

inmission

the magazine of cmsireland



Big God for Little People

Good news from the church at mission, in a world of chaos

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More than the sum of their parts

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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; Tujisaide

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 Kondo

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

Toti Jacob Finosa

Uganda

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Cover image: Savi, HDCS, Nepal



I've always thought of the inn-keeper in the parable of the Good Samaritan as an 'extra'. He's just doing his job, nothing as heroic as battling fear and stereotypes to cross the road and show mercy.

But recently the synergy between the Samaritan and the inn-keeper has been making me think. The Samaritan bandaged the wounds for the first day, but the inn-keeper bandaged them for the days to come. The Samaritan gave the injured man a donkey-ambulance in the day of crisis, but it was the inn-keeper who was responsible to feed him as he was healing. The Samaritan promised to re-imburse the inn-keeper for his expenses, and the inn-keeper took him at his word, faithfully did what he said, and waited for him to return. For this inMission we are focusing on the inn-keeper's part of the parable – the part that reminds us that we are not go-it-alone heroes. The part that acknowledges that: we were once the injured person without hope, that Christ is the Good Shepherd, and that he equips and leaves the church as a band of inn-keepers for mission, until he returns.

You will read the words of our partners who live and act out their faith in conflict zones; they model this kind of mission for us and we feel privileged to present opportunities to support them. We've also included reflections from short termers who have used their professional skillsets in mission over the past few months. And we have squeezed in as many stories as we can of the places where we have seen our big God transform people and places through his inn-keepers of mission in Kenya, South Sudan and Nepal.

If your part in mission with CMSI feels small and unimportant compared to the ground breaking, boundary busting Good Samaritan, I hope that this edition of inMission will persuade you otherwise. What may feel like small acts of mission, are transformative in the purposes of our Good Samaritan God.



Linda Abwa
Editor

The Power of the Small

God Transforming the World Through the Insignificant

Around 700 BC, when the people of Israel were under siege and trapped in political despair, the prophet Micah delivered a word from God that must have sounded entirely counter-intuitive:

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel..." (Micah 5:2)

In the eyes of the world, Bethlehem was tiny, overlooked, and insignificant. Yet God's grand plan for salvation did not rely on human power, sweeping armies, or grand palaces. Instead, it relied on a humble birth in a quiet town. Referring to the fulfilment of the prophecy of Bethlehem as Christ's birthplace, theologian John Piper beautifully reminds us in *Desiring God*; our Lord is a "Big God for little people." He is entirely in control, and He delights in using the smallest entry points to bring about monumental change.

Our own mission intentions can often feel like a drop in the ocean. We look at global poverty, spiritual hunger, and systemic brokenness and wonder how our minor contributions could ever register. But when our small steps are coupled with God's sovereignty and the power of the Global Church, the world changes—and often, our personal worlds are transformed too.

We see this truth vividly alive today through three tangible stories of faithful giving and investment within our own CMSI family. I want to share just three examples that the CMSI team have been encouraged by over the last quarter: three small seeds, one hundredfold harvest.



A Humble Tin with a Global Reach:

For more than 35 years, the congregation of St Mark's, Dundela has sustained vital support for Tujisaide's school feeding programme in Kenya. The catalyst? A single parishioner, the late Dorothy Adair, who began with a simple ask of just £1 a week. What began as a modest effort centred around a humble collection box, affectionately known as "Dorothy's Tin", steadily blossomed into a cornerstone of the parish's global outreach. Decades later, that simple tin proves that small, consistent acts of faithful giving can ripple across continents to ensure children don't learn on an empty stomach.



The Power of Loose Change:

The parishioners of Lisbellaw and Coolbuck Parish Churches recently proved that no gift is too small to be used by God. Under the leadership of Canon William Jeffrey, the congregation was challenged to simply drop their spare change into CMSI collection boxes as part of their Lenten giving. It was a quiet, unassuming discipline for just forty days. Yet, remarkably, those pooled coins added up to over £1,200 to resource the CMSI team for

"God does not ask us for immense human power or staggering wealth; He asks us for our faithfulness in the small things."

global mission. What a striking reminder of what God can do when an entire community focuses intentionally, on what seems like a simple act of giving.

Investing in the Leaders of Tomorrow:

This power of the small extends beyond money to strategic investments in people. Over the years, CMSI and our former Mission Directors have quietly championed theological training to strengthen the core ministry of the global Church. At the time, sponsoring a single student might have seemed like a modest endeavour. Today, however, many of those very clergy are senior leaders, Bishops, and Archbishops shaping the global landscape of faith. These small, initial investments have yielded a hundredfold harvest, and continue to build up the Kingdom of God.

From the dirt roads of ancient Bethlehem to a collecting tin in east Belfast, from Lenten pocket change to a single scholarship for a young leader, the pattern of scripture and our calling remains the same.

God does not ask us for immense human power or staggering wealth; He asks us for our faithfulness in the small things. When we step out in obedience, we can rest in the comfort that He is firmly in control, ready to multiply our small inputs into a transformative, global impact.



Gillian Maganda



Faith in Action

When the big picture seems too complex the Global Church shows us how.



By Linda Abwa

Twin giants stalk through Eastern DR Congo: conflict and disease. Regional politics and an international craving for rare earth minerals, has escalated to military siege and political despair in the past two years. And in recent months a new strain of Ebola has brought a fear of plague and exacerbated the vulnerability of so many who were already depleted by economic stress and war.

The news programmes that I see, have many other international stories to tell. The Ebola outbreak does make the headlines, but there is no discussion of the underlying politics and colonial history that makes this region particularly volatile and vulnerable. The truth about who might be held responsible is elusive, and it feels almost impossible to think of any solution that does not start with that

truth. The big picture is opaque, and the big politics of the region seem impenetrable.

But from our partners we hear the smaller stories, the ones that tell the truth of experience on the ground, the ones that can reach us, as a people who want to act out our faith, in support of the oppressed.

From Bishop Isesomo:



On the war:

"The Eastern region of the country is undergoing a lot of killings because the region has many different rebel movements. This has led many people to running to the areas where they think there is security. So we have many displaced people in urban areas like Butembo and Beni. They don't have any assistance. We have to pray for this situation."

On Ebola;

"We are living under fear these days in Butembo because Ebola disease has erupted again in our region. Every day the health leaders are announcing new cases."

From Bishop Bahati:



"The security in Bukavu is not bad, but in the villages there is war. About the Ebola virus, there are no cases in Bukavu. But there is another epidemic in Bukavu – Cholera. The poverty is very high since the war started as there are no banks and no jobs."

From Bishop Masimango:



On government:

"Everyday people are disillusioned with the way power is abused and especially in the rural areas there is little sign of any progress. People find their own way to survive in the absence of leadership and functioning government."

On education:

"Education levels are dropping. Even though primary school is free there are often 100 children per classroom."

As the conflict intensifies in eastern DR Congo, neighbouring Burundi has received a huge influx of refugees, with over 66,000 Congolese currently gathered in Busuma Camp. Our Partners in the local Diocese of Gitega, Burundi, are already actively engaged, providing both pastoral and humanitarian support.

It was Rev. Arsene of Gitega Diocese who alerted us to this smaller story, inside the complex regional story of war and disease:

"As I text, we are in Busuma Refugee camp...a Congolese camp. People live in unimaginable circumstances."

Rev. Arsene

Tens of thousands of camp residents lack adequate shelter, with many sleeping on the ground or in crowded tents which stretch as far as they eye can see. Food, clean water, and sanitation facilities are critically insufficient,

with only 2.5 litres of water available per person per day, well below humanitarian standards. According to the ICRC these thousands of refugees face the harsh daily pain of "torrential rains, scarce food, limited access to safe drinking water and healthcare, as well as deep uncertainty about the fate of their relatives."¹

Along with these local testimonies of our partners in situ, they also deliver to us a model of faith in action, and a calling for us to join them.

In Butembo, Christians, already pressed by their own circumstances, take in displaced people, share their clothes with people who arrive at the Cathedral for help, and provide food for the children who find themselves separated from their families.

In Kindu Diocese, the church itself supports 71 primary schools and 68 secondary schools, aiming to bridge the gap for children, who are losing vital opportunities for education.

The General Synod of Eglise Anglican Du Congo recently resolved that each Diocese should aim to grow by 1,000 new members every year, and have developed a strategy to train and teach people to work towards this; in the midst of war and real struggle.

In Gitega Diocese Rev Arsène, Bishop Aimé Joseph Kimararungu and their team were able to collect donations from local congregations to provide emergency food relief of maize flour, beans, fortified porridge and blankets, to 400 households in Busuma Camp.

The big picture requires time to study and understand; for that our faith in action can look like research and prayerfulness - for all agents at work in deepening the despair in Eastern Congo and surrounding nations.

But our Global Partners also give us an opportunity to put faith into action by giving towards the efforts which they are already

we stand with the faithful Davids - armed, not with stones and a sling, but with food, blankets and school books

making. For this reason we have reopened the CMSI DRC appeal including provision for Congolese in Busuma Camp.

As twin Goliaths of destruction stalk through DRC, we stand with the faithful Davids - armed, not with stones and a sling, but with food, blankets and school books. We invite you to stand with us in prayerfulness and giving.



We recently shared the situation of our partners in DRC and Gitega, with the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal Fund. They readily recognised the importance of the churches in this region, to relieve the suffering of their communities. Therefore, we want to say a huge thank you to Bishops' Appeal for a very generous grant towards the efforts in Busuma Camp.

How to Donate:

If you would like to give to the CMSI DRC Emergency Appeal (including Gitega, Burundi), you can do so at the following link:
cafdonate.cafonline.org/15485

Or by sending a cheque made payable to 'CMS Ireland' and marked 'DRC Appeal Busuma' on the back to:

CMS Ireland,
Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park,
1st Floor, 245a Upper Malone Road,
Belfast, BT17 9LA

Pause for thought

By Revd Mike Buchanan

Rev. Mike Buchanan (Curate of Rathfarnham Parish, Dublin) recently undertook a six-week CMSI placement in Cairo, supported by the COI Council for Mission. Serving alongside Bishop Mouneer in Cairo. You can read his full reflections on the CMSI website (www.cmsireland.org/blog), here are some of the highlights.

"I have had the privilege of celebrating the Eucharist in a marvellous cathedral setting. I have been fortunate to minister to a congregation that has been without a shepherd for some time. I hope, in some small way, that I've contributed to the life of the church in Cairo.

I have met with refugees from war, conflict, and persecution who have shown me the value of perseverance and faith, even in the face of awful circumstances. And I have, quite literally, broken bread with them.

Egypt has a proud heritage as a melting pot of race, faith, colour, and creed and, although it has many, problems, the people here laugh easily, smile warmly, and share hospitality readily. Egypt faces many challenges, yet sees only potential, welcome, and inclusion. It is an ancient place where God still walks among those who have little - 'Out of Egypt have I called my Son.'

I have met with the literal leaders of the Muslim world and have shared chai, stories, and laughter with them. There have been many, many highs, and perhaps, the odd low; I have missed home too. But I will be returning all the richer for the warmth, friendship, and hospitality I have shared with those who have nothing but themselves to give."



A tailored visit to one of our Global Partners can provide a powerful space for cross-cultural connection and learning about our mutual calling to mission. If you would like to explore global mission further, why not join us at our Ignite Conference (see back cover for details) to hear firsthand stories from Revd Mike, and others. Part of Gillian's role is to assist enquirers through a discernment process, if you would like to think through an overseas short term or longer placement please give her a call on our office numbers.

Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Guide Me in Your truth and teach me; for You are God my Savior, and my Hope is in You all day long.

Psalm 25:4-5

Faith in the Face of Transition



As Andrew and Joanne Quill travel across Ireland on their current home assignment, their hearts and minds remain firmly anchored in South Sudan. They are actively planning their return to the Diocese of Ibba for late December 2026 or early January 2027. Yet, the landscape they are preparing to step back into is one marked by immense transition and profound uncertainty.

South Sudan is navigating a season of intense pressure:

- **Economic Strain:** Food and fuel prices have rocketed, placing an unimaginable burden on local families and daily ministry logistics.
- **National & Local Uncertainty:** Country-wide elections are planned for December, bringing heightened political tension and increased insecurity across many regions.
- **A Shift in Leadership:** Closer to home, the Diocese of Ibba is preparing for a monumental changing of the guard as the foundational leader, Bishop Wilson Kamani, Plans to retire.

To return to a context with so many moving, volatile parts requires a profound level of commitment. It would be easy to look at the rising inflation, the political instability, and the structural shifts and decide to wait for a calmer season.

But true partnership doesn't pause when the road gets rough.

The Call to the Nations is rarely a call to comfort; it is a call to presence. Andrew and Joanne's determination to return to Ibba precisely during this time of transition is a beautiful example of what it means to be faithful to God's prompting. They are choosing to stand with their global partners not just

in seasons of smooth transition, but in the crucible of economic and political anxiety.

Despite the current challenges, Andrew and Joanne are incredibly encouraged by how God has continued to move in Ibba during the last few months. The seeds planted through recent training are already bearing fruit through local leaders. Emmanuel from Moroko has been faithfully passing on what he learned to others within the Church. His enthusiasm is catching—he is already pressing Canon Emmanuel for the dates of the next Training of Trainers (TOT 3). Yassin has steadfastly continued leading healing groups in Maridi, expanding this vital ministry right into the local prison. At the same time, other leaders who attended the TOT 4 Bible-based Trauma Healing sessions have stepped up, running healing groups within their own local communities.

It is a powerful reminder that the ministry in Ibba doesn't depend on outside visitors; the local Church is alive, active, and leading the way.

As the Quills prepare for their return, they need the unwavering backing of their link Churches in Ireland, the UK and USA. They are stepping out in faith—embracing the risks, the challenges, and the shifting leadership of Ibba—confident that God is already moving ahead of them. Let us wrap them in prayer, resource them for the journey, and match their commitment with our own faithful support.



Join Us in Prayer for Ibba:

- Pray for Andrew and Joanne as they finish their home assignment and prepare logistically and emotionally for their return; leaving elderly parents behind.
- Pray for their Commissioning Service planned for Sunday 22nd November in Christ Church Primacy, Bangor at 6:30pm. This is a significant milestone as Rev Andrew and Joanne are formally set apart, blessed, and re-commissioned in ministry to lead, serve, and impact lives in South Sudan.
- Pray for South Sudan ahead of the December elections, asking for peace, stability, and a curbing of the current insecurity.
- Give thanks for Bishop Wilson's years of faithful leadership and pray for wisdom and unity as the Diocese of Ibba transitions to new leadership.
- Pray for provision in the face of skyrocketing food and fuel costs, that local ministries in Ibba will continue to flourish for the building up of God's Kingdom.

You are warmly invited to a special CMSI service for the Recommissioning of Rev. Andrew and Joanne Quill as they plan to return to serve in **Ibba Diocese, South Sudan**

Venue: Christ Church Primacy, Bangor
Date: Sunday 22nd November 2026,
Time: 6.30pm

"My life is only just beginning"

An empowerment movement grows from one small community awareness programme

In early summer we had the great privilege of welcoming Kapil Sharma, Director of Human Development and Community Services (HDCS), Nepal. HDCS projects depend on the daily faithful work of administrators, nurses, doctors, radio broadcasters and farmers. It is likely that their lives do not feel particularly accomplished or heroic to them. It is even possible that they do not know that the sum of their, apparently routine service, in the hands of God, is bringing transformation to the people they care for every day.

We asked Kapil to share just one story of someone who he knew had been transformed through the ministry of HDCS. The following is a brief telling of one woman's journey to health and giving back. A story which we are sure is not yet finished.

Savi, aged 53, from Sundarbazar Municipality in Lamjung, Nepal, never imagined she would one day lead her community. A widow and mother

of four, her life revolved around supporting her family through financial and personal challenges. Like many women in rural Nepal, her own health often came second to household responsibilities.

That changed when she discovered a lump in her breast. She delayed seeking medical care initially, but then eventually received the devastating diagnosis of breast cancer. Surgery, chemotherapy, and months of treatment tested her strength, but with determination and family support she completed the journey to recovery. Yet her greatest transformation came not from surviving cancer, but from what followed.

Through HDCS's STEP UP Project (funded by Misan Cara via CMSI), Savi joined a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Community Awareness Programme. There she learned about cancer prevention, early detection, nutrition, and healthy living. More importantly, she realized the power of sharing this knowledge.

"Cancer taught me the importance of health, but the awareness programme showed me how much can be prevented through early action and awareness," she says.

Her testimony carried weight. Women in her community began listening, encouraged by her call to prioritize regular health check-ups and self-care. Savi's personal experience became a seed of hope, planted in the hearts of others.

Another seed was sown through a four-day training course about Lito Mix - a nutritious flour blend of pulses and grains. This training, provided as part of the HDCS's SCALE UP Project (also funded by Misan Cara via CMSI), introduced Lito as both a health resource and an entrepreneurial opportunity. For Savi, who had experienced first-hand the role of nutrition in recovery, the training sparked a vision. She gathered local women and formed a Lito Production Group, stepping into the role of chairperson.

This group has since blossomed into more than a livelihood initiative. It is a platform where women learn new skills, promote healthy diets, and explore income-generating opportunities together. Bonds have strengthened, confidence has grown, and women are discovering their collective power.

Reflecting on her journey, Savi shares: "The project gave me more than knowledge—it gave me confidence. Before, I was focused on overcoming my illness. Today, I am helping other women learn, work together, and build opportunities for themselves."

Her story illustrates the broader impact of HDCS's work: small seeds of awareness and training can grow into movements of empowerment and change. Savi was not a community leader when the project first reached her. She was an ordinary woman recovering from illness. Today, she is a voice for health, nutrition, and women's empowerment.

Looking ahead, Savi dreams of expanding the group's work and supporting more women to become self-reliant.

"My life is only just beginning. I want to continue sharing what I have learned and help other women realize their potential."

Savi's journey is more than survival—it is transformation. It reminds us that when people are given knowledge, opportunity, and support, they can rise as powerful agents of change. HDCS's STEP UP and SCALE UP Projects show how planting small seeds of awareness and skill can grow into lasting impact, strengthening families, communities, and futures across Nepal.



Roger Thompson



Thank you Misan Cara for your support and financial aid for our Global Partners!

Irish mission and development agency, Misan Cara, are a significant funding agency for some of our Global Partners' larger projects. Roger manages our collaboration with Misan Cara by facilitating proposal writing, budgeting, accountability and reporting from several of our Global partners. In this way we seek to bridge the gap between our partners, and Ireland's national aid and development system.

More than the sum of their parts

Reflections on Tujisaidie from the four women who made a small start.



On 8 July 2026, the leaders of the Tujisaidie community got together for a meal with Bishop Peter Njenga Karioki, to celebrate 35 years of Tujisaidie and the partnership with CMS Ireland. CMSI wanted to celebrate what God has done through four 'ordinary' women who he brought together for His mission, so we asked each of them for their reflections on their life within Tujisaidie Community.



Lucy Irungu:
Tujisaidie Community Leader

"Tujisaidie is part of my life, because I have been there since it started. The transformation that has taken place in Tujisaidie is part of me. Everybody is transformed, we are not the same people who came from the former slum at Kibagare to Kayole. We are more informed, more active, and we know our priorities, because we have done everything through priorities in Tujisaidie since we started the programme.

Tujisaidie means helping one another, we are our sisters' and brothers' keepers. When anybody is in trouble we are there, in happiness we are there, and we appreciate one another."



Isabelle Prondzynski:
CMSI Mission Associate

"The Tujisaidie community started off in 1991 as a new slum on waste land, where there was absolutely nothing. Initially under the auspices of All Saints' Cathedral Nairobi and with the constant support of CMS Ireland things have moved forward steadily. Now the community supports a 400 pupil Primary School, with a new Junior Secondary school also being piloted. There are electricity supplies, mains water and flush toilets in every household. These wonderful services do not always work, but that is another story.

We have an annual donation that helps community members with medical treatment not covered by the very basic national insurance policy. We have CMS Ireland link parishes (for example see 'Dorothy's tin' on p5) that enable the learners in the school to benefit from a hot lunch every day during term time and a package of take-home food for the long holidays at the end of the year. We have a well-wisher who enables the students to have an outing to a place they would not otherwise be able to visit.

There is a wonderful youth group – the Tumaini African Foundation - run by Antony

Njoroge, with its weekly "more than just a meal" lunch for over 500 children. Their Youth Centre boasts a library of more than 14,000 books and they run successful football teams, including a newly launched girls' team. The Tujiinue group of young mothers has been producing craft items for sale for many years and the Gacūcū group of elderly ladies is supported with a food donation every month.

Without Tujisaidie we would not be here, we would never have met, we would never have been blessed with our strong bond of friendship stretching back over 35 years, and we would never have experienced the love and provision of God for the Tujisaidie community and for our work. When we started, all those years ago, we could never have imagined what God would enable this community to do together with us."



Louise Githire:
Tujisaidie Adviser

"For me, Tujisaidie means the joy of the Lord – knowing that God can work miraculously in any way and place. I have seen the joy of the community members, the love they have for God, the love they have for one another - that has really taught me that no matter what, I should also love like they do."



Kathleen Anangwe:
Tujisaidie Adviser

"Working with the Tujisaidie self-help group has been a most fulfilling Christian experience, and a journey of mission work that continues to date. Over the years I have watched the group learn to align their expectations with reality. Planning for the short term as well as long term, they have leveraged their strengths as community and re-evaluated their collective capabilities, all the while, never wavering in their faith and trust in God's promises and their fulfilment through obedience.

In time, the community has transformed the daily vulnerabilities and insecurities they face

into opportunities for testimony. It is their expectant faces, their singing and dancing, their commitment to Bible study, their love for one another and appreciation for friends in the local and global church that has inspired them and by extension inspired me.

Through my interaction with the community, I have been able to gain a deeper understanding of the statement "Faith without action is lifeless..." (James 2:14–26). The times of brainstorming, implementing, celebrating and appreciating messages of goodwill from our partners in the link churches/CMS Ireland have provided me with a platform for introspection.

I have often asked, "Whose faith, and whose action?" with the answer coming through the community as it enabled me to consciously unpack the value and meaning of mission work. Mission goes beyond service and evangelism to include actively transforming lives. I have realized that together with the community we are participating in God's grand scheme for humankind in a divine partnership.

As the Tujisaidie community continues on its transformational journey of faith through action, their lived experiences always remind me that nothing is too great for the God we all serve, and that in Tujisaidie, faith is lived out, finding meaning in partnerships and action."



"When we started, all those years ago, we could never have imagined what God would enable this community to do together with us."

God's mission has picked up and carried Lucy, Isabelle, Louise and Kathleen along. Their impact on hundreds of children, young people and the elderly is more than anything they could have accomplished alone. Each of them has mentioned the value of their CMSI parish links, and we know for certain that so many people in Ireland have also been swept along in what God started with these four 'ordinary' women.

Within CMSI links and stars, 'ordinary' people in Ireland have been transformed and brought into the heart of mission, they are integrated with the testimony of Tujisaidie, and this community is entwined in their personal testimonies too. The final reflection on 35 years of Tujisaidie is from Emma Glenn, who spent five weeks with the community this summer on a CMSI STEP (Short Term Experience Placement). Her comments illustrate that the mission God began 35 years ago continues to transform and inspire.

"Even after only a few days, I can already see that God is at work through the Tujisaidie Self-Help Group. The children radiate joy and gratitude, finding happiness in the simplest things. The teachers clearly love and care deeply for every child, and there is a genuine sense of God's love reflected in the way they serve. It has been inspiring to see that people have a deep trust that God will provide for them each day, and it is evident in the hope, generosity and joy they carry."



**Emma Glenn,
SteP Placement, Kenya**



Championing Partnership: Reflection on Cairo STEP Placement



Oriel Hosford's recent mission placement in Cairo serves as a profound testament to the power of CMSI's partnership model; she writes,

"My recent visit to school communities in Cairo was a profound reminder that true mission is never about bringing top-down solutions. Instead, it is about partnership, humility, and recognizing the dignity and resilience already present within a community. This ethos lies at the very heart of CMSI's partnership model. Working alongside local leaders under the Diocese of Egypt didn't just allow me to share resources—it sparked a beautiful, two-way transformation that deeply impacted both our partners and me.

The beauty of the CMSI model is that it creates a shared learning space where both sides are enriched:

Our Impact on the Partners: At El Menara School for children with additional needs, we collaborated on practical strategies to enhance fine motor skills, introduced ergonomic writing tools, and co-designed the layout for a new sensory room. A breakthrough moment occurred when a

simple deep-pressure strategy instantly calmed a child experiencing sensory anxiety. It became a powerful shared revelation for the staff, shifting their perspective from viewing "behaviour as disruption" to "behaviour as communication." Furthermore, through the generosity of our home diocese and local parishes, we were able to give a financial gift, to fuel their ongoing work.

The Partners' Impact on me: In return, I was profoundly changed by the sheer resilience and creativity of CMSI's global partners. I witnessed educators at Happy Child School ingeniously carving out classrooms from kitchens, balconies, and cupboards to serve displaced children from Sudan, Libya, and Nigeria. At the SWA School for the Blind, I saw leadership navigate intense institutional setbacks and tight budgets with unwavering grace. Their ability to celebrate the smallest milestones—a child navigating independently or mastering self-care—redefined my understanding of joy, hope, and determination.

Faithfulness to God's Prompting

This journey beautifully highlighted the value of being obedient and faithful to the things God prompts us to do, no matter how small or challenging they may seem.

The SWA School for the Blind exists today because a husband and wife faithfully stepped out to fill a gap in care after their own daughters experienced vision loss. Despite the tragic passing of her husband and immense financial hurdles, the principal continues to lead with quiet determination. Their story is a powerful testament to what happens when we remain steadfast in God's calling through personal trial.

During a worship service in Cairo, I had the privilege of reading from Ezekiel. The sermon focused on the Bible's shortest verse: "Jesus wept." It served as a beautiful reminder that God is never distant from human suffering; He stands right alongside those who struggle.

When we are faithful to God's promptings—whether by crossing borders, sharing skills, or offering financial resources—we join Him in standing alongside others. In doing so, we discover that our lighter moments of shared laughter, meals, and connection across cultures are exactly where the Kingdom of God comes alive."



What is God prompting you to do?

CMSI's partnership model thrives on one core element: relationship. Whether you are looking to stretch your faith, offer practical skills, or simply see how the global Church lives out the Gospel in the face of immense challenge, here are three ways you can step into the story:

- **Step out and go**
- **Step up to host a visiting global partner**
- **Support those who are stepping out and stepping up**

In Cairo, Oriel saw how a single, faithful action—like a simple touch to calm a sensory-anxious child—could shift an entire classroom's perspective. God uses our small acts of obedience to do "immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3 v 20).

How will you step into God's mission? Whether it is going, hosting, or supporting, your step of faith will change lives: most notably, your own.

Get in touch with the CMSI team today to find out how you can take your next step.

snippets cmsi news in brief



Would you commit to joining us for our monthly on-line prayer gatherings this year?

Prayer Room will on the first Wednesday of each month at 1pm online, from October 2026. You only need to register once for the October '26 to June '27 series. Head to our website to register now:
www.cmsireland.org/pray



Update for CMSI supporters resident in NI/UK

CMSI was established in 1814, and registered as both a company and charity in the Republic of Ireland in 1968. During that time we have also been correctly registered with the Charity Commission, UK, specifically as an entity with its primary registration in RoI. This continues to give us rights and responsibilities as a charitable organisation in Northern Ireland as well as in RoI.

However, in the past few months it has become evident that changes made to UK law around the time of Brexit, have had a domino effect, which requires us to pause claiming Gift Aid in UK. We can assure you that we are taking this very seriously and making all efforts to create a structure which will enable us to receive donations and the associated Gift Aid, but it is likely to take up to another twelve months. You can read a fuller brief on the situation on our website:

www.cmsireland.org/gift-aid

If you would like to discuss the issue please contact **Linda**: email lindaabwa@cmsireland.org or on the office numbers. As soon as the issue is resolved we will ask our NI residents, and UK donors, to re-register for Gift Aid, which will benefit CMSI once more. This will have no impact on supporters who are resident in RoI.

We find the present situation to be unacceptable and deeply regrettable. We feel that this update is important to acknowledge your trust in CMSI, and to emphasise the stewardship which we bring to bear on all your donations. We request your understanding as we work hard to overcome the presenting issues, and your prayers as we seek to advocate for CMSI.



ignite



**CMS Ireland
Annual Conference**

Saturday, 12th September 2026

10:30am – 5:00pm (registration from 9:45am)

Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre

Friday Extra Session: Friday, 11th September 2026, 7:30pm

Dublin

Church of Ireland House, Church Ave, Rathmines, Dublin D06 CF67

Tel +353 (0) 1497 0931 **Email** 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



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facebook.com/cmsireland

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