

# inmission



the magazine of **cms**ireland

Issue 39  
Winter 2011



**in bethlehem of judea**  
mission in its place



## our people partners and staff

### Global Partners (by country)

**Burundi** Dioceses of Gitega & Matana

**DR Congo** Dioceses of Bukavu, Kindu & N. Kivu

**Egypt** Diocese of Egypt

**Ethiopia** Gambella Project, Diocese of Egypt

**Kenya** Diocese of Kajiado; Urban Development Programme, Nairobi

**Nepal** Human Development Community Services; SD Church

**Rwanda** Dioceses of Kibungo & Shyogwe

**South Sudan** Dioceses of Ibba, Kajokeji, Lainya, Maridi & Yei; Bishop Allison Theological College

**Uganda** Dioceses of Luwero, Ruwenzori & Madi West Nile; Chillii Children

**Zambia** Diocese of Northern Zambia

### Mission Partners

Aart & Geesje den Breejen, with Anne-Fleur, Ruben, Jan Lucas & Lisa [Madi West Nile Diocese, Uganda]

Ken & Judith Finch [Luwero Diocese, Uganda]

Alison Gill [Province of Burundi]

Rory & Denise Wilson, with Gideon [Luwero Diocese, Uganda]

Paul & Tania Baker [Luwero Diocese, Uganda]

### Mission Associates

Isabelle Prondzynski [UDP, Kenya]

Deirdre & Mark Zimmerman, with Zachary & Benjamin [Nepal]

Mark & Ali Gill [Nepal]

### Staff

**Ronnie Briggs** Mission Director

**Brian Lavery** Finance Manager

**Anne Buckley** Finance Assistant

**David Gough** Partnership Coordinator

**Niall Manogue** Partnership Coordinator

**Gillian Maganda** Personnel Coordinator

**Roger Cooke** Mission Resource Manager

**Rachel Brittain** Mission Resource Coordinator

**Sarah Caughey** Communication and Administration Coordinator

**Andy McCormick** Parish Development Worker

## mission in its place



In God's Kingdom, place matters.

When we read the biblical account of God's plan to redeem and restore humanity, we can sometimes forget that these familiar stories didn't just happen in some fantastical Narnia or Middle Earth, but in real time and space. Sinai, Egypt, Babylon, Jerusalem and Antioch. These places act as the sets and locations for God's epic story of mission.

Today, God's mission plan continues to work itself out in different places, within different cultural and political contexts. Our God is a Global God. He is Ugandan, Kenyan, Nepali, Irish... God is always more than one culture's experience or understanding of Him.

In CMS Ireland, we have the privilege of helping people discover something more of this Global God and His Global Church. Through visits from 'here' to 'there' and 'there' to 'here', through Link Partnerships, through Mission Placements, through the stories in these pages, we offer opportunities for new experiences of worship and witness, new insights on life, faith and service.

In the coming weeks, as we celebrate the events of an outhouse in first-century Bethlehem, may we be challenged afresh by what God is doing in other places and by what He calls us each to do, wherever we are.

**Roger Cooke** Editor

# transforming places

## the importance of relationships



Canon Jim Carson with Bishop Jeremiah Taama, Kajiado Diocese, Kenya.

Have you ever had the experience of returning to a place where you once lived, worked or studied? It can leave you with an odd or unsettling feeling. The old buildings are the same, the river continues to run by and the familiar coffee shop is still open. Yet the buildings have new windows and paint, the encouraging person in the coffee shop is gone and as people pass, there is no-one to greet you!

Our sense of place is made more real by the people there whom we know and love and are in relationship with. Without them the place is empty for us – even strange.

For Christians, this sense of place is given added meaning by our relationship and interaction with God and also with people on a deeper level, a spiritual level through which the Spirit of God transforms lives. We see this time and again in the bible.

For Abraham, the area in Hebron near the great trees of Mamre, was special not just as the place where he and his family set up home for a while, but as the location of some transforming encounters with God and some significant interactions with other people.

In New Testament times, people fled to Antioch from Jerusalem to escape persecution and while there, they spread the gospel. Luke tells us that believers were first called 'Christians' in Antioch. The church grew in that place through their relationships with the Spirit of Christ and with ordinary people.



Our sense of place is made more real by people.

For myself and for the parish of St Paul's, Kajiado Diocese in Kenya has become a special place, because of interaction and partnership. People have grown in their relationship with God whilst visiting Kajiado and have carried that home with them. This interaction and friendship in a deeply spiritual and personal way is expressed practically, financially and spiritually, leading to growth and a new sense of belonging in churches both in Ireland and Africa.

Just as with Mamre and Antioch, Kajiado is a place that is fondly remembered because of the dual relationships through which hearts have been changed: the relationships between God and people, people and people. Let us continue to pray for our friends and partners in other places, that we may see God continuing to act in a transforming way through a growing spiritual partnership.

### Jim Carson

Jim is rector of St Paul's, Lisburn, which has a Partnership Link with Kajiado Diocese. He was recently appointed Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Lisburn.

# from matana with love

Recent months have seen visits to Ireland by representatives from three of CMS Ireland's Global Partners. In November, Bishop Mouneer Anis (Egypt) and Bishop Jered Kalimba (Shyogwe, Rwanda) both spent a few days with Link Parishes and supporters, while September saw a four-week visit by Canon Seth Ndayirukye from Matana Diocese, Burundi. After taking part in the Mid-Africa Conference in Newcastle, Seth spent three weeks in Drumcree Parish and just under a week in Dunmurry Parish. Seth's visit clearly had an impact on many different people, including himself.



**Praise be to God who fulfils His plans and promises in His timing. Mission is from God and He uses the people He has called and equipped in order to deliver a specific message to specific people at specific times.**

My visit to Drumcree and Dunmurry Parishes in Northern Ireland was an incredible and enriching experience and a challenging one as well. I had to minister to people whose lives, culture and spiritual needs I did not know and to discern what kind of message I had to deliver. I therefore had to rely on the will of God and His direction to know what to say. I am grateful to Him and of course to the guidance of the rectors. Before leaving Burundi, I prayed that I would be a blessing to the people I would meet and I believe God blessed them and I was also blessed.

The visit impacted my personal fellowship with God. I had to trust Him in what I was doing, but I also had enough time to pray for myself and God's people and to listen to Him. I was also challenged by the warm welcome I got. It gave me a taste of what it will be like in heaven and how Jesus will welcome us.

I believe I have planted some seeds during my visit to Northern Ireland. May God bless all the people I was able to minister to and help those seeds to grow and bear fruit that will last. Amen!

**Canon Seth Ndayirukye**

For more information on our partnerships in Burundi - visit our website - [www.cmsireland.org](http://www.cmsireland.org)

**In August, six people from Drumcree Parish and two others went out on a CMS Ireland META to Burundi. This was the first time for any of us to be in Burundi and our first time meeting Canon Seth, who was the main coordinator while we were in Matana Diocese. For the 'Drumcree Six', our visit confirmed that it is right for our parish to develop our Partnership Link with Matana Diocese, so it was a privilege to host Seth in Drumcree for a few weeks. He is a great encourager, a man of prayer and wisdom and a man who loved the people he met.**

Seth impacted the people of Drumcree in many ways, particularly through one-to-one pastoral ministry. While visiting in nursing homes, hospitals and people's homes, it was wonderful to see how God used him. In one home, after praying for a person who was sick, they asked if they could lay hands on Seth to pray for him. This was the first time this person had ever prayed and laid hands on anyone.

While in hospital we prayed for a person who had only been given 24 hours to live - they were absolutely terrified of death. We prayed with them and left, but when we called back again later to see the person, they were asleep. Seth was distraught that he did not get to say farewell, so we called again before Seth left. Their family was telling us that they had totally changed - there was no more fear of death, they were joking and laughing. Two months later the person is out of hospital, the syringe drive removed and that person is walking in faith.



**There was no more fear of death, they were joking and laughing.**

Seth has shown us that what is important in life is relationships, our relationship with our Lord and our relationships with each other. Our journey together in the last three months has made us more dependent on our Lord and more focused on God's will in our lives.

**Rev Gary Galway, Drumcree**



Some of the "Burundi 6" META with Canon Seth in Matana Diocese.

**We were privileged to have had Canon Seth among us, albeit for a very short time. What a blessing and encouragement he was to the parish and to individuals!**

During his stay with us Seth led morning worship, prayed with a group who gathered together on Sunday evening at the rectory, visited homes and prayed with individuals and families. His ministry among us was one of encouragement.

It was interesting to hear from Seth that many of the challenges we face in the church today are experienced by the church in Burundi - connecting with young people, the relevance of the gospel message in today's society and how we as a church witness to and reflect the good news of Jesus Christ.

Barriers were broken down immediately as people realised that hurt, disappointment, pain and despair are common to our humanity. Irregardless of our country of origin, Jesus can speak into our situation. And it was this 'speaking in' that Canon Seth brought. He reminded us that our confidence to face life comes not from our own strength but continued confidence in the One who is the centre of our faith, Jesus.

**Rev Denise Acheson, Dunmurry**

# a place of hope and healing an update from d.r. congo

**CMS Ireland's Partnership Coordinators help make connections and develop relationships between people in different places. David Gough shares something of his recent visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo).**



**Furaha** - a woman David Gough met in Kindu Diocese.

Although I had visited DR Congo in 2003, this was my first visit to CMS Ireland's Global Partners in the Dioceses of Bukavu, Kindu and North Kivu.

DR Congo is a vast country with immense mineral resources, including coltan - a vital element used in mobile phones and laptops. Yet it is probably best known for the conflict between 1998 and 2003, often referred to as 'Africa's World War', which pitted government forces, supported by Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe, against rebels backed by Uganda and Rwanda. The war claimed an estimated three million lives, either as a direct result of fighting or due to disease and malnutrition.

Despite a peace deal in 2003, people remain in terror of marauding militia like the infamous Mai-Mai and Interhamwe, who today still use rape as a weapon of war. It is in this context that the Church seeks to offer healing, hope and transformation.

I'm glad to report that the Church is alive and well in DR Congo and as I visited the three dioceses I was greatly encouraged to hear that they viewed my visit as an example that things were changing - visitors returning was a real sign of hope.

During my time in Kindu Diocese, I met one of the women who has been helped and supported by the Church, after a horrendous ordeal. 52-year-old Mama Furaha lives in Kindu town. Her name Furaha means 'happy soul' but like all too many women in Eastern Congo, her story has not been a happy one.

While walking to collect firewood and forage for her husband and six young children, Furaha was attacked and raped by a gang of men - rebel 'soldiers' - who took her food and left her to die. Later that afternoon, Furaha's husband ventured into the jungle to look for her and stumbled into the same gang of rebels who beat, raped and killed him.

The following day another woman who was foraging for food discovered Furaha. She had been terrified to move or make a sound so had lain where she had been abandoned. The woman immediately brought Furaha to the Mothers' Union, where she was offered care and support.

**The women at the Mothers' Union** paid for Furaha to go to hospital to be treated for her wounds and to receive an HIV test. They also organised childcare and provided her with ongoing support and trauma counseling. Furaha was then provided with a small Micro Credit loan to help rebuild her life and care for her children.

Some of the 31 orphan children being cared for by Rev Immanuel and his family in North Kivu Diocese



In DR Congo when women have been raped they are usually disowned by their husbands and family and treated as an outcast by the local community. The family usually orphans any children born as a result of the attack. The Church is trying to change this culture by showing Christian love, care and support when people need it most. This is something that I also witnessed in my visit to North Kivu.



I first met Rev Immanuel prior to the Sunday Service in Butembo Cathedral where he acted as my interpreter. In chatting to him before the service, I discovered that Immanuel, his wife Dorchas and their three young children, share

their home on the outskirts of Butembo with 31 orphans. I had a chance to visit them the following day to find out more about this couple and their incredible ministry.

In 1996 Immanuel and Dorchas first opened up their home to the plight of young abandoned children. As Dorchas showed me around their home, she explained something of their work over the past 15 years.

“Our vision is to show Christian compassion for infants in distress. We work with orphans from birth to 18 years of age, those who’ve been affected with HIV/AIDS as well as girls, some under 10 years, who have been raped. We also provide trauma and spiritual counselling and encourage others to pray for the ministry. We’ve even had to open an orphan school, because none of the local schools would accept the orphan children. Our aim is to place the children in host families to give them the opportunity to be part of a family. We currently have 22 children in host families.”

A Mothers’ Union group caring for a widow and her family. A Christian couple providing a home for hundreds of forgotten children. God’s people, the Church, reaching out to share God’s love, hope and healing.

I return from my visit having been hugely inspired and impacted by what I saw in DR Congo and keen to share more about the transforming work of the Church there.

We would love to see some more churches in Ireland developing a Partnership Link with one of our Global Partners in DR Congo. **To find out more, please contact David via the Belfast office.**

# sheilagh jebb

## a tribute

On 7th November, we learned of the death of Sheilagh Jebb. Former General Secretary Cecil Wilson pays tribute to a remarkable woman of faith.



**Sheilagh Jebb** during her Mission Service with CMS in Nigeria in the 1950's.

When I joined CMS Ireland in 1976, Sheilagh Jebb was already a legend in mission circles, having spent 26 years as a CMS missionary in Nigeria, nursing, training nurses and sharing the Gospel, which was her great passion.

After this time in Nigeria, Sheilagh faced one of the biggest challenges of her mission career when she was transferred to a health project in the Yemen, one of only a small handful of western missionaries to serve in that country. She learned Arabic and for three years brought medical care to remote and mountainous parts of the country. Service followed in Sudan, Sierra Leone and the Gambia before Sheilagh retired to Bangor in 1989 where she became an active member of Ballyholme Parish.

I first met Sheilagh when she had just returned from Yemen and was enthusiastically preparing to go to the Sudan. But it was when she retired, or rather when her overseas service was finally completed, that I really got to know her. Scarcely had she moved her few belongings into her new home than she was in the CMS Ireland Office volunteering her services.

Of all Sheilagh's many qualities, the one that stands out for me is her gift of hospitality. For many of CMS Ireland's visitors, her home became a haven. Every time that I arrived at her home with yet another guest there was always a warm, enthusiastic welcome and the smell of an appropriate cultural meal cooking in the kitchen.

There was another side to Sheilagh, one only seen by individuals. She had a ministry of generosity known only to those who were its recipients. There are many, including bishops in Christian service throughout the world today, whose education and support was paid for by Sheilagh. Many mission projects have survived and many lives have been transformed because Sheilagh was there at a time of need.

### **Sheilagh truly made the Prayer of St Ignatius her own:**

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will.

We have reprinted Sheilagh's book, *Going for God*. **Contact the Belfast office for more details.**

# home from home

## an update from the den breejens

It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home for this is where our love for each other must start.

**Mother Teresa**

When we returned to Arua some months ago, it was in many ways leaving home to come home. We really enjoyed our period of Home Assignment, being with friends and family and also making new friends. We've always seen the biggest part of missionary 'sacrifice' as having to leave family and friends for a new place with new people, so it was good to spend time back in the Netherlands.

But, here in Arua, we have made new friends over the past three years and some are close on a daily basis - they have practically become family. So returning to Arua in the summer was also coming home. After all, it's God who builds the home and He makes it from His building bricks...people.



**It's God who builds the home and He makes it from His building bricks...people.**

We had a discussion recently with a missionary friend about the church being a home - a place where you learn to love, despite being sometimes very different from one another.

Practically, life back in Arua was (and still is) full of trying to get things organised, both at home and at work. At our house, several things needed to be done to get all the systems up and running. Electricity is often a problem. Other



services such as water, internet and cooking gas have recently been giving problems, sometimes simply not being there for days or weeks.

The children are enjoying our current Dutch home schooling teacher, Danielle, and it gives Geesje much more time for the 'Mothers with AIDS' support project. We are looking for a teacher for next year and we would ask for your prayers in this.

Students at the Vocational Training School are getting plenty of practical experience at the moment. When we came back we found things in good order and that was certainly encouraging - a good reason to be proud of our staff!

**It seems appropriate to sign off by sending you our love from our home in Arua!**

Geesje, Aart, Anne Fleur, Ruben, Jan Lucas and Lisa...and Grace, Godfrey, Paul, Danielle, Juliet, Richard, Henry, Eriku, Leti, Boniface, Salome, Vicky, Agabo **and many more loved ones.**

# people in their place getting to grips with the staff

The CMS Ireland staff team: ten individuals with their own perspectives on life, faith and mission, each playing a different role to support the work of the Society, but each with a sense that God has called them to this place, this role, for this time.

Over the next few editions of inMission, we'll find out a bit more about some of the staff members and what they get up to as they play their part in equipping the church in mission. We begin with two of the longest-serving staff members, who are both based in the Belfast office.

This year, Anne Buckley, Finance Assistant, celebrates 25 years of working for the Society. She is keen to point out that she was very young when she began! inMission grabbed a quick chat with her on a busy Tuesday afternoon.

**im: How did you end up working for CMS Ireland?**

AB: I grew up in Middleton, Cork and after finishing my Leaving Cert and a training course, I came to Belfast in 1983 to work on a Methodist Mission Programme for a year before taking up a Family Worker role with St Mary's Church on the Crumlin Road. St Mary's had a strong connection with CMS Ireland, so I began to get to know more about the work of the Society. When a temporary post came up in CMS Ireland's Youth Department, I applied. I never imagined staying in Northern Ireland for more than a couple of years, but I've been here ever since!



I've been encouraged by the renewed focus on people and relationships.

**im: Tell us a bit about your current role**

AB: Most of my time is spent on the computer, inputting financial information to the accounts system and generating receipts to individuals and parishes who have sent in money. It's a job that never really ends.



Anne Buckley

**im: You have seen lots of change in the Society over the years, but what has encouraged you most about the work of the Society in the last couple of years?**

AB: I've been encouraged by the renewed focus on people and relationships. Personal contact is definitely the most effective and fruitful way of communicating with our members and supporters.

**im: As you look back over the last 25 years, what has it meant for you to be part of CMS Ireland?**

AB: I was so young when I arrived in Northern Ireland and it was all very new and different. CMS Ireland quickly became my family and today, many of my closest friends are former colleagues. I've seen many people who've had connections with CMS Ireland - as Mission Partners, META members or volunteers - growing and developing. CMS Ireland has been part of their journey and it's been a privilege to see that. I'm thankful that I'm part of something that has an impact, whether here or somewhere else.

**Rachel Brittain started working for CMS Ireland in 2004 to help produce the Annual Project and begin planning for the mPower conference. She currently works three days a week as Mission Resource Coordinator - a varied role which includes input into publications and events as well as coordinating the Marketplace initiative and our engagement with volunteers. She shares some highlights from a typical week.**

 **Monday 14th November**

- Busy start to the week. Checked emails, collected Marketplace stock and looked through magazine design work before heading to Lisburn with Sarah to meet with the Knitwits Ladies group at St Paul's and share our Marketplace stories and crafts with them.

Returned to the office for lunchtime - important to refuel at 20 weeks pregnant!

- After lunch: Restocked Marketplace boxes for an evening Christmas Craft Fair at Ballyholme Parish.
- Met with Roger to check progress on magazine pulling content and design elements together for our meeting with the designers.
- Met with Roger and Sarah to discuss plans for the Annual Project 2012, to be based in Nepal.
- 6:30pm: Set up stall in Ballyholme and shared the Marketplace story and crafts with early Christmas shoppers - home by 11pm (luckily I live in Bangor so didn't have far to go!)

 **Tuesday 15th November**

- More normal start today - returned Marketplace stock and sorted out finances with Anne from yesterday's events. Checked emails and gathered with other staff for morning coffee and devotions.
- Searched for good images for the magazine and Prayer Diary.
- After lunch: Confirmed Annual Project launches in local parishes so these dates can be shared in the magazine and distributed among participating parishes.
- Prepared Marketplace stock and presentation for Ronnie, for his meeting in Magherally Parish tomorrow.



Rachel Brittain

- Spent rest of afternoon making some updates to Going for God, Sheilagh Jebb's book, and arranging for a reprint of the book.

 **Wednesday 16th November**

- Most of the day was spent on the magazine. Started early to try and gather together material and sketch an outline of the magazine, then headed to Hollywood at 11:30am to meet with the designers to discuss layout.
- After lunch: worked on outstanding material for magazine and finalised Annual Project video and photo requirements with Roger before he leaves for Nepal.
- Looked ahead to see what events are coming up - mainly the Christmas Gatherings in Belfast and Dublin in December - begin planning and promoting them among supporters.

# the beautiful gate

## cms ireland annual project 2012



# beautifulgate

CMS Ireland Annual Project 2012 Nepal


Acts 3 tells the story of Peter and John, who were going to the temple to pray. At the temple gate, the one called The Beautiful Gate, we read that they met a lame man who was begging. Peter and John didn't have money, but they gave the man something even more valuable. They healed him in the name of Jesus.


On that day at the Beautiful Gate, the temple was a place where Jesus' disciples went to worship, but also saw an opportunity to offer healing and transformation. Their love of God and their love of someone in need came together.


SD Church, one of CMS Ireland's Global Partners in Nepal, is a place of worship and of transformation. This year's project will share something of the ministry of this church as it reaches out in love.


**At the Beautiful Gate, worship and mission come together.**


### Annual Project 2012 Presentation Dates

 **Sunday 29th January**  
St Patrick's, Ballymena - **3pm**

 **Monday 30th January**  
Glendermott Parish - **8pm**  
Bangor Primacy - **8pm**

 **Tuesday 31st January**  
Seapatricks Parish, Banbridge - **8pm**  
Castleberg Parish - **8pm**  
St Brigid's Parish, Glengormley - **8pm**

 **Wednesday 1st February**  
Killowen Parish, Coleraine - **8pm**

 **Thursday 2nd February**  
Holy Trinity, Rathmines - **8pm**  
St Macartins Cathedral, Enniskillen - **8pm**  
Drumglass Parish, Dungannon - **8pm**

 **Saturday 4th February**  
Douglas Parish Halls, Cork - **3pm**

The Annual Project presentations give you an in-depth look into this year's resource pack and offers hints and tips on how best to use the project in your Sunday School. Come along and learn more about the pack and meet other participating parishes to share your experiences. For more information email

[annualproject@cmsireland.org](mailto:annualproject@cmsireland.org)

# staying connected

## a focus on cms ireland events

Throughout 2011, CMS Ireland has hosted over 20 events in a variety of places throughout Ireland. Some of these events focused on particular countries, others highlighted or launched a particular resource or initiative and there have been a few more general events, celebrating the wider work of the Society and sharing stories of transformation.

Whatever the particular focus of these gatherings, whatever the numbers that attend (this year, numbers have ranged from 6 to over 100), CMS Ireland events all seek to do something similar: we want to make connections with people, to help celebrate and nurture a sense of 'community' as we work together to make God's Kingdom known. Some of our recent events included:



### Mid-Africa Conference (September, Newcastle)

Our annual residential event that focuses on the work of our partners in Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and DR Congo.

**"Every year, the conference surprises me, I come away challenged and excited - determined to continue to live up to the calling we have, under the grace of God. I've never been to mid-Africa, but I feel like it's part of my life because of this conference."**

**Rev Adrian Dorrian, Belfast**

### Focal Point: Snapshots of Mission (September, Belfast; October, Dublin)

Two informal evening events featuring a photo gallery comprising images of mission sent in by members and supporters and some of the stories behind the pictures.

**"What a pleasure to be involved in such a great event! The talent on show was apparent by the consistent high standard of photography. It was great admiring other people's work, but it was even better sharing the stories from here and abroad of how God is placing people in communities to be a real shining light!"**

**David Cavan, Coleraine**

### Marketplace Evenings (November, Belfast & Dublin)

The new Marketplace Crafts were launched this Autumn and are appearing at up to 15 events and Christmas Fairs in various locations. We hosted two special evenings to sell the crafts and tell some of the stories behind them.

**"Rarely is it possible to buy a beautiful handmade product and know that the craftsperson responsible will benefit directly, and in such a sustainable way. It is so interesting to hear the stories behind the people who have created such an array of exquisite items and know that your tiny contribution can mean so much to somebody so far away."**

**Rosie Hunt, Dublin**

See the enclosed bookmark for some of our upcoming events, to which you are warmly invited.

# snippets from supporters and staff

## 26 miles...and more



As reported in the Autumn edition of inMission, **Stephen Brown**, a parishioner from Ballymena, recently ran in the New York

Marathon to celebrate a significant birthday and to raise awareness and funds for SD Church in Nepal. Stephen had a great day, completing the marathon in just over 4 hours, 26 minutes, and raising £2000 in the process.



I took time to stop and talk to people along the route and was uplifted by their support.

Stephen said of the experience, "The whole race was unforgettable, I took time to stop and talk to people along the route and was uplifted by their support. I must admit I had a few tears on the way round, but most definitely in a good way."

Another CMS Ireland supporter, **David McComb**, from St Columba's Parish, Portadown ran the Dublin marathon in October in support of Kajiado Diocese in Kenya. His marathon effort as well as some extra parish support raised over £2500 to be used as part of the Kajiado Diocesan Relief effort and to run a Clergy seminar in December.

If you would like to run a marathon or if you have other ideas for fundraising events for CMS Ireland or our Global Partners, we'd love to hear from you. We can help to share your story and offer some practical suggestions for fundraising.

## META teams 2012



There are still spaces for the 2012 Meta teams to Uganda and Rwanda next summer. The teams are open to all ages over 17 years old and will be between two to three weeks in length.

The team to Uganda will be travelling at the end of August and are due back in the 1st week of September. They will be involved with Kiwoko Hospital and will work with children and young people.

The Rwanda team is scheduled for two weeks in July and will be focusing on building relationships with the people in Shyogwe Diocese and getting involved with some of the practical projects and ministries of the diocese.

For more information and for application forms, see our website or contact Gillian in our Belfast Office.

## Bishop Taama Retirement



On 5th December, 16 people will travel to Kenya as part of a very special CMS Ireland META to celebrate the retirement of Bishop Jeremiah Taama after 15 years of service as the First Bishop of Kajiado Diocese, Kenya.

The team is made of six local clergy including Bishop Alan Abernethy of Connor Diocese and members of churches across Ireland. The visit highlights the close partnership that CMS Ireland has helped develop between parishes in Ireland and Kajiado Diocese and will provide a foundation for developing an even deeper partnership when the new Bishop is installed in January. We wish Bishop Jeremiah and Mama Mary a long and happy retirement.

## Parish Rep Brunches



CMS Ireland seeks to develop strong and fruitful relationships with churches throughout Ireland. We're working to help inspire, challenge and equip parishes to engage more actively in mission. It's therefore important to find effective ways of sharing stories, requests and news updates from our Global Partners and from the Society. This is where CMS Ireland Parish Reps play a key role.

Parish reps act as a point of contact, providing a means of sharing information and updates into and out of the parish. We're thankful to the many people who act as such contact points.

But very often, Parish Reps do so much more. They can support the rector by encouraging parishioners to take an active interest in mission, they can help organise special mission events or lead a mission prayer or support group. Parish reps can help make mission matter.

In the year ahead, we hope to make a significant investment in our support and use of Parish Reps. As part of this investment, we are planning to hold a number of Parish Rep brunches throughout 2012. These are open to current CMS Ireland Parish Reps and those who are interested in becoming a Rep for their church for the first time. The events are a chance to meet with other Parish Reps and to find out more about helping develop the mission interest in your church. Brunch is, of course, provided. We will begin with events in Belfast and Dublin.

**Saturday 18th February (10:30am-1pm)  
Belfast, CMS Ireland Offices**

**Saturday 10th March (10:30am-1pm)  
Dublin (venue tbc)**

To find out more, please get in touch via our offices. If you're already a Parish Rep, you can expect to hear from us soon, but please put the date in your diary.

## New arrival



At the end of November, we will welcome a new volunteer the staff team in Belfast. Emily Feldhake, a young graduate of

Trinity College Dublin who hails from Michigan in the USA, is to become our first International Volunteer under a new 'Charity Worker' status we have established with the UK Border Agency.

Emily will be working with Sarah and Rachel in the Belfast office, providing administrative support and helping with some of our engagement with members and volunteers.

## Calling all volunteers!

If you are interested in supporting CMS Ireland and have a few hours to spare a month - why not get involved with a wide variety of opportunities currently with the society. From stamp collecting, envelope stuffing, Marketplace seller or Speaker volunteer - whatever your skill or passion we will make good use of your 'free time'! Get in touch with Rachel in the Belfast office for more information.

**more than gifts...**



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than a  
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This year CMS Ireland launches **MORE THAN GIFTS**. This special range of alternative gift cards provide much needed support for the work of the Society and will make a long lasting impact to the work of our partners around the world.

There is a **MORE THAN GIFT** for everyone! With gift cards supporting Church Leadership in Kenya, Education in South Sudan, Agriculture in Rwanda, Healthcare in Uganda, Family Support in Nepal or CMS Ireland itself.

To order your more than gift - download the order form online or contact our offices (suggested £10/€10 donation per card, but you can donate more, or less, if you wish). We will then send your chosen gift card(s) to you, so that you can add your own personal message before sending on your cards to friends and family.

[morethangifts@cmsireland.org](mailto:morethangifts@cmsireland.org)



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