



cmsireland
equipping the church in mission

summer snippets

2026



encounters

Our annual theme for this year, **Meeting Points**, has afforded us the chance to think about how transformative our relationships are. As we encounter one another, as we encounter God, and as we encounter God in the other we learn something more of what it is to be people in community and people in mission. This **Summer Snippets** is full of stories of lives changed through the partners with whom CMSI partners in mission. At the heart of these transforming encounters are people deserving of the chance to live life 'to the full' (John 10:10). Our partners are impacted by the wars and conflicts in the news or too often ignored by the news altogether. They are impacted by the economic turmoil that has resulted from these conflicts. So often, it is our partners who stand with the most marginalised, seeing them not as statistics or stories, but as people made in God's image. The biblical image of repentance literally means to turn around or change direction. By facilitating encounters with one another and with God, CMSI is seeking to travel against the direction of so many of the world's assumptions about power and authority. We follow a Saviour whose victory came not from might but from self-sacrifice and humility. May we each encounter him in a new way in the months to come.

Nepal: Lives changed through inclusion

In February the **Bikash Shield National Deaf Football Tournament** was organised by SDSS in the National Stadium, Kathmandu in memory of Bikash Adhikari. This event significantly improved opportunities, inclusion and quality of life for people with disabilities (especially deaf athletes) – aims that Bikash cared passionately about during his lifetime.

8 teams representing all 7 provinces competed in the two-day tournament, with Koshi Province winning the championship. The event included a great deal of logistical support such as travel, accommodation, help from volunteers, Nepal Sign Language interpretation and received national media coverage. Government and sports leaders attended, emphasizing the importance of inclusion in sports. The tournament also strengthened unity within the deaf community and challenged misconceptions about the abilities of Persons with Disabilities.

At the same time SD Church is proceeding with their **Newbuild Plans** as their current rented church premises are unsuitable for their 350 congregation which includes over 30 wheelchair users and many other crutches users, as well as blind and deaf worshippers. We praise God that Municipality approval was granted in March, and construction work has now begun.

CMSI is also praying that plans for **HDCS Executive Director Kapil Sharma to visit Northern Ireland** will go ahead from 27 June – 6 July. International flights permitting, he will be visiting the parishes of Newry and St Brigid's, Mallusk, speaking in their respective Sunday services. This follows on from Canon Scott McDonald and Rev Jacob Mercer's visit to HDCS in 2025.



PoA: Enduring Partnership

In recent months our prayer has been that the Middle Eastern conflict would not infiltrate into Egypt, and we are thankful for peace there at present. As an act of solidarity, and carrying a message of partnership from CMSI, two members of Drumbeg Parish took a flying visit to Cairo to pray with and encourage Archbishop Samy in March. **We are looking forward to learning more from Archbishop Samy about the situation within the Province, as he plans to be with us for Ignite in September.**

The care and education of displaced people from Sudan continues throughout many projects of the church in Egypt. St. Raphael School is securely in their new building and providing a place of safety and hope for many children. With a generous grant from Bishop's Appeal we hope that there will be much to tell of development of new classrooms and therapies for children with special education needs in Menara School, Menouf. Oriel Hosford is a teacher and volunteer youth leader with Cork Diocesan Youth Council, and has recently returned from a visit to Menara School where she was able to share her specialist insight into teaching children with autism.

South Sudan: Investing in people with skills for life

Archbishop Justin Badi continues to lead the Episcopal Church of South Sudan with a focus on peace and courage of faith. In January, Linda visited Olo Diocese where churches have demonstrated their commitment to stand with their community, by being present throughout years of attacks and kidnappings near-by. **The church courageously forges ahead with evangelism, discipleship and development.** Kenneth and Flower, whose training was supported by CMSI Link Parishes, are providing trusted care at the Diocesan's small clinic. And through the bold work of the Mother's Union and Bishop Tandema's visitation, several adults have come to faith alongside their young people coming for confirmation.

Bishop Wilson and Ibba Diocese has been just a busy in the months following Ibba Day. John Kosa, new Principal for Bishop Levi College is in place, and the development of good theological teaching and vocational training is a matter for much prayer. Visits from both Bishop Moses of Maridi and Bishop Isaac of Ezo have been a tremendous blessing to individuals and parishes here in Ireland over the past year. Both these Dioceses are growing in development, and have excellent partnership relationships here, which demonstrate the mutual flourishing in mission that CMSI prays for across the global church.



In Yei, the coffee production has given challenges at times. Under continued training and leadership from Bishop Levi and Rev. Nelson the project continues with the goal of growing sustainable income for the Diocese. With Misesan Cara project funding we have also been in close collaboration with Yei Vocational Training College for the second year of ensuring young refugees can access skills building. The outcomes for individuals who train there are always significant, the most common feedback this year being, that following training students were able to find employment and pay their children's school fees.

Uganda and Zambia: Partnering with Purpose

One of the main priorities that CMSI has is to be involved in supporting activities that strengthen the core ministry of our Global Partners.

We are thrilled to highlight two examples of this mission in action alongside Christ Church Lisburn and All Saint's Parish, Antrim who are supporting the ongoing training of Ordinands. Christ Church have had a long-standing relationship with Luweero Diocese and are providing funding for the training of two dedicated students (Ordinand Mukalazi Boaz and Ordinand Erifaz Kyeyune) at Namagongo Theological Seminary in Kampala, Uganda. All Saint's have taken a broader approach in supporting the training of Ordinands at St John's Anglican Theological Seminary, Kitwe, Zambia, by giving to a central student fees pot over many years.

Supporting students through seminary is one of the most strategic investments a church can make. By providing individuals with the opportunity to study at various colleges, these Parishes in Ireland are helping to: deepen scriptural understanding, empower local ministry and foster sustainable growth. This isn't just about paying tuition fees; it's about the future development of leadership within the Dioceses of Northern Zambia and Luweero. **As these students grow in wisdom and grace, they will return to their communities not just as graduates, but as catalysts for spiritual and social transformation.**

Burundi: Prayer, compassion and practical support

Bishop Aimé Joseph Kimararungu writes,

"We thank God for our growing partnership with Armagh Diocese through CMSI. Their support towards the construction of Gitega Bible School, access to clean water, and Mothers' Union work continues to strengthen our mission. More importantly, this is a partnership in prayer. During the season of Lent, we upheld Armagh in prayer, and we are encouraged knowing they also pray for us continuously. We were also blessed by the visit of Rev Dr Keith Scott, who ministered at St Mark's Gitega during his 6 weeks teaching placement in Bujumbura Christian University."



With support from the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal (via CMSI), the Diocese is implementing a food security project in Jenda community, providing modern agricultural skills through training workshops. The project aims at reducing malnutrition by improving food availability and promoting balanced diets using local resources.

Families are also increasing production, enabling them to sell surplus crops to meet other needs such as education and healthcare. This reflects the Church's commitment to holistic mission.

The Busuma Congolese refugee camp in Gitega Diocese continues to receive more people fleeing conflict in eastern DR Congo. Around 66,000 people have arrived since the start of 2026, with numbers expected to rise significantly. They are living in critical conditions, especially the children and pregnant/breastfeeding women. The Diocese is responding to this urgent situation with prayer, compassion, and practical support as they stand with those in great need.

Tanzania: Forging new relationships

We give thanks for the wonderful week-long visit to Ireland by Bishop Given Gaula (Diocese of Kondoa) in March. He was hosted by Bishop Andrew and Heather Forster (Derry & Raphoe), following on from their visit to Kondoa in 2025. **Bishop Given spoke with genuine emotion at the warmth and hospitality he received during his busy week of events** which included addressing a Diocesan Continuing Ministerial Development Day, visiting two rural deaneries, and speaking at All Age Services in Conwal and Gartan, Letterkenny. Bishop Given was also the main speaker at 'An Evening with Bishop Given Gaula' in the Derry Diocesan Centre and at the CMSI Shine event in Dublin, during which he shared some of his own remarkable faith journey.

Responding for the need for a Diocesan Centre in Kondoa, Bishop Andrew undertook a series of 'Walks for Kondoa' during Lent across the seven Derry & Raphoe rural deaneries, when he was joined by clergy and parishioners both walking and providing much needed refreshments. Due to the generous support of parishes, they have "smashed through" the £30,000 target that was set. The new building in Kondoa will provide a main office of the Diocese with sufficient office space for all departments including the Bishop's Office, the Mothers' Union/Women Empowerment, Children's, Youth and the Elderly Departments. It will also create more space in the Bible College where the Diocesan offices are currently located.

All Nations Ministries: Long lasting local links

Our partners at ANM invited our very own Roger and Linda to facilitate a cultural sensitization seminar in late March at their centre in North Belfast. ANM are working with a 'model of mission' that creates a safe space, where the love of God can be shared naturally and authentically with newcomers to Northern Ireland. One of the things that we emphasise at CMSI when carrying out cultural orientation is:

"The world in which you were born is just one model of reality. Other cultures are not failed attempts at being you, they are unique manifestations of the human spirit."

Wade Davis

When it comes to crossing cultures here in NI or overseas, our staff were able to share that cultural sensitivity involves understanding where we have come from, listening, respecting people's journeys and recognising our shared humanity. For CMSI and ANM, at the centre of it all lies – the desire to demonstrate the love of Christ through our words and acts of service. CMSI staff had a wonderful evening with over 30 individuals from 11 different nationalities with lots of input, laughter and discussion as they sought to honour the traditions of others, while putting into practice the words of the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:22, "I have become all things to all people, so that by all means I might save some."

DRC: Hope amidst destruction

27th January this year marked one year since the fall of Goma, one of the most significant cities in Eastern Congo. Bishop Martin shared:

"When the M23 arrived, no-one knew how long they would stay, but there is no sign of them leaving as they tighten their grip on the provincial government, the security services and business. And the population has given up hoping for a political solution, either from the government in Kinshasa, from the Washington "Peace" Deal or the Doha talks."



Resilience in faith however, is evident from each of our Global Partner areas. The focus of collaboration with link parishes for DRC over the past year has been for emergency assistance. While local Christians in Kindu, Butembo and Bukavu bring clothes, and some food items for distribution to displaced people, support from CMSI can purchase other essential items. In North Kivu and Goma Dioceses small cash gifts were also given to displaced families so that children could continue with schooling.

The CCD children's project proves more necessary than ever, providing emergency care for babies hurriedly picked up, and so rescued, by people running for their own lives from active conflict zones. The Diocese works hard to find an onward path to fostering or adoption for those who survive the first desperate weeks of physical recovery from dehydration and hunger. CMSI Link parishes support this physical recovery through giving and pray continuously for long term recovery from trauma for the children who are brought to **Mama Mbambu** for help.

All our DRC partner bishops gathered in March for the College of Bishops summarised by Bishop Martin:

"During the meeting God gave us real encouragement as we heard about growth in every single diocese, through a clear focus on evangelism (aiming to grow the Anglican Church of Congo to 1 million by 2030) and a concerted effort to teach the new catechism to every Anglican in every parish in the next 2 years."

Rwanda: New faces - new encounters

Our ongoing partnership with Shyogwe Diocese has seen a few personnel changes recently. We thank God for the ministry of Bishop Louis Kabayiza who celebrated his first anniversary as Bishop in March 2026. In December we said goodbye to Marcel Sebahire who has overseen links with CMSI for the last 5 years, and welcomed Revd. John Kabango as the new Shyogwe contact person for Ireland. After a series of visits to the 7 Archdeaconries Bishop Louis & his team developed a 10 year Strategic plan with the Vision of becoming "A Holy Soul in a Healthy Body" and the Mission Statement to become a "Self-reliant, Self-propagating and Self-Sustaining Diocese".

We are grateful to all our CMSI link parishes who have continued to pray for the ministries of the Diocese, as well as raising financial support for Bishop Louis' main priorities. These include helping Gahogo and Runda parish newbuilds to meet the strict Health & Safety regulations. While the church buildings remain closed, Rev. Charlotte (Gahogo parish) and Revd. Prosper (Runda parish) have been holding services in other neighbouring parish buildings – but these are difficult to access. Locally they have increased house to house visitation by lay people, taking this as an opportunity to engage in evangelism and prayer ministry. We have also been able to support 3 third year theological students at EACC, Kigali - Fils Munyabugingo, Thadee Nsengiyumva & Seth Uwamugira.



MEETING POINTS

transforming encounters
with God and one another

Kenya: Schools, changing communities, changing lives

With financial support from Irish Mission Agency Misean Cara (facilitated by CMSI) the Tujisaidie Community School is now operating with 6 new and upgraded classrooms, producing "a pride and joy on the faces of the learners as the spaces are now more conducive to learning", according to the end of project Evaluation. The increased space has also enabled the student roll to expand from 320 to 378 students, with a projection of 400 in the next academic year. Lucy, Louise, Isabelle and the other Tujisaidie leaders are now piloting a small junior secondary school in an adjoining plot, as there is currently no government provision for grade 7 – 8 students in the area.

At the Tumaini African Foundation (TAF) the IT hub is delivering its vision of equipping the young people in the community with IT skills for employment and to help with problem solving from a tech point of view. The hub also supports the Tujisaidie school by offering computer lessons, as well as enabling TAF teens to acquire computer skills. It has 14 laptop computers + 1 TV monitor for digital learning and is able to accommodate 20 students per lesson.

Please pray for the Tumaini "Golden Sarahs" girls football team which has recently been re-launched after Covid brought it to an end in 2020. We are grateful to link parishes, organisations and other donors whose support and prayers are so vital for the sustainability



Local Mission Partners



Seme Peter, Christ's Own, Koboko, Uganda

While Seme Peter continues the work of Save Life Ministries, he and his family have faced some financial challenges recently. Please hold them in your prayers.



Toti Jacob Finosa, Kyangwali, Uganda

Toti and his family live in the same camp where they seek to facilitate vocational training courses. He continues to show real leadership in this challenging context.



SS, Nepal

Following a long period of illness, SS has taken the decision (with Asia CMS) to step back from full time ministry. Pray for him as he continues to receive medical and pastoral care.



Bishop Hassan, Sudan

Bishop Hassan continues to lead the Church in a poor, conflict heavy area. He asks that we pray for the Lord to remove fear from those clergy who are serving and training.

Mission Associates

Guinness Family, Burundi

The Guinnesses will spend the Summer on home assignment. Paul continues to be involved in lecturing and coaching, while Alison is encouraging ongoing partnership between All Nations Christian College and support for Great Lakes School of Theology and Learning.

Isabelle Prondzynski, Kenya

Isabelle has been granted a new 3 year work permit. We hope it will not be long until her permanent residency permit will be granted.

Planning ahead

As churches look ahead in their teaching schedules to next term, contact us by phone 028 9077 5020 / 01 497 0931 or email info@cmsireland.org if you would like a CMSI speaker at one of your services. Harvest sermons are already being booked, so check with us about availability as you prepare for next year.

The Quills: Home on Assignment

We are delighted to welcome Reverend Andrew and Joanne Quill back to Northern Ireland! Since their return from South Sudan at the end of March, they have hit the ground running, visiting link parishes, with plans to represent CMS Ireland across several missional events in July and August.

As a couple Andrew and Joanne remain dedicated to holistic discipleship, serving in close partnership with the diocesan staff and leadership team in Ibba. Their focus is on reaching out and sharing initiatives in mission that contributes to the building up of God's kingdom. Both are instrumental in promoting and training others in Community Health Empowerment ministry. They are exploring the potential of widening this and other missional activities among CMSI's partners in South Sudan. In addition to Joanne's work with trauma healing and Andrew's training and mentorship of church leaders, they are committed to following God's guidance into any new opportunities that arise.

The vision of Ibba Diocese is to facilitate peace building and reconciliation; engage in evangelism and prayer; promote sustainable community development.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." [Acts 1:8]



If you want to hear Andrew and Joanne speak, you can view their itinerary at: www.cmsireland.org/mission-personnel You can also contact the office today for their itinerary and find a service near you!



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