



inmission

the magazine of cmsireland

Getting Onboard

navigating the waters of justice



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Cover image: Partner visit to Kindu, DRC



stepping onto the raft

A Justice Journey

I recently heard it said that, psychologically speaking, human beings tend to operate out of a world view of fear and scarcity rather than trust and abundance.

Looking around at interactions online or exchanges in the public square (behaviour behind the wheel, even!) this assessment is unnervingly accurate. More often than not, we lack patience. We lack mercy. We lack grace.

Perhaps that is why retribution is our default position when considering issues of justice. Rather than restoring things to their rightful place, vengeful punishment is the goal. After all, it's easier to parse out, easier to measure, easier to detach from.

But the generous justice of God requires something different. Like in the parable of the workers in the vineyard, it can be hard to understand. At times, it can be hard to stomach. It is a continual working out. Not a single act or two to appease guilt. Not something that affirms the 'giver'. No. God's justice requires much from all of us. It is more like a struggle through turbulent waters. More like whitewater

rafting. And for anyone who has braved the rapids will know, it is a risky business.

So, as we continue with our theme of 'wading into justice', we offer you the chance to step onto the boat with us. Here you will read of honest struggles as people face injustices that seem set to overwhelm. You will encounter raw reflections that don't offer an easy route to follow. But here, too, you will find encouragement and hope in the lives of ordinary people.

When my children were little they had a saying: 'sharing is caring'. We hope that in these pages you will benefit from being part of a global family where shared lives and deep care for others is felt. May this witnessing of love in action help us all to do what, as the prophet Micah declared, is required of us.



Emma Lutton
Editor

sifting rice from dirt

Injustice in Action in an Unconventional Winnowing

Nigel Quinn has been connected with CMSI for many years. Travelling to visit a number of our partners and walking alongside the Church in Egypt with his home congregation in Drumbeg, Nigel has witnessed the reality of injustice firsthand. But it is not only in far-flung places that he has encountered injustice.

As a barrister in the courts of Northern Ireland, Nigel was embroiled in the complicated business of justice in practice for 34 years before his retirement. His interest and commitment to justice issues continues today through his involvement in working for, and advocating on behalf of, those on the margins of society, locally and globally, who might otherwise have no voice.

For Nigel it is simple: all people matter to God and so all people must matter to God's people.

This duty to care can be realised in a myriad of different ways. However, it is often difficult to know how to respond when presented with the reality of life. Life is messy. Life is complicated. But that doesn't mean we shy away or deny the difficulties. After all, doesn't that make us part of the problem?

It is from this place of struggle that Nigel shared with us a personal story on his return from Uganda. With no easy answer, we invite you to wrestle with these issues too.

"My visit to Katwe was early in the morning of a damp overcast day during the first rainy season of the year.

I had been to Katwe before; twice in fact, and on both occasions, was significantly impacted by the enormity of the everyday challenges faced by the inhabitants. This visit was no different. The unpaved muddy passageways which run through the area were strewn with rubbish. People slopped through the mud and stagnant water as they went about their business. Ragged children huddled in groups seemingly oblivious to the smells, noises and sights around them. They were not in school. Many were obviously malnourished. They were dressed in rags. Many had no adult figure in their lives. Accommodation often consisted of nothing more than four brick walls covered by a few leaky sheets of corrugated iron. The rain poured through onto those huddled in the dark swampy interior.

It is hard not to be moved by the plight of such people. Many have moved to Katwe under the illusion that it is somewhere they can find a better life. The reality is otherwise, but they are not alone in their suffering. There are so many neighbourhoods like Katwe across the continent of Africa and indeed throughout the world. Millions live similar lives.

The scale of human suffering caused by poverty on our planet is almost incomprehensible. The sheer injustice of it all is hard to grasp. Mahatma Gandhi once observed that "poverty is the worst form of violence". On any visit to the majority world there often comes a moment where the pain faced by one single person suddenly brings this home in sharp relief. We are reminded that,

"poverty is the worst form of violence".



"In his earthly ministry Jesus put the needs of the poor front and centre"

to try and raise the 2000 Uganda shillings (£0.45) per day needed to pay the rent for the shelter where they lived. Susan supplemented this income by going to Kisenyi, an area where trucks offload rice, nuts and maize. She gathered what fell to the ground during these operations and, by way of the process which I witnessed, sought to decontaminate her gleanings which were then bagged and sold. This business earned her about 5000 Uganda shillings (just over a pound sterling) per day. Some of this was sent back to her parents. With the remainder she scraped by. Susan has now returned to Karamoja. She somehow managed to fund this herself and has received some support from a local faith-based organisation. Her baby has been born, but struggles with health issues. Susan remains resourceful. She hopes to become a hairdresser, but continues to live in shocking poverty.

This is not a story with a neat happy ending. The narrative is ongoing. What will happen to the baby? What will happen to Susan? What can we do?

Scripture is unequivocal as to how we should treat the poor. Proverbs 31 v 8 and 9 could not be more clear on the subject:

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy"

The forgoing injunction is not an optional extra for those of us who profess faith. In his earthly ministry Jesus put the needs of the poor front and centre. We would do well to follow his example."

although the injustice issues in our world afflict millions of people, each one of those suffering is an individual. They suffer not as a statistic, but as an individual who carries within them the image of God.

On an overcast morning in Katwe my attention was arrested by such a person.

I did not properly see her face. The hood of her grubby white anorak was pulled up. Below the anorak a tatty red tee-shirt was visible. She wore a ragged tartan skirt. She was barefoot. Above her head she held a battered blue basin, the contents of which were tumbling onto a white sack at her feet. The basin contained rice; not really white rice, but grey, within which was mixed small scraps of plastic, wood shavings, pieces of paper, and other detritus. The unconventional winnowing process which I was witnessing was aimed at separating the pollutants from the rice.

The young woman with the basin I later learned was called Susan. She was 17 years of age and pregnant by a drunken man who had been violent towards her. Driven by hunger and the hope of a better life Susan had travelled from her home in Karamoja, Northern Uganda to Kampala. She had fallen in with a group of girls who begged on the streets



a just requirement

No Get-Out Clause in the Kingdom of God

In a CMSI webinar on the Climate Emergency a few years ago, Bishop Aimé Joseph Kimararungu of Gitega Diocese, Burundi, commented "Global warming is not just an environmental issue, it is a JUSTICE issue! God's people in Burundi are suffering the devastating impact of drought and floods, despite emitting the least CO2 amongst any nation in the world."



Knowing that before training for ordained ministry Bishop Aimé Joseph studied law and served as a judge gives his statement added power. In the legal world, if injustice is proven, then some corrective action is required to redress the balance – a change in behaviour; a compensation payment; a prison sentence. In the Kingdom of God, the response to injustice is no less stringent... “What does the Lord require? To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). Not an optional extra, actively pursuing God’s justice is essential for all God’s children.

The injustice in Burundi came into very stark relief in the months between the end of 2023 and April 2024 when over 200,000 people in the country were severely affected by flooding, landslides, violent winds and hail causing the number of internally displaced persons to rise by 25% to 96,000 (Reliefweb, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs). What does God require of us here, in Ireland, to put such an injustice right?

When so physically far removed, we in the western church can be overwhelmed by such a question, feeling helpless and ineffectual... what possible action can I take in my little life to effect change on such a global issue?

Alone, the answer is not very much. But together, small actions can have far reaching results.

Our partners help us claim this belief as a reality through their lived example.

In the Diocese of Gitega, we can be inspired by the actions of Christians engaging with the overwhelming injustice of illiteracy rates amongst women in Burundi sitting at 40%. Under the leadership of Madame Benigne Barendegere, the Mothers’ Union has taken practical steps to correct this by setting up a

simple, locally resourced literacy project which was boosted by a grant from Bishops’ Appeal and administered by CMSI. We shared details of this venture as it was rolled out in rural areas across the archdeaconries of Nyabitsinda and Kabanga in a previous inMission publication.

Well, on a recent visit to Burundi, I had the privilege of visiting one of these classes in the parish of Nyabikere. I was warmly welcomed by Azel, the MU literacy trainer, along with two local class facilitators James and Jeanine, as well as the parish pastor and archdeacon. The class of around 50 participants were joyfully singing when he arrived, and many of them later gave testimonies about the massive impact on their lives. The women said they could now go shopping, manage money, send texts on their mobile phones and read the Bible.

I also discovered that the course included modules on business skills, prayer, family life and marriage strengthening. As a result, a number of participants had been able to start up small businesses, giving them more money for their families and a greater self-confidence, which in turn has seen a significant reduction in Gender Based Violence from their male family members. Above all, one woman told me, the course had greatly strengthened her faith – what a win-win scenario!

“Together, small actions can have far reaching results”

The pastor and archdeacon thanked CMS Ireland and Bishops’ Appeal for all the support and the meeting finished with much celebration, singing and dancing. Both humbled and encouraged, I came away inspired by this tangible example of faith in action having witnessed how wrongs can be righted when Christians, acting collectively, take practical steps to address injustice.

Another encouragement that prompts us to take up arms against inequality comes from our partners HDCS in Nepal. In 2015 a severe earthquake brought about massive destruction and devastation to people across the country, with Okhaldhunga one of the most badly affected districts. Late that day the HDCS AfnoFM community radio station in Okhaldhunga received a call for help from a single mother called Lali Maya, who was struggling to make ends meet with her four daughters and one disabled son.



Bottom image: Bénigne and Bishop Aimé Joseph

Top image: Nyabikere group photo



“I came away inspired by this tangible example of faith in action”

In the aftermath of the earthquake, it wasn't until several months later that Binu – AfnoFM's radio station manager – was able to travel to visit Lali Maya's home. The journey took about two days over rough terrain. Inside a cramped wooden structure made of bamboo and thatch, with no door or windows, Binu found Lali Maya and her children.

Sitting with the family, Binu recorded an interview. Lali Maya spoke about their struggles, the social stigma and the discrimination that they faced from their neighbours for being poor and having a son who was disabled. Lali Maya's husband had abandoned her nine years ago after her fifth child, their only son, was born with a disability. She was left with no means to provide for her family.

Binu wondered what help she could possibly offer. But before leaving the home, Binu gave Lali Maya a small solar-powered radio so that she could at least listen to the Afno FM broadcasts. A small gift, yes, but one that would allow Lali Maya to hear her interview when it was aired. To Binu, it seemed that an unspoken burden had been lifted by Lali Maya sharing her story. When the interview was broadcast, however, hundreds of people were touched. Donations and support started pouring in. Immediately HDCS were able to offer her clothes, food, money and other home essentials. With the money she was able to repair her dilapidated dwelling.

But the help and support did not end there. People from across the country and even further afield donated funds for her use. In 2018, with support from a local mission hospital, a brand-new house was built for her, earthquake resistant and equipped with an accessible toilet.



During a follow-up visit in 2024 Lali Maya shared how listening to the radio had boosted her self-esteem. She shared how thankful she was for the provision of a new home, giving her renewed hope for a better life. She shared how the villagers and community now give her respect and love, and she too hopes to help others like her in need.

What an encouragement this is to us! When we come across people struggling against all kinds of inequalities – whether it be with one of our global partners far away, or locally in our own geographical area – we must ask what small actions can we take to make the situation better? When the many situations of injustice around the globe threaten to overwhelm, stop. Look to our friends in Burundi and Nepal and be encouraged. The seed of change is small but God can grow a plentiful harvest when we are planted in him.

So, what does the Lord require from me, from you, from all of us today?



Roger Thompson
Partnership Coordinator



navigating the rapids together

Getting into the Boat with our Partners in DRC

“To reach Bukavu, where the synod was hosted, the delegates had to first come to Goma where we all took the 6-hour boat journey across the lake. Some had already taken 2 flights to get to Goma, others came via Uganda and Rwanda due to ongoing fighting in eastern DRC, others spent 5 days in Goma before the synod due to timings of flights, and some travelled more than 3,000 km.”

Bishop Martin, Goma Diocese, DRC



In the weeks leading up to this Synod, Bishop Bahati, Bukavu Diocese, in preparation to host the delegates asked for our prayers:

“People are very afraid all over North and South Kivu. A new IDP camp has been established at Minova which is within Bukavu Diocese. There is a parish and school there. They are receiving IDPs from the recent conflict around Goma. The roads to Minova are very poor and security is also an issue.”

The 75 delegates battled through all the challenges to bring their reports, to discern and plan the future direction of the church. Not jaded by the obstacles that could have kept them away, the Synod decided amongst many things, “to create a new Department of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation, to pursue the church’s prophetic mission and to encourage believers to engage in the public square.”

This took my mind to baby Jeremiah who was brought to the CCD children’s project in Butembo, North Kivu Diocese, DRC, last March.

Whilst frantically escaping his village which was under attack, an elderly man had heard the cry of a baby. On investigation, the little boy was found clinging onto the already cold body of his mother.

“What could justice possibly mean for this little boy?”

Here we see the kind of white-water justice that the church faces in DRC.

What could justice possibly mean for this little boy? The white-water journey that his mother navigated ended with a denial of justice as she sought to protect her son, Jeremiah. Yet, by entering those fatal waters she worked towards a different outcome for her son; her best effort to set things right in that moment – trying to give her son the chance at life – cost her hers.



Image top: Butembo town Image bottom: Baby Jeremiah arrived CCD Sept 2023



The elderly man, who stopped in his frantic escape to pick up an extra burden, must have felt the danger of doing what was just. But he chose danger over expediting his own safety. He chose to venture into those turbulent waters of justice for baby Jeremiah.

When the elderly gentleman sought out the church for a fair and right outcome for little Jeremiah, Mama Mbambu received him. She must have thought about how much was in the food store, how much was in the health care account, how many babies she and her team could carry at once. And in those white waters, which would mean for her a huge personal sacrifice, she did not hesitate to offer Jeremiah what little justice she could.

For the church leaders, the stories of injustice that they hear from parishioners throughout DRC are surely beyond their influence. They

face the white waters of ridicule and doubt – how can they ensure this new Department of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation is more than just another church committee? They face the fear that the prophetic mission of the church to ‘do justice’ (Micah 6:8) might swallow their faith whole, as tensions just seem to keep on rising in Eastern Congo.

And we in CMSI must also enter the justice river and prepare for the rapids with them. We must continue to choose relationship and trust, listening without prejudice as we support our partners. We must heed their expert knowledge of home and defer to them, helping only where it is requested and in ways our partners determine. So we continue to ask you to support the full breadth of areas our partners ask for. Not only the heart-wrenching projects like Butembo’s children’s project, but also the risky, stepping-out-in-faith ones. The

Image: Clergy in Goma Diocese



seemingly dull, often unseen writing of policies by vestment clad delegates in long meetings. The unglamorous practical costs of admin and training in ministry that are vitally important to helping our partners slowly inch toward lasting, systemic change.

That the elderly man knew to bring the baby to the church, is perhaps the crux of this story. The church in Butembo is not wealthy. It is without considerable power. The people struggle with few resources and a history of war. Yet, it is the people of a Saviour who experienced the turmoil of the cross, satisfied justice and rose above the deathly rapids, who hold out hope.

One day we will live where there is no tragedy, where the river of God flows beautifully and calmly through the city of God and the nations will no longer be in turmoil, for there is a healing tree rooted by that river (Rev 22:1-5).

For now we struggle through the rapids, in consternation, fear and sacrifice. The tree we look to is the cross and therein we see the full storm of justice fought, and victory won. This is the mission that we are called to. May each of us keep finding the courage to join the boat heading for the white waters.



Linda Abwa
Partnership Coordinator

Please continue to pray for the increasingly dangerous situation in Eastern Congo. Our partners need your prayers. If you want further information on the situation, go to the blogs section of our website:

www.cmsireland.org/single-post/urgent-prayer-for-dr-congo

shine

CMSI Members' Day
Saturday 29th March 2025
10.30am – 3.30pm

Join us at CITI (Church of Ireland Theological Institute) in Dublin for our annual celebration event. While this is a **FREE** event, make sure you book for our catering purposes.

Scan the QR code or go to our website www.cmsireland.org to secure your place.





Racial Justice in Ireland

Reflections from Rev Philip McKinley

Author of the Braemor Studies Series 2024 book, *From George Berkeley, to George Floyd, to George Nkencho: The Church of Ireland and Black Theology*, Rev Philip McKinley has spent considerable time exploring issues of racial justice. In Ireland, we have much to learn from global theological perspectives that can help us see beyond our borders. We are often unaware just how much of our thinking is inherited from those that have gone before us. We are living in the wake of Christian traditions that construct how we see other people today. This inherited lens can prevent us from seeing clearly.

In this article, Philip takes one of the most well-known passages of scripture and begins to peel back some of the filters through which it has been read.

Racial Justice in Ireland

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem"

Matthew 2.1

The founder of the UCD Institute of Antiracism and Black Studies, Dr Ebun Joseph, recently said, *'Racism is rampant in Ireland, across all sectors and levels'*.

Indeed, in the past 18 months we've seen horrific racist riots in Dublin and Belfast, as well as anti-migrant protests in many counties throughout the island.

For a country that has marketed itself internationally as a nation of, 'Céad Míle Fáilte' (100,000 welcomes), how have such negatives instances arisen in Ireland?

If we dig deep into our history, especially our religious history, we may be surprised to find materials which have inadvertently given rise to the racism we see in Ireland today.

One such example lies in the reception history of the Magi in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 2, verses 1-11.

The story only appears in one Gospel, but it provides a key expression of the Christmas story as we tell it today. It also gives us a critical insight into the significance of Jesus' entry into the world, as he is worshipped not only by his fellow Jewish believers (Anna, Simeon, shepherds, etc.), but also by other religious leaders such as the Magi, who were probably Zoroastrian priests from modern day Iran.

However, many non-Biblical traditions have become attached to this story. For example Matthew's Gospel doesn't tell us how many Magi there were, but Western Christianity suggests that there were three, while Syrian Christianity believes that there were twelve.

"If we dig deep into our religious history, we may be surprised to find materials which have inadvertently given rise to the racism we see in Ireland today"

In the 7th century, the English monk the Venerable Bede, described one of the Magi as 'fuscus', which means 'brown' or 'dark' in Latin. Later in the 10th Century, Irish monks based in Brittany in Northern France, described one of the Magi as 'niger', which means 'black' in Latin.

This gave rise to a threefold interpretation of the Magi, with each seen as representing the three known continents of the world at that time; Europe (Melchior), Asia (Caspar) and Africa (Balthasar). Furthermore the three Magi were also categorised into different ages, with Melchior being depicted as the oldest and Balthasar the youngest.

In later Christian art, these differences became further exaggerated with Melchior from Europe bearing the most expensive gift of gold and wearing the most ornate and decorative clothing. He is also typically seen as most dominant and positioned closest to Jesus. While Balthasar from Africa is often portrayed without a crown and lurking in the shadows, marginalised at the very edge of many Renaissance paintings.

This non-Biblical perspective, which has profoundly embellished a Biblical story, is an early example of racialisation. In this instance a Biblical story has been misused to envisage a world where racial categories and ranks exist, with three continental representatives finding themselves arranged differently, simply because of their skin colour. Racialisation is ultimately a structure of domination and oppression which provides the context by which racism can flourish.

'All Christians should be horrified by racism'

Interestingly, the Bible itself has little or no interest in skin colour, although it does refer regularly to people's geographic or ethnic origins: the Bible cannot be said to contain racialised categories between Europeans and Africans. However, it is the racialised, embellished story of the Magi which appears in stained glass windows, school Nativity plays, community cribs and Parish Christmas cards throughout the island of Ireland today.

While all Christians should be horrified by racism, because racism is evil, there is much work to do by Christians themselves to look carefully at inherited perspectives such as the example of the Magi.



There are other issues which should also be explored by Christians, not least the role slaveowners and slave benefactors played in the life of our churches and cathedrals in Ireland between the 17th and 19th centuries. Indeed, there is much work Anglican mission agencies can contribute to uncovering historic examples of racialisation within our churches.

The task of addressing racial justice is urgent in Ireland today. Christians have much to offer, but perhaps the best starting point is to unpack the legacies which have been handed down to us, especially those that may require healing, lament or renewal for racial justice.

'there is much work to do by Christians to look carefully at inherited perspectives'



Rev Philip McKinley is part-time Curate Assistant of Dunboyne and Rathmolyon Group of Parishes and part-time Lead Evangelist in the Kildare Centre of Mission in St Brigid's Cathedral (Dioceses of Meath and Kildare).

Image top: Outdoor nativity in the market square in Kenmare, County Kerry



Image left: Nathaniel Jennings, Intercultural Ministries at Rev P McKinley's book launch. Photograph by Prosper Mbamba Koutihou.



levelling up

Participating in Justice at a Local Level

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, over one hundred million people globally have been forced to flee their homes because of war, conflict and persecution.

While most are internally displaced within their own countries, many others are forced to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. A relative minority find themselves in places such as the United Kingdom and Ireland in search of safety. But laws, policy and government guidance are often unsympathetic to refugees, complicated and unfair. This causes needless suffering to people who are often vulnerable and traumatised. The UK's approach to refugees and people seeking asylum needs to improve.

Image: Helen Livingstone with volunteers



“Over 100,000,000 people globally have been forced to flee their homes because of war, conflict and persecution.”

PSNI’s Community Policing Team in North Belfast and the Ulster University have resulted in the setting up of monthly clinics which offer opportunities for those seeking refuge. Here, people can chat through justice issues in a safe space. Indeed, UU have gone one step further in facilitating levelling-up opportunities for people who have received refugee status by offering “Unlocking Potential” entry level courses in IT. These classes help pave the way for undergraduate study, a crucial part of mitigating against educational injustice that plagues people who have been forced to flee.

Izeldin is a former judge who is also a refugee. Like so many people from Sudan, Izeldin had to leave his beloved homeland but has found refuge in Belfast. Having volunteers like Izeldin in AMN has been invaluable. Izeldin has been able to sit with individuals weekly and listen to their concerns, providing advice and support. Fluent in both Arabic and English, he has been able to attend several training events with the Law Centre NI which have given him a greater insight into the legislative processes here in Northern Ireland. Through assisting with translation and his own experiences of seeking refuge, he understands the barriers that stop people from reporting incidents of hate crime.

Rachel Follis, from Hillsborough Parish, is studying law in Edinburgh and has also come alongside ANM offering time and knowledge to help folk who have arrived here, on our shores. She has been able to engage with ANM and suggest useful processes that they could put in place to resolve scenarios for individuals facing justice issues.

Image: PSNI officers, Rachel Follis, Iseldin and Hudson - June 2024



“Do justice and righteousness and deliver the ones who has been robbed from the power of his oppressor, and do not mistreat or do violence to the stranger, the orphan or the widow...”

There are several newcomer families with children who have complex special needs, and Helen Livingston (ANM Trustee and retired social worker) has been involved in advocating for their rights. Helen has often gone the extra mile in assisting women who have been victims of domestic violence. Helping these women has been vital. However, it comes with an emotional cost for all involved!

Overall ANM is seeking to engage with refugee communities and organisations in understanding their needs. ANM’s unique strength is that it is run by committed volunteers with lived experience of the asylum system and refugee integration. The volunteers know the language and culture

Image top and top right: Izeldin, a former judge from Sudan, assisting a newcomer
Image bottom: IT students’ graduation at UU - Sept 2024



of many of the people God is bringing to Northern Ireland. This puts them in a unique place to better serve and advocate for the rights of others.

Furthermore, as a Christian organisation, ANM is seeking to go the second mile. Welcome and integration are the start of a journey whereby individuals find their feet, gain a voice and begin to make a home again – all through their rich experience of God’s love in action through the faithful witness of servants who minister by meeting the needs of others, even when this involvement is costly.



Gillian Maganda
Personnel Manager

snippets

cmsi news in brief



Prayer Room

Even if you haven't managed to join us since the summer, you'll always be welcome at our monthly prayer room online. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet together and hear from our global partners. Join us on the first Wednesday of the months of March, April, May and June at 1pm. For all these meetings (October 2024 – June 2025) there is just one zoom link. If you haven't done so already, go to our website to register or scan this QR code:



Mission Partner Update: The Quills in Ibba

Andrew and Joanne are taking a break and returning home to visit family for a few weeks in March and April. While this is personal time for them, we hope to see them at Shine on Saturday 29th March. Please continue to pray for the Quills as they walk alongside our partners in Ibba, South Sudan. It has been a time of deep learning for all involved and we thank God for their desire to go and serve.

Food for thought: Beyond Borders

"We harbour the ever-present and dangerous blind spot of evaluating God's work elsewhere based mainly on what we observe and "know" from our own cultural setting."

Dave Coles, author, encourager and resourcer of church-planting movements



Want to stay connected?

One of the easiest ways to keep up to date with what's happen in CMSI and with our partners is by following us on social media – we're on Facebook, X and Instagram. However, for those who want a fuller account of the experiences of our teams and placements why not explore the blog page on our website? Links to these blogs and other publications, as well as key information, is also accessible via our monthly email. This is the best way to get a clear snapshot of what's happening each month. To sign up to receive these emails, head to our website, scroll to the bottom of any page and click "sign up for our monthly email". It's as easy as that!



Placements and visits with some of our partners

A 6-week STEP in Burundi, a 3-week STEP in Rwanda, a 4-week elective in Uganda and teams in South Sudan – so far in 2025 we have had a wide range of people going out to spend time with our partners as CMSI ambassadors.

If you are interested in exploring opportunities to live alongside our people in other places, please contact **Gillian Maganda** by phone on **028 9077 5020 / 01 497 0931** or by email **personnel@cmsireland.org**



CMST's new teaching resource for children and young people unpacks issues around fairness and justice. Micah tells us that we are required to 'do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God'. This series of 4 sessions explores some of these ideas and how we must go beyond simple handouts or thinking that these issues can be easily solved.

This digital resource, with differentiated lesson plans, workbooks, PPTs and videos accompanying each session, will be available from the start of Lent.

**To sign up, go to our website
www.cmsireland.org/childrens-resource
or scan the QR code below..**

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