

inmission



the magazine of **cmsireland**



Kingdom come

Heaven among us

Issue 68 **Autumn 2021**

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equipping the church **in mission**

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our people

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Burundi

Dioceses of Gitega & Matana

DR Congo

Dioceses of Bukavu, Kindu & N. Kivu

Egypt (with Ethiopia & North Africa)

Province of Alexandria

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, Maridi, Olo & Yei

Uganda

Dioceses of Luweero & Madi West Nile

Zambia

Diocese of Northern Zambia

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heaven among us

When was the last time you saw heaven?

I see heaven ... all the time. And I love it! Seeing heaven sustains me in the often-choppy waters of today and inspires me to keep going and to keep hoping.

I saw heaven last week when I chatted with Tom and Gemma Withers (CMSI Short-Term volunteers set for Uganda in January) and noticed the life and joy in their eyes as they shared something of their love for God and their heart for serving others.

I saw heaven recently when I watched a friend patiently caring for a small child who sometimes stays with her and who generally finds it very hard to settle and be still.

I saw heaven in the hospitality of Julie and Andrew, whose warm welcome, fine cooking and vibrant conversation always led to a feeling of deep joy and fulfilment. It's no wonder I kept going back.

I see heaven in the miraculous story of the church family in Nepal with whom CMSI partners. It's a story of God's healing and redemption, an ongoing tale of hope, transformation and new life. It's a story that I've witnessed up close and that has been woven into my own story.

I see heaven in the work and witness of all of CMSI's Global Partners and in the faithful support and prayerful concern of the CMSI family across Ireland.

When it comes to seeing heaven, Christians are called to a 'double looking'. On one hand, we cast our gaze ahead to the perfection that awaits us in Christ: a new heaven, a new Earth, a time when suffering and sorrow will cease. But we are also called to seek and see God's Kingdom here and now. More than that, we are invited to join with God in His great work of transforming the fabric of earth, so that it more closely resembles the fabric of heaven. This is the stuff of mission.

May you catch glimpses of heaven, both in the pages that follow and in the pages of your own life, as you walk with the God who comes close and plants eternity in our souls.



Roger Cooke
Editor



Kingdom Come

A new theme full of good news

'After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"'
(Mark 1:14-15)

Jesus' mission slogan

In his account of the good news of Jesus, Mark leads us straight into the action. After a short section about John the Baptist and a few, brief sentences about Jesus' baptism and his testing in the wilderness, we are launched into the main narrative of Jesus' mission. Almost immediately, we discover a phrase – a kind of 'slogan' – that Jesus uses to summarise his ministry: 'the kingdom of God.'

Reading through the first three Gospel accounts, we see that this phrase (or its counterpart, 'the kingdom of heaven') is never far from Jesus' lips. He's constantly

teaching about the kingdom of God, telling his listeners what it is like: a small child, hidden treasure, a mustard seed, yeast, a banquet. But it's not just about Jesus' parables. At the outset of his mission, Jesus declares that the kingdom of God has 'come near' (or 'is at hand'). Elsewhere, he talks about *seeing* the kingdom, *entering* the kingdom and *receiving* the kingdom.

For anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Christian mission, the concept of 'the kingdom of God', is clearly worth closer inspection. For CMSI, it's worthy of an Annual Theme!



The kingship of God

When we think about a kingdom, we tend to picture a geographical space or a group of people but, when it comes to Jesus' use of the word, a more helpful, and possibly more accurate, way to translate it is 'kingship'. The kingship of God – His presence, His reign, His rule... that's what Jesus seems to be concerned with. That's what we're invited to see, to receive and to enter.

In Galilee, Jesus announces the breaking-in of this kingdom. The preparation is over, the time has come, God's kingship is at hand and people are invited to return to God and embrace this good news. In the verses that follow this declaration in Mark's story, we get a clear sense of what Jesus' 'kingdom-come' mission looks like.

It's a mission that involves and incorporates other people. Jesus invites four fishermen to follow him, to learn from him and to join him in his quest (Mark 1:16-20). Then we see Jesus teaching about God with authority (vv. 20-22) and releasing a man from spiritual enslavement (vv. 23-25). The rest of that same day is spent healing people and delivering them from evil spirits (vv. 29-34). The chapter concludes with Jesus taking time to pray (v. 35), stating his priority to preach (v. 38), continuing his healing work and confronting social taboos (vv. 40-45).

Discipleship, teaching, preaching, healing, liberating, tackling injustice ... shaped around

a commitment to prayer and to sharing good news from place to place. In this one chapter, we are given a powerful summary of Jesus' mission. It's a helpful insight into what God's reign and rule look like. This is what it means for God's kingdom to come.

A message for today

Of course, Mark's opening chapter isn't just a historical record of Jesus' first days in mission. This is a message for the Church today. As the spiritual body of Christ, we have been called to an active participation in the very mission that we see Jesus inaugurate. And our message is all the more powerful and life-changing because of Jesus' death and resurrection – the very means by which people can return to God and fully receive the good news that He offers.

For over 200 years, CMSI has been helping churches and individuals play their part in this kingdom work – helping to establish God's values and His reign, helping people discover Jesus' good news and receive his offer of healing and new life. It's a vision that we share with our Global Partners – this is a mission that they are living out every day. Indeed, it's a mission that can only be fully carried out by the Church. Only God's people, empowered by God's Spirit can accomplish the work of God's Son.

Throughout this year, we want to explore what 'God's Kingdom Come' means for us and for our world. We hope you will join with us as we seek to more effectively live out the prayer that Jesus taught us...

*"This, then, is how you should pray:
"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven..."*
(Matthew 6:9-10)



mustard seed mission

Sharing hope in challenging times

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches."

(Matthew 13:31-32)

My wife Fiona loves to grow flowers and we have been amazed this year at how well her sunflowers have done. Like the mustard in Jesus' parable, the tiny seeds she set only a few months ago have blossomed into huge green stalks and gorgeous floral displays bursting with bright colour.

The kingdom of heaven is like that, Jesus says, and when I see what our partners in Nepal have been doing during the pandemic, I can see what he means.

SDSS (Sundar Dhoka Saathi Sewa), for example, feels like a small and fragile organisation – a tiny minority in a country that is predominantly Hindu, many living with disabilities and with

relatively few material resources. But with faith, a determination to serve and a wonderful community spirit they have responded magnificently to the Covid crisis.

Despite hospitals in Nepal reaching breaking point, oxygen supplies running low, and a series of prolonged lockdowns which make it virtually impossible for the poor to obtain daily essentials such as food and medicines, SDSS has continued to bring practical help and hope. The team has been running a disabled-friendly isolation centre in Nepal. Like the mustard plant, their branches have grown tall and wide, extending far beyond human expectation to bring shelter and support to so many who are vulnerable, like the birds in Jesus' parable.

Image: SDSS food distribution at Spinal Cord Injury Rehab Centre.

"...with faith, a determination to serve and a wonderful community spirit they have responded magnificently to the Covid crisis."

SDSS's Covid-Response project in June (supported with funds from Bishops' Appeal, the CMSI Covid Appeal and link parishes) brought emergency food packages and medical supplies to 271 vulnerable people, including pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, daily wage labourers and people with disabilities.

Bijata Adhikari, who is SDSS's Chief of Admin and Programmes, wrote:

One recipient of this support was a 26 year-old father, Hamesh, who is visually impaired. When he was only eight years-old, Hamesh sustained a head injury in a fall, losing his sight. His parents couldn't afford hospital treatment until several years later, but by then there was no chance of recovery. His life was a struggle after that, until he travelled to Kathmandu where he met other blind friends. Eventually he fell in love with a beautiful woman named Bisma* and they got married.*

Hamesh and Bisma have a one-year-old daughter and they used to run a small business selling candles until the lockdown forced them to close. When Hamesh heard from a friend that SDSS was providing food packages for people with disabilities, he rushed straight round to register. At first, he thought the packages would be very small, but when he saw how big it was, he called his wife to help carry it. They were both extremely happy and thankful for the support, commenting: "The food packages will be enough for more than two months."

Image: Beneficiaries of SDSS's Covid-response project in June.



As part of their ministry to people with disabilities, SDSS also reached out to the Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre located in Sangha, Kavre District. A total of 25 families and individuals were supported, 13 families receiving food relief packages and 12 spinal cord injured persons receiving disability support supplies.

Bijata wrote:

All the people with disabilities were very happy and thankful to SDSS and all the supporters behind the scenes. SDSS greatly appreciates the support we received from CMSI and Bishops' Appeal and we look forward to collaborating again with them in the future. We are also thankful to all the beneficiaries and organisations who gave us the opportunity to serve them.

These examples are a real inspiration – they convince me that God's kingdom really is among us and will hopefully encourage us all to keep praying and supporting our partners.



Roger Thompson
Partnership Coordinator

*Names have been changed



growing the kingdom

Heavenly hope in Burundi

On Sunday 31st January 2021 all the bishops from across Burundi gathered at St Luc's Cathedral, Gitega to celebrate the ordination of 28 priests, 25 deacons and 3 pastors.

Thanks to the generosity of Church of Ireland parishes, CMSI has supported the training of six of those ordained. Rev Jeanine, Rev Gaspard, Rev Jean Berchams and Rev Fidele completed their studies through Gitega Bible School, while Rev Arsene and Rev Evariste both gained degrees in theology at Bujumbura Christian University (BCU). These new pastors have been allocated to parishes across the diocese.

Rev Evariste and Rev Arsene kindly agreed to share something of their new ministries. They remind us that, despite life's many challenges and uncertainties, God's kingdom is still growing - heaven is at work among us.



Images: Evariste, Arsene and their fellow ordinands at St Luc's in January



Rev Evariste Nahimana

My family come from Bugendana, a rural community 26km north of Gitega town. I am one of nine children, but only two of us had the opportunity to go to school.

My parish started in 2014 when two boys and a girl began meeting together on Sundays to pray. They were encouraged by the diocesan secretary who is now my bishop. Slowly others joined - we used to meet in the local community school.

"I love it when people participate in church activities - preaching, leading services and activities like handwork."

When I started my theological training at BCU, I did my placement at Bugendana parish and was able to support the small but growing congregation. Now that I am ordained I am the pastor. In 2018 we started constructing our own church building. We now meet in the church but still have a lot of work to do to finish it properly. The number attending on Sundays is between 100 and 150!

Apart from Sunday services, we have a Sunday school and Mothers' Union (MU). On Saturdays there is a Bible study group, singing practice

for the adult and children's choirs, and the MU meet. On Thursdays we gather for an evening of global prayer. We are continuing with work on the church building. There are outreach activities proclaiming the Word of God in the surrounding communities. I also teach the Christians how to lead Bible studies.

I love it when people participate in church activities - preaching, leading services and activities like handwork. I've longed to see such days. Most importantly, how they willingly participate in the Bible study on Saturdays makes me more and more happy.

The church contributes strongly in reconciling those in conflicts using Bible based teaching on living in unity. In our church and community, we see God when we see people changing and coming to Him - trusting in the power of prayer and not going to the local healers. Many people are asking for prayer - God is changing His people!

My vision is to see the parish developed both spiritually and economically, to see change in people's lives and the surrounding community. I am glad when I see people living out their faith in Christ, seeing kingdom of God in their lives and in the community.

Image: Evariste in his home parish of Bugendana

Rev Arsene Mafurebe

I am one of four children. My mother, a devoted Christian, passed away in November 2016 and my dad spent the last 10 years struggling to pay university fees for my two sisters and my young brother. However, despite all the challenges and hardships of life, my family managed to remain united and faithful to God. I am forever grateful to God and to them.

I am pastor at Saint Marc's Parish which began back in 2003 and has today a total of 237 Christians. We have a Mothers' Union group of more than 50 devoted women that actively participate in church life with a choir, monthly fellowship meetings and a saving and loan association to self-finance projects which support their families.

Our Sunday school has more than 70 children, but we struggle for qualified Sunday school teachers and teaching materials relevant to children. We have a dynamic youth group involved in church music. They are very talented even though almost all of them are yet to get a formal music training.

We hold Sunday worship as well as mid-week activities - Bible study and family prayer cells each Wednesday, pastoral visits, praise and worship sessions, choir rehearsals and in group Bible sharing on Saturdays. Intercessors meet on Tuesdays and there is a youth gathering on Fridays.

We also hold crusades, outdoor evangelism in the hospital, prison and door-to-door outreach, ministry to vulnerable people who are sick, widows, orphans and poor people. We also hold training sessions for youth, women, married couples and widows.

I aspire to see St Marc parish being a self-governing, self-extending and a self-supporting church. I pray to see a church with



committed believers, theologically equipped and united towards the extension of God's kingdom. We must nurture our relationship with God, and then carefully consider our responsibilities towards neighbours.

I love to see young and adults come together to do prison, hospital and door-to-door outreach. Seeing people encountering Christ through those campaigns - everyone involved - the church working together towards the great commission. Love, fellowship, togetherness, a zeal for sharing and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ - these are signs of God's kingdom.

As we read in Colossians 3:23, 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not for a human master.' We stand in awe of God's might and majesty, even in little things.

Thanks to Rev Evariste and Rev Arsene for sharing about their ministry. Do continue to hold them in prayer and give thanks for the vision they have for seeing God's kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven.



Jenny Smyth
Mission Director

GO global

**Serve the worldwide Church
- in person or online**

CMSI's Global Partners in Africa and Nepal have many opportunities for gifted, committed individuals to support their mission work by fulfilling specific roles.

If you're sensing God's call to serve overseas or if you'd like to find out more about 'Virtual Volunteering', we'd love to hear from you.

Contact Gillian in our Belfast Office to find out more.



a kingdom of hope

Building the Church in DR Congo

'Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.'

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

The Church in eastern DR Congo is growing fast. Despite the cumulative, crippling effects of ongoing crises – violence, instability, disease, flooding, volcanic eruptions and the deepest poverty – God is at work, changing lives and drawing people into His kingdom of hope.

In Bukavu Diocese, there are plans to develop a new diocese over the next few years. The diocese, which is likely to be called Lac Tanganyika, will cover areas that are known well to CMSI, including Uvira and Fizi. Archbishop Masimango has commissioned a seasoned diocesan development worker to be stationed in Uvira, to lead this kingdom building plan. Bishop Elisha Tendwa is originally from Tanzania, but he felt God's call to serve the Church in DR Congo.

Bishop Elisha writes:

"By God's grace I am working as missionary bishop after receiving this call in 2012. It was the request of Anglican Church of Congo sent to the Anglican Church of Tanzania. I served the area of Kalemie (Eastern DRC) for five years and accomplished the mission to prepare a new diocese there. After I finished, I returned home to Tanzania. I thank God that last year I received another request to prepare a new diocese of Lac Tanganyika, based in Uvira town."



"It needs a strong faith to accept this ministry and work in Congo because of insecure environment, and there is no assurance of financial support from the Church in Tanzania. My wife comes to visit me from time to time and is ready to come and join me, but it would be difficult for the children if we were staying in Uvira together, because in Congo the medium of communication and teaching is French."

It is clear that Bishop Elisha's years of experience have given him a deep insight into some of the issues that the Church faces in DR Congo, equipping him for the mission God has given him:

"Unity is one of the most essential things in managing the Church. Congo has been affected by tribalism. Tribal war made discrimination and separation in the society, this also affected the Church. People of different tribes could not speak or sit together in church. We had to reconcile with them through conferences and make arrangement for their tribal leaders to meet and reconcile."

"God is at work, changing lives and drawing people into His kingdom of hope."

"There is also tribalism in Uvira. You don't see Banyamulenge people (from Rwanda) worship together with Congolese – they worship in different churches. Therefore, though the Church I serve is Congolese, I live among Banyamulenge ... to find reconciliation between Banyamulenge and Congolese and to bring peace and unity in the Anglican Church of Congo."

Bishop Elisha also shared how, during his time in Kalemie, he helped reconstruct the mud-built cathedral with bricks. By getting involved as a leader, he inspired others to play their part and the cathedral was completed sooner than expected.

Something of the way that Bishop Elisha approaches mission, both in practical involvement and selfless service, reflects the experiences of the early Church, where God's people were always aware and living in the light of the kingdom of God:

They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. (Acts 14:21-22)



Archbishop Masimango and Bishop Bahati's careful preparation for the new diocese is testament to their vision for the kingdom of God to come near to marginalised communities in Eastern DR Congo. The example of Bishop Elisha to give himself and to work through many hardships is a challenge to us. How can we do the same in the communities to which God has called us? And how can we stand with Bukavu Diocese, Bishop Bahati and Bishop Elisha as they reach out?

Bishop Elisha concludes...

"What I want to see in parishes and the community is that people find their true God, who brings the fruit of spirit, though they live in poverty clouds."

"The community faces a lot of challenges. Christians from those archdeaconries are poor, their churches are built from mud, while others use tents to worship. Some archdeaconries have camps for the internally displaced, some who are Congolese and some Banyamulenge. Serving the camps becomes difficult because of tribalism. Also, there is poor infrastructure; the

Church will be of help if it brings the kingdom of God through education by building schools, and change peoples' lives physically through building hospitals in concern for their health.

"My vision for now is for four seminars. For Baraka and Itombwe, teachings of reconciliation, peace and unity should be of great concern because their people have been affected by frequent war. Fizi and Uvira are less affected by war, its people need teachings on how to grow so as to develop personally and as a whole Church. I want to help build the kingdom of God physically and spiritually."

What a vision! Please pray for Bishop Tendwa, Bishop Bahati and the Diocese of Bukavu/Lac Tanganyika. We are working towards raising funds for a diocesan motorbike for Bishop Elisha and look forward to walking with Bukavu Diocese in this new vision for unity, reconciliation and development over the next four years.

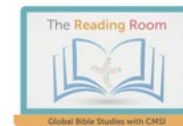


Linda Abwa
Partnership Coordinator



learning together

Lessons from the Reading Room



In CMSI, we believe that the global body of Christ is made stronger and more effective when there is mutual exchange and sharing across its different parts. That's why we're always looking for new ways to help develop stronger, deeper connections across God's global family. The Reading Room initiative is a perfect example of this.

The Reading Room provides opportunities for link churches in Ireland to engage in Bible study (via Zoom) alongside a group from their Global Partners. It's a way for God's people across the globe to engage with His word, to listen to one another and to learn together.

Over the past nine months, we have facilitated three of these encounters. The most recent gathering took place in June, when a group from The United Parish of Ballynure and Ballyclare joined with members of the Urban Development Programme in Nairobi, Kenya to study Mark 10:13-16, which tells the story of

Jesus blessing the little children. It was a fruitful and encouraging experience.

"We thank God for this meeting, which shows us that it doesn't matter where we are, we are united by the Holy Spirit and our work to spread the gospel!"
Louise Githere, UDP

"It was a wonderful time of fellowship and inter-cultural sharing. This is a brilliant way of sharing insights across cultures. The Bible speaks so clearly when we listen to each other."

Roger Thompson,
CMSI Partnership Coordinator

"Bless you for organising this. We all felt the unity of the Holy Spirit directing our thoughts and conversations."
Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth, United Parish of Ballynure and Ballyclare



thoughtful generosity

Giving to advance the kingdom

During last year's office move we sorted through many boxes of old photos, letters, diaries, minutes and accounts ledgers – fascinating glimpses into the past 207 years of CMS Ireland's existence.

It was hard not to get side tracked as we shuffled through scraps of paper that told stories of those who heard God's call and rose to the challenge to build for His kingdom. There were tales of leaving home and family and undertaking arduous travel to unknown parts of the world to share the great story of salvation. But there was evidence too of those who stayed behind: those who met to pray regularly and fervently for God's kingdom to grow; ledgers evidencing great generosity by many parishes and individuals; yellowing flyers detailing fundraising activities; records of coffee mornings and jumble sales, parish events and Sunday school collections. Each person and parish playing their part, in their time, to enable CMSI in its missional calling.



Images – Top: Church offering, Kindu, DRC. Bottom: CMSI History Box

And so, the baton is passed to us, in our generation, in all the changes and challenges of 2021 to listen and respond.

I firmly believe that God still has a part for the society to play in His mission: connecting people across the global Church to share learning and resources; equipping individuals and churches in mission; sending and receiving; longing to see kingdom transformation.

As a staff team we have worked hard to balance our income and expenditure. We have reduced costs – the office move was part of this. But we need your help to increase the income.

In an old tin trunk I found a chart, which detailed CMSI's income from 1814 to 1914 (our first 100 years). Along the bottom axis someone had carefully noted a few of the economic factors which had impacted the various fluctuations in income. This made me think about the impacts we are facing currently. They are considerable for individuals, churches and for charities. CMSI has been impacted. Our Global Partners have been impacted even more severely. However, the need for people to hear the good news of Jesus has not diminished: God's kingdom work continues.

When I took on the role of Mission Director, I was commissioned by Bishop Alan, who said:

'Go forward in faith and never be afraid to ask for what you need'

I find it hard to ask, as most of us do. However, I do believe that it is in learning to be generous that we also discover joy and a deeper sense of belonging to God's family. We are called and commissioned by God to be His fellow workers – partnering with Him and with our brothers and sisters to bring Kingdom transformation. As the Church, we are all part of one family, called to share our gifts and resources with one another: *'to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous'*, as Paul tells Timothy (1 Tim 6:18).



So may I urge you towards 'thoughtful generosity' – to consider how you give and to whom?

Thoughtful generosity supports not only the physical, earthly needs of others, but also the work of God's Church in bringing kingdom transformation. It is giving that invests in the spiritual life as well as the earthly needs of others, both in our own communities and in areas of the world far less well resourced to manage the impacts of pandemics, climate change, insurgency and poverty. In many of the most disrupted places on earth, it is local Christians who are serving their neighbours, sharing what they have and holding their communities in prayer. God's Church is at work and we are called to play our part, through our prayers, through our partnership and... through our generous giving.

As we give thanks for all those who supported the work of CMSI in the past, I want to thank those who generously give to our Mission Resource Fund at present. Over the next few months the trustees will lead the development of CMSI's Strategic Plan for the next five years. As part of this process, we trust that God will again call His people to be generous so that CMSI will flourish and continue to equip the church in mission.

'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you'
(Luke 6:38)



Jenny Smyth
Mission Director

Image: Offering in Makamba Cath

snippets

cmsi news in brief



Stuart summits again (and again)

Huge congratulations to Canon Stuart Lloyd who completed his Everest challenge at the end of June. As reported in Summer Snippets, Stuart decided to walk to the top of Slemish Mountain (County Antrim) 50 times to raise awareness about – and funds for – the work of the Church in Nepal. The height Stuart climbed over the week was 30,000 feet, taking him over the altitude of Everest. Jenny Smyth and Roger Thompson joined Stuart for one ascent each – and they were exhausted!

The funds raised by this lofty endeavour will support the work that Deirdre Zimmerman (Stuart's niece) does with Nutrition Promotion Consultancy Services and will support three other organisations: 'Koshish' (a Nepali NGO) and CMSI's partners in Nepal: SDSS and HDCS. Well done Stuart and thanks to all who donated.



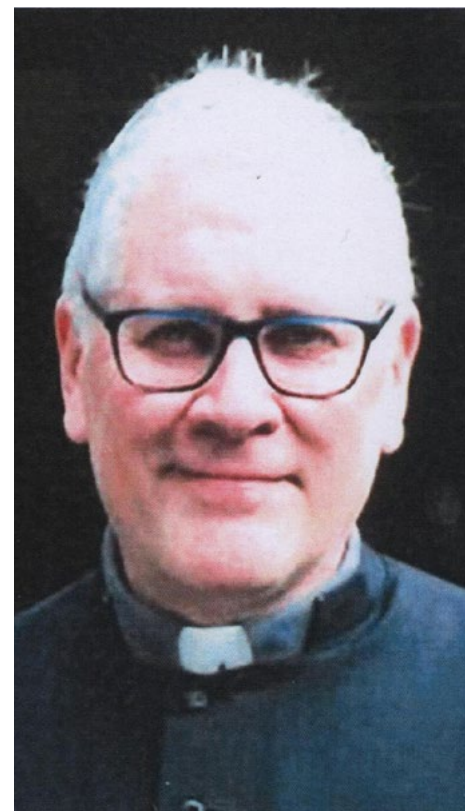
Making room for prayer

After a short break, our Prayer Room events will resume on Wednesday 6th October. These monthly, online gatherings have been one of the unexpected shafts of light to emerge from the cloud of Covid. Each event lasts for 45-50 minutes and usually includes live input from one of our Global Partner leaders. It's a chance to join with others from the CMSI family and lay firm foundations for our work. We meet on Zoom at 1pm on the first Wednesday of every month. You can sign-up via the CMSI website.



Keeping trim

We often use these Snippets pages to issue a call for your used stamps. We continue to collect stamps and send them off every few months in exchange for money. So do please keep gathering up your stamps and find a way to get them to us. But we also need help with trimming and sorting the many stamps that we already have in our office. Do you have a bit of time, a pair of scissors and a willingness to do a bit of volunteering at home? If so, we'd love you to join our team of happy stampers and help us raise money for the wider work of CMSI. Contact Megan in the Belfast office to find out more.



A tribute to David Palmer

We deeply mourn the sudden passing of Revd. David Palmer in July, after a short illness. David was a faithful supporter of Kajiado Diocese, having been rector at Ronnie and Maggie Briggs' home parish of Magherally and Annaclone, until his retirement in September last year. He regularly prayed for Kajiado and for the Briggs, encouraging his parishioners to support both in prayer and financially.

In 2018 David visited Kajiado as part of a CMSI team, together with Lorna, his wife. He was a gifted Bible teacher and greatly enjoyed taking part in a Kajiado Clergy Training Seminar during his visit. Lorna – a music teacher and choir leader – helped the girls from Oloosuyian



Global learning

At the start of July, CMSI facilitated a training session for our Global Partners around issues of safeguarding. Much of the training was delivered by Triza Gacheru from 'Haki Yetu', a Human Rights Organisation, based in Mombasa, Kenya.

Over 40 Church leaders from Africa joined in, making this a truly international experience – and one that we hope to repeat soon. Please pray for these leaders as they develop their care for children and vulnerable adults.

School prepare and perform some songs in Kajiado Cathedral. When the Briggs moved on from CMSI, David led a very moving service for them in Belfast in February 2020, when Lorna's 'Kerygma' choir also sang a number of songs.

Bishop Gaddiel Lenini writes,

"I am deeply saddened by the news of your loss... Rev David was of great help to the Diocese of Kajiado, carrying repairs and painting work at Imbirikani Centre, as well as preaching good news of Christ Jesus through clergy training and many more"

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Lorna, Abigail and Bethany, and to the whole family circle.



CMSI Annual Conference

Saturday 18th September: 10am – 1pm

Worship / Stories / Prayer / Seminars

Register via the CMSI website

Dublin

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