



# inmission

the magazine of **cmsireland**



## Encounters that Refine

Our Need and the Global Church's Resilience

Issue 82 **Spring 2026**

### Inside this edition

- 4** Encountering God in One Another
- 10** Nurturing Peace Together

- 16** Acts of Radical Kindness
- 18** Living Witnesses of Resilience

**cmsireland**

equipping the church in mission  
[www.cmsireland.org](http://www.cmsireland.org)

# 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; Tujisaidie

### Nepal

Human Development Community Services; SD Church

### Rwanda

Dioceses of Kibungo & Shyogwe

### South Sudan

Dioceses of Ezo, Ibba, Kajo Keji, Maridi, Olo & Yei

### Tanzania

Diocese of Kondoa

### Uganda

Dioceses of Luweero & Madi West Nile

### Zambia

Diocese of Northern Zambia

## Mission Partners

### Andrew and Joanne Quill

Ibba, South Sudan

## Local Mission Partners

### Bishop Hassan

Sudan

### Seme Peter Christ's Own

Uganda

### SS

Nepal

### Toti Jacob Finosa

Uganda

## Mission

## Associates

**Isabelle Prondzynski**  
UDP, Kenya

**Alison and Paul Guinness, with Jeremy, Grace & Lydia**

Burundi

## Staff

**Linda Abwa**  
Mission Director

**Anne Buckley**  
Finance Coordinator

**Emma Lutton**  
Communications Coordinator (up to February 2026)

**Gillian Maganda**  
Personnel Manager

**Jenny Smyth**  
Mission Director (Retired February 2026)

**Roger Thompson**  
Partnership Coordinator

**Megan Totten**  
Administration Coordinator

## Board of Trustees

David Reynolds  
(Chairperson)

Hilda Connolly  
Prof Frank Dobbs

Rev Adrian Dorrian

Rev Timothy Eldon

Olwen Laird

Ruth Mann

Lydia Monds

Stella Obe

Heather Sharland

Rev Abigail Sines

Very Rev Geoff Wilson

Published by  
**CMS Ireland**  
www.cmsireland.org  
@cmsireland  
/cmsireland

# contents

- 3 Encounters that Refine:**  
our need and the Global Church's resilience
- 4 Encountering God in One Another:**  
living, learning, loving together
- 10 Nurturing Peace Together:**  
peace-building and peace-making in Ibba, South Sudan
- 14 Shine:**  
CMSI's Annual Members' Day and AGM
- 16 Acts of Radical Kindness:**  
embodying God's goodness in every encounter
- 18 Living Witnesses of Resilience:**  
time together with friends in Nepal
- 22 Snippets:**  
CMSI News



Cover image: Ibba ladies, South Sudan



# Encounters that Refine



## Encountering our Need and the Global Church's Resilience

**Our theme for this year—Meeting Points: transforming encounters with God and one another—has offered much food for thought. We have explored encounters that give life as we witness God's provision and global generosity. We have been helped to see the divine mystery of God through global fellowship. Now, we hope to explore encounters that refine us as we face our own need and the global Church's resilience.**

It is this aspect of our theme that resonates most strongly with me. Since joining the CMS Ireland staff team back in July 2022, I have been challenged and encouraged in equal measure. Learning from men and women whose experiences are so different from my own has helped me see a little more clearly how the context and culture of the Western world has shaped my thinking. More significant, however, has been the change in how I understand God's relationship with humanity. People who have deep spiritual insight have helped me see God's compassion in unexpected ways. Their sharing has nurtured in me a truer understanding of what riches and freedom really are.

Though I am preparing to leave my post as CMS Ireland's communications coordinator, CMS Ireland is not leaving me. I will take these friends from around the world with me as they continue to teach me, opening my eyes that little bit wider and allowing more of God's light to get it.

If you have any sense of your own need to keep growing in God, to keep learning no matter what age you are, then I hope this issue will provide some good fodder.

In these pages you will find honest questions about what it means to depend on God. You will see resilience in the lives of our partners living through situations of struggle and challenge. You will witness the messiness of peace-making when aspiration and reality are in tension.

We hope that the encounters shared here prompt you to pause and reflect in a fresh way on just how much we can learn from one another.



**Emma Lutton**  
Editor

# Encountering God in one another

Living, Learning, Loving Together

*'God's mission is best served when we humble ourselves to learn from each other and draw from each other's strengths'*

**Rev Nam Chen**

As Jenny prepares to leave CMS Ireland, she reflects on some lessons learnt from being part of the lives of our four local mission partners.

## When enough is enough

**CMSI local mission partner Bishop Hassan serves in Kaduguli Diocese, Sudan. He lives in a simple, locally constructed home just like his neighbours, sharing God's love and message of salvation. His presence is a symbol of hope.**

The news from the war in Sudan is horrifying. Currently the fighting is moving south and intensifying in South Kordofan where he serves. In January United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, visited Sudan commenting that 'the war



Image: Coolbuck chapel



*Christ's teaching is being practiced in every sphere of his life*

in Sudan has put its people through horror and hell.' He decried the redirection of funds from humanitarian relief to investment in advanced weapons, especially drones. The introduction of drone warfare in Sudan has left communities living in fear, not knowing when or where the next attack will happen. Ordinary people are utterly defenceless. Due to the insecurity, the UN base in Kordofan has been abandoned, the humanitarian work stopped. This is the reality of the ministry situation to which Bishop Hassan has been called.

In November we were blessed when Bishop Hassan was able to visit us here in Ireland. He took part in a confirmation service with Bishop Ian Ellis and Rev William Jeffrey in Lisbellaw parish. In the afternoon we worshipped

together in Coolbuck church, set up in the beautiful hills. The contrast with his usual sphere of ministry could not have been greater.

At the end of Bishop Hassan's visit, he showed me his shoe. It had a large hole in the sole. We called into a shop with shelves and shelves of shoes on display. Offering to purchase two pairs, one for walking and a smarter pair for leading services, I was gently told, "One pair is enough". I was floored. His following of Christ's teaching truly was being practiced in every sphere of his life.

*'and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He told them: "Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt.'*

How seriously do I take these words of Jesus in Luke 9? So often the desire to own and acquire overrides good intentions to live lightly. And, the need for self-sufficiency and assurance makes little room for dependence on God.

This encounter with my brother from Sudan, as one of the 'great cloud of witnesses', has caused me to stop and check my attitude to material things and my priorities. He has helped me see, in a very tangible way, how immersed I am in a culture of spending and certainty.

*'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us'*  
**Hebrews 12:1**



**Go to our website or scan this QR code to hear directly from Bishop Hassan about life in Sudan today.**



**Go forward in faith**

**Whatsapp messages flashed back and forth from Seme Peter, CMSI local mission partner in Koboko, NE Uganda. He was sending updates on the progress of the open-air evangelistic outreach planned with a parish church across the border in DR Congo. This is no small undertaking:**

- A lorry is hired to transport the sound equipment, stage, worship band, Save Life Ministries team and all that will be needed over the 5 days.
- The rains have disrupted road travel, and the border crossing requires patience and diplomacy.

The vision is bold and brave, the resources scant. I promised that the CMSI staff would pray for them and all the planned activities, and that people would respond and come to faith.

The turn out surprised everyone. News spread and, by day 5, Seme Peter reported that the crowd had swelled to over 8,000 people.

*'Many people gave their lives to Christ and many got delivered...I personally didn't see that kind of turn up for the crusade. The football ground was full, the church ground was full.'*

What an encouragement for the local church, worship leaders, choirs, evangelists and preachers. The growth of the early church in Acts is being played out in real time at these mission events: 'And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.'

But there are financial realities here too. The local church accommodates the visitors providing hospitality, meals and places to wash. They work hard and share what they have but this is also costly: charcoal and food are expensive. Equipment is borrowed or hired, fuel is needed and the lorry must be paid for.

As the time to return home drew near, Seme Peter messaged:

*'We came here by faith and God is doing great things. Many people are saved, healed and delivered. We managed to raise finance for fuel, feeding and transport to get here. As we are finishing together on Monday we are going back - but we don't have the money now to hire trucks to take us back, we request you to pray together with us. But above all we thank God Almighty because thousands heard the gospel and thousands received Christ.'*

This sort of faith, a genuine reliance on God's provision, is both brave and beautiful. And again, it prompted me to pause. Would I have launched out in faith, with all the uncertainty, bearing the heavy responsibility for the team? Knowing that resources were so few, the travel challenging and that they were crossing the border into a place of insecurity, Seme Peter's courage humbles and challenges me. Am I willing to really live by faith or will I settle for the comfort of certainty?

Somehow, they all found their way back across the border and home. So what's next for Seme Peter and his team? They have already begun planning another grand outreach, this time in Koboko town.



## Starting all over again

**Resilience is a bit of a buzz word. I have always thought of myself as someone who can plod on. But how resilient am I really? How resilient is my faith? Perhaps these are the wrong questions altogether, perhaps my focus is wrong.**

Local Mission Partner Toti Jacob was born in a refugee camp. Through struggle he attended school and eventually found a place to train as a driver mechanic in a church-run vocational training centre. Toti made good use of the opportunity, working hard and was selected by his bishop to return home to South Sudan to help the church in Yei establish a vocational training college for returning refugees. Starting from scratch, a management committee was set up, course curricula designed, buildings constructed, resources gathered, tutors trained and students selected. Soon, three courses were up and running. After three

years Toti was promoted to manager of the VTC, a role he fulfilled well over the following few years. However, life in South Sudan was complex. Growing insecurity and political machinations found Toti having to flee for his life. Once again he was at ground zero, living in a refugee camp in a foreign country.

Starting all over again is not easy. Neither is it easy to find a starting point. In the refugee camp, Toti began by getting to know his neighbours and invited them to study the Bible with him. Through discussion and prayer, a group vision formulated. Together they set up a self-help community-based organisation, the 'Christian Mission Empowerment Centre'. Big vision, few resources. Toti requested prayer for the success of the organisation adding, "Please pray for peace...they have cut our food rations...we have no garden to grow food, no business, but God will provide."



## He has turned to God for strength to face the challenge

And God did. Over the past 4 years CMEC has obtained an office, established a youth piggery project, developed a nursery and primary school, initiated a women's business cooperative, started a vocational training centre and is now setting up a community grinding mill. This God-given vision was brought into being through the community's determination and collaboration, driven by their unyielding faith in Jehovah Jireh.

Toti wrote this prayer based on Jeremiah 29:

*'Almighty God thank you for your protection and provision of our daily needs, we are thankful for your message delivered to us through prophet Jeremiah that your plans for us are to prosper and have great future. Thank you heavenly father because you declared that if we seek you we will find you; if we call and pray, you will listen to us and answer our prayers; if we search for you with all our hearts we will find you and you*

*will restore future. Thank you for listening, and availing yourself to us even in difficult situations. In Jesus' name, Amen.'*

I am deeply challenged by Toti's story. His resilience is deeply rooted in his faith. In accepting the situations thrust upon him, he has turned to God for strength to face the challenge, to find purpose and a new vision for what God is calling him to do, wherever he finds himself.

**So rather than wondering about my resilience, perhaps I should be asking myself these two questions:**

- Have I really learnt to rely on God?
- Do I turn to him daily, expecting to be empowered by the Holy Spirit so that I can run the race set before me?

## Searching for truth – the long, long walk

**Growing up in Nepal, SS has acute spiritual sensitivity. The nation's predominant religion is Hinduism, with Buddhism, Islam, traditional beliefs and Christianity being followed by the remaining 20% of the population. Hindu symbols and architecture are evident everywhere and people live in the reality of a spirit world.**

SS is a searcher, filled with curiosity and a deep desire to discover truth. A friend lent him a Hindu book. As he read, he came across a quotation from Psalms which fascinated him. Curiosity piqued, he managed to get hold of a Bible which he began to read. He found himself captivated and wanted to learn more about the Christian faith.

Eventually SS discovered that there was a Bible College in neighbouring India where the Bible was studied and the Christian faith explored. So off he set. Walking. On arrival he had nothing with him. The Bible College relied on student fees, but SS pleaded his case and offered to work to pay for his studies and keep. The principal agreed and SS was able to finance his way through college as a cleaner and gardener, eventually qualifying and returning to his homeland.

Today SS lives in Nepal developing church training courses, supporting local church congregations and teaching at a Theological College.

Again, I am inspired and challenged in equal measure. SS's search for truth, with such focus and determination, found him in another land. His seeking led him away from safety and security, both in his learning and in his return home.

I find myself asking difficult questions about my own search for truth and closeness with God, wondering whether I would be able to abandon safety and security and all the distractions along the way, to get to know God better.

When I first went to Uganda as a mission partner, my elderly neighbour, Esse, gave me the name 'Ekirabo'. The exact meaning in Luganda is nuanced but Ekirabo encapsulates ideas of a gift or present, an offering or sacrifice, something that brings comfort or wisdom. While this was a beautiful designation, in truth I have been the receiver rather than the gift. Encounters with people across the global church have been Ebirabo\* to me – gifts where wisdom has been offered. Encounters where I have been challenged as well as comforted through people who have often borne sacrifices greater than I have ever known.



**Jenny Smyth**  
Mission Director (retired February 2026)



# shine

## Join us for our annual Shine Members' Day and AGM 2026

### Where?

Church Of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI), Dublin

### When?

Saturday 14th March, 10:30am – 3:30pm

### Who?

Everyone is welcome, whether you are a member or not!  
Join us and one of our partners, Bishop Given Gaula from Tanzania,  
as we celebrate the last year with CMS Ireland.



### How much?

It's free, lunch is provided and we'll even help  
with transportation if necessary!

### What's next?

Sign up to secure your place and catering for the event.

Visit our website or register now using this QR code.



Image: Team captain and coach kneeling for prayer before a match

# Nurturing peace together

## Peace-building and Peace-making in Ibba, South Sudan

We had spent the whole week listening to archbishops, bishops, ministers of the South Sudanese government, local leaders and young people discuss 'Peaceful Co-existence'. Diane Graham of St. John's Parish, Moira, and I had travelled to South Sudan to represent CMSI and Ibba link parishes at the third annual Ibba Day, which aims to nurture peace, and lasts for a week in January.



Image: Ibba Day January 2026

All the discussions had been positive with calls from scripture to live compassionately and practice forgiveness, and demands from government representatives to provide better support for young people so they can choose peace. The energy of the week came from twice daily football matches: a tournament between ten counties' teams. This was serious football!

Like any football tournament, there were occasional tensions between teams.

On the day of the semi-finals, the Ibba church team came for prayers with the bishops and archbishop. I watched the church in action as Bishop Wilson spoke gently but firmly with them. His counsel to be witnesses to Christ and to live in peace calmed the swell of emotion and the day moved on peacefully.

We took our seats to watch the final. Mid-match there were queries around a penalty and suddenly the competition became too much for the teams and their supporters. Hostilities reached a dangerous pitch and the match broke down completely.

When Bishop Wilson joined us back at his house he was dejected. What did this mean for his peace event which had seemed to be making an impact?

What unfolded in the next few days was a set of encounters that I could never have imagined.

Early the next morning when it was still cool, twelve sombre-faced young men came to meet the bishop and his visitors. They came in sorrow. They described their sense of shame at letting their county down. They apologised



peace-making is an essential part of the mission of the church

for apparently demolishing the aims of Ibba week. It was not Bishop Wilson who spoke but Archbishop Justin Badi, the Primate of South Sudan. He agreed with the young men's assessment of their actions, he did not sweep away the damage that had been done. But he also congratulated them on doing the right thing by coming forward. He explained that Jesus calls us to forgive and that the church accepts their apology. He advised them on their next steps to make amends.

Later in the day the other team arrived. They were the ones who had felt wronged but they, too, came in sorrow. The greeting from Archbishop Justin was similar: take responsibility for your part, forgive and accept the forgiveness of the church for the spoiled tournament.

It seemed that the work of the 'Peaceful Co-existence' event had been stripped away in the moment that we had to hurriedly leave the football match, not sure of how things might escalate. But what actually happened was that an opportunity had been given to these young men to put into practice exactly what they had been hearing all week. In fact, without the raised heckles and angry crowds, the week would have been only an illusion of peacebuilding.

I was impacted by the ready humility of the young people to come before their church leaders, and the long gentle process of listening to each of them bring their apologies. I was impressed by the firm but gentle guidance of both the archbishop and the other

elders there who also advised the young men. I was moved on Sunday when, in the Cathedral service, an adult male representative of one of the communities involved came and knelt at the altar, shed tears and sought forgiveness, wanting to make amends for the violation of the peace that had been the theme all week.

I was left in no doubt that building peace is necessarily messy and that peace-making is an essential part of the mission of the church. These young men's lives and faith have been changed by the missional relationship of the church towards them in this moment of crisis. I suspect the church leaders were changed too. I hope that they were encouraged by seeing what we rarely see: the outworking of the missional endeavours we make in faith.

*"Peace is not only negotiated in formal spaces but nurtured in relationships, in listening, and in the quiet work of creating room for others to speak. Jesus shows us that crossing boundaries is holy work."*  
**Sharon Crooks (Listening Across the Divide Contemporary Christianity Blog Jan 21, 2026)**

**When you support CMSI this is the kind of holy work and life changing missional encounters that we seek with our partners. How much there is for us to learn from the missional practice of the church in Ibba Diocese, and how much more to pray for and support.**





# Acts of radical kindness

## Embodying God's Goodness in Every Encounter

*"Apart from God, we can do nothing"*

**John 15:5**

This scriptural truth acts as a levelling ground and reaffirms that as followers of Jesus our strengths, stability, our very breath, are all gifts from God.

What I find interesting is that, when we acknowledge our dependence on God, our perspective on 'neighbour' begins to shift. When we look through a spiritual lens, 'neighbour' has to be anyone God brings across our path, regardless of their faith

or cultural background. As communities throughout Ireland become increasingly global and new neighbours move in, we are presented with increased opportunities to put our faith into practice through simple acts of radical kindness.

Our partners at **All Nations Ministries** often encounter and assist individuals from the global church who have fled deep suffering and injustice and made their way to Ireland. What we see when we spend time with these friends helps us to get to know God better. Our sisters and brothers from Sudan, Iran, Palestine, have had their identities stripped away. But through their struggle, God has sustained them. Through their hope in God, a new identity has taken root. We can pay lip-service to God meeting us in places of brokenness but spending time with the Christians from places of persecution helps us to claim this truth in a deeper way. In fact, their experience of struggle acts as a mirror exposing the spiritual poverty in our affluent, self-reliant cultures.

I am sure you have all heard the recent news reports of Iranians demonstrating against their oppressive regime. What you may not realise is that the Church in Iran is currently one of the fastest growing Christian movements worldwide. They operate in a landscape where they can not meet in public. Conversion can lead to imprisonment. These believers have had to strip away everything from their worship gatherings – programmes, professional music, security. What are they left with? Nothing but dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

Every Friday at All Nations Ministries (ANM), four Christian volunteers from Iran join the team to help others and live out their total dependence on God. Prayer has become their lifeline. As they wait in basic, ill-equipped housing in N Belfast for their future to be decided by the UK immigration, they minister in the streets of Belfast – before they go out to lift and deliver furniture, they pray. They know what it is to lose their job, their family inheritance, and their social standing, all because they are followers of Jesus. And they know, with all their hearts, that God is their provider.

*'neighbour' has to be anyone God brings across our path*

K, one of the men, shared with me how living a life surrendered to God has filled him with a supernatural peace. By giving up their access to a safe life, these men understand Jesus' words in Matthew 10:28 in a very tangible way: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul..."

David and Bruno were able to visit and pray with our brothers here at the height of demonstrations in Iran. With the internet shut down and communication limited, our two Ugandan brothers in Christ prayed protection over the families of these Iranian friends. Serving God through random acts of kindness is what is motivating these volunteers, and we as God's people in Ireland have much to learn.

Behind every newcomer to our shores is a journey of courage, loss and hope. ANM is taking the time to listen and bridge the gap between cultures, accepting people for who they are and offering genuine hospitality and friendship. At the core of ANM is the belief that every person is made in the image of God, and how we treat the stranger is a direct reflection of our love for the Creator. Wouldn't it be a powerful witness on this island if the term 'newcomer' was no longer a category to be managed but a person to be embraced?

If the vision of welcoming and supporting newcomers resonates with you and you would like to accompany CMS Ireland as we join with ANM, please contact Gillian at our Belfast office on [personnel@cmsireland.org](mailto:personnel@cmsireland.org) for more information.



**Gillian Maganda**  
Personnel Manager

# Living witnesses of resilience

## Time Together with Friends in Nepal



In October-November 2025, I was part of an eight-person team from Ireland that travelled to Kathmandu, Lamjung and Pokhara in Nepal. From the moment we arrived we encountered warm welcomes and heartfelt hospitality at every turn. Often formalised by the presentation of traditional Khata scarves hung round our necks, these beautiful gifts moved us beyond words. It was overwhelming.

Friendship visits like these are so important in deepening bonds of love and trust.

This was undoubtedly the case when we saw BJ and her team at Sundar Dhoka Saathi Sewa (SDSS). Since the tragic and sudden passing of her husband, Bikash, in 2022, BJ has carried his legacy forwards with sorrow and hope in equal measure. Her grace and dynamism continue to enable the organisation to brim over with divine love for the many marginalised and disenfranchised people of Nepal, especially those living with disabilities. For those on the Ireland team who had only ever met BJ in the virtual realm, meeting in person was particularly enriching as they were witness to her deep faith for themselves.

For me, a particularly special meeting was with Bikash's parents, BK and G. Though we have been in touch many times since 2022, the opportunity to be together helped all of us lament and support one another in prayer and fellowship.

Our visit with SDSS was a wonderful blend of observation and participation. We spent time working with the staff and facilitating activities with the children, including the creation of a 'Friendship Tree' (an idea facilitated by my wife, Fiona). We also had lots of opportunities to see the social care provided by the SDSS team, many of whom live with disabilities themselves. Their tender support for each vulnerable person was always delivered with respect and dignity.



Image Left: Lamjung Church Image above: NCH, Hemanta, Sova and team, November 2025.



*“tender support for each vulnerable person was always delivered with respect and dignity”*

On a tour of the two-storey SDSS centre – impressively laid out with wheelchair friendly ramps and other facilities – we were able to see the Bikash Wheelchair Workshop in action. Set up in 2024 in Bikash’s memory with support from Northern Irish NGO FONiC Trust, this initiative has a two-fold benefit. It is the only workshop of its kind in Kathmandu, rehabilitating over 100 wheelchairs in the first 12 months. They source, repair and adapt broken or unsuitable wheelchairs so that people with disabilities can access this vital equipment which would otherwise be prohibitively expensive or simply not available at all. It also gives employment to engineers living with disabilities themselves. Our newest teaching resource for children and teens, ‘Hello God’, shares the story of one of the men currently working there.

During each of our encounters at SDSS we witnessed a wonderful sense of togetherness and joy. The resilience of these friends who are living through suffering, depending on

God for daily strength, and radiating God’s love to whoever comes to them for support, profoundly affected us.

We had a similar experience as we moved on to visit our partners in Human Development Community Services (HDCS). We met with Executive Director, Kapil, and Tulsa, the head of a wonderful school for children with special educational needs and young adults called ABBS (Asha Bal Bikas Sewa or “Children’s Hope Development Service”). They, and their teams, are working against the prevailing culture in Nepal where people with additional needs are often left on the outside. Both are valiantly carrying torches of hope. Both provide a range of services to facilitate ability appropriate education, medical therapy and above all loving acceptance in an environment of faith.

For Collie, one of our team, this was a return visit to ABBS after 14 years. Many of the staff team have dedicated their lives to serving in this community for more than 30 years. So it shouldn’t have been such a surprise when Ganga, one of the teachers, not only remembered him well but greeted Collie quite literally with open arms! What a wonderful embrace to witness.



For those of you who support our partners in Nepal, you will already know about HDCS’s three hospitals. During this visit we were able to visit Namuna Community Hospital – a place that serves marginalised communities in remote and inaccessible regions. In the previous 12 months NCH has cared for over 17,500 patients, using funds from Bishops’ Appeal and Misesan Cara to establish a new eye clinic, run mobile health camps and also a programme of awareness raising and screening for Non-Communicable Diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and smoking related illness. Being in this space helped us understand a little better the many challenges facing the people there. One of the most humbling moments was our initial meeting with Hemanta, the hospital director, and his team. Despite long hours caring for others, the entire staff team had stayed to greet us and show us around the premises.

The whole facility was an oasis of calm and caring efficiency, despite the remoteness of the location. It was obvious from the staff team we met that this emanated from their Christian commitment. The following day we joined Hemanta and Sova, his wife, at a small church they belong to on the far side of the

town. Sitting on the floor with the other worshippers – some of whom had clearly come in from working the fields in the valley around – we experienced the power of heartfelt worship led by the young pastor playing guitar, a drummer and a group of teenage singers. Compared to services at home in Ireland, there was none of the pressure to get through everything within the hour, no clock watching and no rushing off to get the Sunday dinner on. People had time for each other and even though the service lasted over two hours, most stayed on afterwards for Nepali tea and conversation.

We came away challenged and encouraged by the Christlike people we had met. The impact of their faith on the communities in which they live was clear and the effect on their personal lives was evident. Inspired by our time in Nepal we returned with a renewed determination to find gratitude and joy even in the middle of life’s problems, and to move forwards in hope, service and dependence on God’s grace to do this.



**Roger Thompson**  
Partnership Coordinator

# snippets

cmsi news in brief



## Prayer Room

**Prayer Room continues on the first Wednesday of each month at 1pm online.**

If you joined us since October 2025, you will receive a reminder link the week of the prayer room – you only need to register once for the October '25 to June '26 series. However, if you didn't manage to sign up, scan this QR code or head to our website to register:

[www.cmsireland.org/pray](http://www.cmsireland.org/pray)



## Food for thought: Living sacrifices

*“Present your bodies as a living sacrifice’ is a kenotic action in community...Dwelling together, working together, ministering Christ together in this discomfort – as we yield to one another preferences and lay down our own privileges and we stay in that space – then we start to understand what God’s will is. This perfect, mature will, comes from the collective interactions of cultures...The world doesn’t dwell in difference...As we dwell in integrated unity (John 17) that sends a message to the world, and we are transformed in the process”.*

**Dr Jay Matenga, Director, Global Witness  
Executive Director, Mission Commission.**

## Updates on some of our People in Mission



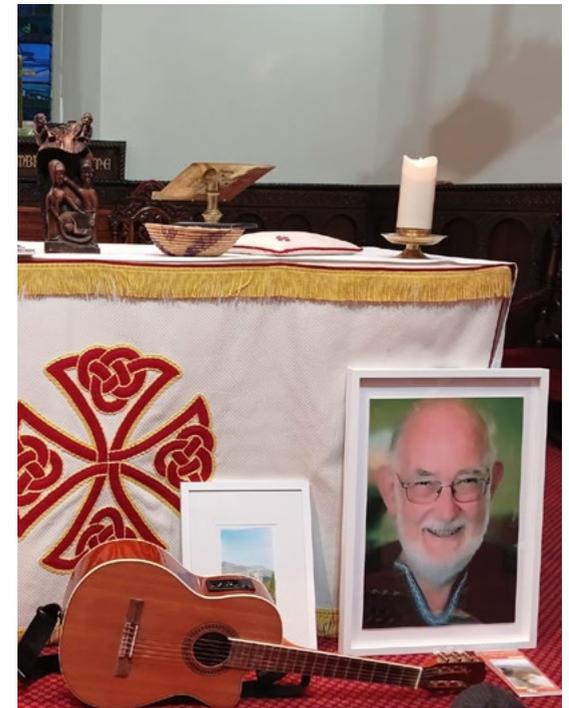
Andrew and Joanne Quill have been rolling out Community Health Empowerment training to trainers in areas around Ibba. The programme continues to run well, though logistics can be challenging at times. As they begin a stint of home assignment for the next few months, please pray for rest and renewal. Please also continue to pray for their missional walk alongside the church in Ibba, South Sudan.

Thanks to all who continue to support the Quills through CMSI’s mission partner programme. If you would like to invite Andrew and Joanne to your parish while they are here in Ireland, contact Gillian on [personnel@cmsireland.org](mailto:personnel@cmsireland.org)

## Declan Smith 1942-2026

The CMSI family were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Rev Declan Smith in January. Our condolences for his widow Heather and sons Ciaran and Ronan.

Many CMS Ireland friends attended a wonderful musical service of thanksgiving at Kill o’ the Grange parish in Dublin. Declan worked for the society for 18 years, travelling the length and breadth of Ireland inspiring people to go global in mission. Declan was a much loved and respected member of CMS Ireland staff and visited many parts of God’s worldwide church always bringing his gifts of laughter, warmth and music. Our prayers for his family circle. Our thanks for his legacy of friendships forged across the global church.



# Hello God

What happens when we meet with God

Scan here  
for access to  
digital materials



## CMS Ireland's new teaching resource for children and teens

Hello God: what happens when we meet with God.

CMS Ireland's new teaching resource shares stories from the Global Church as it unpacks some of the ways we can encounter God and the ensuing effects.

Using stories from the Bible and some of CMS Ireland's global partners, the resource will help children and young people see how God comes close and finds us in hard places; how God gives to us and so we share with one another; and how we can respond to Jesus' commission in John 20:21, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you".

**This FREE digital resource, with differentiated lesson plans, workbooks, PPTs and videos accompanying each session, is available now. To access all digital materials now, go to our website [www.cmsireland.org/childrens-resource](http://www.cmsireland.org/childrens-resource) or scan the QR code above.**

### Dublin

Church of Ireland House, Church Ave, Rathmines, Dublin D06 CF67  
Tel +353 (0) 1497 0931 Email [dublinoffice@cmsireland.org](mailto:dublinoffice@cmsireland.org)

### Belfast

Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park, 245a Upper Malone Road,  
Belfast BT17 9LA  
Tel +44 (0) 28 9077 5020 Email [belfastoffice@cmsireland.org](mailto:belfastoffice@cmsireland.org)

 @cmsireland  [facebook.com/cmsireland](https://facebook.com/cmsireland)

Church Mission Society Ireland is registered in Dublin, Ireland - Reg No. 26905 - as a Company Limited by Guarantee, with permission to omit the word 'Limited'. Registered Charity Number (CRA No.): 20001476. Recognised in the UK as a Charity by the Inland Revenue - Ref No. XN 48809. CMS Ireland is a registered business name - Registered Office: Dublin Office, as above.



**cmsireland**  
equipping the church in mission

[www.cmsireland.org](http://www.cmsireland.org)