

inMission

the magazine of cms ireland

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let there be light

sharing Christ's transforming love

let there be light

December: the month when we, in Ireland, experience more hours of darkness than light during our waking day. For those who work 'office hours', the commute to work tends to happen in darkness...the journey home certainly does. While some may find this to be a somewhat bleak reality, these winter months also evoke more positive images: fairy lights, candles, the welcoming warmth of a bright, blazing fire and the breathtaking starscapes of a clear night sky.

Light becomes more important, more valuable, more attractive when everything else is covered in darkness. In winter, we find ourselves drawn to light, to colour, to warmth.

With the decrease in daylight hours, one of the things that we're sure to see plenty of in the coming weeks, is that familiar sight of cars driving in the dark, without their lights on. Very often, it happens when they leave the well-lit forecourts of petrol stations, or when the driver has returned to their car on a busy and bright street, then pulls off without realising that they can't be seen.

The Advent Season is a time for remembering that heaven's radiance broke into the dull monochrome of our world in glorious technicolour...full of grace and truth. At Christmas, we celebrate the One who came as light into darkness.

This same Light of the World told his followers that *they* were to let *their* light shine and not hide it. All who follow Christ are to be bearers and bringers of light. This is one of the clearest ways of understanding mission: Christ's followers shining and sharing his light in a world where there is much darkness.

CMS Ireland exists to help the Church respond to this call to bring light; we want to help the Church 'do mission'. In our work, through partnership with the Church, we seek to do three things: support the Global Church; resource the Church in Ireland; release individuals.

In this edition of inMission, we want to share some stories of 'light in darkness', as we look at these three priorities. There are stories of hope from Kenya and Nepal, reflections on relationships from Uganda, pictures of partnership from Sudan and challenges for individuals and parishes in Ireland to play their part in this ongoing incarnation - of heaven on earth.

Each of us has the capacity to shine brightly, to dispel darkness, to reflect the Light of the World. But sometimes we're driving with our headlights off. Throughout this season of darkness and light, may we be inspired and encouraged to play our part in God's mission. In our hearts, our homes and our communities...Let there be light!

The inMission team



Credit: Piotr Bizior

cutting costs, not trees

an invitation to help us reduce waste

We all know the familiar saying: "money doesn't grow on trees"...and strictly speaking, it's true. But when we use paper, there are real costs, whether environmentally or financially. At CMS Ireland, we continue to seek ways of making the most of valuable resources, such as paper and money.

Two years ago, we changed the look and shape of *inMission* so as to reduce the environmental and financial costs of producing the magazine. And we now want your help to limit our use of paper even further.

If you regularly receive various CMS Ireland resources such as *inMission* and Link Letters by post, perhaps you would consider receiving all or some of those publications electronically? By opting for this approach, the latest Link Letter or magazine will reach your inbox without delay, without postal costs and without wasting paper.

If you use *praying inmission*, did you know that you can sign up on the CMS Ireland website to receive the daily prayers directly into your email inbox at 9am? This makes it easy to prayerfully support CMS Ireland, at home, at work or wherever you may be!

- A Link Letter or a single *inMission* costs 25 pence or 54 cents to post in Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland respectively.
- We currently post 1810 single copies of *inMission*; 79 are dispatched by email.
- 94 people receive a Link Letter from Burundi by post, 17 receive it by email.

Of course, many people will still prefer to receive a 'hard copy' of the magazine or other resources through the post. That's fine! We're extremely thankful that you read the things we send you and that you take an active interest in the work of the Society and of our Global Partners. We will gladly continue sending you the paper versions.

However, if you no longer wish to receive something we send to you, please let us know so we can take you off the mailing list



– we won't take it personally! In fact, we'll be grateful for your help in reducing waste.

As some of our Global Partners begin to feel the effects of global warming and as the world economy remains in a delicate state, we want to do whatever we can to make the most of our resources. Please play your part in helping us cut the cost of the resources we use.

Thank you for your help.

Sarah Hutchinson

You can change your mailing preferences by completing the online form on our website, emailing belfastoffice@cmsireland.org or dublinoffice@cmsireland.org or by telephoning either of our offices.



A member of the ABBS staff at work with children at the daycare centre

light in the darkness

stories of hope and transformation

The mission of the Church is to share Christ's light with the world. Two of our Global Partners are doing just that, as they work with children and young people to help dispel darkness in Nepal and Kenya.

Human Development Community Services (HDCS), Nepal

Prior to working for HDCS, Tulsa Sharma worked for a Norwegian Mission family who had a profoundly disabled child. As the family was leaving Nepal to return home in 1992, God prompted them and Tulsa to think how they could help other disabled children in Nepal. And so, Asha Bal Bikas Sewa (Children's Hope Development Service) was born.

ABBS is one of the programmes run by HDCS. It provides Day Care facilities at three centres for children with a range of learning disabilities and medical conditions such as Cerebral Palsy, Down's Syndrome and Autism. In Nepal, disability has been a taboo subject for many years. Until recently, disabled children were generally kept hidden away and sometimes un-nourished. But these practices have been challenged by Christians like Tulsa, who believe God's love and God's light are for all people,

regardless of their status or their physical condition. And where ABBS has led, a number of other organisations have followed and have started new special needs programmes in recent years.

The teachers at ABBS are all self-taught – special needs education has been something of a rarity in Nepal. In addition to teaching the children at the Day Centres, the teachers also carry-out home visits to support and encourage parents in their care for the children. In a context which lacks education and awareness about how disabled children can thrive, ABBS has given tremendous hope to these families and to the communities in which they live. They have offered a new, positive future – one of acceptance and love.

Four years ago, CMS Ireland was able to provide significant help to ABBS through its Annual Project: *Fingerprints of Hope*. It was a great success in Ireland, raising awareness of disabled children's needs in Nepal and showing how the Church in Ireland can partner with them. The funds raised through this project went towards constructing a purpose-designed building for ABBS, including dedicated activity rooms, a sensory room, a heated hydro-therapy

pool, a kitchen and an office. This gave ABBS a permanent home and even more hope for the future.

Before coming to ABBS, Suja had difficulties with walking and communication. Her parents had no hope for her development and indeed did not expect anything from ABBS other than a place 'to put her'. Now, she can walk, talk and loves dancing, as she showed at last year's Christmas party in her green and red traditional village dress. Of course, her parents, family and community are overjoyed with the transformation.

Tulsa and her team at ABBS have truly shown what it is to share and give hope as they continue to fulfill the vision of the organisation: 'to be living witnesses of Jesus Christ'.

Mark Gill

Urban Development Programme, Kenya

In Kenya, 'darkness' is not just a spiritual challenge. Poor rains in recent years have impacted the hydro-electric schemes, leading to the rationing of electricity in Nairobi and often causing the lights to go off!

Thinking about electricity has made me want to write about one of the most successful projects of the UDP in recent years. It started with the election of Janet Njoroge, a publisher, to the post of Chairperson of the UDP Committee in 2006. One of the first projects Janet initiated was to create a Resource Centre serving the youth of the UDP. This was opened in the Tujisaidie community plot on 22 December 2007 and was endowed with a generous stock of textbooks by Janet and other members of the Cathedral congregation.

Thanks to help from CMS Ireland, electricity was installed in the Resource Centre in February 2008. It is hard to imagine what the simple installation of power and lighting has meant for the young community members. Our plot was the first in the area to have electric light. Many of the children had never seen it, and there was much singing and dancing when the power was connected -- some children even stayed over for

the first night just to enjoy the light.

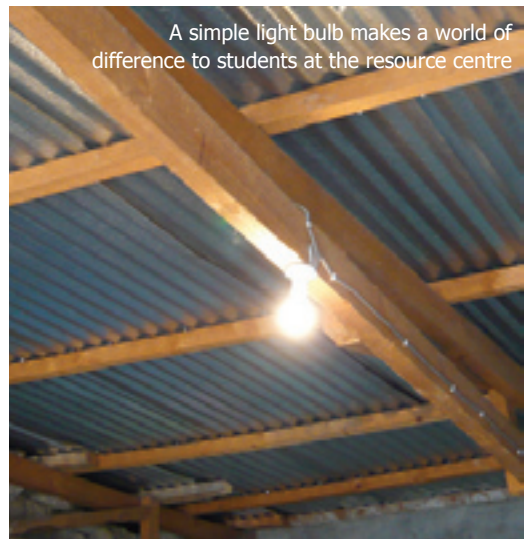
Having electric light, together with the books, has meant that great numbers of the community's children and youth come to the Resource Centre to do their homework, sitting on the chairs and benches of the nursery school, on the floor, and even outside in the school yard. The lighting at the Centre has also improved the feeling of security for the community as a whole, and the students know that theirs is a safe place where they can study unmolested. It's hardly surprising that school results have improved!

Entertainment has also become possible. At Easter time, the film *The Passion of Christ* was shown, as well as the *Sweet Poison* DVD from CMS Ireland. The Resource Centre has become a place where the community gathers to celebrate achievements, to hold meetings and to prepare for funerals.

We give thanks for this wonderful facility and for those whom God has used to make this all possible. As we enjoy the electric light in the Resource Centre, we also wish you light and joy throughout Advent and the Christmas season.

Isobel Prondzynski

For more information on the work of our Global Partners, visit www.cmsireland.org/work.



A simple light bulb makes a world of difference to students at the resource centre



Ken and Judith Finch taking part in the recent 'Kiwoko Chase'

running the race together

reflections from kiwoko

*Fresh from their recent sporting endeavours, CMS Ireland Mission Partners, **Ken and Judith Finch**, share some thoughts about their life and ministry at Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda.*

Training for long distance runs often seems to prompt people to reflect on 'running the race'. This has certainly been the case with our recent 'Kiwoko Chase' – a 16km run and Fun Day for the hospital. For Judith, running has never been a big feature of life, so a 10-mile run was a somewhat daunting challenge. As many of us went into strict training, it caused us to think about our own spiritual walk and journey.

What a difference it makes when you have someone to train with, who you feel accountable to, who offers words of encouragement, who keeps you going when you think you can't run any further. During the last leg of the run when the heat and tiredness were kicking in and my run had slowed down to a walk, a voice from behind shouted, "They are about to overtake you!" Seconds later, two student nurses

appeared, running on either side of me and saying, "We are not competitors, we are just morale boosters." Immediately, my walk turned back to a run and the nurses accompanied me the rest of the way to the finish line. How wonderful when someone chooses to run alongside you just to accompany you because they care, because they want you to do well, because they want to see you keep going.

Many visitors pass through Kiwoko Hospital and they frequently ask us what our roles are in the hospital. We naturally jump to explaining (or at least trying to explain) the day-to-day jobs we 'do', but in actual fact for us, as Christians, it goes much deeper than that.

As we reflect on our 'roles' as Mission Partners over the past four years, we see that much of our time is actually spent 'being' with people, making ourselves available, drawing alongside people, accompanying them on their journey.

In our daily life at Kiwoko, our paths cross with

people from all walks of life, at different stages of their journey. These people have vastly different needs: the colleague who has just been diagnosed with HIV; the hospital driver who was the victim of a deliberate acid burn attack; the housekeeper who comes to work with a swollen eye, having just been beaten by her husband for not balancing the cooking pot properly on the fire and then not putting enough salt in the food; the overseas medical student who is homesick; the mother who has lost her ten-month old baby from severe dehydration after they chose to treat the child with local herbs rather than come to hospital; the parents who are rejoicing in the birth of their newborn baby; the medical elective student who has witnessed, for the first time, a death of child simply through lack of resources; the students who are celebrating success in their exams.

"Wherever we are based, let us seek to invest time to be with people, to draw alongside them, to bring something of Christ's light to them."

We are called to 'rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn'. What a privilege to accompany people in their walk through life, whether for a day, a week, a few months or years, be it to laugh with them, cry with them, listen to them or offer advice and practical support.

Often there are no easy answers or solutions to an individual's situation – but we are simply called to be available and 'present' for someone as a friend, or a parent figure.

Much of Jesus' ministry was about being with people. We believe that we've been called to Kiwoko to do likewise. Let us not underestimate the impact and importance of being involved in what my father, a long-term missionary, referred to as a 'ministry of availability'.

Wherever we are based, let us seek to invest

time to be with people, to draw alongside them, to bring something of Christ's light to them. There is no shortage of spiritual darkness in the surrounding Kiwoko community...theft, gossip, witchcraft, child sacrifices, sexual immorality, child abuse...God wants to shed His light in the dark places and to bring healing and transformation.

We are grateful to the many people who have chosen to invest time in us and to walk with us on our journey here in Kiwoko, be it those back home, those who have been visited us here or the friends we have made in our local community.

As we all share in a ministry of reaching out to people with God's love and truth, may we seek to invest time in others. Let us show encouragement and support to those who are struggling in their own race and offer a new direction to those who have lost their way. Let us draw alongside people and bring Christ's light to those who don't know love in their lives.

As someone once said, "People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel."

Ken & Judith Finch

To keep up to date with news and stories from Ken and Judith, or any of our other Mission Partners, read their blogs on our website: www.cmsireland.org/blog.



Ken and Judith Finch



META Team including parishioners from Dromore Cathedral in Maridi Diocese in 2007

when light strikes twice...

the potential of two-way partnerships

At the heart of all CMS Ireland does is a desire to facilitate relationships between churches in Ireland and our Global Partners, who represent the Church in other countries. We long to see these relationships growing and developing into two-way, mutually enriching partnerships – where light is shared in both directions.

A link between Dromore Cathedral and Maridi Diocese in Sudan has been having positive impacts in both places. Church leaders from each 'side' of the partnership tell us more.

Maridi Diocese, Sudan

The Diocese of Maridi is situated in Western Equatoria state and is one of the dioceses in the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. The diocese has a high rate of illiteracy (estimated at 80%) and many people have been traumatised by the effect of the long lasting civil war in Sudan. All around was darkness and hopelessness.

In 1998, the Diocese of Maridi entered into partnership with the Church in Ireland through CMS Ireland. A link was formed with the Diocese of Down and Dromore, who sent a team to visit Maridi. This visit was seen as if God had sent His angels from heaven to bring light and hope to the people of Maridi. Their presence, preaching and encouragement began to chase away the big darkness of hopelessness.

The people began to regain hope after their long period of suffering and loneliness as they received their Christian brothers and sisters from the Church in Ireland.

Shortly after this visit, a college for training church workers was constructed with support from the Church in Ireland. This was followed by the construction of a primary school and a secondary school. From the 60 children who used to have their lessons sitting under a mango tree, there are now over 1,600 children being taught in nice, comfortable, classrooms.

The darkness of illiteracy is fading away and the partnership is helping the light of God to shine more brightly in Maridi. We thank God for the partnership with the Church in Ireland.

Rt. Rev. Justin Badi Arama, Bishop of Maridi Diocese

Dromore Cathedral, Ireland

Many parishes have a long tradition of support for mission overseas. Our own church, Dromore Cathedral, had a personal link with CMS Ireland staff and for a number of years, we presented two cheques annually to the Society - one from a Sunday school project and the other from collection boxes. There was nothing wrong with that support, but somehow it wasn't at

the heart of the church's life: mission was always somewhere 'over there', but nowhere in particular. Then we discovered Maridi Diocese and began making meaningful contacts with the people there through CMS Ireland.

The outcome at a practical level was that we began to understand what life for Christians in Sudan actually meant. We learnt several people's names and soon saw pictures of our own parishioners at work in African villages. It cast a new light on mission, which changed from being an unknown work in a dark and distant place into an extension of our spiritual family. As each visit to Maridi takes place or when someone from Maridi has been able to come here, the sense of excitement and engagement in the church family grows.

When we pray for Bishop Justin Badi or Rev Gerusoma Tito, or some of the other clergy or Mothers' Union leaders, we feel we are playing our part with real people living for Christ in a difficult situation. When refugees flooded into Maridi earlier in the year there was an immediate compassionate response from Dromore, which reflected real concern.

The relationship has been a blessing for us and, I hope, for Maridi!

Rev Stephen Lowry, Dean of Dromore Cathedral

This is just one example of some of the partnerships that are alive and growing. We could also have talked about Mallusk Parish, Glengormley and their links with HDCS and Sundar Dhoka Church in Nepal, or Whitechurch, Dublin and their relationship with the Diocese of Shyogwe, Rwanda. We could mention Upper Malone, Belfast with Gitega Diocese, Burundi or St Paul's, Lisburn with Kajiado Diocese, Kenya. And there are other examples, where light is shining in both places.

But many of our Link Parishes are only *beginning* to explore the possibilities of these deeper, more personal relationships. And there are other churches who support CMS Ireland, but are not currently linked to any of our Global Partners. We want to see more of these partnerships grow and develop. We want to



credit: Anne Kitzman

see more blessings given and received. We want to see more of God's transforming light shining 'there' and 'here'. This is what happens when the Church partners with the Church in mission.

We hope to recruit more parishes to link with some of our Global Partners, including:

- Diocese of Madi West Nile, Uganda (including the den Breejen family)
- Diocese of Shyogwe, Rwanda
- Diocese of Matana, Burundi
- Diocese of Ibba, Sudan

For more information on developing a new Partnership Link with one of our Global Partners, please contact Stella Obe in the Dublin office, or Roger Cooke in the Belfast office.

let your light shine

playing your part in bringing hope and transformation

Credit Johannes Henseler



Jesus tells his followers that they are the light of the world and he exhorts them not to hide their light. Paul encourages the church in Phillippi to 'shine like stars in the universe'. CMS Ireland seeks to release people in mission – we provide opportunities for individuals to 'let their light shine' in Ireland and with our Global Partners.

*inMission caught up with Regional Personnel Coordinator, **Gillian Maganda**, to find out a little bit more about her work and about the ways in which CMS Ireland can help you to sparkle and shine.*

Gillian, you've been in your role with CMS Ireland now for one year. How have you found the last 12 months?

The last year in my new role has been both exciting and challenging. I've loved being part of a gifted and dynamic team who have helped me get to know the ropes at CMS Ireland. At the same time it has been a privilege and responsibility to help people in their journey in mission.

Can you tell us a little bit about the main aspects of your job?

One of the main parts of my job is to support our Mission Partners during their placements and when they are on home assignment. This can involve anything from medicals, debriefs and travel logistics to maintaining communication and providing pastoral support. In the coming year, I'm hoping to visit most of our Mission Partners 'in location'.

I also deal with new enquirers who want to explore possible mission placements with CMS Ireland. This includes helping to organise our Going Global weekends - which are aimed at those who are looking into what God *might* be calling them to do next in mission, in Ireland or overseas.

Why do you think that 'people' are such an important resource to send to our Global Partners?

Without people, mission wouldn't happen. As we send people out, relationships between churches in Ireland and our Global Partners are strengthened and enriched. Our Global Partners often welcome the help and input of people for specific projects, for specific periods of time.

But it's not just a one-way process of us providing people to help our 'needy' partners. Churches in Ireland can be greatly blessed through supporting Mission Partners or through sending parishioners on short-term teams or individual placements. We have lots to learn from our brothers and sisters overseas and our mission personnel can help to share those lessons with us.

In what ways are our current Mission Partners helping to support the Global Church in mission?

CMS Ireland's Mission Partners are ordinary individuals whom God is using to do extraordinary things. They are involved in a whole range of activities: managing community development programmes or engineering schemes; providing medical care to the sick and needy; overseeing vocational training programmes; teaching, discipleship, counselling and mentoring.

Although many of our mission personnel go to fill a specific role, God often opens up other opportunities as they engage with our partners. And, like all of us, they are followers of Christ before they are doctors or engineers – they seek to share God's love with the people they meet, both inside and outside their work.

What sort of opportunities are there for individuals and families to work with our Global Partners?

Opportunities to work with our Global Partners are vast and varied – we keep an up-to-date list of these opportunities on our website. Often people have the perception that we are only looking for 'professional' people. This isn't the case. God

can take and use anyone's gifts and abilities in a variety of situations – the main 'qualifications' we look for are people who love God, who sense His call and are available to be used by Him.

In what other ways can CMS Ireland help individuals get more actively involved in mission?

This summer we have a number of META teams heading overseas, including a youth team to Rwanda and two 'all-age' teams to Uganda. There are also opportunities for people to take part in short-term mission placements (2 weeks and over) with our Global Partners. And people can engage actively with us 'at home'. We are currently collating a list of volunteers to help support and promote the work of the Society in Ireland.

"...the main 'qualifications' we look for are people who love God, who sense His call and are available..."

What would you say to those people who think that they aren't 'cut out' for mission service?

For Christians, mission is not optional. Whether we serve God in Kiwoko, Kathmandu or Kildare, each of us has been called to serve. And it doesn't require us to be 'super-spiritual'. Availability, along with a willing heart and passion for God is what's required.

Take a risk and follow His call for your life – step out of the comfortable place and be amazed at how God honours your leap of faith. It will be a journey you will never regret!

To find out more about working with our Global Partners or serving as a volunteer, visit our website: www.cmsireland.org, or contact us through our offices.



fanning the flames

resourcing the church in mission

As CMS Ireland seeks to help the Church 'do mission', one of the three main strands of our work is to 'Resource the Church in Ireland.'

Roger Cooke explains what this means and outlines some of the ways in which we try to resource the Church.

What do you expect of mission agencies?

Very often, the expectation is for mission organisations in Ireland to act as a 'conduit', channelling funds from churches 'at home' to projects in the developing world and, perhaps, filtering back stories and prayer requests.

Whilst finance, prayers and stories are hugely important in mission, we at CMS Ireland are keen to move beyond a 'pray and pay' approach, which tends to keep churches in Ireland at a distance from those they seek to support. Mission ought to be so much more than this. An active engagement in God's work of transformation has the potential to transform the lives of churches and individuals, not just 'there' but also 'here'. Isaiah 58 reminds us that in reaching out to help those in need, *our light shines* – when we serve others in mission, we experience God's blessing and renewal.

As we work with the Church in Ireland, we want to offer 'more' than a means for transferring money to the Global Church. We seek to help parishes nurture relationships with our Global Partners and we try to help churches go deeper in their understanding of and involvement in mission. Here are a number of specific initiatives

and publications that we use to help us resource the Church in this way:

Mission Matters

Last month, we released a new resource pack for churches in Ireland who want to take things further with their mission engagement. Entitled *Mission Matters*, the pack consists of five short booklets, each of which deal with a different aspect of mission involvement for parishes.

- **mission matters** - a basic biblical background to mission
- **make it matter** - suggestions for how your church can go deeper with mission
- **people matter** - introduces 'our people' in CMS Ireland and outlines opportunities for 'your people' - the parishioners who attend your church.
- **money matters** - explains how we deal with your money and offers fundraising suggestions for your church
- **partnership matters** – a simple 'guide booklet' for those parishes who have a Partnership Link with one of CMS Ireland's Global Partners

Discover...

For the past three years, we have been developing a mission education resource, entitled *Discover*. The pack will include a background book, DVD introductions and discussion material and the resource will be easily adaptable for a variety of settings. We plan to launch the *Discover* material next Spring and we're really excited about the potential for

this resource. Look out for more details in the coming months.

CMS Ireland Roadshow

In the past 7 months, we have held 15 Roadshow evenings across the length and breadth of Ireland. These events have sought to provide a basic introduction to CMS Ireland and to encourage and challenge people to 'go deeper' in mission. Three further Roadshows are planned for January in Portadown, Cork and Belfast - more details are available on our website. A new programme of Roadshows will take place in May, in which we will introduce our *Discover* resource. Dates and venues will be announced in February.

Speaking engagements

We continue to welcome opportunities to speak at Sunday services or at mid-week gatherings. Wherever possible, we try to combine a Sunday service with a 'follow-up' midweek event, which allows us to help groups explore issues more deeply.

Annual Project

For many years, CMS Ireland has produced a special resource for children and young people, helping them to find out more about one of our Global Partners and about a specific mission programme. Previously known as the 'Lent Project', this annual resource is designed and overseen by our Youth and Children's Coordinator, **Julie Currie**, who recently sat with the *inMission* team to talk about the newest project:


"The Annual project for 2010 is called '*Hands on!*' and focuses on Kiwoko Hospital, our Global Partner in Luwero Diocese, Uganda. Kiwoko has never been the focus of the Annual Project before - so it is very exciting!

"The *Hands On! Kiwoko 2010* pack is bursting with ideas and is extremely 'hands on', with easy to follow lesson plans and worksheets, photo cards, games and activities. There is also a DVD which brings Uganda to life for Sunday Schools, churches and Primary Schools across Ireland. It is our hope that through the pack, young people will be inspired and enthused to think about mission, and to see how they can get involved.

"Through the Annual Project, we are hoping to raise £30,000/€34,000 which will make a massive difference to the work of our Partners in Kiwoko.

"Proceeds will be going to support the children's ward at Kiwoko Hospital, in particular to enable them to provide treatment that many children would not otherwise be able to afford, giving the children of Uganda a helping hand.

"To find out more about the project and for exclusive hints and tips on how to use the project material, please come along to one of the presentations dates near you!"



Hands On!

Kiwoko 2010

Dates	Location	Time
JANUARY		
Sun 17th	Bangor Abbey	3pm
Sun 17th	Letterkenny Parish, Co Donegal	3pm
Mon 18th	Glendermott Parish Hall, Londonderry	8pm
Tues 19th	St Mark's Parish Hall, Dundela, Belfast	8pm
Wed 20th	Ballyclare Parish Hall	8:30pm
Wed 20th	St Anne's Parish Hall, Dungannon	8pm
Thurs 21st	Ballymacash Parish Hall, Lisburn	8pm
Sun 24th	St Patrick's Parish Hall, Ballymena	3pm
Mon 25th	Kilmore parish Crossgar	8pm
Tues 26th	Seapark Parish Hall, Banbridge	8pm
Wed 27th	Killowen Parish Hall, Coleraine	8pm
Thurs 28th	Tobermore Parish Hall	8pm
Sun 31st	Derg Parish Hall, Castleberg	3pm
Sun 31st	St Macartin's Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen	3pm
FEBRUARY		
Mon 1st	Comber Parish Hall, Comber	8pm
Tbc	Dublin Office	Tbc
MARCH		
Sat 16th	Kilkenny College Kilkenny	11am

For further information on the Annual Project, please contact **Julie Currie** in our Belfast office or to find out more about our other resources, visit our website or contact either of our offices.

let light shine in darkness

a biblical reflection



Credit: Tischenko

*CMS Ireland staff member, **Stella Obe**, offers a biblical reflection on 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 and challenges us to live as children of light.*

The god of this age

We all have different ways of looking at the world, but our eyes can be blinded by 'the god' that Paul refers to in 2 Corinthians 4:4, "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." We tend to think that such mention of the god who blinds people's minds refers to the devil, and that is possibly what Paul means here.

But Paul's phrase, 'the god of this age' could also mean 'the god that is this time in which we live.' In other words, we worship the Now, this World, our Way of Life, and our Lifestyle – however you choose to describe the status quo, things as they are...our comfort zone. And while Paul's charge related to 'unbelievers', there is, perhaps, a warning here for those of us who *do* believe.

Imagine the people of Corinth, not the Christian believers but everybody else who lived in the place that inspired this letter from Paul. They go about their normal routine every day getting caught up in the regular business. They have families, children, spouses and friends. They're living their lives, and things are looking very positive. The economy is healthy. Rome is the only super-power in the world, so they are at peace. They have plenty to eat, entertainment in their leisure hours, the protection of their government. They have the good life. And because things are so good, they can't see their need. They can't see what could possibly be wrong, or missing, or lacking in their lives.

It's into this context that Paul offers his words about the 'one true God' — the God who has revealed himself in a man named Jesus. As far as the Corinthians are concerned, all this talk

may be just one more thing to have to think about. "Things seem good," they might think, "Why do we need to bother with anything else?" Perhaps this is what is meant by 'the god of this age?'

What blinds you to God?

Paul is using an image here of blindness, of not being able to see the light because of eyes that are blinded by the distractions of this age. It seems to me that through the many years, nothing much has changed. Today, the 'god of this age' still takes people's eyes off Jesus. And even those of us who seek to follow Jesus can have our sight impeded, as we figure out how to live and how to succeed. Of course, we want God in our lives. But we're so busy doing too much or doing nothing.

And so rather than open our eyes to the light, we think we can figure out by ourselves how to see better in the dark. We buy night-vision goggles, take courses in seeing in the dark, develop products to help us cope with darkness, pills to make us less anxious about it, and yet still we're in the dark and our efforts have made the darkness even more deep.

Paul says our eyes are blinded by the god of this age. But we often choose blindness and deafness rather than have our routine changed, our beliefs called into question, and our spiritual comfort zone challenged.

Christ shone light into darkness

During the Advent Season we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Messiah, and at Christmas we rejoice and celebrate the dawning of Christ, the light of the Nations. The readings of the Advent season are filled with God's wonderful promises about light, hope and peace through Jesus Christ.

In the Christ-child, God chose to be helpless so that he could embrace us in our helplessness. We are invited once again to receive His mercy and to believe in the light that shines in the darkness, so that we might see His Glory. God has chosen to meet us and to be with us in our darkness. He wants to lead us into a new way of seeing, a new way of living...the way of light.

Live as children of light

Paul tells us that God has said 'Let light shine out of darkness.' Rather than being an abstract comment or philosophical statement, this statement is an invitation, a challenge, to those of us who seek to follow Christ.

In his letter to the Ephesians (5:8-9), Paul writes: "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all Goodness, Righteousness and Truth)." Through our lives, we are to let light shine out of darkness.

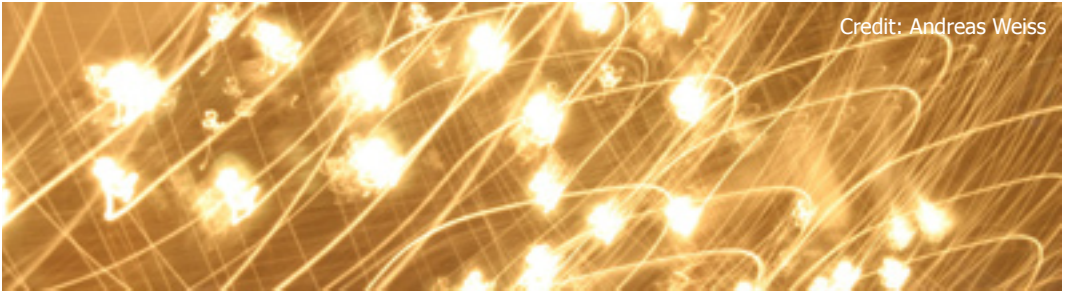
The amazing thing about light is that darkness cannot extinguish it. Light can vanquish darkness, but darkness can never overcome the light. If we're not blinded by the god of this age, then our lives can illuminate the darkness. God's light can shine through us, giving others the ability to see.

Children still sing the old song, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine." That is the heart of what Paul is saying. Let your light shine in the darkness as God's light has shone in your life through Christ Jesus.

Stella Obe



Credit: Leigh Prather



Credit: Andreas Weiss

it only takes a spark...

the importance of Parish Reps

On pages 12 and 13, we considered some of the ways in which CMS Ireland seeks to 'fan the flames' of mission in parishes throughout Ireland. But sometimes, all it takes is a spark.

As the Regional Mission Partners engage with parishes in Ireland, their relationship with the rectors is important. Without a rector's blessing, there is little we can do to help promote mission in a parish. But often, rectors have so many competing priorities that it's unfair to burden them with sole responsibility for the 'CMS Ireland link'. That's why Parish Representatives are so important.

Parish Reps act as our main point of contact in a church. They help to communicate things *from* CMS Ireland to their church and they act as a way of sharing news or questions *to* CMS Ireland, on behalf of the parish. Parish Reps receive correspondence relating to the relevant Global Partner or Mission Partners, they organise CMS Ireland meetings and events and they sometimes oversee fundraising initiatives.

But the best Parish Reps are more than just dependable administrators. They are individuals with a passion for mission and with a personal interest in CMS Ireland or their particular Partnership Link. They are able to enthuse others in the church and encourage more people to catch the vision. They ensure that mission remains on the agenda and that the relationship with CMS Ireland's partners continues to grow and develop.

Parish Reps can be the spark that lights up a church's mission link. We need more people to be Parish Reps.

We need more people like Nigel in Ballymoney – who has ensured that the church's new link with our partners in Nepal begins with vigour and with the widespread engagement from parishioners.

We need more people like Eric and Joan in Bangor – who are stalwart supporters of their parish's link with Maridi Diocese, Sudan, showing enthusiasm, drive and initiative in developing and nurturing the link.

We need more people like Heather in Banbridge, David in Tralee and Nevin in Glengormley.

Speaking about the importance of Parish Reps, Regional Mission Partner, David Gough says, "Parish Reps are absolutely vital to the development of Partnerships Links. It makes a huge difference when we have passionate and dedicated voices acting as CMS Ireland ambassadors in parishes."

Does your parish have a CMS Ireland rep? If not, do you know of anyone who could be a bright spark for your church? Is it something you could do? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

And we'd love to invite you to our special training day:

Bright Sparks

A training day for CMS Ireland Parish Reps. 23rd January 2010 10.30am to 3.30pm (Lunch will be provided) in the CMS Ireland Offices, Belfast. For more information please contact the Belfast or Dublin offices.

under the spotlight reflecting on a year of blessings

As the end of another year draws near, our tv screens and newspapers will invariably partake in their annual 'retrospectives', looking back over the past 12 months and presenting some highlights. We want to do something similar, as we reflect on a year in which we have seen God at work through CMS Ireland and our Global Partners. We want to turn the spotlight on some of our activities in 2009; a year in numbers...

Supporting the Global Church

During 2009, CMS Ireland has:

- Continued to develop relationships with over **30** Global Partners in **13** countries
- Provided long-term Mission Partners and short-term volunteers to work with **8** Global Partners
- Shared stories, news and prayer requests from our Global Partners with parishes throughout Ireland
- Made staff visits to **15** Global Partners
- Provided over **€1.9 million*** support for our Global Partner mission programmes, including more than:
 - **€422,000*** to support Healthcare projects in Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and India
 - **€501,000*** to support Education programmes in Burundi, Kenya and Sudan
 - **€141,000*** to support Training of Church Leaders (including Theological Education by Extension programmes) in Rwanda, Kenya and Sudan
 - **€649,000*** to support Community Development programmes (including water projects, micro-enterprise schemes, vocational training and food security programmes) in 9 different countries
 - **€67,000*** to support Emergency Relief Programmes in DR Congo, Kenya and Sudan

**Please note:*

All finances are for CMS Ireland Financial Year Nov08-Oct09

Resourcing the Church in Ireland

During 2009, CMS Ireland has:

- Spoken at Sunday Services in over **70** parishes throughout Ireland
- Spoken at over **45** other events and meetings
- Hosted **15** Roadshow events in all **12** Dioceses
- Hosted visits by Global Partner representatives from DR Congo, Burundi and Nepal
- Produced material and facilitated 'follow-up' for this year's Annual Project for children: 'Start Small, Grow Tall'
- Written and produced a new resource pack for parishes in Ireland ('Mission Matters')
- Provided Mission Education input at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute

Releasing People in Mission

During 2009, CMS Ireland has:

- Provided pastoral care and practical support for **14** Mission Partners and their families
- Facilitated Short Term Experience Placements (STEPs) for **3** people
- Facilitated short-term visits and placements (teams and individuals) for over **80** people
- Worked alongside **16** people as they explore possible mission placements
- Provided opportunities for over **25** volunteers to support CMS Ireland's work in Ireland

We thank God for the ways in which He has blessed the Society over the past year and for how He has walked with us through the deep waters and the lush pastures. We ask you to pray for the year ahead as we continue to help the Church in its mission...to Love God and Love Others. Thank you for your support.

global village

Celebrating the life of Mrs Patti Pope...



At the beginning of September, we were saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs Patti Pope – at the age of 102 years. She was the Society's oldest member. Former Director of Mission Cecil Wilson and Parish Links Co-Ordinator Stella Obe had the joy of

celebrating her 100th birthday with her in 2007. Stella remarks, "Mrs Pope was a very loyal and supportive member of the Society for many, many years and we are thankful to God for her life and her service."

Let us remember the family of Mrs Pope in the coming weeks and months, and also give thanks for the life of this great woman of God and all that she contributed to the work of the Society.

Announcing our newest member...



Many of you will know that Communications Coordinator Rachel Brittain has been on maternity leave since the summer. All at CMS Ireland are overjoyed to announce the arrival of Matthew Brittain, who

was born on the 20th October 2009.

New parents Rachel and Neil, and baby Matthew are all doing well. Speaking about the joyous event, Personnel Coordinator, Gillian Maganda says: "We are all delighted for Rachel and Neil and we join with them in celebrating the arrival of Matthew! We will be praying for them in the coming months as they settle into their new family life." Congratulations to the Brittain family, and welcome baby Matthew!

Pennies from Heaven...

A lot of us tend to grumble about that loose change which tends to gather in our pockets, bags, cars and sofas. But every penny that you find can be a real blessing to others and can be put to good use by CMS Ireland. Our collection boxes are available from the Dublin and Belfast offices and are an ideal place to put all those pennies! Talking about the difficulties of the current economic climate for charities like ours, Finance Manager Brian Lavery, says: "We always appreciate the donations that people make to the work of the Society and our partners, especially in a time like this." The collection boxes are an easy way to give to CMS Ireland, and all those pennies add up!

This little craft went to market...



Many of you will be familiar with the CMS Ireland 'Marketplace' stalls which pop up everywhere from coffee mornings to the Mid Africa weekend, and feature hand made crafts from many of our Global Partners. Whether it is angels from Kiwoko, cards from Sudan, bracelets from Kenya or batiks from Nepal – you'll find lots of great gift ideas, which also provide support to CMS Ireland Global Partners.

If you are interested in having a Marketplace stall at a coffee morning, Mothers' Union meeting or a Christmas fair, please contact the Belfast Office. Marketplace crafts are also available from the Belfast Office.

Farewell....



For twenty years, Christina Morgan has worked in the Dublin office as a cleaner, making sure that our office was kept neat and tidy and doing various other bits and

pieces. She was an important part of the staff, so we say a big thank you and wish her all the best in the future.

Festive fun in the Dublin Office...

The CMS Ireland Women's Committee in Dublin cordially invite members of the Society to join them on **Thursday 3rd December at 10:30am** for an Advent Christmas Celebration. There will be carols, mince pies and Christmas crafts, including greeting cards and yummy homemade preserves. It will be a great opportunity to share fellowship with one another and celebrate the blessings of the advent season. For more information please contact Stella in the Dublin office.

Another chapter closes...



Just before Christmas, CMS Ireland Mission Partner, David Maganda will be finishing his role as Project Leader

of Fáilte Balbriggan, the programme in north County Dublin that we have been supporting for the past 16 months. Although the current programme is coming to a close, plans are under way to continue with a service managed and staffed by a different organisation.

David returned to Ireland with Gillian and their family in the summer of 2008 and he began working at the Centre in Balbriggan last August. He brought to this role his passion for God and his heart for hospitality and inclusion. Many lives have been impacted by David's love and his commitment to developing a real sense of community.

This brings to an end David's 8 years of service as a Mission Partner, having previously served with Gillian in Cairo. We give God thanks for this compassionate and dedicated servant and we pray that David will know God's prompting and leading in the coming months.

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

Ireland

Fáilte Balbriggan

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, Yeil, 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.
- David Maganda, Fáilte Balbriggan, Ireland

Mission Associates

- Isabelle Prondzynski, All Saints Cathedral, Nairobi
- Canon John and Lillian Kanyikwa, Diocese of Yeil
- 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 Yeil, 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 & Europe

Roger Cooke

Youth and Children's Coordinator

Julie Currie

Regional Personnel Coordinator

Gillian Maganda



Mission Director

CMS Ireland is seeking to appoint a Mission Director to lead the organisation in the next phase of its development. The successful applicant will assist in the ongoing development of CMS Ireland's Strategy and will be responsible for implementing this Strategy.

Reporting directly to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Mission Director will lead an enthusiastic and talented team of people working across two offices in Belfast and Dublin. This post will be based in Belfast.

The person appointed will have experience of Global Mission, be a highly effective leader and communicator, with a passion to see lives transformed by the love of God. The post will require travel at home and overseas with

an ability to speak and preach in a variety of diverse situations.

Interviews are expected to take place during the week commencing 25th January 2010.

For further information including an Application Form and Job Specification please contact:

Mrs Gillian Maganda, Regional Personnel Coordinator
Tel: 028 90775020 (048 from Republic of Ireland)
Email: personnel@cmsireland.org
Postal: CMS Ireland, 33 Dargan Road, Belfast, BT3 9JU

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday 18th December 2009.

CMS Ireland Prayer Events

Since September, CMS Ireland has been hosting monthly prayer events in the Dublin and Belfast offices, offering an opportunity for people to join us in praying for CMS Ireland and for our partners around the world.

We would invite and encourage you to come along to the gatherings in Dublin or Belfast, to meet together, to seek God's leading and to intercede on behalf of the World Church. The prayer events take place at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month in the Dublin office and the first Monday of the month in the Belfast office.

We look forward to seeing you there!



December:

1st – Dublin Office: 7.30pm
7th – Belfast Office: 7.30pm

January:

4th – Belfast Office: 7.30pm
5th – Dublin Office: 7.30pm

February:

1st – Belfast Office: 7.30pm
2nd – Dublin Office: 7.30pm

March:

1st – Belfast Office: 7.30pm
2nd – Dublin Office: 7.30pm

April:

5th – Belfast Office: 7.30pm
6th – Dublin Office: 7.30pm

May:

3rd – Belfast Office: 7.30pm
4th – Dublin Office: 7.30pm

June:

1st – Dublin Office: 7.30pm
7th – Belfast Office: 7.30pm

Church Mission Society Ireland is registered in Ireland,

Reg No. 26905 as a Company Limited by Guarantee, with permission to omit the word 'Limited' • Charity Reference No. CHY 910 •

Recognised in the UK as a Charity by the Inland Revenue • Reference No. XN 48809

Dublin Office:

3 Belgrave Road
Rathmines Dublin 6
T: (+353) 01 497 0931
F: (+353) 01 497 0939
E: dublinoffice@cmsireland.org



cmsireland
partnership in mission

www.cmsireland.org

Belfast Office:

33 Dargan Road
Belfast BT3 9JU
T: 028 9077 5020
F: 028 9077 9772
E: belfastoffice@cmsireland.org