

inmission



the magazine of **cmsireland**

upside down

God's Alternative Kingdom



Issue 69 **Winter 2021**

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cmsireland
equipping the church **in mission**

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our people

Global Partners (by country)

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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UDP, Kenya

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same place, different world

Sometimes, our world looks very different than what we've grown accustomed to.

Despite initial appearances, the world map above is every bit as accurate as the standard depictions that we're used to. It provides a helpful way to view the world, particularly for those who advocate for people living in the Global South. But this map unsettles us. It feels strange and 'other'. It challenges our assumptions and forces us to think differently. Of course, we'd soon get used to it if we displayed a copy and viewed it regularly – which is why I've just ordered a version of this map for the CMSI offices!

In his incarnation and throughout his ministry, Jesus introduces us to a worldview and a way of life that turns everything on its head. Right from the start of the gospel accounts, we discover that the kingdom that comes through Christ is entirely other.

To begin with, this heavenly king enters the story as a fragile, vulnerable baby – a baby who, even before birth, had to survive a long, uncomfortable and risky journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. We then discover that the scene of Jesus' birth is anything but royal.

The Kingdom of God is revealed to us in the feeding trough of an innocuous outhouse. This surely sets the tone for Jesus' future ministry. Here is a king who embraces poverty and humility, a king who knows what it is to be on the outside, a king whose power will not be based on privilege or position.

The kingdom lessons introduced at Jesus' birth are made abundantly clear through his later teaching and wider ministry. The Kingdom of God challenges our notions of how our world works. It might unsettle and stretch us, but we must learn to embrace these values.

The kingdom that Jesus reveals turns everything upside down. In this edition of *inMission*, we want to celebrate and reflect on this truth. We want to fix our gaze on the king of heaven and to become even more familiar with the alternative kingdom he calls his Church to help reflect and expand.



Roger Cooke
Editor

(Visit the CMSI blog pages to read more about the significance of world maps).

God's upside down kingdom

Lessons from the mountainside

*"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope.
With less of you there is more of God and his rule.
You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you.
Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.
You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less.
That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.
You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God.
He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.
You're blessed when you care.
At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.
You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right.
Then you can see God in the outside world.
You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight.
That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.
You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution.
The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.
Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble."*

Matthew 5:3-12 (The Message)



Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.
(Matthew 5:1-2)

In his 'Sermon on the Mount' Jesus fleshes out his alternative worldview and sets out some of the things that characterise life within the Kingdom Of God – the kingdom that he has come to inaugurate and advance.

Having escaped the crowds and headed up the mountain slopes with his disciples, Jesus begins to teach. He starts by outlining some of the things that are highly valued in God's kingdom. The list of 'beatitudes' is a surprising account of who can expect blessings from God. The Message translation offers fresh perspectives on this well-known passage.

In this kingdom, we empty ourselves to be filled and we lose ourselves to be found. This is a kingdom where the weak are welcomed, the poor are powerful and where cooperation trumps competition. It's a kingdom where mercy, compassion and love are more highly prized than money, status and authority.

This is new kind of teaching. This is a new way of living. And in the verses that follow these blessed revelations, Jesus paints a fuller picture of life within the kingdom of God.

God's kingdom people are to be salt and light – flavouring and preserving society, dispelling darkness through loving service, illuminating the good news of a heavenly Father who longs to embrace His children.

God's kingdom people are to live lives that move beyond a superficial 'good-living'



morality and that are instead marked by purity, integrity and a genuine, heart-felt compassion for others. They are to be people of grace and generosity.

*"This is a new kind of teaching...
a new way of living."*

What a life! What a kingdom!

As those who have followed Jesus up the mountainside, it's this life, this kingdom, that we have entered. This is the heavenly reality that we participate in and that we are called to share. It's what we see time and time again in the work and witness of CMSI's Global Partners, who often seem to have a better grasp than many of us of what really matters. Less of us. More of God.

Living this kind of life, embracing this kind of kingdom, is the very thing that will change our world.

Throughout this season of Advent, may we be inspired to more fully embrace the radical, transformative life that Jesus has called us to. May we take to the slopes again and rediscover our dual heavenly calling to be blessed and to be a blessing.



downward mobility

Seeking to serve in God's kingdom

Since the Covid-19 pandemic first hit Rwanda in March 2020, CMSI has been praying for the parishes in both our partner dioceses of Kibungo and Shyogwe. Strict government lockdowns have meant that many churches were shut down for long periods. Even now, about 40% of churches remain closed, as they do not have resources to provide the hand-washing stations and other requirements stipulated by the official regulations.

While Church members are mourning the opportunity for communal worship, both dioceses have been working hard to sustain the faithful through online worship via YouTube, local radio and TV. The pastors, however, have also been suffering greatly, because when church services are suspended, the weekly offerings are not brought in, and that means they often don't receive their stipends.

In spite of this challenging context for pastors, it has been very encouraging to hear about those who are following a calling to ordained ministry. One such person is Viateur Ntarindwa

– the Shyogwe based Coordinator of the Rural Development Inter-diocesan service – who was ordained deacon on 7th November to serve at Kiyuma Anglican Missionary Station.

I remember meeting Viateur at the CMSI Ignite conference in 2017, when he was part of a team from Shyogwe that came to Ireland to stay with link parishes. He is a person who radiates faith and joy, and delights in serving God. He has played an active part in helping to develop and deepen the CMSI partnership links between Ireland and Shyogwe.

Image: Rev Viateur and his wife Spéciose with Bishop Jered Kalimba

"This is a mark of the upside-down kingdom Jesus ushers in, where followers are called downwards to service and self-sacrifice, rather than upwards to financial success and looking after number one."

Similarly, in Kibungo Diocese, eight ordinands are preparing for ministry at the East Africa Christian College in Kigali. Three of these (Frank Niyitegeka, Theonest Sibomana and Serget Munyampirwa) are being supported in their studies by two CMSI link parishes: Knockbrea, Belfast and Moviddy Union, Cork. At a recent Mission Breakfast in Knockbrea, I was able to play video messages from Frank, Theonest and Serget, in which they passed on their thanks and prayers.

Bishop Emmanuel Ntazinda told me they were all committed Christians who had come to faith through the Youth Conferences that the diocese has been holding for a number of years. They are gifted academically (with good high school qualifications, and - in Frank's case - a degree in electrical engineering) but have all chosen to serve God rather than seek more lucrative employment in secular work.

This is a great encouragement to me, putting me in mind of Jesus' first disciples - Simon, Andrew, James and John – who freely gave up the security of their fishing trade so that they follow God's call to become fishers of people (Mark 1:16-20). This is a mark of the upside-down kingdom Jesus ushers in, where followers are called downwards to service and self-sacrifice, rather than upwards to financial success and looking after number one. Please join us in praying for these Church leaders in Rwanda.



Roger Thompson
Partnership Coordinator

Image: Viateur at his ordination service



Kingdom Investments

Theological education and clergy training remains a major priority for many of our Global Partners and, therefore, it is a major priority for us. Training church leaders to lead local, mission-centred churches, represents a significant investment in God's kingdom work. We are immensely grateful for all those parishes who are supporting their link partners in this vital way, including:

- **Knockbrea Parish, Belfast and Moviddy Union, Cork** – supporting three students from Kibungo Diocese, Rwanda as they study at East African Christian College in Kigali.
- **Christ Church, Lisburn** – supporting Luweero Diocese to train two students at Uganda Martyrs' Seminary in Namugongo.
- **All Saints', Belfast** – provided support for two ordinands at Bujumbura Christian University, who were ordained in January 2021 in Gitega Diocese, Burundi.
- **St Hilda's, Kilmakee and Finaghy & Upper Malone** – providing seed funding to help support 28 students at Gitega Bible School in Burundi.
- **Drumbeg Parish and Hillsborough Parish** – supporting the Province of Alexandria with training at Nuba Mountain Bible Institute Cairo and Alexandria School of Theology.



a kingdom of peace

“What are we doing wrong? Surely if these peace-making efforts were working there would be peace by now.”

These words were boldly spoken during a recent zoom conference, when we were once again talking about peacebuilding efforts and reconciliation conferences organised by our partners.

Rarely in the last five years have we published a magazine or prayer diary without a request for prayer for peace in South Sudan. To a casual observer, it may seem as if we are overly repetitive or perhaps even somewhat foolish to pray the same prayer for years. It may even beg the question: “is anyone really listening to our prayers?”

In Ibba Diocese in South Sudan, Bishop Wilson’s voice rises without cynicism or disappointment in God:

“People in South Sudan always turn to God, for instance the twenty years of civil war between the North and South, that situation turned women, elderly and men

to God. Christianity penetrated to every state in the North during war and it made Christianity stronger. Whenever there’s any troubled times, God’s power is felt.”

Fasting and prayer for peace is a serious business in Ibba. Recently Bishop Wilson took his clergy and evangelists ‘up the mountain’ to pray. This wasn’t a pleading demonstration to a far-away God who doesn’t appear to be listening. Instead, each hungry step up the mountain was a firm footprint walked in a different Kingdom: a grounded demonstration of the upside down beatitudes of the kingdom of God, spoken on a different mountainside 2000 years ago (Matthew 5:3-10).

When you are poor you are rich, when you mourn you will be comforted, in humility you will have an inheritance, when you hunger and thirst you will be filled, when you strive for peace you are truly the children of God, and part of his kingdom.

When the Ibba clergy came down from the mountain, one of the plans decided upon was another peace-making initiative. And because we in CMSI also believe in the upside down, unlikely, little building blocks of the kingdom of peace, we enthusiastically joined hands with Bishop Wilson and the diocese and supported the programme.

In total there were 47 participants: heads of communities, elected officers of the county and heads of organised forces (police, prison, wildlife and fire). Bishop Wilson reported that when people were asked for input on how unity can be built in Ibba, every single hand in the room was raised. He said *“The raising up of all hands was a clear indicator that Ibba has a huge challenge of disunity.”* There were complaints of disrespectfulness in the community and lack of understanding from almost everyone who spoke. Yet each and every person present also commended the Church for holding such a programme. The



Director of National Security encouraged the diocese saying *“people need to speak the truth openly, let people not fear, because by being open, solutions will be reached”.*

After this mixed display of problems and encouragements, the kingdom-focused Diocese of Ibba has planned a follow up meeting for 5th January 2022. And as our partners refuse to be discouraged in making peace, we would love to be able to stand with them financially and in prayer.

As both Rogers have mentioned elsewhere in this magazine, The Message version of ‘Blessed are the peacemakers’ (Matthew 5:9) reads:

“You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.”

So let us not be among those who ask what is the point in praying, or what is the point in another peace-making programme. Let us confidently take up our place in God’s family, along with our partners in Ibba, and put one foot in front of the other, hungrily, perhaps even wearily, climbing the mountain. Let us press on in the certain faith that the Kingdom of Peace has already been secured and will surely come.



Linda Abwa
Partnership Coordinator

mustard seeds of partnership

In the world of international development, projects are measured in numbers of people helped and numbers of Euros or pounds raised. The bigger the numbers, the better the programme. But things are evaluated differently in God's upside-down Kingdom:

"It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

(Mark 4:31-32)

David Johnson from St. John's Parish, Moira visited Ibba Diocese in 2016. The visit was part of St. John's partnership with Ibba, which had developed over the previous few years. David is a beekeeper and during the visit he was able to join the team of beekeepers in Ibba who manage a small honey production operation for income in the diocese. A gift of some honey was given to David at the end of his visit and it sparked an idea! He decanted the honey into small bottles and sold it, keeping the funds aside to be sent to Ibba. In the five years since his visit to Ibba, David has continued to sell pots of his own honey and allowed the funds to develop into sizeable amount.

Elsewhere, in Yei Diocese, clergy vestments have been a small, but significant sign of

friendship and partnership within God's global family. One gift might seem, to the giver, like a drop in the ocean. But since January, all individual gifts for Yei, when added together, were enough to provide vestments for 43 new clergy. They will be posted to rural parishes, where there has been no church leadership since communities fled to Uganda in 2018. These communities are now returning home weary and uncertain of the future. As the diocese gifts them new pastors and teachers, it is invaluable that these new church leaders don the vestments that symbolise leadership and dignity. These new clergy, in new vestments, will help communities find the confidence to make a new start, with hope and renewed faith.

These mustard seeds of friendship and commitment are highly valued in the Kingdom of God. We look forward to watching how these seeds of honey sales and clergy robes will blossom in the ministry of Ibba and Yei Dioceses.



Linda Abwa
Partnership Coordinator



Hope Dawns

Video material for Advent and Christmas

A re-release of the special resource we produced in 2020, featuring:

Music, readings and prayers from across the Church of Ireland
Stories of hope from the global Church

Available to use as full-service films or individual video segments

View and download for free at:

cmsireland.org/hope-dawns

kingdom hope

'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.'
(Romans 12:12)

'In the deepest, darkest places the greatest treasure is found.'
(Dorrie Brooking)

The death of a friend offers us the opportunity to reflect on their life and recall the parts of their journey that coincided with our own. One such friend has just gone to glory.

I first met Bertram in Uganda where he was on a Short-Term Experience Placement with CMSI at Bishop Allison Theological College (BATC) in Arua, northwest Uganda. BATC trains ordinands for ministry within the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. In the late 1990s, BATC had been displaced from Sudan to Arua due to the civil war and was in need of tutors, so Bertram's offer to CMSI was timely and very welcome. He had just retired from parish ministry.

Billy and I had the pleasure of welcoming Bertram to Uganda by helping with logistics as he travelled to Arua and settled in. To make the most of the long journey north, we decided to travel via a game park. Always conscientious, I remember Bertram sitting in the front passenger seat with a lap full of theological books, keen to prepare for the teaching ahead. We entered the park following an old man wobbling along on a bicycle between the tall grass verges. Suddenly



Billy cried "Look!" There, just a few yards ahead, a lion crossed. Bertram was not to be distracted from his books and missed the lion sighting. I'm not sure he ever believed us!

Bertram was full of enthusiasm. He had a joy and zest for life, engaged with the students and fellow tutors and revelled in cross culture experiences. One Sunday Bertram was asked to preach in a rural parish several miles from Arua. He was accompanied by a couple of the BATC students and offered the ancient college pickup as transport. Bertram asked for the ignition key. "Oh no, there is no key, you just have to fiddle with the wires to get it started." Thankfully, Bertram had a background in vehicle engineering. "There was not much of a road either," Bertram later recalled!

As a lifelong and keen golfer, Bertram soon discovered that Arua boasts a golf course. Borrowing a set of clubs, he set off for a round. I don't think he ever got over the fact that the fairways were mowed by a tractor and the grass on the greens was never shorter than four inches. "Golf in Arua should be renamed 'Hide and Seek'" he commented.



"God's kingdom hope transforming sadness into thanksgiving."

During the funeral service in Knocknamuckley Parish Church, Bertram's daughter paid tribute reminding us of his years of faithful ministry in several parishes across Ireland. Present sadness, but eternal hope shining through; our present troubles as nothing compared to the glory to come; God's kingdom hope transforming sadness into thanksgiving for a full life well lived to God's glory.

We continue to pray for Bertram's wife Mary and their whole family at this time.

Reflecting at this funeral service, I was reminded of the loss of another friend.

I returned from my first term in Uganda as a young, single mission partner and I was shattered: shattered by grief and shock.

Three years earlier, in 1988, I was sent to the country of my birth to work in a day centre for children with learning difficulties



at Mengo Hospital, Kampala. The staff team were all young local people with enthusiasm but no training or experience in teaching or rehabilitation. We relied on one another, I shared my experience as a therapist and teacher, and they taught me how to survive and thrive. We were like an extended family and it was a wonderfully fulfilling three years. However, we lived with huge black clouds all around.

Uganda was just beginning to emerge from years of the cruellest of dictatorships which had ruined the country's economy, set communities at war and generated fear. Life was rough. Now a new enemy emerged and rampaged: AIDS. At that time little was known about the transmission or treatment of this disease, but the suffering was immense and people were dying. Many of my friends died. I returned home to England grief stricken.

Searching for meaning, I visited a precious family friend. Dorrie, 99 years young, radiated the love of Jesus. As I shared my distress, Dorrie, with simple childlike faith, talked of the redemptive nature of God the Father. Dorrie shared her own experience of suffering and the truth she had proved that (in her own words) "in the deepest, darkest places the greatest treasure is found."

As my turmoil subsided, I told Dorrie about my dearest friend, Margaret. She had full blown AIDS and suffered terribly. When she was no longer able to manage on her own, her kindly uncle took her in. As I was visiting one day she was crying with pain. Her uncle heard from the next room and called out "Margaret – we are all going to die one day. Those who know Jesus will go to heaven. It's just that some of us will get there before the rest, and you are going to be there to welcome us!"

Perhaps sometimes a reminder of the truth of that glorious hope is more helpful than sympathy! It is good to be reminded that we live in the shadowlands here on earth; something far better awaits. And so we must look for signs of kingdom hope because hope has the power to transform situations, and kingdom hope has the power to transform us in the searching and in the finding.

We give thanks for the lives of all those from the CMSI family – in Ireland and further afield – who have died over the past year. We pray that all those who still mourn would be blessed and would know the comfort and peace of God's kingdom hope.



kingdom co-operation

I really like the way 'The Message' paraphrases the beatitude about peace-making:

"You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family." (Matthew 5:9)

This spirit of co-operation was vividly demonstrated to me recently when I took part in a four-way, interactive zoom session on climate change, organised by the Girls Friendly Society (GFS) Ireland and facilitated by Emma Lynch from Tearfund Ireland.

The session was the second of two meetings bringing together girls and leaders from the Urban Development Programme in Kenya and GFS in Cameroon, the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It formed part of a wider programme GFS Ireland has been developing for their newly configured 'Global Connections badge' focussing on climate justice. The initiative involves GFS Ireland girls meeting with girls from other parts of the globe to hear their experiences and perspectives on climate change, so informing them of the way the issue affects others outside of Ireland.

I was thrilled when Alison Jackson (GFS Ireland President) contacted me to request that girls from the UDP in Nairobi take part. GFS has been getting to know UDP as their Mission Link

Partners for the last two years, following a visit from UDP member Antony Njoroge to their AGM in Dublin in 2019.

It was wonderful to see how well the two groups gelled, with a shared vision of wanting all the girls to learn from each other as equals in the family of God. Emma guided us through a carefully structured programme, giving girls from all four countries opportunities to answer questions on activism, climate change and their hopes for the future.

The programme was a big success and a great example of kingdom cooperation. We had all participated in a truly cross-cultural exchange of ideas, making an indelible impact on our understanding of how climate change affects people differently depending on where they live. It left me feeling excited and full of hope that huge challenges such as the climate emergency can be addressed.



Roger Thompson
Partnership Coordinator

changing our world

On Saturday 6th November, members of the CMSI staff team and their families joined churches, mission agencies and other groups from across civic society to take part in a 'Global Day of Action' event in Belfast. Similar gatherings were held in Dublin, Cork and Derry/Londonderry as well as in towns and cities around the world. The events coincided with the recent COP26 gathering in Glasgow, which has refocused attention on issues around climate change and our shared concern for the planet we call home.

These are issues that the Church ought to hold dear. They are an integral aspect of mission. Indeed, the fifth of the Anglican Communion's Five Marks Of Mission reads: 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.' That's why it was great to see the Church widely represented at the recent events across Ireland.

CMSI took part because of our commitment to this aspect of global mission. But we also participated because climate change is real – and it is impacting our Global Partners across Africa and in Nepal in devastating ways. There is currently a severe drought in Kenya (both rainy seasons have failed in 2021), while South Sudan



is experiencing catastrophic flooding. In recent years there has also been hugely reduced rainfall in Zambia, increasingly destructive floods and landslides in Nepal, DR Congo, Kenya, Burundi and Rwanda, and wildfires in Maridi Diocese (South Sudan).

A recent report (published on 9th August and signed off by the governments of 196 countries) states clearly that all these extreme weather events are directly linked to greenhouse gas emissions:

"Human induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe... It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land."

As is true with Covid-19 and so many other issues, climate change has a dramatically more significant impact on the lives and communities served by our Global Partners than it does for us in Ireland. During CMSI's Ignite online conference in September, we hosted a seminar on the Climate Emergency during which Bishop Aimé Joseph Kimararungu (Gitega Diocese, Burundi) spelled out the situation in stark terms:

"This is a matter of huge injustice. We in the developing world are suffering the most severe consequences of global warming, but you in the wealthy, industrialised countries have produced most of the greenhouse gases that are causing it."

Bishop Aimé Joseph urged us to take responsibility for this, and to lobby our governments to make the necessary changes to reduce emissions. For CMSI, marching together was just one step along the way.

We all have a part to play. As churches and individuals, we need to speak up on behalf of our brothers and sisters who are suffering. It



is part of our calling as Christians – people engaged in God's global mission – to call out injustice, express solidarity with our partners and demonstrate our commitment to seeing God's Kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven.

[Adapted from a recent blog by Roger Thompson on the CMSI website]

A prayer for our planet

Eternal God, whose Spirit moved over the face of the deep bringing forth light and life; by that same Spirit, renew your creation, and restore your image in your people. Turn us from careless tenants to faithful stewards, that your threefold blessing of clean air, pure water and rich earth may be the inheritance of everything that has the breath of life and one generation may proclaim to another the wonder of your works; through Jesus Christ, your living Word, in whom the fullness of your glory is revealed. Amen.

Rt Revd Libby Lane
(Bishop of Stockport)

We'd love to hear what you or your church have been doing to 'strive for the integrity of creation' or to campaign for climate justice. Maybe you held a special Climate Sunday service or attended one of the recent marches or rallies. We'd love to share your green stories on our Facebook page. Send us your stories and pictures, so we can be encouraged and can encourage others across the CMSI family.

snippets

cmsi news in brief



Pray for peace

As we were producing this edition of *inMission*, we received alarming reports from our partners in eastern DR Congo of further escalations in violence, particularly in North Kivu Diocese. UNHCR - the United Nations' Refugee agency - estimates that at least 11,000 people (mostly women and children) fled their homes and crossed the border into neighbouring Uganda. For some months, tension and fighting have been on the rise in the region but these latest episodes appear to mark a significant step-up in the levels of violence and threat.

Please pray for peace in the region and pray for the Church – both in DR Congo and in Uganda – as it seeks to care for those whose lives have once again been uprooted. Pray too for Ethiopia, where the latest conflict appears to be worsening, putting many lives at risk and threatening to destabilise the country and its neighbours.



Raising (for) the roof

Congratulations to Richard Edgar from the Parish of Glendermott with New Buildings. During lockdown, Richard walked the equivalent of Land's End to John O'Groats and raised £2300 for the parish link with Matana Diocese in Burundi: a fantastic effort by Richard and all those who sponsored him! These funds, together with further generous gifts from the parish, will go towards the building of new churches.

There is already a new church at Bukirisazi funded by the parish, and another under construction. There are several other congregations who currently meet in temporary structures or in borrowed rooms. They have committed themselves to make bricks and offer labour, but the funds are needed to purchase plots of land and the roofing materials. Bishop Seth sends grateful thanks to Richard and the wider parish for this commitment to the missional outreach and growth of the Church in Burundi.



Returning to action

With the slight relaxing of Covid restrictions in recent months, it has been great to get out and about a lot more as a staff team, not least to speak at Sunday services. Since the start of September, we've spoken at 20 services, bringing an inspiring message (we hope) of God's Kingdom Come.

It has also been lovely to make use of some of our many CMSI volunteers, who have been patiently waiting in the wings to resume their activities. At the end of October, Anne, Heather and Maureen (pictured) came to the CMSI offices to help us with our annual mailing to churches. Meanwhile, Barry has been making phone calls to help promote our online events and Paul has been out speaking for CMSI with his trademark enthusiasm and passion. A big thank you to all our volunteers.



Walking for Kibungo

In September, Revd David Bowles and the parishioners of Moviddy Union, Cork undertook a 30km sponsored walk, taking in the three churches of the Union: St Mark's Church, Kilbonane; St Martin's Church, Templemartin; St Andrew's Church, Kilmurry. The walk took place in aid of the parishes' new link diocese of Kibungo in Rwanda. Rev David commented:

"The parishioners of Moviddy Union send our greetings, thoughts and prayers to the people of Kibungo Diocese and hope to strengthen our ties in the future. God's blessings be upon you, through these uncertain times."



CMSI says thank you

We recently produced a short video update as a way of saying thank you to the many parishes and individuals across Ireland – as well as funding organisations – who have supported us and our global partners over the past year. The video gives a quick overview of the impact that such support has made. We'd love you to share this video in your parish. You can view and download it from the CMSI website. We'll also be sharing it in the monthly update email.



Launching
on 1st
February

CMSI Children's Resource 2022

A free online resource for Sunday Schools and youth groups

Kingdom lessons from children in the Bible
Video stories about kingdom kids across the world

A range of themed puzzles, crafts and games

A fundraising challenge to help the global Church work with children

cmsireland.org/childrens-resource

Dublin

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