



inmission

the magazine of cmsireland



Living Parables

Kingdom stories of hope and change

Issue 70 Spring 2022

Inside this edition

- 4 Visions of heaven
- 6 Grace, peace & growth
- 10 Pigging out
- 12 Kingdom treasures



cmsireland
equipping the church in mission

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; Urban Development Programme, Nairobi

Nepal

Human Development Community Services; SD Church

Rwanda

Dioceses of Kibungo & Shyogwe

South Sudan

Dioceses of Ibba, Kajokeji, Maridi, Olo & Yei

Uganda

Dioceses of Luweero & Madi West Nile

Zambia

Diocese of Northern Zambia

Mission Associates

Isabelle Prondzynski
UDP, Kenya

Deirdre & Mark Zimmerman, with Zachary & Benjamin
Nepal

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

Staff

Linda Abwa

Partnership Coordinator

Anne Buckley

Finance Coordinator

Roger Cooke

Mission Resource Manager

Wendy Houston

Administration Coordinator (Maternity Cover)

Gillian Maganda

Personnel Manager

Jenny Smyth

Mission Director

Roger Thompson

Partnership Coordinator

Megan Totten

Administration Coordinator (On Maternity Leave)

Board of Trustees

David Reynolds
(Chairperson)

Rev Canon Patrick Bamber
Maureen Clarke

Rt Rev Richard Clarke

Hilda Connolly

Prof Frank Dobbs

Will Grier

Ruth Mann

Gracious Nyamupachitu

Joanne Quill

Louise Talbot-Beirne

Rev Capt Geoffrey Walmsley

Very Rev Geoff Wilson

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

contents

- 3 Living parables, loving stories**
Heaven in the ordinary
- 4 Visions of heaven**
Picturing God's Kingdom among us
- 6 Grace, peace and growth**
Stories of Kingdom leaven
- 10 Pigging out**
Kingdom investments in Uganda
- 11 Kingdom perspectives**
Heavenly voices from South Sudan
- 12 Kingdom treasures**
Living witnesses in rural Nepal
- 14 Taking care in Rwanda**
Signs of the Kingdom
- 15 Deep connections**
The blessings of true partnership
- 16 Embracing new challenges**
Settling-in to service
- 18 Snippets**
CMSI news



living parables, loving stories

“What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?” (Mark 4:30)

As we read through the Gospel accounts, we see that Jesus invested much of his ministry in helping people grasp and embrace God's big story of grace and redemption. Jesus' teaching embodied his presence: the Eternal Word stepped into the finite world; the King of Heaven entered the earthly confines of flesh and bones; God's Kingdom come, in person and parable.

I still remember my First Form RE teacher explaining parables as “earthly stories with heavenly meanings”, and I continue to find this a helpful description. (Thank you, Marty Thom!)

For his listeners, the stories Jesus told and the illustrations he employed could not have been any more familiar or mundane: feasts and yeast, seeds and sheep, lost coins and hidden treasure. These were the experiences of everyday life and yet, in Jesus' hands, they pointed to something of infinite value. Heaven in the ordinary – God's Kingdom among us.

This edition of *inMission* seeks to share ordinary stories that convey the most amazing truths about our loving God and His remarkable

Kingdom. You will read of the transforming power of grace and peace as leaven in the midst of suffering and conflict. You will encounter individuals who have stepped away from comfort, security and busy social lives in order to serve those on the margins.

For all of us involved in God's work of mission – which is all of us who follow Jesus – there is a challenge here to ensure that the mysteries of heaven are expressed in the everyday stuff of our own lives. We are called to be living parables that reveal heaven in the ordinary – God's Kingdom among us.

As we approach the Season of Lent and participate again in Jesus' passion, death and glorious resurrection, may we each experience the power and comfort of heaven in our own hearts. And may our broken but transformed lives point people to the One who came from heaven to heal, restore and make all things new. That's what God's Kingdom is like.



Roger Cooke
Editor





visions of heaven

Picturing God's Kingdom among us



Jenny Smyth shares some snapshots of God's Kingdom from her recent visit to South Sudan.

The Kingdom of God is like a mother bringing her child to the church leaders for prayer.

Mama Sarah comes lovingly leading Given Malish, her four-year-old son. Born with only one tiny arm, she is concerned for his development and education. "He loves football, he can draw pictures with his foot..., but some things are hard for him." Can anything be done to help?

I sit with Mama Sarah's local archdeacon, Pastor Woodman, and we talk with them both. Pastor Woodman makes several helpful suggestions: "Can you tie a spoon to Given's arm so he no longer needs to use his feet to

eat?"; "It would be good to send him to school. Can the older brother walk with him to protect him from bullying along the way?"; "I am happy to come with you to the school to talk with the teachers and headmaster." He then turns to me and says "This mother will need loving support – I will do my best to help."

We pray with them both. Later that day, Mama Sarah brings Given to the Sunday service, still wanting to plead for her son before the Lord.

Jesus said: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."
Mark 10:14

Image: Hairdressing students at Yei Vocational Training College

The Kingdom of God is like a leader who sees beyond the constraints of prejudice, assumption and culture and is willing to challenge harmful attitudes.

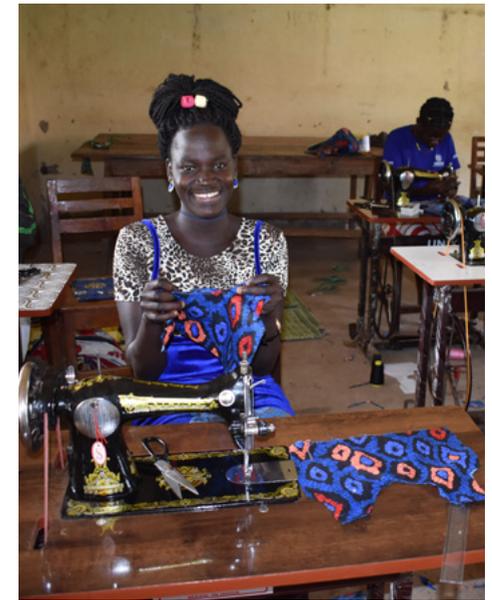
When travelling on a pastoral visit to a much contested and insecure region of the country, a place where four opposing groups were fighting for control, Archbishop Justin was very aware of the dangers. He was accompanied by his staff – a deliberate mix of folk from various regions of the country, a team learning to work together, learning to appreciate difference as a gift from God and not as a threat. Seeking the necessary permission to travel from the government, he was questioned about the ethnicity of his team members. Knowing that this was an incendiary question, he gently replied: "I am travelling with my priests; they are all my priests."

'...put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.'
Colossians 3:10-11

The Kingdom of God is like the Yei Vocational Training College.

Here is a place of opportunity. A place that offers those on the margins a chance to learn new skills, a chance to hear the good news of Him who came to seek and to save. Bustling with activity, young people are busy in every corner of the compound. Electrical students wiring circuits, smiles all round when the bulbs light up; builders laying bricks to practice corners and wall joints, plumb lines and trowels in hand; hairdressers combing and plaiting on freaky looking model heads, gentle chatter as they work; mechanics elbow-deep in grease, delving into the mysteries of an old internal combustion engine; tailors snipping around

Image: Tailoring student at Yei Vocational Training College



seams in bright kitenge, treadle machines whizzing at full speed; a hive of constructive, hopeful activity. Transforming and creating, preparing to rebuild a shattered nation.

Even the physical structures of this place reflect redemption and new beginnings. The workshops, built by the pioneering staff and students, were constructed using what could be salvaged from old army lorries and scrap abandoned in the compound. Reimagined to new use through careful cutting, welding and remaking, the discarded scrap metal now holds up the workshop roof: a workspace, a place of hope for so many.

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.'
Micah 4:3



grace, peace and growth

Stories of Kingdom leaven

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.”
Matthew 13:33



“..the Church has been growing little by little, from person to person.”

The leaven of peace

In another part of the global Church, (which I won't identify for security reasons) the Kingdom of Heaven is like a team of believers visiting, caring for and sharing Christ with prisoners from around the world.

In Leviticus, the only leavened bread that was to be presented as a sacrifice was the peace offering. The following testimony (from one of the prison team members) powerfully expresses how, through these prison visits, the Kingdom of Heaven is like leaven of peace that transcends all boundaries – affirming that God's salvation and hope reach beyond nationalities, religion and circumstance.

“Thanks be to the Almighty God for giving me peace in prison.”

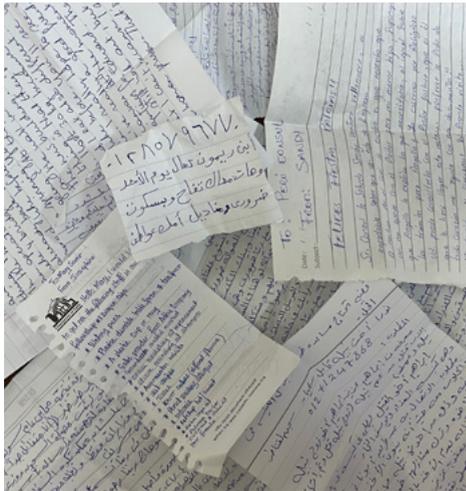
Before he was imprisoned, MAC did not understand the true meaning of peace. He did not have peace with God, nor was he at peace with himself. His entire life, he strived to be other things. He spent life trying to make more money, and strived to be a rich man. He wanted to be well known. He did not bother to thank God for the blessings in his life. He never asked God for anything, because he believed that he did not need God's help. Satan had deceived him, and the world had blinded him.

The leaven of grace

Rev. William Haddow died in 1924, just two short years after arriving as a CMS Mission Partner in Maridi, in what is now South Sudan. He had spent his life in the hope that God would use him to draw people to Himself. When Rev Haddow passed away, eight people in Maridi had responded to the message of redemption by faith.

During the Sunday service of the recent centenary celebrations in Maridi Diocese, 350 people were confirmed into the Church that God planted through those eight new believers. Over 100 years, the Church has been growing little by little, from person to person, until Maridi Diocese now worships and serves God with believers in seven strong archdeaconries. The Kingdom of Heaven is like this!

The faithful trace of God's leaven of grace in the history of Maridi is astounding in its Kingdom growth.



“God’s salvation and hope reach beyond nationalities, religion and circumstance.”

During his imprisonment, however, MAC met Jesus Christ, and his life was forever changed. Christ welcomed him with lasting peace, love, and happiness. He now realises that God allowed him to be imprisoned in order to remove him from his old life, and separate him from the wrong ways of the world. MAC was born into a Christian family, but he never trusted or believed in God. But inside prison, everything changed; he met his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ when Jesus came to MAC in a dream. In this dream, Jesus spoke to him, and asked him what he needed. MAC told Jesus that he needed freedom from prison. Jesus responded that while he could be free from prison, freedom without peace is nothing. He said that MAC would never be happy with his life, even after he was released from prison. After MAC woke from this dream, he prayed to God for peace.

“God gave me peace with Him, peace with the people around me, and peace with myself.”

God responded to MAC’s prayer. God provided him with true, lasting peace. But He also gave MAC more than that; He gave him a mission inside the prison. God called him to be His servant, an ambassador,

and a minister for His Kingdom to those inside the prison. God blessed him with the responsibility to care for the flock there. God has not only transformed MAC’s life, but he has used him to reach out to others in the prison with similar struggles. Every day, MAC seeks to serve God through a different action.

“He will never leave me, and never forsake me. Let us have peace with God, and enjoy life with Him forever. Blessed be His holy name.”

The Diocese’s Prison Ministry seeks to inspire and encourage those such as MAC. The Prison Ministry Team helps facilitate Church services, Bible studies, and times of Christian fellowship in order to meet the prisoners’ spiritual needs. The foreign inmates are often very far from home and separated from their family and friends. They are lost and alone. The Prison Ministry team, however, steps in to serve them, and helps them find hope despite their dismal circumstances. Their time in prison is not just time spent serving a sentence, but it is an opportunity for spiritual revival, and an opportunity for them, like MAC, to find the lasting peace that comes only through faith in Jesus Christ. “

Image: Letters from prisoners for distribution



New beginnings

These testimonies of the leaven of grace and peace growing over years and spreading beyond common boundaries interlace so beautifully with Christ’s own picture of the woman working leaven into the dough. It is our joy to also remember the areas where the working of that dough is just beginning.

A new diocese is emerging in Eastern DR Congo – it will be called Lac Tanginika. We introduced you to Bishop Elisha Tendwa in the Spring 2021 edition of *inMission*. Coming from Tanzania to support the mission of the Church in DR Congo, he has made a journey from home to the unknown, similar to the one that William Haddow made 100 years ago. Working with marginalised people groups and remote rural parishes, Bishop Elisha is also leading the Church to break common boundaries.

Recently, CMSI was able to facilitate support from the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland for the burgeoning Diocese of Lac Tanginika, to purchase motorbikes for the four archdeacons along with some bicycles. Bishop Tendwa shared the testimony of one of the archdeacons:

“It is truly when you are serving God in love and faithfulness that you receive blessings from him. Our eyes never expected to see this miracle to receive motorbikes for pastoral visits, because for a long time we were walking by foot for long distances. Now it will be easier and happier to serve God’s people. Ecclesiastes 3:1,4 says “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.” We thank God that the time arrived for us as church ministers to dance for this gift we received.”

The people of God will spread his grace and peace ever wider with the new transport in Eastern DR Congo. Many of our Global Partners continue to cross boundaries through prison ministry. And so grows the Kingdom of God, which is like leaven worked through dough.

After the centenary celebrations, Bishop Moses of Maridi Diocese signed off a recent email: “I am now available for a further page of a new 100 years.” This is what the Kingdom of God is like.



Linda Abwa
Partnership Coordinator

Image: Archdeacons receiving their new motorbikes in DR Congo

pigging out

Kingdom investments in Uganda

The Kingdom of God is like a pig-rearing project in Uganda.

In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), we discover that God's Kingdom may require us to get our hands dirty and to have the foresight to invest in the future. This is certainly a lesson being learned by young people in the Diocese of Luweero, who have been taking part in a pig-rearing project during Uganda's recent lockdown.

Schools in Uganda opened in January for the first time in almost two years. During the long lockdown, some lessons continued remotely but not everyone had access to these, especially in rural areas. Luweero Diocese decided to do something to keep young people busy, to teach them new skills and to enable them to earn some funds towards their tuition fees when schools reopened. Many parents' incomes were hit badly by the pandemic, and most were finding it difficult to raise money for school fees.

The Children and Youth Department of the diocese identified young people from 12 different parishes, all of whom had to take part in training before being allocated some animals. The training involved construction and cleaning of pens, immunisation and feeding the animals.

Bishop Eridard writes:

"The day of pig distribution brought much excitement. Each young person was given two pigs and those who formed groups were given up to five animals. The project has been a real success and has provided an income for students, but has also kept beneficiaries busy, rather than loitering around during



lockdown. We are so thankful to CMSI for providing the funds for the first phase of the project - it has been a huge blessing."

The parable of the talents reminds us that God has given each of us talents and resources to use for His kingdom. This investment into young people in Luweero Diocese was made possible by the foresight of an individual who, some years ago, left a considerable legacy for Children in Uganda. Why not consider blessing the global Church by including a gift to CMSI in your will? It's a great way to plant kingdom seeds that will bear fruit for years to come.



Gillian Maganda
Personnel Manager

kingdom perspectives

Heavenly voices from South Sudan

On her recent visit to South Sudan, Jenny Smyth invited three of CMSI's partner bishops to share some perspectives on the Kingdom of God.

"The Kingdom of God reflects the happiness and joy of being together under God as King. In the Kingdom of God we will always be in a place where we lack nothing, we will have happiness and joy, no pain, no suffering – it is a joyous place."

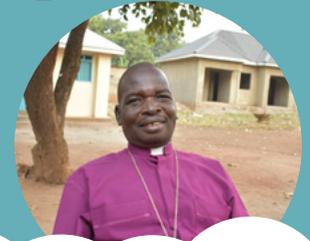
Bishop Levi Marandulu (Yei Diocese)



"The Kingdom of God is the rule of God in people's heart, life and conduct. When they trust God, the Kingdom of God has come to that person. If you are not ruled by God, you have not really come to Him. It is living according to His will."

"The Kingdom of God on earth is looking for the peace of God. God's Kingdom is peaceful and we enjoy everlasting peace... not like what we have in South Sudan."

Bishop Tandema Obed (Olo Diocese)



"The Kingdom of God is the extension of the Gospel. The Kingdom of God is not far, it is within us – God should rule in our hearts, His work takes precedence in our lives. We live not for ourselves, but for Him, we work according to His programme, not to the worlds. It is Jesus in us."

"The Kingdom of God is where we love one another, where we forgive one another and where we pray for one another and we have respect for God's word."

Bishop Wilson Kamani (Ibba Diocese)



kingdom treasures

Living witnesses in rural Nepal

The Kingdom of God is like two women who gave up the bright lights and fashions of city life to serve a poor and marginalised community in Nepal.

Nisha Praja and Sulochana Thakuri are two social mobilisers working for Human Development and Community Services (HDCS) in Chitwan District. They have given up their full and vibrant social lives in Kathmandu in order to work in community health.

The Chepang people group is one of the most isolated ethnic groups in Nepal. They are often described as the poorest of the poor. They live in the remote hills of Central Nepal, in areas unreached and untouched by development. Their communities are often located across rivers that have no bridges, making them

inaccessible during the monsoons. Their culture is deeply rooted in traditional practices which act as a powerful barrier to change. For example, many Chepang people prefer to remain sick instead of visiting hospitals, which are generally perceived to be far away and too costly. Young people are blighted by low socio-economic status, poor hygiene, alcoholism, early marriages and teen pregnancies.

HDCS identified the need for community health interventions in the region. They set up a Public Health Programme, linked with Gunjaman Hospital, Chitwan (one of three



rural community hospitals run by HDCS across Nepal) and they recruited Nisha and Sulochana. The pair chose to sacrifice a life of comfort to live among unfamiliar, underprivileged and impoverished people. In doing so, they have demonstrated a commitment and motivation that has set them apart and has helped bring transformation to the community.

Although Nisha grew up in Kathmandu, she herself belongs to the Chepang ethnic group. Her motivation springs from a negative experience she had in one of her Social Studies classes, when her teacher described Chepang people as "a group who collect excrement for a living". She claims that this memory is strongly imbedded in her mind and it has propelled her to become an agent for change.

Together with Sulochana, the two women got to know local residents by offering a helping hand with daily household chores and striking up conversations. They ran community educational sessions on kitchen gardening, health and hygiene; they promoted the free health services available at Gunjaman Hospital

"The pair chose to sacrifice a life of comfort to live among unfamiliar, underprivileged and impoverished people."

through telephone calls and home visits, so that no one was left behind in pain and suffering. This has led to a change in behaviour amongst the Chepang people, who are now encouraged to access healthcare through timely follow-up and counselling.

In spite of all the challenges, Nisha and Sulochana's drive and enthusiasm remain intact and they are now loved and accepted by the Chepang community. As HDCS Executive Director Kapil Sharma comments, "We are blessed to have found two treasures that support each other and the vision and mission of HDCS: to be living witnesses of God's love and transform communities".



Roger Thompson
Partnership Coordinator

taking care in rwanda

Signs of the Kingdom in Shyogwe Diocese

When we seek God's kingdom in our midst, it should have far reaching consequences for individuals, for relationships, for wider society and for the environment. Marcel Sebahire – the head of the Education and Youth Department in Shyogwe – shares two recent signs of how the Church is helping people to care for one another and for creation.

The Kingdom of God is like a group of 60 men and women discussing gender-based violence.

On 12th November, the Family Life and Evangelism departments of Shyogwe Diocese carried out a workshop on counteracting violence against women, children and teenage girls. 33 men and their wives attended the workshop to discuss how to make a peaceful family with good relationships.

The discussions including topics such as: different types of violence; laws against adultery; respecting agreements made at both religious and civil wedding; the commandment of love and mutual respect between couples.

A group of men and a group of women were formed to discuss these issues. After a group discussion, they all came together for a plenary session and enumerated the possible causes of family conflicts and violence, going on to provide some solutions. Each group was encouraged to observe their responsibilities and to promote a culture of mutual support, promoting peace in the family. "Any kind of violence should be avoided", said one of the resource persons. All participants resolved to go back in their families and make changes.



The Kingdom of God is like a group of young people planting trees.

On 13th January, the Shyogwe Youth Department celebrated Youth Climate Day, with over 150 young people planting more than 1500 trees.

After the planting, the young people were addressed by Pastor Ntarindwa Viateur - Executive Secretary of the Rural Development Inter-Diocesan Service. He explained the importance of protecting the environment and the dire consequences that await the entire planet if climate change is not mitigated.

Bishop Jered Kalimba also spoke, warning that we must care for all creation as we care for ourselves. "Plants are sensitive like we are", he explained "and we should treat them with the knowledge that they are sensitive and that they need protection like we need it."

deep connections

The blessings of true partnership



On 7th December, a fire ripped through Gitega prison in Burundi in the early hours. Built to accommodate 600 inmates in several wards, there were over 1600 prisoners. In the ensuing chaos, several people perished and many more were badly burnt.

On hearing the terrible news, I asked Bishop Aimé Joseph (Gitega Diocese) what support would be most needed. He asked for funds to purchase blankets. After hasty arrangements, he received a donation from CMSI, purchased blankets and delivered them to the prison.

Shortly after this episode, Bishop Aimé Joseph wrote:

"Thank you so much for the support during these hard times. We provided 90 blankets to the prisoners and gave them a message of hope and comfort. You enabled us to preach by words and actions at the right time. We thank God that CMSI has always been on our side."

It is amazing that we were able to respond to this tragedy within 24 hours. It is a mark of a longstanding partnership of trust, enabled by the vision and generosity of God's people working together as a worldwide family.

In January, I travelled with Billy to South Sudan, where we had previously served as CMSI Mission Partners. Shortly after arriving back in Yei, I wrote

the following reflection, which seems as relevant for CMSI's partnership with Gitega Diocese and indeed with all our Global Partners...

The reality of belonging to this worldwide family of all who follow Jesus is bought home again. A network of people offering practical help and support, navigating complex local systems and warm-hearted welcomes at each stage of the journey. But more precious than all of this is the deep connection of family ties, shared purpose and allegiance to one Heavenly Father.

Through all the challenges of our human experience in this fallen world, when we disagree, fall out or find ourselves at cross purposes, we can seek our common foundation and start to rebuild. We can call on the extraordinary power of forgiveness, of grace and of undaunted hope as known to us in Christ. There is potential all around, we need to listen to the wisdom of God so that we can walk in step with Him, guided and strengthened by His Spirit, as we seek to see Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.



Jenny Smyth
Mission Director



embracing new challenges

Settling-in to service in Uganda

The Kingdom of God is like a young physio couple serving alongside the Church in Uganda.

At the beginning of January, Tom and Gemma Withers departed Belfast for an eight-month Short-Term Experience Placement at Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda. Both are young in their career journeys, and had previously been on short-term mission teams. Increasingly, they began to sense God's call to develop their engagement in mission by living and working with one of CMSI's Global Partners.

For many of their colleagues and friends, it may have seemed a little crazy to step away from busy, secure and well-paid jobs in the midst of a global pandemic. But both Tom and Gemma had a quiet confidence that God was at work in their lives and they were prepared to humbly surrender to His leading to work in a small part of God's kingdom. So off they headed into the unknown...

Tom gives us a flavour of how their first few weeks have been in Uganda:

"The first week of our time in Kiwoko was certainly eventful. After a tour of the hospital grounds and surrounding area on our second day, we found ourselves being taken to watch a Caesarean section in theatre!

Our first working week was a big challenge, especially as we hadn't worked or needed to get up early for the past three months. We were moving into a new team of two physios, trying to understand their responsibilities within the hospital, while working in a completely new

Images: Tom in the physio department at Kiwoko Hospital

"We have been blown away by how kind and welcoming everyone has been."

culture and way of work. This, in addition to starting to learn some of the local language (Luganda) and learning how to manage the variable electricity supply led to a long and tiring week. We definitely felt that we needed to lean on God more than ever.

So, in the days we were working and in the evenings I became an exterminator of all things insect. For the majority of the first week, we were battling ants and cockroaches everywhere we looked. Not to mention the appearance of a mouse in our second week, which has since been evicted! I am glad to report this has all settled and home is starting to feel more homely and like our own space.

Work is still presenting a challenge, however overall this is positive. We are working with the team to understand how we can expand the role of a physiotherapist within Kiwoko Hospital and help restart projects which were unfortunately waylaid by Covid-19. We have already developed and presented an advice sheet for patients with Covid-19 or other breathing conditions which will be distributed from the outpatient department and there are a few more areas we are excited to explore as we go forward.

Gemma has enjoyed spending time on NICU (neo-natal intensive care unit), where she has found lots of physio needs. I have also picked up a project to develop people's understanding of back pain and the management of this. I am currently aiming this at people working within the hospital, as reportedly a large amount of the staff are struggling with this.

We have been blown away by how kind and welcoming everyone has been here and how 'God

Image: Gemma developing her hand washing skills



loving' everyone is. Of course, this is more likely to happen when you work at a Christian mission hospital but it is so very different from the NHS. Being able to go to morning prayer before work and praying before you go to lunch every day shows just how close faith is to work here.

Overall, we are in a good place, enjoying being challenged by work, loving living in Kiwoko and excited for the plans to come. We really thank God for looking after us this last month and can't believe how much can change in three weeks!

In Matthew 23:11-12, Jesus gives his followers some insights into the values of his kingdom:

"The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

When the world encourages us to chase after the latest promotion or the highest paying job, Jesus leads us on the path of descent. In God's Kingdom, the lowly, the foolish and the despised are given pride of place. As Tom and Gemma are discovering, God's kingdom is not about us or our attempts at achievement - but it's about God and what He wants to do in and through us, if we are willing.



Gillian Maganda
Personnel Manager

snippets

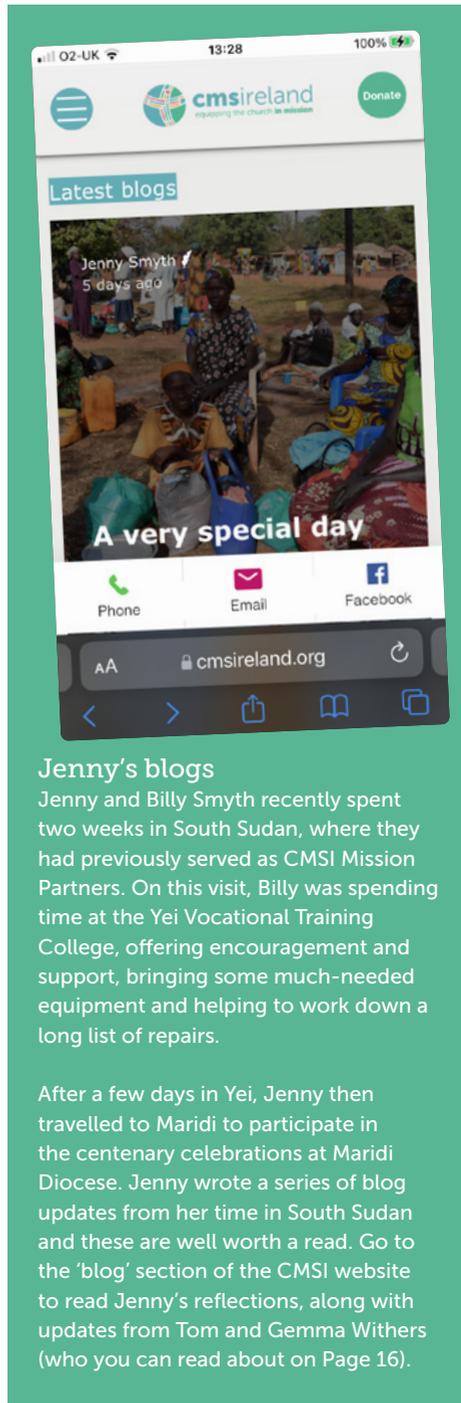
cmsi news in brief



Welcome to Wendy

On Monday 31st January, Wendy Houston joined the CMSI staff team as interim Administration Coordinator. Wendy is covering for Megan Totten, who is now on maternity leave. Wendy has been a CMSI supporter over many years and, in 2021, she was a 'virtual volunteer' with CMSI - teaching children online with Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC) in Nepal.

Wendy is excited about the opportunity to join the CMSI team and sees this role as a chance to serve CMSI and our partners in a fruitful and meaningful way. Please pray for her as she continues to settle into her role and gets to know the team. Pray too for Megan and her husband Ricky, as they move into this new phase of family life.



Jenny's blogs

Jenny and Billy Smyth recently spent two weeks in South Sudan, where they had previously served as CMSI Mission Partners. On this visit, Billy was spending time at the Yei Vocational Training College, offering encouragement and support, bringing some much-needed equipment and helping to work down a long list of repairs.

After a few days in Yei, Jenny then travelled to Maridi to participate in the centenary celebrations at Maridi Diocese. Jenny wrote a series of blog updates from her time in South Sudan and these are well worth a read. Go to the 'blog' section of the CMSI website to read Jenny's reflections, along with updates from Tom and Gemma Withers (who you can read about on Page 16).

Dearly departed

Over recent weeks, we have received the sad news of the passing of a number of long-term members of the CMSI family.



For many years, **Dorothy Adair** served as a CMSI Parish Rep in St Mark's Dundela, distributing magazines, helping to lead the mission prayer group

and encouraging support for CMSI's partners in Burundi, South Sudan and Kenya. Dorothy's 'tin initiative' has helped raise funds for the Urban Development Programme in Nairobi.

Ken Baker also served as a CMSI Parish Rep in his home parish of Delgany and he played an active part in supporting the parish's partnership link with South Sudan.

In addition to being a CMSI member and supporter in his own right, **Rev Canon Eric Kingston** led a parish with a strong link with CMSI. During his time as Rector of Annahilt and Magherahamlet, Rev Canon Kingston helped to encourage the Sunday Schools in both churches to engage with the CMSI Lenten Project (what we now call the Children's Resource). That

tradition continues today under the leadership of Rev Canon Robert Howard who conducted Eric's funeral on 11th February. We're immensely grateful for the kindness and generosity of Eric's family, who asked that donations be made to CMSI in lieu of funeral flowers.

January saw the passing of Bishop Brian Hannon, who was a former President of CMS in Ireland and who was instrumental in the establishment of CMS Ireland as an independent organisation. You can read a tribute to Bishop Brian on the CMSI website.

Please do pray for the families and friends of Dorothy, Ken, Eric and Brian – and indeed for the families of all those members of the CMSI family who have died over the past year. As a society that champions long-term relationships within the global Church, we thank God for the numerous individuals that have faithfully walked alongside CMSI and our partners over many years. We honour their commitment to God and His mission.



Kingdom Kids

After a slight delay, CMSI's new Children's Resource has been launched and the material is now available to view and download from the CMSI website. There are Bible stories and activities relating to 'kingdom kids' in the Bible, including Miriam, Samuel and Josiah. There are also some video stories about kingdom kids in the global Church, with more of these video stories to be added throughout March. To access the material, please register for Kingdom Kids via the Children's Resource page on the CMSI website.



CMSI Members' Day 2022
Saturday 26th March, 11am -3:30pm
Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin

Stories & updates; Worship, prayer, fellowship & lunch; Annual General Meeting

This is an in-person gathering, but there will also be an option to join online for part of the programme.

Find out more at:
cmsireland.org/events

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

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