

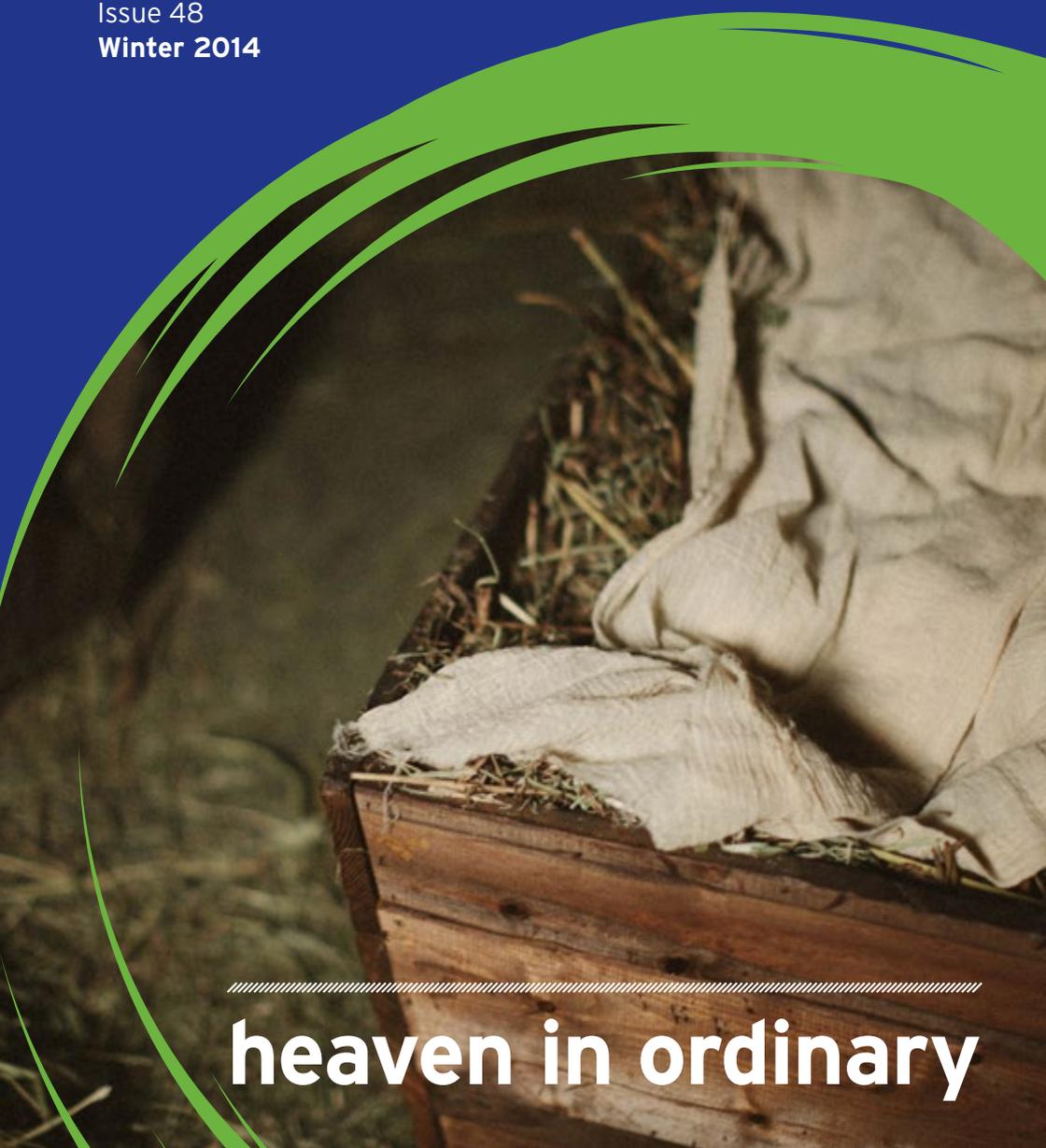
inmission



the magazine of **cms**ireland

Issue 48

Winter 2014



heaven in ordinary

our people partners and staff

Global Partners (by country)

Burundi Dioceses of Gitega & Matana

DR Congo Dioceses of Bukavu, Kindu & N. Kivu

Egypt Diocese of Egypt

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 & Yei

Uganda Dioceses of Luwero & Madi West Nile

Zambia Diocese of Northern Zambia

Mission Partners

Rory & Denise Wilson, with Gideon [Luwero Diocese, Uganda]

Paul & Tania Baker [Luwero Diocese, Uganda]

STEP Volunteer

Lisa Young [Luwero Diocese, Uganda]

Mission Associates

Isabelle Prondzynski [UDP, Kenya]

Deirdre & Mark Zimmerman, with Zachary & Benjamin [Nepal]

Alison Gill [Province of Burundi]

Staff

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Rachel Brittain Mission Resource Coordinator

Anne Buckley Finance Assistant

Jenny Christie Administration Coordinator

Roger Cooke Mission Resource Manager

Brian Lavery Finance Manager

Gillian Maganda Personnel Coordinator

Jenny Smyth Partnership Coordinator

Kelly Yates Partnership Coordinator

heaven in ordinary



Welcome to this Winter edition of inMission - the theme of which reflects the timing of its publication. St Andrew's Day and the beginning of Advent both draw our attention to the way in which God often works out His perfect, eternal plans through the unspectacular and the ordinary.

In the pages of our Gospels, Andrew rarely grabs the headlines - he's not the obvious choice of an influential disciple. But on three occasions, we see that he was someone who brought people to Jesus. He was the epitome of simple, yet radically transforming, service.

Advent helps us prepare for the celebration of 'Emmanuel, God with us'. The message of Christ's Incarnation is that the fullness of Heaven took up residence for a while in the mundane, gritty, reality of our world. As John puts it, 'The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.'

As we engage in mission, you and I are encouraged to look for - and to recognise - God's Kingdom in our midst and to help others to do the same. Further still, we're each called to be living examples of heaven in ordinary, as the Sovereign God continues to work in and through us. May the following stories encourage and inspire you to keep your eyes open and to play your part as an ordinary angel.



Roger Cooke
Editor

pass it on

a call to simple sharing

'Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.' **John 1:40-42**

Come and see what I have seen! That is such a human response to something that has caused great excitement. Andrew wanted to share his experience with his brother - a simple act that has had such global consequences. This still remains the best way to share the Gospel. Someone being excited about what they have experienced - and sharing it with others.

As we have been celebrating 200 years of CMS in Ireland, we have been very conscious of all those faithful people over the years who have done exactly the same - they were excited about what God was doing through CMS Ireland and so they shared it with others. We still need people to do exactly that - to be like Andrew and try to influence other people, in our churches and families, to get involved with what CMS Ireland is doing and to play their part in God's global mission.

There are so many ways to engage with CMS Ireland, but it needs the excitement of only one person to spark the interest of another person. Personal contact and a personal relationship mean much more than plans and strategies, and what could be more simple, more 'ordinary', than

sharing good news with our friends and families?

As you read stories in this inMission of ordinary people doing ordinary things, I hope that you too will be blessed by what God can do through us when we are faithful to His Word. We never know what impact our actions can have, but being excited about what God has done and telling someone else can indeed be the start of a significant transformation in the lives of those around us.

As we celebrate St Andrew's Day and move into the Season of Advent, it is my hope that we too, would allow God to work through our ordinary actions. I pray too that we'd be so inspired and excited about what CMS Ireland is doing with parishes in Ireland and with our Global Partners, that we feel compelled to find others and share these things with them.

So, read on with an open mind and an open heart. Listen to what God is saying... and respond with excitement.



Ronnie Briggs

small steps, big kingdom

lessons in transformation

One of the many blessings of CMS Ireland's 'Partnership' approach is the opportunity it affords us, in Ireland, to hear inspiring stories of God at work in other places. Typically, these tales of transformation result from God's people doing ordinary, simple things in response to the needs they encounter. This is a mission model for all of us – not just to admire, but to practice. Here are two such examples.

Alice, Uganda

Rev Alice Bayo is the Community Development Coordinator for the Mothers' Union in Madi West Nile Diocese, Uganda. She has a heart to see the lives of teenage girls transformed. Young girls growing up in the Arua area face many challenges due to poverty and lack of opportunities for secure work. Teenage pregnancies are very common and young girls find it very difficult to raise children in these circumstances.

As part of her work, Rev Alice visits many schools to talk to girls about relationships, health issues and the importance of education. She tries to share with the girls that often our lives involve change and it is the managing of that change that is important. As Alice herself observes,

'Our lives are often a transition - moving from one place to another. Transition implies change and movement, something that brings challenge, excitement and renewed energy. But equally, transition can be a frustrating time of waiting, a time that unsettles us in the not knowing. It can cause us to reach out to God, seeking some sense of guidance, meaning and purpose in life.'



Rev Alice Bayo

It's this thinking that has compelled Rev Alice to help young girls look forward to something better for their lives. She works tirelessly across the diocese with a positive message for girls to give them a strong foundation for not only family life but in their relationship with God.

Rev Alice doesn't see herself as being special in any way. She feels called by God to this ministry, and just tries to take small steps every day. But this work is already having – and will continue to have – a major impact on family life in this part of Uganda.

'This work has given me a time to be still and take stock of my own life - to see where God would lead me in my own walk with him.'

What a challenge for all of us! To see and appreciate how our daily work can impact our personal lives – and to learn from that. Rev Alice might be taking small steps, but they are going a long way.



Esther, Lucy, Mary and Isabelle (Kenya)

Above: Esther Munjiru

In 1991, a meeting between four women saw the foundations being laid for what would become the Urban Development Programme (UDP) of All Saints' Cathedral, Nairobi. Their names were Esther Munjiru, Lucy Irungu, Mary Wanjiku and Isabelle Prondzynski - three Kenyans and one Irishwoman who wanted to make a difference.

Esther's story mirrors that of many others in that community. In her late teens, she came to Nairobi to look for a job. For some months, she was a packer in an industrial enterprise, then she settled down to work with an English family. When the family returned to England, Esther went to live in Kibagare slum, looking for odd jobs with the wealthy families nearby. She got married and raised four children, all of whom were still very young when, in 1990, the slum they lived in was demolished and all the houses burnt. At a stroke, thousands were made homeless. Lucy and her own family were also among those affected.

Esther, Lucy and some of the other families were eventually carted away to Kayole on the other side of Nairobi and given a small plot of land in a wide, open and empty space. As soon as they had put up some shelters, they made sure that the small children could be taught in a little rented room - and so the **Urban Development Programme** was born.

At that meeting in 1991, the four women - all of them Christians, with a strong faith in a God of hope and transformation - discussed how best to offer help to the 350 families in the community. Soon, Tujisaidie Self-Help Group was started and the group identified its priorities: latrines, water, food for the children in the nursery school, and medical help.

All of these issues were addressed, one by one, with the help of CMS Ireland and various donors. But it was the community members who did most of the hard work: digging the pits for the latrines; digging trenches for the water pipes; making crafts for sale in Kenya and abroad; building and funding the school over many years to its current state as a Primary School catering for every year group. Throughout, the four 'founders' have been instrumental in encouraging and mobilising others.

God continues to do incredible things through the UDP, which is now one of CMS Ireland's Global Partners. In this impoverished, marginalised community on the outskirts of Nairobi, God's Kingdom is being revealed and extended - and the vision and commitment of four ordinary women is being realised.

trevor

a tribute to an ordinary angel

Mark and Deirdre Zimmerman are CMS Ireland Mission Associates, working in Nepal. In their latest Link Letter, Mark shared something of his recent visit to an old friend in County Mayo – someone who will be well known to many of our long-term supporters. Here's an extract from that letter (the full version is available on our website) - something to challenge us about our potential to influence and inspire others.



L-R: Dr. Trevor Strong, Dr. Mark Zimmerman, Dr. Frank Garlick (1998)

I first met Trevor Strong in 1987. I'd come to Nepal to work as a volunteer doctor and he was the director of a mission hospital on the outskirts of Kathmandu. He was a large, engaging man with a shock of pure white hair and a quick smile, his boyish lilt and gestures belying his 70 years.

Trevor invited me back to his house for dinner and I met his wife Patricia. In tandem, they ushered me into their apartment, one bringing out snacks and drinks while the other gave me a seat of honor and dove into conversation. From the start we were like old friends. I asked about their lives and together they told me stories that fed my imagination.

After growing up in Ireland, they'd met in medical school during the Second World War and were posted to a hospital in London during the Blitz. They fell in love and got engaged, making their marriage conditional upon both being accepted to go overseas as medical missionaries. They came to India in 1947 just after its Partition and had to be escorted by soldiers over an embattled land up to the Duncan Hospital on the India-Nepal border. Finding that the institution had been mothballed during the War, they proceeded to revitalize the hospital and its staff.

I'd originally planned to stay in Nepal for only four months, but was soon captivated by the place. When Trevor, who was my boss at Patan Hospital, asked if I'd like to be posted for another



Entranceway to the Duncan Hospital, Ruxaul, India



The Zimmermans

year in a hospital in the mountains, I jumped at the idea. After my first two years in Asia - which were the last of the Strongs' 40 years - I signed on long-term to continue working in Nepal.

In the winter of 1998, on the eve of my taking the job as Director of Patan Hospital, I arranged for a short retreat to the Strongs' cottage in Ireland. I came in from walks in the countryside to sit beside their peat fire and talk. They listened to my concerns. We prayed. Hearty meals appeared one after another. I returned to Nepal feeling ready to plunge into the challenge that awaited me. Their string of aerogrammes extended the conversation and prayer that I'd experienced in their home.



He spoke of Jesus like the Lord had taken residence in a client room just down the hall.

In 1999, Trevor wrote that he'd like to come to Nepal and India one last time - to bid goodbye to his old friends. Patricia was not strong enough to make the journey. One afternoon during that trip, Trevor and I took a short picnic hike during which I screwed up the courage to tell him about my romantic hopes for a seemingly reluctant Irish woman. "You met her last night, Trevor. She's Deirdre Lloyd." His face lit up and his voice turned conspiratorial. "Well, obviously you've chosen well, and not a bad looking girl either. Don't be deterred, Mark. It's the man's job to assure a woman of his love and to remove any shred of

doubt in her mind." A little over a year later, Trevor gave the sermon at our wedding in a country church south of Dublin.

During our trip to Ireland this summer, I visited Trevor in Foxford. I heard his voice from down the hallway. The attendant at the Nursing Home murmured my name, and he said to her, "Oh my! Mark Zimmerman! Well you have brought tidings of great joy. Mark's a dear old friend." She pushed Trevor into the room. He'd lost a great deal of his vitality since I last saw him six years before. His voice was now childlike; his body sunk into the wheelchair.

After I laid aside my initial sadness, I found him in the most important way unchanged. He took my hand in his or slapped me on the knee with a laugh to emphasize his appreciation of something I said. He spoke of Jesus like the Lord had taken residence in a client room just down the hall. "He doesn't keep me at a distance, our Lord, not just some high-and-mighty far-off God." We prayed twice during my visit, conversation melding with prayer.

Seeing our families in their houses this summer, settled in lands that appear familiar, all of them getting on with their careers, their friendships and growing kids - leads me to consider our unexpectedly long run here in Nepal and to wonder about 'home'. How all these folks like Trevor have come to feel like kin. What our final destination will be like - towering Himalaya or tidy farms nestled by the sea. And whether there will be someone there to welcome us in, sit us down with a lilting laugh, and maybe slap us on the knee in partnership.

out of africa... into africa

God's call back to kenya

Maggie Briggs shares news of a new chapter for her and Ronnie, as they prepare to return to Mission Partner service in Kenya.



When we returned from Kenya to Ireland in September 2010, so that Ronnie could take up the post of Mission Director, we began settling-in with the long-term - and eventually retirement - in mind. Little did we know that God had a whole new chapter awaiting us in Kenya with retirement fading into the distant horizon! Sometimes, I think that He has a great sense of humour.

It seems that God knew He would have to work on us slowly, as the first seeds were sown in our minds and it began to dawn on us that we were possibly going to be uprooted yet again. Through this process of being called by God, He has spoken to us through verses from the Bible and devotionals and also used different individuals along the way. We asked Him to confirm this to us both together and individually to ensure we had heard correctly.

Last year, we were visiting Kenya when a Mothers' Union worker called me aside and asked me to consider how I could help the

Maasai women in the area where we were staying. Their quality of life is quite poor and they have no means of raising any kind of income except through their beadwork, but they have no way of selling this. I was quite taken aback because this was part of the ministry I felt God was calling me to and she had no way of knowing this! How amazing is our God?

Ronnie has also been challenged in similar ways and this culminated in us offering ourselves as Mission Partners to CMS Ireland for service in Kenya. Having just completed a selection process, we are delighted to have been accepted and are now working our way through medicals and all the various stages involved in preparation for leaving early next year.

We are returning to the Diocese of Kajiado at an exciting time in their ministry, when they have such growth in the Church. There are 40 parishes across the diocese with over 200 congregations worshipping on any given Sunday. With only 70 ordained pastors you can see the



challenge that faces the diocese. How do they cope with such growth?

As the Church spreads throughout Kajiado, so the physical needs of people become apparent, and the diocese cannot ignore these situations. Ronnie and I will be involved in a new diocesan initiative called **sowingSEEDs** - starting with a few small, 'ordinary' ideas in the hope that they can grow into something of great value. These ideas will include: **Serving** communities to help improve their quality of life; **Equipping** church leaders for mission; **Education** to give people an ownership of their livelihood; **Development**, with a particular emphasis on water and health provision.

Throughout this process, we have been continually reminded how God can use us as ordinary people who are willing to follow His calling. We have no idea what we will accomplish in the years ahead, but we do know we can only do it as He leads and equips us to follow His plan. What a privilege! Please pray for us as we continue with the preparation process for this next move.

Mission Director Recruitment

Obviously, a call back to Kenya for Ronnie and Maggie has implications for the leadership of CMS Ireland and for the staff team. A letter from Ronnie was enclosed with this edition of inMission. If you didn't receive a copy of that letter and would like us to send one to you, please get in touch.

In recent weeks, the CMS Ireland Trustees have been working hard to put together a recruitment process for a new Mission Director. Details are available on our website. In the meantime, the Chair of the Board, Bishop Alan Abernethy, offers the following tribute to Ronnie, as his time in the Mission Director role draws to an end.



I have known Ronnie for more than a decade and it has been a joy to work, pray and laugh with him in many different contexts. He and Maggie helped me in a parish context to develop a mission partnership with Kajiado Diocese that was invaluable to the local church here. I have worked with him in Kajiado and observed his amazing ability to understand and affirm the local church. He also enabled the local church in its engagement with the needs of the communities it served, working especially with the people of Kajiado.

Ronnie has always been a team player, an encourager and someone of deep personal faith lived out in the church community. In CMS Ireland, he has given leadership, direction and encouragement to the staff, to the board and to our Global Partners, not least as we celebrated 200 years of mission and service.

We have been blessed by Ronnie's leadership and we assure him and Maggie of our love and prayers as they begin a new chapter in service of the mission God has called us all to.



Grace and peace,
+ Alan Connor.

short-term visits, long-term gains

Every year, CMS Ireland facilitates a number of Short-Term Experience Placements (STEPs) with our Global Partners. It may be easy to think that not much can change in a three-week visit – or even a nine-month placement – but these experiences often change people in ways that continue to have an impact for many, many years.



Lisa and Gideon

Lisa Young
(currently on an 8-month
STEP in Uganda)

God is good. He is a refuge in time of trouble. He does care for us. But we must trust him. We must replace fear with faith and self-pity with God-focused trust. (Robert J. Morgan)

My journey - from enquiring about the job at Kiwoko, to the interview with CMS Ireland, to accepting, to preparing, packing and saying goodbye to family and friends - is still a bit of a blur. However I will never forget sitting on the plane and feeling Jesus' words in John 13:7 really come alive for me: "You don't understand now what I am doing but some day you will."

My main role in Kiwoko is teaching Rory and Denise Wilson's son Gideon. He is bubbly, bright and full of energy. He keeps me on my toes and I certainly learn a lot from him, just as I can see he is learning from our time in class. The Wilson family have been a constant source of support and encouragement and it's a real honour to fulfil the role of being Gideon's teacher.



"God has allowed me to be His vessel"

In addition to teaching the children of Kiwoko at the local Sunday school and helping with a monthly children's programme, I also work three afternoons a week in the hospital laboratory school, teaching ICT. This role has been a great opportunity for me to get to know other Ugandans and to be pushed out of my 'primary school trained' zone.

My other role involves working alongside two wonderful nurses from the Hospital, Sekyewa Frank and Annet, leading a student bible study programme for the nurses and lab students once a week. It has been a real blessing to work alongside Frank and Annet who faithfully serve God and have a desire for the students to understand God's love for them.

From the moment I landed in Uganda I have been adopted into the Kiwoko way of life and it is clear that God has His hand on me being here. Before coming to Uganda, a friend said to me, "God is about to take you somewhere that you could not go on your own." Those words have been both a challenge and a comfort, they keep me relying on Him and His provision but also remind me that I am not doing this in my own strength. I am so thankful that God has allowed me to be His vessel in the wonderful place that is Kiwoko and I am very much looking forward to the rest of my journey here!



Chris talking to a school group in Arua

Chris MacBruithin

Madi West Nile Diocese (Uganda)

Chris, a Church of Ireland Ordinand, recently carried out his ministry placement in Madi West Nile Diocese (Uganda), where he spent three weeks with his wife, Sarah.

The day starts early in Uganda. Many a morning, Rev. Collins picked us up for a 7am start. That's one way to make sure you see those famous African sunrises!

On weekdays, we visited schools and were amazed at the openness to sharing about Jesus. We felt like royal visitors turning up to waving, singing, dancing, smiling children. We thought Ireland was famous for its hospitality - but the Emerald Isle has a lot to learn from the Pearl of Africa! Everywhere we went, we were fed the famous staple enyasa, a sticky starch, with bananas, sweet potatoes, rice, beans, chicken and meat. Our hosts made sure we didn't come home any thinner!

A highlight for me was a day of home communions for sick and housebound parishioners. That was a great insight into ordained life and ministry,

the privilege of entering someone's home and ministering to them by word and sacrament.

Sunday services were lively and there could easily be 900 people at the first service alone. I'm not sure I'll ever preach to such numbers again! I did get hot under the surplice, especially in the third service in a row - around midday.

I learned a lot on the trip. I learned that Africa is green and lush. I learned that ordained ministry involves long days and hard work. And I learned that in a short space of time, you can come to really love people, you can forget that you're from very different cultures and look different colours, because God has made us all one family.

It was an incredible experience that I wish all fellow-ordinands could have, to see the vibrancy and faithfulness of the Church in a country like Uganda. We have a lot to learn from our brothers and sisters there. When we left, our Ugandan friends asked if we'd come back as missionaries. But our feeling was we have more need of a few of them over here!

together in mission

As Ronnie points out in his reflection on Page 3, enthusiasm for mission is infectious. These two stories show how each of us can influence others to get involved and make a difference.



Amos from Shyogwe with members of St Donard's Mission Committee - Rhonda, Hilary and Betty

St Donard's Mission Committee

St. Donard's Parish Church, Belfast, has always been a mission-based church and we have a long history of support for CMS Ireland. From the outset, we had a committee who raised money for the the Society to enable it to respond to different needs in other parts of the world.

More recently, as the committee changed, the preference was to have a personal Partnership Link, initially supporting Dr Brownlie in Kiwoko Hospital, then the Stockleys followed by the Maganda family in Cairo.

After a period without a link, we were delighted to establish a new Partnership Link with Shyogwe Diocese in Rwanda in 2011. This link has proved to be inspiring, especially since one of our parishioners and committee members, Rhonda Moroney, made a visit to Shyogwe in 2012 and established personal contacts.

At the end of 2011, the Mission Committee worked with CMS Ireland on the development of a three-year Partnership Plan, which was launched in January 2012. This process, along with Rhonda's visit has helped us have a more focused approach in our prayers and fundraising. Events such as the 'Rail Sale', Murder Mystery evenings and the

annual soup and cheese lunch raises the profile of the work of CMS Ireland and highlights the aims of our three-year plan. Through these fundraisers, we give others the opportunity to support God's work in Rwanda, blessing them as well as those who receive the support.

In the last two years, we have hosted three visitors from Shyogwe - Amos, Bishop Jered and Viateur. These visits have made a great impact on our church community by giving a real insight to the work in Rwanda, e.g. training men in agriculture and women in sewing skills. We have also been encouraged by photos of equipment bought directly from our funds, such as the pastors' motorbikes.

Rhonda's visit has also encouraged others to experience Shyogwe for themselves. Three parishioners are hoping to visit Rwanda in the summer of 2015, as part of a CMS Ireland META.

The St Donard's Mission Committee hope that these links will be further strengthened in the years to come and that more of our younger people will take a deeper interest in mission.

Betty King and Eileen Givans



The Sports Kit arrives in Zambia

Stranmillis Primary School and St Columba's, Knock

In September 2013, Stranmillis Primary School Council was given the task of finding a new home for a surplus sports kit. The council was adamant that children less fortunate than themselves should be the beneficiaries. Being Vice Principal of the school, I was asked if I would assist them in this task.

I am a parishioner in St Columba's Knock, Belfast and I have been involved in a fundraising initiative taken on by this church to support an education project in the Diocese of Northern Zambia. As part of this outreach, the Ipalo META Team from St Columba's, Knock, of which my son was a member, visited Chambisi School in Northern Zambia in July 2012. This school has over one thousand pupils and very few resources - some classes contain up to ninety pupils! On hearing this, the council decided that Chambisi School should be the recipients of the sports kit.

In May 2014, Mr Philip Cheembela, from the Diocese of Northern Zambia, along with Rev John Auchmuty, Rector of St Columba's, attended a special assembly in Stranmillis Primary School to receive the kit and take charge of delivering it to Chambisi School. Mr Cheembela heard the story of where this all started. He spoke of his appreciation for this

gift and how wonderful it would be for all if we were to establish a link between the schools. Mr Cheembela left with two large bags filled with sports attire and he promised to take photographs on arrival.

The photographs arrived in time for the end of year assembly in June. It was humbling to see the huge number of young people standing outside their school in Zambia, observing the opening of two bags and it was a joy to see their reaction as the contents were revealed.

For the pupils and staff of Stranmillis Primary School, there was a great sense of the value of this project. It's given us motivation to investigate how we can further support the children and staff of Chambisi School, while understanding that we have a lot to learn from these pupils.

Myself and Darius Katuka, Vice Principal of Chambisi School, have now communicated via email and are discussing ways in which our schools can strengthen the link established through this event.



Linda Wilson

Vice Principal, Stranmillis PS
Parishioner of St Columba's, Knock

snippets from supporters and staff



CMSI Stamp Collection

From time to time in inMission, we draw your attention to CMS Ireland's stamp collection. Of course, we don't mean this in the traditional sense - we don't have a book of rare or curious specimens to show you. Instead, we gather-in stamps, prepare them (trimming and packing), then send them off to someone who pays us by the weight of stamps.

While it's not a hugely lucrative enterprise, this stamp collection does make a difference, with over £1350 (€1600) raised in the past few years. While we currently have enough stamps to keep our volunteers busy, we'd love more stamps and more volunteers to help boost this income.

Please cut out and save the stamps from any Christmas Cards and mail you get in the coming weeks, then return them in the New Year to either of our offices, either by hand (in a plastic bag or large envelope) or by post. Stamps need to have a bit of a margin around them - neatly trimmed if you have time, but don't worry if it's more 'rough' than that.

We'd also love some more volunteers to help prepare the stamps - something that can easily be done at home, while watching TV or listening to the radio. We'll give you a bag of stamps and some simple instructions. When you've finished the job, simply return the stamps to the office and we'll take it from there. Please contact the office for further details.



Kiwoko Christmas Card

Kiwoko Hospital and Ballyholme Parish in Bangor have once again collaborated to produce an alternative Christmas Card, to help raise funds for the hospital. Cards are 'purchased' (for a suggested donation of £5/€5) and they're then given in lieu of - or as well as - other, more traditional gifts.

This year, the money raised will go towards the purchase of a new Steriliser Unit (for surgical implements) and a new chain-link fence to help secure the hospital compound.

For more information or to order some cards, contact Elaine Elborne of Ballyholme Parish directly (elaineelborn@gmail.com), or contact CMS Ireland's Belfast office.



Christmas Gatherings

In December, the CMS Ireland staff will be hosting two special gatherings of friends and supporters as we enjoy fellowship together and embrace the festive season.

Dublin (Holy Trinity, Rathmines)

Wed 10th December, 12:30pm-2:30pm
Soup lunch and a brief update from CMS Ireland and our partners.

Belfast (CMSI Offices)

Wed 17th December - drop-in any time
between 10:30am and 12:30pm



Mission Partner 'Who's Who'

Over the past 6 years, Andrew Whiteside - a parishioner of Monkstown Parish in Dublin and an archivist by trade - has been working through CMS Ireland archives and other historical publications to compile a biographical index of individuals from Ireland who have served overseas with CMS (or, more recently, CMS Ireland).

Andrew's work is more or less finished and we want to thank him for his dedication and diligence in this monumental undertaking.

We'll have a few draft copies of the index available for inspection at our offices and at upcoming events but we also hope to make the final book available for viewing online. If there's sufficient demand, we'll also explore the possibility of printing copies of the book for sale. Do let us know if this is something that would interest you.

Praying together

We recently received news that a CMS Ireland prayer group in Bangor, that first met in the 1930s, has held its final meeting. On her return from Mission Partner service in Gambia, Sheila Jebb hosted and led the group for a number of years. More recently, the group met in the home of Don and Pat McNutt and was led by Kathleen Bateman. Kenneth and Thelma Hearn were faithful members, right up until Kenneth's recent illness and death - a prayer warrior until his final days.

CMS Ireland is hugely indebted to the faithful prayers and committed support of groups such as this one, the 'North West' prayer group (that meets in Coleraine) and the support groups in Dromore and in Clogher Diocese. Only God knows the full impact of such gatherings, but we're convinced that they have eternal value.

We'd love to see more and more groups springing up throughout Ireland - meeting informally in homes and parishes, to share, to pray and to chat, just as the Bangor group has done over all those years. We simply need willing hosts, to open their homes once every month or two and encourage others to join them in prayer.

Please do get in touch if you'd be willing to host, or keen to attend, a local prayer gathering.



Save the Date: Saturday 18th April 2015;
CMSI Annual Review and AGM; Dublin

Coming
in 2015



Little Lights: CMSI's Annual Project 2015

Resource for Sunday schools and youth groups

Four sessions of original
material for 4-15 year-olds
DVD films, activity workbooks,
leaders guides

Bible stories with mission focus
Opportunities to support
global mission
Themes of 'hope' and 'light'

Launching on 2nd February 2015 at St Mark's, Dundela
Details on website or from offices

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