre like this in the early nineties. He saw a lot youth and young adults being idle and recognised how other disadvantaged groups could benefit from training in practical skills to improve their livelihoods.

Bishop Semi's vision was quite extraordinary, given the lack of regard for vocational training at the time in Sudan and Uganda. But there is now a growing acknowledgement that such training is greatly needed in Uganda and surrounding countries. Finding a good mechanic, builder, carpenter or other skilled workman here is often very difficult and work is often substandard.

The West Nile Ecumenical Vocational Training Centre is a hugely important part of the Church's mission here. It acts as a social ministry for disadvantaged groups such as young adults who have dropped-out of school. But the programme also helps the churches practically by having trained professionals in their congregations who are able to build, renovate church buildings, repair vehicles engines and make furniture.

Please continue to pray for the staff at the Centre and for the Diocese, as together we strive to lay firm foundations for the future.

## Aart den Breejen



Credit: Olegusk



Credit: Rob Wilson

## two-way traffic stories of coming and going

When people meet people, new life is breathed into partnerships in mission. Each year, through METAs (Mission Experience Teams Abroad) and individual placements, CMS Ireland facilitates opportunities for up to 100 people to visit our Global Partners. And the results are significant: deepening in understanding, development of faith and growth in real, personal relationships. Such things strengthen partnerships.

But face-to-face encounters don't just happen when people go from 'here' to 'there'. Increasingly, we're bringing our partners to Ireland to share their stories and develop their relationships. As the following stories highlight, both 'coming' and 'going' offer opportunities for God to bless and transform.



Valerie Hutton

### going

*In 2008, Valerie Hutton, a member of Ardrea & Desertcreat Parish (County Tyrone) joined a CMS Ireland META to Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda. Last November, she returned for three weeks on a STEP*

*(Short-term Experience Placement). Valerie shares some of her own reflections.*

On approaching Kiwoko I was filled with such joy and excitement – what a privilege to be back among the Ugandan people! My experience was different this time as I went alone, without the support of a team. I depended on God so much to give me strength and guidance as I worked each day as a nurse in the hospital.

Each day brought a number of challenges: poverty, suffering, illness and spiritual darkness. Meeting these challenges gave me a glimpse into the lives and sacrifices made by Mission Partners – Rory, Denise, Ken and Judith. But it was so wonderful to start each day by praising God through morning devotions held in the hospital canteen! Working alongside

the Ugandan hospital staff was a life-enriching experience. I learned so much from them and have returned home greatly blessed.

One of the highlights of my visit came about after an invitation from a hospital staff member to attend his small Pentecostal church. At the end of the service, the pastor asked members of the congregation to turn to the person next to them and join each other in prayer. A lady came smiling towards me, took my hands and prayed for me in Luganda before I prayed for her in English.

It is beyond comprehension how powerful and awesome our God is. The lady and I did not know each other and we differed in language, in style of worship, in culture and in the colour of our skin. However we had established a bond – we were sisters in Christ sharing the same Saviour and friend in Jesus. It was a very humbling experience, which I will always cherish.

My STEP placement was a step of faith, which took me out of my comfort zone. I was lonely at times, missing my husband and daughters, but I have no regrets. I found the trip to be a wonderful experience. What a comfort to know that we have an amazing God who loves, cares and watches over us.

## coming

In February, we welcomed Bishop Wilson Kamani, of Ibba Diocese in Southern Sudan, who spent a few days with us in Ireland after attending a conference in London. The focus of the Bishop's visit was the Day Conference, 'Sudan: A New Dawning', held in our Belfast offices. It was a time of great blessing for all who attended, who were touched and challenged by the Bishop's words, but also by his warmth and evident love for God.

The Bishop shared something of the challenges and blessings in his diocese, as well as offering some broader perspectives on the current situation in Southern Sudan. He asked for our prayers for his family, his diocese and his country.

The conference also involved stories from two small teams who had recently visited Sudan – one to Yei Diocese, the other to Maridi Diocese. The deep impact of these visits on each team



Bishop Harold and Liz Miller with Bishop Kamani

member was clearly evident and served as a powerful reminder of the 'double transformation' that occurs when we reach out in love and service.

In four short days, Bishop Kamani brought blessings and was himself blessed, he enriched those he met and was himself enriched. We pray that this relationship with Ibba Diocese would grow and develop.

## coming and going

*The recent arrival of a team from Kajiado Diocese in Kenya is just the latest development in a growing partnership with a parish in Ireland. **Niall Manogue** tells us more.*

The visit of the team from Kenya was instigated by St. Paul's, Lisburn and represents the latest chapter in their Partnership Link with Kajiado Diocese. The partnership began with a visit to St. Paul's by Rev Naftaly Lemooke when he was studying in Ireland. The relationship was then sealed by a visit, last August, to Kajiado by 25 of the parishioners led by Rector, Jim Carson and Pastoral Assistant, Stephen McWhirter.

During their preparation process, the team from Kajiado decided to call themselves 'Baraka' – not as a homage to their famous, presidential descendent, but because 'baraka' is the Swahili word for 'blessing'.

Team Baraka are spending just under four weeks in Ireland – most of that time will be with St. Paul's, but they'll also visit other Kajiado Link Parishes and supporters, including Limivady Grammar School, who have a strong link with Kajiado. It is hoped that the whole visit will be a time of many blessings – both for the hosts and the visitors.

This trip offers a view of partnership that is personal and very much two-way. Just as the 2009 St Paul's team travelled to Kenya and received hospitality there, a team from Kajiado can come to Ireland and receive that same hospitality. A relationship that began by welcoming a Kenyan visitor to their church and developed through a parish team travelling to Kenya, is now flourishing through hosting a team of blessing.



Team Baraka



Credit: Ronnie Briggs

## even though...

### keeping faith through the drought

*CMS Ireland Mission Partner, **Ronnie Briggs** shares some biblical reflections on God's goodness and faithfulness, even in times of great difficulty.*

Where we live in the Maasai Rural Training Centre at Isinya, Kenya, we start each day with staff devotions. It happened that one morning last November, I was leading the short talk. It was at a time of very severe drought and the rains had all but failed for the fourth year in a row. People were suffering and there was deep despair all over the Diocese. Cattle had died in their thousands and *shambas* (fields) were just dust bowls. I read the following passage from Habakkuk 3:17-18:

*'Even though the fig trees have no fruit and no grapes grow on the vines, even though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no corn, even though the sheep all die and the cattle stalls are empty, I will still be joyful and be glad, because the Lord God is my Saviour.'*

Reading a passage such as this from a position of plenty can make it seem a bit remote. When we have what we need, the theory is easy: we can happily state that in circumstances of dire

straits, the Lord will provide and that we will be joyful and glad. However, for those of us in Kajiado, we were really able to identify with the reality of the first part of the passage, so it was a very big challenge to take these words on board and really believe them. We could see the cattle lying dead on the side of the road. We could see the dust clouds blowing in the hot, dry wind. We could see that there was no grazing left for any animal. We could see the despair on the faces of the people all around us. We could see all these things, yet the Bible was telling us that even though all this was happening, we should still be joyful. How hard was this lesson going to be?

No matter what the circumstances are around us, God remains the same. Even though the cattle were dying - God is still good; even though the grazing was finished - God is still love; even though the water holes were dry - God is still our Saviour. God's essential character does not change even though all around us there is suffering and despair. And that is why we can continue to be joyful in such circumstances. We cannot reasonably be joyful in the fact that the cattle are dying but we can, and should, be joyful that God continues to be our Creator and Saviour...no matter what.



Credit: Ronnie Briggs

And then it rained!

It began as a torrential downpour and continued as a torrential downpour! In a very short time the land was saturated, the grass began to grow, water holes filled up, the remaining cattle began to show improved condition and the despair lifted! God had blessed the land with abundant rain. In Maasai tradition, this proves to everybody that God does indeed love them because He remembered them in their time of great need. The new life that was breathed into the land was amazing.

Psalms 65:8-13 sums up exactly what people here were feeling; it could have been written for us in Kajiado:

*'The whole world stands in awe of the great things that you have done. Your deeds bring shouts of joy from one end of the earth to the other. You show care for the land by sending rain; you make it rich and fertile. You fill the streams with water; you provide the earth with crops. This is how you do it: you send abundant rain on the ploughed fields and soak them with water; you soften the soil with water and cause the young plants to grow. What a rich harvest your goodness provides! Wherever you go there is plenty. The pastures are filled with flocks; the hillsides are full of joy. The fields are covered with sheep; the valleys are full of wheat. Everything sings for joy.'*

It seems that the deeper the drought and famine the brighter the new life that emerges. Coming back to give thanks to God for such blessing is not always an automatic response but people here did just that. They gave glory to God for His wonderful provision. Even though the road to complete recovery is going to be long and hard, a new start had been made and people could look forward to greater blessing at the time of harvest.

For those living in the 'western world', it is very unusual to experience drought and famine in the same way that it occurs in Kajiado. However, there are 'spiritual droughts' at times that can cause us to think God has somehow forgotten us. The further God seems to be from us, the more despairing we become. Eventually this can lead to a real experience of 'famine' in our hearts and we can lose perspective. It can be very hard to 'still be joyful' in these circumstances, but God has promised that He will bring new life and give us a fresh start. *'Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It has happened already – you can see it now!'* (Isaiah 43:19).

Trusting in God's essential goodness and the fact that He does not change, no matter what, can give us a gladness of heart that says: *'Even though...I will still be joyful.. because God is my Saviour.'*

**Ronnie Briggs**



Credit: Zhuda

## help for today, hope for tomorrow

### stories of new life in barren places

#### Rwanda

In times of turmoil and crisis, any sense of 'normality' can easily be lost and the familiar structures of society can quickly disappear. No more so than with family life in Rwanda.

It is estimated that there are 250,000 child-headed families in Rwanda. This has come about as a result of the 1994 genocide and the impact of HIV/AIDS, which between them have left many orphans behind to fend for themselves. In child-headed households, the eldest tries to find work and then seeks to provide for younger siblings. The various challenges facing such families are significant.

As part of its response to these challenges, Shyogwe Diocese runs a programme called "Youth at Risk" in a number of centres, led by Canon Angelique. The programme, which is under the auspices of the Diocese's Mothers' Union, teaches practical skills such as tailoring, knitting, carpentry, welding and shoemaking. This training is also combined with education in areas including gender balance, reconciliation, HIV/AIDS awareness and Christian living.

Martha is a young woman who was orphaned and evicted by her step-family. She was given a small mud house by a charity and in 2007, she joined the Youth at Risk scheme in Gitarama. As part of the training, Martha began learning how to grow vegetables to improve her nutrition and to tend goats so as to provide some income. She was also learning skills in sewing and tailoring.

When a group from Whitechurch Parish (Dublin) visited Martha's home that year she had no possessions, save for one "My Little Pony", which was displayed on a crochet mat she had made. Her cooking utensils were borrowed and she slept on the mud floor. While quite a timid person, her house was spotless and her garden very ordered and tidy.

When another group from Whitechurch returned to Rwanda last year, Martha was a changed person. She had become a confident young adult, was managing the Mothers' Union tailoring and knitting enterprise in the town of Gitarama and was also an instructor in the Youth at Risk scheme. Her business provides her with sufficient income to cover her rent, pay her two staff, build up stocks and pay her a wage which has enabled her to buy some cooking pots and some furniture for her home. The team were also delighted to learn that Martha is soon to be married.

The transformation is considerable. Where there had been little hope, Martha now has a future and is proud to be contributing to the scheme as an instructor. Through compassion and practical service, the Church in Rwanda is helping to share God's restoring grace and transforming love with those, like Martha, who long for stability, security and the promise of a brighter future.

**Ken Rue, Whitechurch Parish**

## **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

The harsh realities of life in DRC make for difficult reading: civil war, revenge attacks, killing, looting, burning, destroying crops, sexual abuse, famine, disease, destruction of schools and churches. These are all words used by our Global Partners in DRC to describe their situation over the past few years. Sadly, many of these words are still applicable today.

But amidst the horror and despair, there are glimpses of new possibilities and the Church is playing an important part in bringing such hope and transformation. Of those who have fled their homes through fear, many have turned to the Church not only for pastoral support but also for help with food, healthcare and shelter. CMS Ireland is supporting two of our partner dioceses in DRC as the Church there strives to restore a sense of normality so that people may rebuild their shattered lives.

***"The Anglican Church in Bukavu is commissioned to carry out Christ's mission...so that they may have abundant life."***

In North Kivu, help has been given to refurbish schools, churches and a clinic. Bishop Enoch, who visited Ireland last year, writes: *"The project will provide returning people with infrastructural facilities for their worship, education and health... a rehabilitation committee will implement the project which will assist victims to resettle and transform their present livelihood."* Through this project, the Church hope to share something of Christ's love and compassion in a tangible way.

In the town of Goma, the Diocese of Bukavu has responded to the situation by embarking on Adult Literacy and Agro-Pastoral projects. Bishop Bahati sees this project as an important expression of the Diocese's mission endeavour:

*"The Anglican Church in Bukavu is commissioned to carry out Christ's mission of preaching, teaching, healing and nurturing her people so that they may have abundant life in an evangelistic, loving, caring, worshipping,*

*peaceful and just community...The literacy project will help the learners to read the Bible...strengthen their faith and help them grow spiritually...The agriculture project will help promote health...they will also be able to save some money that will help to afford some of their basic household needs."*

The work of these dioceses in DRC reminds us that the mission of the Church is to bring light to darkness, to offer hope and a future to those in despair, to bring new life in barren places. We remain committed to helping our partners fulfil their vision and we ask for your ongoing support in assisting them to bring help for today and hope for tomorrow.

## **Alan Dunn, CMS Ireland volunteer**

*We would love to see more parishes and individuals engaging with our Global Partners in Rwanda and DRC, and supporting them in their mission programmes. For more information, please contact Niall Manogue (Rwanda) or David Gough (DRC) via our offices.*



Women of DR Congo

## our people, your people

### introducing cms ireland's mission partners

*At its best, mission is personal and relational. Our Mission Partners make long-term commitments to live and work alongside our Global Partners and provide an important link with churches in Ireland. Regional Personnel Coordinator, **Gillian Maganda**, provides an update on our current crop of 'MPs'.*



#### **Aart & Geesje den Breejen** **Madi West Nile Diocese,** **Uganda**

The den Breejen family – Aart, Geesje and their children, Anne Fleur, Ruben and Jan Lucas – hail from the Netherlands and have been CMS Ireland Mission Partners since summer 2008. They

are based in Arua, at the West Nile Ecumenical Vocational Training Centre, where they work with Ugandans and Sudanese refugees to help them develop practical skills in carpentry, vehicle mechanics and building technology. They are an amazing multi-lingual family full of energy and fun and are soon to be six, with Geesje expecting their 4<sup>th</sup> child in June. We're really keen for more parishes to develop a link with this diocese and support this family.

#### **Ronnie & Maggie Briggs** **Kajiado Diocese, Kenya**

Maggie & Ronnie are in their second stint as Mission Partners in Kajiado Diocese, having returned in 2008 to add to the many years they had previously spent there.

Working in the Diocese's Development Department, they play a pivotal role in supporting a number of development projects in the Kajiado area, including Drought Recovery, Water and Sustainable Agricultural programmes. Rain (or lack of) is a particular problem in the Kajiado region, but in recent weeks the heavens have opened. Ronnie shares more about this in his biblical reflection (Pages 10 & 11).



#### **Mark & Ali Gill** **Human** **Development** **Community** **Services, Nepal**

Mark & Ali are the longest serving of our Mission Partners, with Ali having worked in Iran in 1978 and Mark first visiting Nepal on a short-term placement in 1983.

They went to Nepal as newly-weds and Mission Partners in 1986 and have served in a number of different locations since then. Most recently, they have been based in Kathmandu, with Mark working for HDCS and Ali involved in various ministries with the local church as well as providing advice and support to expatriate women who are pregnant. Since September 2008, Mark and Ali have been back in Ireland on extended Home Assignment, but they hope to return to Nepal in March for another stint with HDCS, this time in Dadeldhura Hospital in the Far Western Region of the country. During their time in Ireland, they have settled well into a new home and a new 'home church', have visited link parishes and supporters and have helped in the Belfast office as volunteers. Please pray for them as they return to Nepal for this next chapter.



## **Alison Gill Burundi**



Alison, whose lead sending organisation is a UK-based mission agency called INET, has been serving in Burundi for the past year. As a result of Alison's connections with many individual supporters and churches in Ireland, CMS Ireland help to support her through prayer and finances. Alison has been based in Bujumbura for the past year, working alongside REMA ministries to train church workers in reconciliation skills in an attempt to promote healing following civil strife in the country. A good part of her time is spent in language study as she gets to grasp with Kirundi. From 6<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> of March, Flame International is leading two 'Inner Healing' conferences in Buye & Matana, which Alison hopes to be involved in. Continue to pray for Alison to find her niche and see how her calling can fit into the life and ministry of the church and communities across Burundi.

## **Ken & Judith Finch Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda**

Ken and Judith have been working at Kiwoko Hospital in Luwero Diocese, Uganda for the past four years. Ken works in the role of Programmes' Manager and, amongst other things, Judith is involved in looking after the



hospital's many visitors through the hospital guest house. Judith sees this role as a great opportunity for ministry, particularly with students who come to Kiwoko for elective studies. Outside their work in the hospital, Ken and Judith are very committed to investing in relationships with local Ugandans and during their time in Kiwoko, they have committed themselves to learning Luganda and taking part in social events (including the Kiwoko Chase).

## **Rory & Denise Wilson Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda**



Rory has been a Mission Partner at Kiwoko Hospital for four years and met Denise (also from Ireland) in Uganda; they were married in December 2008. Rory is the hospital's Medical

Superintendent and is responsible for leading the staff team in delivering all aspects of medical work in the hospital. Denise is currently engaged in Nurse Training on a part-time basis as she awaits the arrival of their first child in early April. In her own words, Denise is "blooming" and she and Rory would value our prayers as they prepare to become parents. They also ask you to pray for protection and safe delivery of the baby in a Kampala hospital. The hospital is very busy and is chronically short of doctors, which means the demands on Rory's time are extreme. Please pray for this situation.

## **Mission Associates**

Our Mission Associates are those who have historic connections with CMS Ireland and with churches here and are included in our prayer and news updates. They include the **Zimmerman Family (Nepal)**, the **Guillebaud Family (Burundi)**, **John and Poppy Spens (Sudan)** and **Isabelle Prondzynski (Kenya)**.

Please keep these people in your prayers.

*You can stay informed about our Mission Partners, via our website, which features regular blogs from our mission personnel.*

*Our website also contains up-to-date personnel needs and opportunities to serve with our Global Partners.*

[www.cmsireland.org](http://www.cmsireland.org)



Credit: Robert Kneschke

## supporting the supporters

### what can cms ireland do for you?

In this magazine, on our website and in our speaking engagements, we often refer to CMS Ireland 'supporters' - those individuals and parishes who engage with the Society, who pray for us and who give of their time and their finances. Quite simply, CMS Ireland could not exist without such support and we're hugely thankful to all who help us in these ways.

But just as our partnerships with the Global Church aspire to be 'two-way' relationships, so we want our engagement with our supporters in Ireland to be 'two-way'. Whoever you are, whatever your context or your role within your church, we want to ask you a simple, but important question: **What can CMS Ireland do for you?**

As churches and individuals, you have been called to play your part in God's mission. As a Christian Mission Agency, we have been called to help you along the way; we want to be a mission resource for the Church in Ireland. Some parishes will already be actively engaged in mission or will already have a connection with another agency. If so, that's great. But for many of you, as you read this, there may be things that we *can* do to help you and your church. If so, we'd love to hear your suggestions and your requests. But in the meantime, here are a few ideas:

CMS Ireland can help you through...

#### our website

Our website is the main 'hub' of news and information on all that's going on in the Society and

is also the place to find out more about our various publications and resources.

(Visit: [www.cmsireland.org](http://www.cmsireland.org))

#### our publications

Our quarterly magazine, *inMission*, provides regular snapshots of the things that we, and our partners, are up to. It can be used more widely in parishes to promote interest, engagement and prayer. Our *Mission Matters* booklets are full of suggestions for churches that want to go deeper in mission.

#### our resources

We have a range of DVDs, booklets and other resources to help people think about and discuss mission issues, as well as learn more about our Global Partners. Our Annual Project is designed to bring mission to life for children and young people and is full of creative activities and worksheets as well as DVD clips. And in the coming months, we hope to begin launching our new Mission Education resource, entitled *Discover*.

#### our people

Our staff are always keen to visit churches to speak at Sunday Services or mid-week groups, to facilitate seminars or to provide training. For example, our Youth and Children's Coordinator, **Julie Currie**, offers Training Days for Sunday School Teachers and would love to hear from those who might be interested in such training.

These are just some of the ways in which CMS Ireland can help you. To find out more or to share your requests, contact either of our offices.



Credit: Mike Expert

## putting down roots

### what can you do for cms ireland?

When it comes to plants, roots are essential for growth. A flower, shrub or tree cannot flourish unless it is supported and nurtured by a network of strong roots.

We value every one of our members, supporters and volunteers for the myriad things they do to enrich the life of the Society. This is how CMS Ireland is strengthened and supported, how we grow and adapt, and how we are able to spread God's good news of hope and transformation.

Here are just some of the ways in which you can help us grow...

#### praying for cms ireland

Prayer is the cornerstone of all that CMS Ireland does. In everything, we want to seek first God's Kingdom and ask for His direction and blessing. There are many different ways that you can join with CMS Ireland in prayer:

- *praying inMission* contains daily prayers for the Society and our Global Partners.
- *Link Letters* from our partners are sent out at least three times a year and help to provide a focus on individuals and regions.
- *Prayer Cards* may help to inspire your prayers for Mission Partners.
- *Prayer Gatherings* take place every month in our offices.

#### volunteering with cms ireland

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting us with our work in Ireland. From helping to organise

conferences and events such as CMS Ireland Roadshows, to speaking in churches, to helping interview mission personnel, to getting this magazine to you...there are lots of opportunities to get involved and play your part.

#### engaging with cms ireland

As we hold events in our offices or in parishes across Ireland, we rely on people turning up. If there's a CMS Ireland event taking place near where you live, then we'd love you to come along. It's hugely encouraging to us, but also helps us to get to know you.

#### giving financially to cms ireland

Financial giving is an important way of engaging in the work of CMS Ireland and our Global Partners. The money we receive falls into two broad categories:

- *Resource giving* enables CMS Ireland to use money where it is most needed and this flexibility is incredibly valuable. It allows us to help support under-funded Mission Partners or projects, as well as funding our work with the Church in Ireland and the production of resources such as *inMission*.
- *Designated giving* provides vital support for our partners, to support them in their work. *Every penny/cent* given in this way is allocated to its designated purpose.

*As we strive to help the Church in Ireland engage in Global Mission, we long to see growth and change. We need strong roots to support us. Please consider what you can do for CMS Ireland.*

## global village



### Getting 'Hands On' with our Annual Project

Since the beginning of the New Year, our Youth & Children's co-ordinator **Julie Currie**, has been clocking-up the miles, launching this year's Annual Project – *Hands On! Kiwoko 2010*. She's been from Castleberg to Coleraine, from Lisburn to Letterkenny – and many places in between. *Hands On!* focuses on Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda and through the project, we hope to raise money to support the children's ward. The *inMission* team managed to track Julie down to find out about her adventures...

"It has been a busy few weeks since we began the launches in mid January", says Julie. "The response to this year's Annual Project has been brilliant – over sixty parishes are taking part, including several who are using the resource for the very first time! It's a real blessing to spend time reconnecting with all the Sunday School teachers every year, and it is a privilege to help them as they encourage young people to encounter God in their lives."

For more information on *Hands On! Kiwoko 2010*, please contact **Julie** in the Belfast office.



### Back on the road

Last May, we launched a Roadshow event, called 'Deep Impact:

Transforming Mission in Ireland'. This saw our team of Regional Mission Partners (RMPs) travelling throughout Ireland to help people think about, talk about and respond to the challenges and opportunities of mission. In all, there have been 15 Deep Impact events so far, with the final presentation due to take place at **8pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March, in our Belfast office** – all are welcome.

A new series of Roadshow events will begin in May, with 14 events taking place across the length and breadth of Ireland. The title for this new presentation is 'God's Big Two' and will look at the way in which individuals and churches can respond to Christ's command, to Love God and Love Others.

Speaking about the Roadshows, CMS Ireland staff member Niall Manogue remarks: "We're really looking forward to being back on the road, meeting new folk and catching up with existing members and supporters. It's a great opportunity to share our passion and enthusiasm for mission and to encourage people to play their part."

Please see the back cover of this *inMission* for dates and venues.

### Prayer Dates revised

We continue to meet in our Belfast and Dublin offices at the start of each month to pray for CMS Ireland, our Global Partners and our mission personnel. Due to public holidays, the dates for the coming months have been revised to:

- March**    **Mon 1<sup>st</sup>: Belfast**  
              **Tues 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dublin**
- April**     **No prayer events (due to Easter break)**
- May**       **Tues 4<sup>th</sup>: Dublin**  
              **Mon 10<sup>th</sup>: Belfast**
- June**      **Tues 1<sup>st</sup>: Dublin**  
              **Mon 7<sup>th</sup>: Belfast**

Each prayer gathering begins at **7:30pm** and lasts 90 minutes, including a cuppa and a chat. Please do join us as we are committed ourselves and our work to God.

### META to Nepal

In November, we plan to take a team to Nepal, comprising representatives from our Nepal Link Parishes. If your parish is linked to one of our partners in Nepal, you'd be very welcome to apply for this team. We'll be launching the META and holding a brief information event in our **Belfast offices at 7pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March**, immediately before the Roadshow event. Application forms will be available from our website from that date.



## CMS Ireland Annual Members' Day and AGM

This year's Members' Day will take place on **Saturday 24th April in Dublin**. It will be a time of worship, encouragement and sharing as together, we

look back over the Society's past year and look forward to the year ahead.

All members will receive further details (including venue and times) in the coming weeks. Those who are not yet members can 'sign up' on the day and would be very welcome. Please put the date in your diary and join with us for this special event in our calendar.

## Gifts with a difference...

Flowers, chocolates, ties and socks...some of the usual present options given to those 'hard-to-buy-for' people. Are you one of those people? Do you find yourself being frequently asked "What can I give you as a gift?" If so, you may want to consider an alternative option, which would help to provide much-needed support to CMS Ireland, our Global Partners or our Mission Partners.



If you have a celebration coming up – a birthday, a wedding or anniversary, why not suggest that friends and families help you raise money for CMS Ireland and our partners, instead of giving you a present? This way, the generosity of your friends and families will bless the lives of our partners - making it a gift with a difference.

*For more information, contact our offices or email [giveagift@cmsireland.org](mailto:giveagift@cmsireland.org)*

## Partnerships in Mission

### Mission Partnerships:

#### Burundi

Dioceses of Gitega and Matana

#### DR Congo

Dioceses of Bukavu, Kindu and North Kivu

#### Egypt and Ethiopia

Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa

#### India

Christine Matthews Health and Development Society

#### Kenya

Diocese of Kajiado, Urban Development Programme, All Saints Cathedral - Nairobi

#### Nepal

Human Development and Community Services (HDCS), Sundar Dhoka Church

#### Romania

Brashov and Bucharest

#### Rwanda

Dioceses of Kibungo, Shyogwe and Gahini

#### Sudan

Province of ECS, Bishop Allison Theological College, Dioceses of Maridi, Yei, Lainya, Kajokeji, Rokon and Ibba

#### Uganda

Dioceses of Luwero, Ruwenzori, North Kigezi, Madi West Nile, Chill Children and Uganda Christian University

#### Zambia

Diocese of Northern Zambia

### Mission Personnel:

#### Mission Partners

- Aart and Geesje den Breejen with Anne-Fleur, Ruben and Jan Lucas, Diocese of Madi West Nile

- Ronnie and Maggie Briggs, Diocese of Kajiado

- Alison Gill, Province of Burundi

- Mark and Ali Gill, HDCS, Nepal (from January 2010)

- Ken and Judith Finch, Diocese of Luwero

- Rory and Denise Wilson, Diocese of Luwero.

#### Mission Associates

- Isabelle Prondzynski, All Saints Cathedral, Nairobi

- Canon John and Lillian Kanyikwa, Diocese of Yei

- Deidre and Mark Zimmerman with Zachary and Benjamin Nick Simons Institute, Nepal

- Simon and Lizzie Guillebaud with Zac and Grace, Burundi

- John and Poppy Spens, Diocese of Yei, Sudan

### CMS Ireland Contacts:

Acting Director of Mission and Finance Manager

#### Brian Lavery

Regional Mission Partner for Northern and Central Africa

#### David Gough

Regional Mission Partner for Mid and East Africa

#### Niall Manogue

Regional Mission Partner for South Asia

#### Roger Cooke

Youth and Children's Coordinator

#### Julie Currie

Regional Personnel Coordinator

#### Gillian Maganda

# GOD'S BIG **2**

living a life of love

CMS Ireland will be taking to the road again in May, for a new series of Roadshow events throughout the length and breadth of Ireland. These evenings offer a chance to meet with others to think about and talk about mission. Each event begins at 8pm and involves a presentation by CMS Ireland staff members and a chance for discussion and sharing together. In particular, we'll be considering what it means for each of us to 'Love God and Love Others'. We'd love to see you at your nearest Roadshow event. More details are available on our website.

Date	Location	Venue
4th May	Glengormley	Mallusk Parish Halls (St Brigid's)
5th May	Bangor	Ballyholme Parish Halls
11th May	Belfast	Knockbreda Parish Halls
11th May	Dublin	tbc
12th May	Ferns	tbc
13th May	Cork	Douglas Parish Halls
18th May	Dungannon	Drumglass Parish Halls
19th May	Ballinamallard	Magheracross Parish Halls
20th May	Donegal	Donegal Parish Hall
20th May	Newry	St Patrick's Halls, Downshire Road
24th May	Limerick	tbc
25th May	Galway	tbc
27th May	Coleraine	Killowen Parish Hall
3rd June	Kilmore, Cavan	Kilmore Cathedral

Cover image: Iwona Grodzka

PT Design & Print: 028 9261 2715



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