

inmission



the magazine of **cms**ireland

Issue 38
Autumn 2011



**people in
mission**
the face
of change

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

S. Sudan Dioceses of Ibba, Kajokeji, Lainya, Maridi & Yei; Bishop Allison Theological College

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

Zambia Diocese of Northern Zambia

Mission Partners

Paul & Tania Baker [Luwero Diocese, Uganda]

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]

Mission Associates

Mark & Ali Gill [Nepal]

Isabelle Prondzynski [UDP, Kenya]

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

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Rachel Brittain Mission Resource Coordinator

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Andy McCormick Parish Development Worker

kingdom people



Heaven is like...the London Marathon! Maybe not an obvious choice for an insight into eternity, but it works for me. Every year, as I watch on TV or, as I've done on a few occasions, from packed footpaths along the route, I find myself incredibly moved by the annual carnival that has become so much more than a 26-mile road race.

40,000 'runners' of all shapes, sizes and ages cross the starting line, their faces reflecting the unbridled joy of simply being there, participating in something much bigger than they could imagine - the culmination of months of training, planning and anticipating. But it's the stories behind these faces that really capture my attention. 40,000 reasons for competing, many of them nothing to do with sport or fitness. 40,000 individuals, each one unique, each with their own experiences, joining the masses in a pilgrimage that is both very personal and overwhelmingly communal.

God's Kingdom is a vast and assorted community of people, each with their own story, their own struggles. But we all belong. We are all welcome. And we have all been called to be people in mission, who reach out to transform the world and to invite others into the family of faith that spans time and space.

We pray that you'll enjoy this edition of **inMission** and that you'll keep running with us!

Roger Cooke Editor

for such a time as this

September sees a new addition to the CMS Ireland staff team. Rev Adrian Dorrian, who is well known to the Society as a former META participant, a previous Board member and a regular face at CMS Ireland events, is to take up responsibility as volunteer Chaplain to the staff team. Adrian, who is Rector of St. Peter and St James in North Belfast, will join the staff for their devotions and will be available to offer pastoral support to the team. Adrian will be commissioned by the Bishop of Connor, Alan Abernethy, at a special communion celebration.



“I’m really excited about this opportunity to serve the Society and support the staff,” says Adrian, “and I’m looking forward to sharing in their weekly worship.”



I love the biblical story of Esther - an ordinary girl who finds herself married to the King of Persia and at the heart of palace intrigue.

The book of Esther is unique, in that the name of God is not mentioned in its text, but it is nonetheless a significant story for the Church. Esther is a book about mission - and about people in mission. It's about being in the right place at the right time and responding accordingly, in faith and in pursuit of justice.

When Esther finds herself with a place in the court, her initial reaction is to settle-in and enjoy the luxury of her position. But when Haman, another courtier, mounts a plot against her people, Esther is faced with a challenge: to maintain the comfortable status quo, or to implore the king to protect her people from Haman's plot. To approach the king without invitation was to risk her own life, but that is the choice that faces her: her life or the life and very identity of her Jewish race.

Mordecai convinces her: “Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” In difficult circumstances, Esther recognises God’s sovereign power and hands events over to Him. She is galvanised into action, the Jews are saved and Haman is punished.

Is that a challenge for us as we seek to be people in mission...to make sure God is the one to whom we hand over our lives? God calls each and every one of us, wherever we are, to be people in mission - we are called to serve God 'for such a time as this'.

Adrian Dorrian

partnership in mission a celebration of relationship

Although the strapline with CMS Ireland's logo has been updated, 'partnership' remains central as we seek to equip the church in mission. Two-way relationships between Ireland and our Global Partners have huge potential to inspire, encourage and enable God's people to engage in mission. This year sees the 10th Anniversary of a partnership that has had a significant impact 'here' and 'there'. **Ronnie Briggs** tells us more.



If the word 'partnership' can be interpreted as two people sharing their strengths in order to overcome their weaknesses, then the partnership that has existed between Limavady Grammar School and the Diocese of Kajiado for more than 10 years is surely an excellent example.

This partnership was kicked-off when Bishop Taama gave a short five-minute talk in a Limavady School assembly back in 2001. Those few sentences, spoken in a rush in an assembly, prompted the school and the wider community to start sponsored walks, concerts,

open-house days, fashion shows and a whole range of other initiatives to raise funds in support of the social outreach ministry of the Diocese of Kajiado.

More recently, the fundraising has had one particular focus: the construction and development of a Girls' Secondary School just outside Kajiado town.

The relationship that has developed between an Ulster school and a Kenyan Church Diocese has resulted in three Limavady teams visiting Kajiado and two Kajiado teams visiting



Photo credit: Philip Briggs

Limavady. People-exchange is what makes this partnership real. And the partnership has had impacts beyond those directly involved in the visits – the community in Limavady and many people in Kajiado have caught the vision of this international friendship.

Summer saw another important chapter in the story of this partnership, with a team of 36 students and teachers from Limavady spending four weeks in the Diocese of Kajiado, to coincide with the official opening ceremony and dedication of the new school. The Principal of Limavady Grammar, Mr Robert Wilson, accompanied the team and was given the honour of cutting the tape at the ceremony on the 4th July. He had this to say about the partnership:

“The name Kajiado is well known to all pupils and staff who have been part of Limavady Grammar School since the visit of Bishop Taama in 2001. The team that visited in 2008 laid the foundations for the new Oloosuyian Girls’ Secondary School and so it was a real joy for the team in July 2011 to see the school already open for business and to see the impact that it is already having in the community. We know that with God’s blessing, this impact will continue for many years. We were all overwhelmed to witness, first hand, the Kenyans’ passion for learning, music, dance and for the Lord.

“I considered it a privilege to have been invited to officially open the new school. The building, and now the dormitories

which are already well underway, are a sign of our commitment to the people of Oloosuyian, God’s people. As a school we look forward to maintaining our involvement in the work of CMS Ireland in Kajiado Diocese and I would acknowledge the wonderful support that our project has enjoyed, both financially and prayerfully, from the wider Limavady community.”

The new Principal of the Girls’ School is Priscilla Nangurai. She has had many years experience working with Maasai girls, especially helping them to resist early marriage as this usually spells the end of education for them. Speaking shortly after the team returned to Limavady, Priscilla had this to say: “And so the school started – slowly but surely. Getting 24 girls during the first year was a very good beginning. Most girls are Maasai and for many of them this is a safe haven for them – a place of good hope.



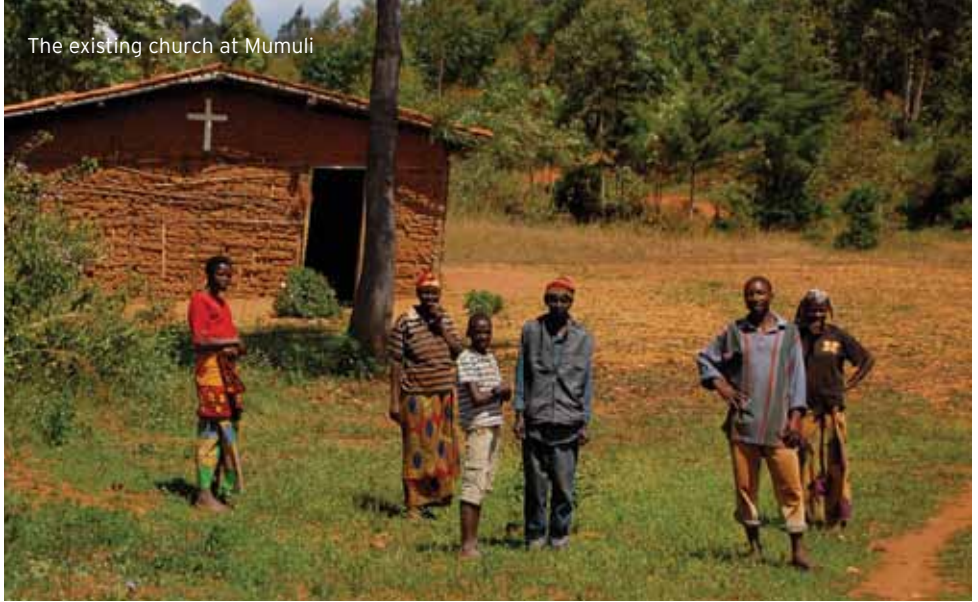
Most girls are Maasai and for many of them this is a safe haven – a place of good hope.

“Having worked with girls for many years it is very exciting for me to be at the centre of this new school – it is like a new beginning for me. It is a time to start a new school to become a centre of excellence with strong Christian foundations. May God bless Limavady Grammar School, the parents and the community for allowing their students and teachers to be with us for the past few weeks, and for coming up with the idea of building a school for girls among the Maasai Community.”

For CMS Ireland to be able to help facilitate this kind of partnership between Limavady and Kajiado is a real fulfilment of our working ethos. There is a real sense of shared ownership and they bring a depth of understanding to the words in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 – ‘Two are better off than one, if one falls down then the other can pick them up.’ Surely this is partnership in mission.

living parables

an update from mid-africa



The existing church at Mumuli

Over the summer, CMS Ireland's Partnership Coordinators spent time with Global Partners and Mission personnel in Egypt, South Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and Kenya. These visits are hugely important to the ongoing development of CMS Ireland's mission partnerships. Over numerous meals and countless cups of tea, through formal meetings and informal encounters, relationships deepen, ideas are exchanged and plans are hatched.

Niall Manogue, Partnership Coordinator for Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, shares some highlights from his recent visit.

Through perhaps his most well known parable, the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus encourages his listeners to challenge the social norms of the time. He urges them to reach out beyond their own religious, cultural and ethnic groupings to help those who are in need.

On my recent visit to Gitega Diocese in Burundi, I heard a story of local people who responded to this challenge, made by Jesus some 2000 years ago.

During 1996, the Burundian civil war, which at that point had been going on for over 20 years, reached its peak. Travel on the roads became dangerous and journeys were not recommended without an armed military escort. But people still needed to travel, including Bishop John, who found himself returning to Gitega late one afternoon, when he was involved in a car accident. His driver had to swerve to avoid a learner driver who had lost control of their car. As a result, his car hit the embankment at the side of the road and flipped over, trapping the bishop inside.

As well as suffering a broken hip and dislocated wrist, Bishop John feared for his safety. He was now particularly vulnerable to attack from the armed groups that roamed the country.

To his relief, some local people had heard the accident and came down to help. They pulled the bishop from the wreckage and took him to their home, before sending him for treatment at the hospital in Gitega. Having received treatment in Burundi and subsequently in the UK, Bishop John made a full recovery. He then returned to the site of the accident to thank the people



They were prepared to take a risk, to challenge the social norms, to reach out in compassion and help someone in need. People in mission, making a difference.

who had helped them. They asked him to plant a new church there, as there was no Christian community present. The bishop agreed and the church at Mumuli has grown ever since.

This year, CMS Ireland's Annual Project, **Living Stones: Building Church in Burundi**, focuses on church building and theological training in Gitega and Matana Dioceses. Some of the money raised in Ireland will help the community in Mumuli build a concrete structure for their church. Having started in someone's home, then moved to a mud-brick building, the new church will serve as a powerful witness for the Kingdom in that place.

It was a real honour to hear this story, meet the people involved and then see where the new church will be built.

As Burundi continues its journey towards reconciliation and a more peaceful and stable future, the testimony of this small community takes on particular significance. They were prepared to take a risk, to challenge the social norms, to reach out in compassion and help someone in need. People in mission, making a difference.

It was a privilege to return to Kiwoko Hospital, where I previously served as a Mission Partner, to catch-up with the Bakers and the Wilsons, who are currently living and working there.

It was great to see Paul and Tania continuing to settle into life in Kiwoko. Paul had recently 'cannibalised' three broken oxygen concentrators, to create two fully functioning ones for the wards. It was also encouraging to see how the craft project for HIV positive women, something that I had been involved with previously, was growing and expanding with Tania's input.

In the spring, Uganda had had a confirmed case of Ebola, a highly contagious and deadly disease. Thankfully, no more cases had been reported during the week prior to my arrival! Rory took me to see the isolation ward that the team had pulled together in Kiwoko. It

was humbling to see the lengths to which staff (who all volunteered for this dangerous work) were prepared to go, to ensure quality treatment was available for any cases that may have come their way. Mercifully, the isolation ward was not to be needed.

Denise continues to flourish in the hospital, and when I was there, had just begun a six-week placement on the wards in order to secure her registration with the Ugandan health authorities, which she has since completed.

Though I manage to communicate fairly regularly with our Global and Mission Partners via phone and email, nothing beats actually seeing them face-to-face. It is a real blessing to spend time with our friends and partners, to hear their stories and witness first hand the impact that they are having around the world.

footprints of faith

the impact of STEPs

As reported in our recent 'Summer Snippets' newsletter, 2011 has been a busy year for CMS Ireland's Short-Term Experience Placements. Seven individuals have spent between two weeks and twelve months working alongside our Global Partners in Kenya, South Sudan and Rwanda. These placements can have a huge impact on those who 'go', those who 'receive' them and on the broader relationships between the Church in Ireland and our Global Partners.



The Global Partner perspective (UDP, Kenya)

STEP volunteers Emma Dunwoody and Kirsten Brown recently spent three months in Kenya, with the first half of their placement based in Nairobi with the Urban Development Programme (UDP). Louise Githire, UDP's programme coordinator, shares some thoughts about these recent STEPs.

"We thank God for the opportunity He gave Emma and Kirsten to visit the UDP of All Saints' Cathedral. On their first day in Nairobi, it poured heavily. It had not rained for months, so we told them they had come with the Ireland rain!

"The girls adjusted well, becoming Kenyan within no time, as they travelled by public bus 'matatus' to and from the office. In the office, they got on very well with everybody and they acquired Kenyan names - 'Ciko' for Emma and 'Njeri' for Kirsten. Every time they introduced themselves with these names, you could see the smiles and the warmth from people.

"The girls were busy throughout their stay in Nairobi. They spent most of their time with the Tujisaidie Nursery School, where the teachers were able to fit them into their programme. Now the children know about Irish culture and where Ireland is situated on the world map!

"In the church the girls were able to sample most of the services held at the Cathedral; there are about 14 services every Sunday! They enjoyed being in the youth services and they participated in the youth activities, including school visits and the football games that take place on Sundays. This also helped the local youth to know more about the UDP work and about CMS Ireland.

"We thank CMS Ireland for sending 'Ciko' and 'Njeri' to the UDP. I know they have learnt a lot from us and will be speaking about UDP with authority back in Ireland because they have met the people and seen the activities for themselves. For the UDP team, this means a lot, and shows that the partnership is strong and is growing."





Hazel

The STEP volunteer perspective

Hazel White (Shyogwe, Rwanda; 5 weeks)

Not going with a team was a very different experience to anything I'd done before, and if I'm honest I found it quite a challenge. But when things are tough and we push ourselves out of our comfort zones, that's when we grow. I saw such tremendous blessing outpoured on my STEP that I just wouldn't have noticed if things had been easier.

I made some wonderful friends in Rwanda, despite obvious challenges such as language barriers. (I can now not only meet and greet in Kinyarwanda, I can also say useful things such as "spider", "lizard" and "you are a sweet potato!") The church in Shyogwe is thriving, serving and loving - I can't wait to go back again and join in with the adventure.

Anthony Kelly (Kajiado, Kenya; 2 weeks)

My time in Kenya was a unique and wonderful learning experience. For part of the visit, I was looked after by Pastor Joseph, who helped me to learn about African culture, Anglican African prayer and spirituality, and family/community life.

My abiding memory is of the welcoming friendliness of the Kenyan people, the wonderful spontaneity of the children in the school, and the great kindness of the family who hosted me.



Robert

I feel blessed by such a unique experience - it is something that will stay with me always.

Robert Wray (Kajo-Keji and Maridi, South Sudan; 5 weeks)

Throughout my time in Sudan, I learned many, many lessons in humility, not least when I was presented with a rooster on a visit with Bishop Anthony to his home village. It seemed that I was the guest of honour. I was touched by this gesture, even if I didn't know what to do with the rooster!

This STEP gave me an opportunity to see people who live their faith every day, rather than just take it out of a box once a week - people who walked in their faith, not just talked about it. As a result of this trip, I feel stronger in my faith and inspired to make a difference.

Visit our website for more on these stories.
www.cmsireland.org

Going Global 15th-16th October Tobermore, Co. Londonderry.

A special residential event for people who are exploring possible mission service or who have returned from a summer team and are asking 'What next'. A chance to be still, to listen, to ask...

goingglobal@cmsireland.org

people power a focus on volunteers

Dogsbody. Free labour. Minion. Gofer. Some of the more negative things that might come to mind when people hear the word 'volunteer.' But in CMS Ireland, it means much, much more!



In June 2011 CMS Ireland hosted a **Thank-you Afternoon Tea Party** for many of our faithful volunteers. Over cups of tea, scrumptious sandwiches and the finest cupcakes in all the land, stories were shared and suggestions were offered for how the Society could develop and expand their use of volunteers.

We have introduced the idea of Volunteer Teams to help people feel supported and to give clarity to the different opportunities we currently offer. We've also worked on a Volunteer Handbook to help ensure that volunteers are well looked after and have the back-up they need.

As we kick-off the autumn term, we are hoping to recruit some new members to our Volunteer teams. To help give you a flavour of what's involved, here are some of our current volunteers. Who knows? Maybe you could be the perfect new member!

Office Volunteers - Barbara Wilson

Barbara has been volunteering with CMS Ireland for the last two years as part of our

Office Volunteer Team. She currently volunteers two mornings a week, with activities including answering phones, opening mail, updating databases as well as being a welcoming face for the reception of the Belfast Office.

Mailing Volunteers - Heather Edgar

Heather is a new volunteer who has become part of our Mailing Team. She helps with folding and envelope-stuffing for some of our bigger mailings - such as inMission and the AGM



'Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.'

Sherry Anderson

papers. Heather volunteers for a couple of days every few months and comments: "I like the chance of getting behind the scenes and getting to know the people involved in the day-to-day work of the Society and supporting in anyway I can."



'Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.'

Elizabeth Andrew

Speaker Volunteers - Paul Ferguson

Paul first got involved with CMS Ireland on a META to Kenya and subsequently helped set-up a partnership between Limavady Grammar School and Kajiado Diocese. Paul volunteered as a speaker for the CMS Ireland Sunday initiative in 2008. Since then, he has carried out a number of speaking engagements on behalf of the Society, from Annual Project presentations to Harvest services and Men's prayer breakfasts. Paul says, "Now that I have retired from teaching, my role changes, although my enthusiasm for mission is as strong as ever. There are huge opportunities for service - we need to have a vision for what can be achieved, persevere when things get difficult and above all be faithful in prayer and in our calling to be disciples of Jesus Christ."

Partnership Volunteers - Alan Dunn

Alan has been involved with the work of CMS Ireland for many years and has brought his vast experience to help support the Partnership Team. He has visited Global Partners in India, DR Congo and Burundi and currently works closely with Ronnie Briggs in support of the partnerships with Kenya. Alan says,

"I have been fortunate to be involved in very many aspects of CMSI activity, both in Ireland and abroad, and in particular its work in Sudan, India and DR Congo. In giving of my time I have been blessed meeting with and helping so many wonderful people all of us involved in equipping God's Church for mission."

Marketplace Volunteers - Yvonne Manogue

Yvonne has been a CMS Ireland supporter for 10 years. She has visited partners in Uganda and Kenya and helped launch the Marketplace scheme in 2007. She has worked closely with craft makers in our partner regions to develop good quality and innovative items that we can sell in Ireland. Beyond the crafts themselves, Yvonne is passionate about the plight of the craft makers and is keen to share their story. "When you've seen what an impact these craft initiatives have on local men and women - it really motivates me to give my time to tell their stories and share their craft skills with others here in Ireland."



'Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.'

Do you have a spare few hours every month? Would you like to join one of these Volunteer teams or even do some voluntary work from the comfort of your own home? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Here are a couple of other options for you to consider:

Personnel Volunteer We are looking for individuals who could correspond with our Mission Personnel and Global Partners - anything from prayer support to Christmas cards. This volunteer role can be fulfilled from home and wouldn't require travel to the CMS Ireland Offices.

Recycling Volunteer We'd love one or two volunteers to trim and sort stamps. You do not need any stamp expertise, just a pair of scissors! We get lots of donated stamps but sorting through them is a time consuming job and we need some help to process them before we send them to convert them to cash.

For further information contact Rachel in the Belfast Office.

marathon man running for nepal

The shopkeepers and street sellers of Jawalakhel in Kathmandu are well used to the presence of 'badeshis' (foreigners) in their midst - the area is home to a large missionary community and numerous International Development Agencies. But the site of a lean, pale, 40-something Ballymena man pounding the streets in the cool of early morning may have led to some bemusement.



To find out more about Stephen's marathon efforts and how you can sponsor him or support SD Church, please visit our website or contact our offices.



"Wherever he travels in the world, he gets up really early and goes for a run, before coming back and waking everyone up."

In October 2009, Stephen Brown visited Nepal as part of a Mission Experience Team Abroad (META) from Ballymena Parish. And as Stephen's daughter Ellen pointed out, when she joined her dad in CMS Ireland's Belfast office recently, "wherever he travels in the world, he gets up really early and goes for a run, before coming back and waking everyone up." According to Stephen, this holiday training regime has only once backfired, in an incident in Portugal involving a loss of direction, a dodgy area and a rabid dog!

Stephen is a runner. To date, he has completed eight marathons. But marathon number nine will be something very special. On 6th November, five weeks after his 50th birthday, Stephen will fulfil a long-held ambition by competing in the New York Marathon.

Of course, Stephen's visit to Nepal in 2009 wasn't primarily about running. The team spent time with CMS Ireland's Global Partners in Kathmandu, seeing their work and joining local Christians in worship. It had a huge impact on Stephen, who was particularly struck by "the generosity, warmth and different mindset" of the Nepalis he met in SD Church. "They had no airs and graces", says Stephen. "Despite having so little, they never mentioned money - they just asked us to pray for them." As for the Church leaders, "If they see a need, they get on and do what they can to try and meet it."

Stephen has decided to use his New York experience as a way to raise awareness about and raise funds for SD Church. He wants to run not only for himself and his family, but for the people he met in Kathmandu - his Nepali brothers and sisters. Because when mission gets personal, lives are transformed.

the proof of the pudding...

The past 12 months have seen the different elements of 'Discover' reaching their successful completion. Having launched the DVD and discussion material last November, we published the book this spring and then launched the online shop. The writing, filming, editing, checking, designing and fixing are finally done. Everything is in place. Now comes the important bit!

The priority now, and for the year ahead, is to promote **Discover** and encourage churches and small groups to make use of the material. This isn't about generating income. It's about helping people to engage with the biblical story of mission and explore the part they can play. And we passionately believe that **Discover** has the potential to do just that.

Discover has already been used by churches in a variety of different contexts and the feedback has been very positive. Here are just a few examples:

"**Discover** was used twice in main Sunday services at Whitechurch, with the rest of the series being done as part of a Lent study series, with about 10 people in the group each week. I personally liked the link between faith and action - it was a strong theme throughout the course and the topics made the participants think. The short films fit well within the context of public worship, as well as a small group setting."

Rev Horace McKinley - Whitechurch, Dublin



"We used **Discover** during Lent as a series of five small group sessions, held in my home. It worked very well indeed. The participants liked having the mix of DVD and discussions and the films looked very well on a 40-inch flatscreen TV! This is an excellent course and is flexible enough to be used for a variety of types of group." **Rev Eileen Cremin - Fermoy Parish, Co. Cork**

"We ran a **Discover** series for a group of 8-12 people on Sunday evenings during Lent and after Easter. It's an excellent course and stimulated lots of discussion. We plan to use **Discover** in the Autumn with our home groups, which should indicate how highly I recommend it!" **Rev Peter McDowell - Garnerville Presbyterian Church, Belfast**

To find out more about the **Discover** material, visit www.discovermission.org. We're also hoping to organise a few 'Introducing **Discover**' events throughout Ireland. If you would be willing to host one of these in your parish, please get in touch.

snippets from supporters and staff

mid-africa conference



The Annual CMS Ireland Mid-Africa Conference will take place in Glenada, Newcastle on the 9th-11th September and places are still available for Residential and Saturday registration. This year's theme is **Your Kingdom Come** and the programme will include input from Bishop Ken Clarke and Canon Seth (Matana Diocese, Burundi) along with Ken and Judith Finch (Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda), Hazel White (Shyogwe Diocese, Rwanda) and Mission Director, Ronnie Briggs. This is a great opportunity to hear stories of God at work around the world, to share in worship and enjoy fellowship. We'd love to see you there.

METAs 2011 and 2012

This Winter sees two more Mission Experience Teams Abroad (METAs) heading off to spend time with our Global Partners in Nepal (November) and Kenya (December). In 2012, we hope to send METAs to the following countries: **Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Nepal, Zambia and South Sudan**. Details of these teams will be announced in the coming weeks, but if you would like to find out more, contact Gillian in the Belfast office.

autumn events with a difference

Over the next few months the CMS Ireland staff have planned a wide variety of events, which they hope will not only engage our current supporters but also attract some new faces. Highlights include:

momentum



We all know the phrase 'a picture is worth a thousand words' - and for many individuals who embark on mission service locally or globally, their photographs capture memories that last a lifetime. This year's momentum event is entitled **Focal Point: Snapshots of Mission** and will celebrate the stories and experiences reflected in these treasured images. And we'd like you to be part of this event.

Do you have a favourite photo that offers a window on God's big story of mission? Maybe it's a beautiful, artistic image from a mission event or trip, or perhaps it's a simple shot of a person or place that means a lot to you - its value is in the story behind the picture. Either way, we'd love you to send us one or two images, along with a few sentences to say where and when the pictures were taken and why they mean something to you.

The Focal Point events will include a photography exhibition and competition. The images will be reviewed by a panel of judges with photography expertise and they will share their professional opinion on some of their favourite shots. But there will also be a chance to share lots of stories that offer snapshots of mission.

Photos (high resolution) and text should be sent by e-mail to momentum@cmsireland.org by 16th September, to allow time for printing.

Whether or not you submit any images, we'd love to see you at one of the events. **[Belfast, 29th September; Dublin, 4th October]**



marketplace

If you are looking for a different sort of gift, unique jewellery, handcrafted cards or creative crafts then come along to our marketplace night where all of our new stock and Christmas items will be on sale. The goods are made by craft initiatives and small enterprise schemes connected with our Global Partners in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Nepal. We will also be launching our Alternative Gifts initiative at these events - giving you the opportunity to choose gifts that support our Global Partners in Healthcare, Education, Family and Church life. We will be providing supper, craft-making demonstrations and an opportunity to learn more about the stories behind the crafts. [\[irvinestown, 28th september; belfast, 8th november; dublin 10th november\]](#)

out and about

During the Autumn, CMS Ireland staff will be popping up around the country attending the Church of Ireland Diocesan Synods. We will be promoting **Discover**, CMS Ireland's Mission Education Resource, and sharing some of the ways we can help you and your parish engage in mission. If you are attending one of the synods - please come and see us at our CMS Ireland stand!

it's beginning to look a lot like christmas...

Don't panic - there's still plenty of time before the festive period begins but some advance notice for our plans for Christmas!

-  Monkstown Parish, Dublin will play host to the first of two special CMS Ireland Christmas celebration services, on 13th December at 7:30pm. The evening will include contributions from the Discovery Gospel Choir, as well as stories, songs and refreshments.
-  On Wednesday 14th December, in St Brigid's, Glengormley, we will host a Festive Night of Celebration and Prayers - an opportunity to be still in the midst of the busy festive season and remember our Global friends.
-  We will also be holding our traditional Christmas Gathering in the Belfast Office on Tuesday 20th December 10-12am. Come and join us for some festive treats and a chance to take a break from the shops!

marketplace

trading crafts, sharing stories

Marketplace brings together a wide range of handmade crafts from CMS Ireland's Global Partners and shares the stories behind these unique products.

We have worked with craft programmes in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Nepal to provide a new range of products with a wide variety of small gifts, cards, jewellery and Christmas items.

If you are interested in finding out more about Marketplace, why not invite us along to your church for a special evening (or coffee morning) of crafts and stories?

marketplace@cmsireland.org

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