



cmsireland
equipping the church in mission

summer snippets

2021



sustaining hope

Keep hoping, keep going



Two stories this week had me thinking about patient endurance - one is historic, the other recent.

The first is about an Irish Times editorial in early April 1998, which suggested that, after 500 unsuccessful days trying to make peace, Senator George Mitchell should pack up his bags and stop wasting everyone's time. Five days later, the Good Friday Agreement was signed.

The other story is from an endurance running event last week in County Down, which I followed online. It was called 'Last One Standing'. 50 runners began the event and continued running

the 4.2-mile laps - one lap each hour - until one competitor remained: the last one standing. Run, stretch, eat, drink, repeat. And repeat! A County Meath man won by completing Lap 63 on his own. 63 hours of running - over 262 miles covered.

The past 16 months have felt a bit like a long, protracted, repetitive endurance test, with no clear sense of when it will end and the simple, but wearisome, requirement to just keep on going.

In this context, our *Voices Of Hope* annual theme has been very apt. Hope certainly feels like a precious commodity at this time, and it's one that we need to treasure highly.



As we have listened more attentively to the voices of our partners, we've been reminded that heavenly hope is not some quick-fix remedy for those seeking an instant, personal pick-me-up. Our partners show us that true, transforming hope is forged over the long-term - by experiencing God's presence and promises in the midst of suffering and despair. That's why the Bible so often marries hope with endurance:

'...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.' (Romans 5:3-5)

Thank you for joining with CMSI in the long-haul journey of church-centred global mission. May you discover new depths of hope as you patiently endure, keeping your eyes on the prize of God's perfect peace.

Roger Cooke
[Editor]

CMSI Annual Conference 2021

[A Zoom Gathering]

Sat 18th Sep; 10am - 1pm



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Covid-19 Appeal Update

How your giving has helped our partners respond to the Covid crisis

Since launching our Covid-19 Response Appeal at the start of April 2020, over €30,000 has been donated by individuals, churches and the Church Of Ireland Bishops' Appeal. While the bulk of this support came in the first few months of the appeal, we've continued to receive and transfer funds to help our partners prevent the spread and mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

Here are just some of the ways in which your giving has made a difference...



In Rwanda, **Kibungo Diocese** constructed hand washing stations at two of the local schools. (†) Likewise, transmission was reduced at the church secondary school in **Matana Diocese** (Burundi) by increasing access to water - through the provision of a rainwater harvesting tank - and by building a boundary wall to help reduce footfall across the school compound. (‡)



Gitega Diocese (Burundi) trained pastors and Bible school students in Covid-19 prevention and provided hand washing resources for 48 parishes. (†)



Kajiado Diocese (Kenya), provided emergency food packs to households that have suffered from severely reduced income due to long lockdowns. (†) CMSI was able to contribute enough for 600 of the most vulnerable households. Specific assistance was also provided for 20 clergy families.

Clergy families have also been a focus of **Kindu Diocese** in DR Congo, where Archbishop Masimango has been able to assist the most vulnerable of some urban clergy families who have been unable to feed themselves due to the pandemic.



In Nairobi, Kenya, Tumaini African Foundation (linked to the **Urban Development Programme**) has been reaching out to the community with practical assistance during lockdowns. They have provided breakfast for children still out of school, distributed food to struggling families, and offered motorcycle transport to the vaccination centre.

Provision of food was also the initial priority for **SDSS** in Nepal. The CMSI appeal made possible the distribution of 30 food packages to mothers and 40 food/medical packages to People With Disabilities.



In more recent weeks, the urgency in Nepal has been for medical resources as our partners encounter a torrential second wave alongside India. At Lamjung District Hospital, **HDCS** has moved to improve the general healthcare provision to poor and marginalised people. (†) We are delighted to be able to support their provision of free medical treatment, medical transport, medical camps in remote areas, and coordination with the government for preparedness and implementation of a disaster response.

In the **Zimmermans'** recent link letter Mark describes a desperate scene at Patan hospital, with severely limited oxygen supplies and no more beds available. He invites us to join him in prayer, saying:

"I think that's the best way to help in this situation."

Thank you for standing with our partners through your prayers and your generous giving. God's people are doing incredible work in the midst of this crisis. Please help them do more. Please keep praying and keep giving.

CMSI Covid-19 Response Appeal

The global crisis continues.
Help the Church respond.

Keep caring...

Despite the easing of restrictions in Ireland and the UK, the coronavirus pandemic is far from over, especially for our Global Partners. The situation in Nepal and the ongoing Covid-related requests from all our partners have prompted us to re-launch our Covid-19 Appeal. You can donate online via the CMSI website, or by sending us a cheque, made payable to 'CMS Ireland', and marked with 'C-19 Response Appeal'.

Stuart's Everest Challenge

Long-time CMSI supporter Canon Stuart Lloyd is planning an epic challenge this summer to raise awareness of the work of God's people in Nepal. He hopes to climb Mount Everest... via Slemish Mountain in County Antrim.



From the Visitors' Centre to the top of Slemish is 600 feet of ascent. 50 times to the top gets you to 30,000 feet: higher than Everest (29,032 ft). Between 19th and 26th June, Canon Stuart – along with fellow parishioner William McCandless – will attempt seven summits a day, with an extra one to reach the top of the world.

This is the second time Stuart has embarked on the Slemish-Everest challenge, having completed the feat in just three days in 2008 to raise support for SD Church in Nepal.



Deirdre Zimmerman with NPCS colleagues

Stuart has a long association with Nepal. He and his wife Jane have visited on numerous occasions. His niece Deirdre Zimmerman, along with her husband Mark, have served in Nepal for many years. Deirdre and Mark are CMSI Mission Associates.

In taking on his lofty challenge this summer, Stuart hopes to shine a light on Deirdre's work with Nutrition Promotion Consultancy Services, as well as on the work of CMSI's partners in Nepal – SDSS and HDCS – and Nepali NGO 'Koshish', which provides a ministry to those with mental health issues.



SDSS Covid programme

Stuart hopes to raise money to support all of this work, which is particularly vital at this time when Nepal is experiencing overfull hospitals and soaring death rates from the 2nd wave of Covid-19.

Canon Stuart and William are inviting others to join them for as many ascents as can be managed, but others can also participate through their prayer support and through financial giving. Fittingly for a Slemish-based challenge, the project is being backed by three St Patricks: St Patrick's, Broughshane,

which is Stuart's home parish, St Patrick's, Ballymena where he was formerly rector and St Patrick's, Coleraine where he is currently assisting. Stuart writes:

"Having a long association with Nepal and visiting there on many occasions, I have a great love for the country. I pray that this project will raise awareness and support for the organisations I am highlighting, especially at this time of crisis."



HDCS distribution programme

Those wishing to contribute to this initiative can do so in one of two ways:

- Send a cheque to us (payable to 'CMS Ireland') and add a note that it is for Stuart's Everest Challenge.
- Make an online donation between 7th June and 7th July via St Patrick's Broughshane 'Just Giving' page.

Keep engaging...

As you plan your parish programmes for the coming months, we'd love to resource you and help keep global mission on the agenda at your church. Why not make use of our Children's Resource for a summer children's club or book-in some CMSI input to a harvest service or other gathering? See our website for details.

Harvest 2021

Book your mission input with CMSI

Request a speaker, video message or prayer input for your 2021 harvest celebrations.

CMSI Children's Resource 2021

Ideal for Holiday Bible Clubs or Virtual Sunday Schools

One Year On

Administration Coordinator Megan Totten looks back on her first year on the CMSI staff team



It's hard to believe that I've been at CMSI for over a year already! It's strange to look back at my interview in Dargan Road: face masks weren't part of our

daily wardrobes, we'd never heard of Zoom and social distancing was not a phrase in our vocabulary. Fast forward three weeks later and I was starting my new role from home, meeting my colleagues online and baking banana bread along with the rest of the country!

It was a time of uncertainty but there was a clear sense that God was working, challenging us and bringing about change in new and unexpected ways. More than ever, we had to lean on God.

Throughout the past year, I've returned to an article I read during the first lockdown which described the control we could exercise as Christians each day when everything else in the world

seemed so totally out of control. It highlighted three choices we could make:

- **Faith over Fear** - *'For God did not give us a spirit of fear. He gave us a spirit of power and of love and of a good mind.'* (Timothy 1:7).
- **Wisdom over Worry** - *"Do not worry. Do not keep saying, 'What will we eat?' ... The people who do not know God are looking for all these things. Your Father in heaven knows you need all these things."* (Matthew 6:31-32)
- **Prayer over Panic** - *'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.'* (Philippians 4:6)

These have been such helpful reminders.

I'm conscious that I have a lot still to learn – I have many people I wish to meet who at the moment can only be faces on a Zoom meeting or a friendly voice at the end of the phone. In many

ways however I've made far more connections than would normally have been possible in a regular calendar year. Through online events I've had the privilege of meeting many of our Global Partners 'face to face' which has been incredible and a real blessing to be able to hear from them and pray for them in person.

Despite the challenges of the past year, I have thoroughly enjoyed becoming part of the CMSI family. I have a real sense that this is where God wants me to be and I'm excited for what the future may hold as I continue to grow in this role.



Open(ish) Office Gatherings



It is almost a full year since we moved into our new Belfast Offices in Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park. While one or two friends and supporters called by during last summer's 'non-lockdown', it's been impossible to host a proper office warming event.

Rather than waiting even longer, we're offering three times in late June when you are welcome to call for some



outdoor refreshments and a chance to catch up with staff and others from the CMSI family. We hope to include a Covid-safe tour of the offices as well. Just pick a day that suits and drop on by. It'll be great to see you.

- **Tuesday 22nd June: 4.30-5.30pm**
- **Wednesday 23rd June: 4.30-5.30pm**
- **Thursday 24th June: 4.30-5.30pm**

Keep praying

One of the silver linings in the Covid cloud has been the inception of the *Prayer Room*. These monthly gatherings have become a cherished chance to hear from our partners and to pray together. Our June prayer room will include a focus on Nepal. We'll then take a break for a few months, but we'll open the prayer room again in October.



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