



inmission

the magazine of cmsireland



What does the Lord Require of Us?

Micah's challenge in the twenty-first century

Issue 78 Winter 2024

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reality equality equity justice

Is Breaking Down Barriers Enough?

Variations of this cartoon have been doing the rounds online over the last few years. While it is not perfect, it is helpful to illustrate some of the complexities around ideas of fairness. For me, I am struck first of all by the clear disparity that is current reality. And I am equally challenged by the inadequacies of some of the solutions: equal opportunities are clearly insufficient and equity is not enough. The fourth image is what is needed. For fairness to flourish, systemic barriers must be removed. When this happens the supporting apparatus of equality and equity are no longer needed.

But then I was thrown a curveball... (to continue with the image's base-balling theme!) Looking at variations of this image online, I noticed a common refrain in the comments. Pointing out that none of the spectators seem to have paid for a ticket, the common question was: "But isn't this all just theft?"

I was taken aback. The comment seemed more than a little mean spirited to me and seemed to miss the point of the illustration. But then it got me thinking. Yes, the spectators are all getting for free something that's not rightfully theirs. But isn't this grace? Isn't it our Christian belief that everything we have is a gift of God's mercy? From the unmerited grace of salvation to our material provisions, we don't have a right to any of it. We don't deserve more or less than any other person.

And so, this mean-spirited comment prompted me to appreciate the challenge of this cartoon all the more. If all that we have is grace,

then we are only stewards of what has been entrusted to us. And, as the body of Christ, we are required to share what we have.

It is this participation in the global church family, together as one body, that runs through this edition of inMission. As we consider what God requires as we wade into justice, you will learn from our local mission partners what it means to live as missional people. You will be challenged to question what mutuality in the body of believers actually looks like. You will be helped to see the ways in which we can walk together with friends in Ezo and Ireland, participating in enacting God's justice in the world today.

We hope and pray that the words pulled together on these pages will be a support for all of us as, together, we explore what is required in this shared task of wading into justice.



Emma Lutton
Editor

Cover image: Billy and Baraka fixing a bench saw, Yei Vocational Training College, South Sudan





missional postures

Teachings from Our Newest LMP

This year at our annual Ignite conference, Nepali local mission partner, SS, travelled all the way to Dromantine to give the keynote address and share in fellowship and fun with some of the CMSI family.

SS joined CMSI's mission personnel earlier this year and, consequently, many of us were eager to meet him in person. When partners visit Ireland, giving us their time and sharing their wisdom, these learning opportunities are enthusiastically embraced.

In the face of Micah's challenge, "What does the Lord require of you?" as we all participate in Christ's commission to share God's love with others, SS's talk from the conference is instructive. While we must all "go and tell", the posture with which we share is vital. What missional posture does the Lord require of each of us in our daily lives? And how might that inform how we can better participate in God's justice in the world today? SS's teaching explores these questions.

Like Jesus in the Mission: The Philippian Missional Postures

When we think about mission, we mostly think of activities, programmes and projects. But when we see Jesus and the book of Philippians, we see postures of a missional life that are profound, impactful, and imitable. For our vision of justice to roll down like a river, understanding and living with these postures is important.

The Jesus Posture: Incarnation and Identification (Philippians 2:5-9)

When we see Jesus, we see his emptying-incarnation. He, being God in nature, did not consider this equality to be used for his own advantage. Rather, he made himself nothing – by humbling himself and taking up

Image: Churches Together – representatives from 3 St John's Albany in USA, Moira in Northern Ireland and Juba in South Sudan

a human nature, and dying on the cross as a servant. Jesus' mission was embodied in his complete change of nature. We see no greed, no competition, and no ego in Jesus when he came to serve us.

In the missional walk, Jesus calls us to live out his posture of emptying-incarnation because he has much to offer us. We learn a few things for ourselves as people in the mission. For example:

- We need to be an 'Emptying-Self', divesting ourselves of the pursuit of entitlements and rights in the age of consumerism.
- We need to also be a 'Humbling-Self', giving up our privileges that appear in the forms of our greed, competition and ego. Just as Jesus, in identifying with us, lost his privileges, we also need to be willing to forego our tags and pursuits.
- Not only that, mission calls us towards humility, encouraging us to be the 'Serving-Self.' The world has upward mobility but, just like Jesus, we are to be on the path of cross-ward mobility. Hence, mission is not just an activity but a life of cross-ward mobility.
- And finally, the Jesus posture in missional engagement calls us to be a 'Willing-Self', which puts the will of God above all else in the 'me first' world.

Jesus' posture in the mission was not primarily that of an activity, but a presence that healed. We, like Jesus, are called to be a healing presence. We need to be humble enough to heal the world around us. This is the way of emptying-incarnation.

The Paul Posture: Collaboration and Continuation (Philippians 1:24-25)

When we look at Paul, we find his missional posture in the form of consistent-collaboration. Paul recognises that it is necessary for him to remain in the body for the good of the others. Paul's posture of mission comes from knowing himself to be a gift from God to the church

Image: Washing hands before making bread together: collaboration in Ibba, South Sudan



and to the world around him. He is committed to the partnerships that God has brought him into. For Paul, life is a gift of God to the world. We also are God's gift to the world. We need to pour ourselves into the river of justice as we work together for God. We are needed.

The Timothy Posture: Genuinely Concerned Intercession (Philippians 2:20-21)

We serve in the world littered with selfishness. But when everyone else is after their own pursuits, there is someone who is different. According to the Scriptures, there is no one like Timothy who shows genuine concern for the welfare of people with much burden. Timothy is really bothered by what is going on around. For Timothy, 'you' the people are at the center of it all. He embodies someone who yearns for the will of God to happen to people. At the end, the mission is about others, and for their good. Timothy calls us towards a caring presence. Therefore, when no one cares, we do. Like the arms of the cross circling the globe in CMSI's logo, we embrace others, we embrace the world.

And, the goal of it all is the exaltation of Jesus – he is the Lord (Philippians 2:10-11). This is our non-negotiable missional vision. When Jesus is the Lord, high and exalted in the dark corners of the world, near and far, and as we posture ourselves for mission, justice will certainly roll down like a river.



SS
Local Mission Partner, Nepal



mutuality in mission:

From Everyone to Everywhere

Delivered as an address in Busan, South Korea, to a group of around 100 Christian leaders from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Arab world, these phrases from Dr Jay Matenga put into words CMSI's aspiration as we strive to follow God in the world today. We want to work together, to learn from each other. We are trying to find practical ways to collaborate in the work of God on earth, each part where God has placed it. This is what it means to be in the global body of Christ.

As he unpacked some of his ideas, Dr Matenga explained what mutuality in World Christianity looks like: "It is in the humble, self-sacrificial, self-giving that we see the people of God participating in the purposes of God toward co-creating New Creation for the glory of God." This vision of togetherness requires all to give, all to participate and all to receive with one shared objective – to glorify God on earth, here and now, as we work together to bring in the Kingdom. Rather than seeing mission as a separate activity reserved for the few, mission is integral to each and every one of us in our walk with God. It impacts all our interactions. It influences the way in which we steward the gifts God has given us. It challenges how we conceive of ourselves in the world. It requires all of us to wade into justice together.

One of the biggest challenges for mission organisations such as ours is to occupy that space of relational facilitation so that we can all walk together in mission. We need to act as a path, a point of connection, where individuals and communities can work out the practicalities of mutuality across vast distances.

From the global into the local, the gifts and struggles of all people need to be honoured.

Our new local mission partner programme was born out of these ideas. It gives people here in Ireland the opportunity to participate in global mission through supporting the work of those whom God is using to serve in their local communities. We are greatly assisted in this enterprise by Asia CMS and CMS Africa who manage the practicalities of the programme, providing training and a support network. Our part is to provide personal costs and relational, prayerful engagement in the ministries of the local mission partners. Through this collaboration between the CMS global network, the CMSI family and the missional individuals, all those involved become more deeply connected within the global body of Christ and bonds of fellowship develop and strengthen.

At this present moment we have three local mission partners officially working as CMSI mission personnel. Anyone who attended Ignite will have first-hand experience of the ways in which we are benefitting from these



Image: SLM worship band open air outreach in Rhino camp



relationships here in Ireland. The presence and teachings of SS, our Nepali mission partner and writer of 'Missional Postures' on pages 4 and 5 of this magazine, blessed us richly. Not only did he speak about the need for collaboration in mission, his presence bore witness to its immense value. Through SS ministering to us, we were able to see the truth of Ephesians 4:16 lived out: "From Christ the whole body grows, fitted and held together by every supporting ligament. As each one does its part, the body builds itself up in love."

Toti Jacob is another of our local mission partners. Toti had to flee his homeland of South Sudan and leave his high-level job to



From Christ the whole body grows

become a refugee in western Uganda. Due to unprecedented demands across the world, the World Food Programme has had to cut the food rations to those living in Kyangwali settlement to an unsustainable level. On arrival in the settlement, struggling with his own family needs and observing the plight of his neighbours, Toti asked himself: "How can God use me to change the lives of those around me in the settlement?"

Toti shared with me, "When one is a refugee one has a lot of stress. When you bring people together, preach the word of God, share experiences, people are relieved of their stresses." So he called the church members and elders together to discuss what they could do in the face of such difficulties. The result was the formation of the Christian Mission Empowerment Committee (CMEC). Their vision was to encourage Bible study and find practical pathways to self-reliance through education and skills training opportunities. Over the past few years, CMEC has established a nursery and primary school, Vocational Training Centre offering carpentry and mechanics courses, business enterprise

Bottom image: Kyangwali VTC new kitchen and store construction

training and a piggery programme for youth, and business opportunities for women. As one of our LMPs, Toti is supported in this ministry. He asked me to share this with supporters of the programme: "I want to thank all those who have joined hands with us to change the lives of those in Kyangwali".

Local Mission Partner, Seme Peter, a refugee from South Sudan living in Northern Uganda, recently messaged me saying:

"As I reflect on my journey, I am overwhelmed by the grace of God that has carried me through. I am deeply grateful to the many people who have played a role in my life... Their support, love, and guidance have been instrumental in shaping the person I am today."

I pledge to continue serving God with all that I am, reaching out to save lives through the love of Jesus Christ. The vision He has given me is clear, and with His help, I will fulfil the assignment He has entrusted to me. Whatever it may cost, I am committed to being His vessel, just as someone once reached out to me and changed my life forever."

In their commitment to leading missional lives, Seme Peter, Toti Jacob and SS are a vital part of the body of Christ, energising

Top image: Children in church under a tree in Samburu, Kenya

How can God use me to change the lives of those around me?

and inspiring the whole body. Deeply embedded, vitally connected, empowered by the Holy Spirit – despite all the physical, economic and spiritual challenges they have faced, each of them continues to be a channel for the transformative love of Christ in their own communities.

This LMP programme affords us, here in Ireland, the privilege to join in God's Kingdom work of justice in Koboko, Rhino camp, Kyangwali, DR Congo, Kathmandu and all the places where our local mission partners walk. When I look at them, I am reminded of the words of our dear friend Bishop Ivan Lugolobi: "As we live out our lives in Christ, He lives out his life in us by the Holy Spirit. This is the visible evidence of his kingdom ... people who walk in love, faith, holiness and prayer, on the ground every day."

Ad maiorem Dei gloriam



Jenny Smyth
Mission Director

what does the Lord require?

Making Space for Diversity

In September, CMS Britain ran a 2-day conference hosted by Harvey Kwiyani and a thoroughly diverse team of mission practitioners. The conference was entitled "Witnessing for Christ in a New Age of Migration" and served as the launch for a new CMS initiative called "The Acts 11 Global Witness and Human Migration Centre". As an attendee, I found the range of voices and the depth of academic exploration immensely helpful in thinking through the global context in which mission is being worked out today.

The teaching urged those of us involved with international mission to wake up to the global realities of migration. There are now over 100 million international migrants globally – a group which, if living together in one country, would be the 4th largest population in the world. I found this statistic staggering when conveyed in such terms. While on the one hand acknowledging the profound suffering of war, trauma, climate injustice and poverty that forces so many to migrate, we were urged to look at the way God is using this phenomenon to build his church.

In Edinburgh, for example, a 2023 study of churches in the city showed that over 80 of the new congregations that have sprung up in recent years are from the migrant majority

world. This change is not unique to Scotland's capital. Earlier this year a taxi driver informed me that in Derry/Londonderry, his company were far busier ferrying Nigerians to church than any other community!

Looking at the Early Church, keynote speaker Professor Jehu Hanciles from Emory University, Atlanta, USA, showed how it was the migrant people of God, scattered by persecution, who first drove the spread of Christianity (Acts 11:19-20). Significantly it was in Antioch, rather than Jerusalem, that converts from Cyprus and Cyrene (present day Libya in North Africa) made the massive leap of "preaching to Gentiles about the Lord Jesus". And, notably, it was here that "the believers were first called Christians" (Acts 11:26).





“It is paramount that we listen and learn together”

It's no coincidence that this radical shift in practice, of sharing the gospel to those outside the 'fold', arose in a community where the leadership was intrinsically diverse. Migrants like Simeon "the black man" and Lucius of Cyrene rubbed shoulders with Barnabas (a diasporic Jewish Christian from Cyprus), Saul (another migrant) and Manaen (a member of the Jerusalem royal elite).

Throughout the ensuing 2,000 years it has been Christian migrants who have been the most common and effective witnesses for Jesus. Responding to this insight, churches and mission agencies are being called to take a fresh look at how they operate, giving space to hear the voices of others and to ensure there is diversity in leadership, training and practice. In this way the mission of the church is being shaped by and for those who are "cross-border commuters".

Moving from theory into practice, I was prompted to reflect on the work of CMSI. Our aspiration is to ensure that missional engagement goes far beyond instruction and firmly into mutual sharing, learning together

and supporting one another to minister in the most appropriate ways within local communities. It is essential, then, that the CMSI table is diverse. It is paramount that we listen and learn together. As an organisation, the priorities of our partners – those who know best how to share God's message of redemptive love in particular places – set and drive the agenda. And, in the Ireland base of CMSI, we strive to amplify the voices of our partners, recognising their authority, and how they can teach us. They know best how to be God's hands and feet in their communities. They have much to teach us about God and about ourselves too. Indeed, our real aspiration is that the binary between 'them' and 'us' would blur and instead, through the work of the society, we would all better understand what it means for the church to be the body of Christ on earth today.

One example of this has been our extended partnership with Shyogwe Diocese in Rwanda. For a number of parishes in Ireland, this link has created space for mutual sharing and discipleship that has resulted in healthier churches both here and in Rwanda. Bishop Jered Kalimba – the keynote speaker at Ignite 2023 – shared some thoughts with me as, on the brink of retirement, he looked back on 27 years of episcopal ministry.

Image: Jenny, Bishop Jered and Roger

“The Anglican Church of Rwanda began in 1922, founded by British missionaries. Their ministry was based on three pillars: the Church, education through schools, and healthcare through hospitals. When the partnership between Shyogwe Diocese and CMSI Ireland started, this holistic approach was embraced, helping us address various challenges that deeply impacted our communities.

After the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, CMSI worked closely with Shyogwe Diocese to promote unity and reconciliation in Rwanda. We learned valuable lessons from Ireland's experience in conflict resolution. Rwandan leaders visited reconciliation centres in Belfast, and Irish experts came to Rwanda to share their knowledge. This exchange of ideas helped both countries grow in their understanding of peacebuilding. We also integrated traditional Rwandan methods of conflict resolution, fostering a unique approach to reconciliation.

The visits between our partners from Ireland and Rwanda have been enriching for both sides. When we host our Irish brothers and sisters, we are reminded that the Church is universal, and we are part of a global family. Similarly, Rwandans who visited Ireland returned with valuable experiences, seeing firsthand that differences in culture, skin colour, and language are not barriers between Christians. We are one in Christ, who unites us all.

I want to thank the Lord for this partnership with our Irish friends, which has united us as one body in Christ (1 Corinthians 12:26). The impact of this partnership is clear to all, and we pray for its continued success as we work together to build God's Kingdom.”

At a CMSI event in Stormont a few years ago, people from churches across Ireland, South Sudan and Rwanda met together to talk about what real and lasting reconciliation looks

Image: Harvey Kwiyani second from right at Acts 11 launch



“It was the migrant people of God, scattered by persecution, who first drove the spread of Christianity

like. Sharing experiences of struggle from different places, the people gathered moved beyond theory into explorations of the heart. Archbishop Justin Welby shared a message at the event which challenged those gathered to work together to try and ascertain ways of turning peace into reconciliation – true reconciliation of the heart that comes from God. From the individual to the communal, how can we as Christians create pockets of true reconciliation in society in ways that will bring about flourishing and hope? This was the question the group wrestled with. It is still one requiring careful consideration today.

In all these things, what does the Lord require of you, of me, of all of us? While we strive and struggle to discern this, it seems pretty clear that, whatever the particular situation, we must wade into God's justice together.



Roger Thompson
Partnership Coordinator

ethical engagement



Our marketplace products come from craft-making groups and grass-roots businesses associated with some of CMS Ireland's partners in DR Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Nepal, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda. These products help our friends to support their families in challenging circumstances. Perhaps you'd like to hear more about our crafters and get the chance to buy some of their wares? Or maybe there's a craft fair happening in your area? If you'd like to explore any of these ways to connect with our Marketplace crafts, please contact us via email on info@cmsireland.org



Remember, you can always pop into the office at Lady Dixon Park to have a look at our current stock. We always love a reason to down tools and have a chat over coffee!



Are you struggling to get the perfect gift for someone special?

Perhaps your loved one would appreciate a donation to CMSI's Mission Resource Fund on their behalf. If this sounds like just the right thing, then check out our donation gift cards. With designs to suit every occasion, why not explore our range and support the work of CMSI in the process?



walking in justice through conflict

Ezo Diocese's Peace Programme

This year we have watched, appalled, at media coverage of destruction and death in Ukraine, the Middle East and Sudan. We have prayed, and continue to pray, for world leaders, the United Nations, the millions who are enduring the unimaginable.

Image top: Bishop Isaac and his wife Mama Nora Image bottom: Ezo Peace Building Conventoin

In May, I received the following list from Bishop Isaac of Ezo Diocese in South Sudan:

- **Charles Malish; shot dead**
- **John Voti Lauro Kiya, his pregnant wife and toddler; shot and injured**
- **Elia Cosmos; shot and injured**
- **Jackson Kurundiku; shot and injured**
- **Alfred Andrea Rangbayo; shot dead**
- **Ferdinando Minisare; taken, disappeared**
- **Mzee Ambrosio Siro and his son; both shot dead**
- **Joseph Kugene; shot dead**
- **Chief John Duyo; shot dead**
- **A woman at Sinawiri; shot dead**
- **Fr. Luka Yugue; taken, disappeared**
- **A young man by the name of Gomet; shot dead**
- **Charles Kalisto; shot and injured, and his daughter shot and killed same day**
- **Mr. Gbidiki; taken, disappeared**



'A future awaits those who seek peace'

Psalm 37:37

Bishop Isaac explained how things were:

"The last two months have been challenging for us as the violence in Tambura resurrected and affected the entire region including Ezo in different ways. A number of people died, others injured, others lost their properties and others have become traumatized or emotionally sick due to the violence... Many vulnerable people cannot afford even a piece of soap or other basic needs. Many are displaced and fear to go out to access their farms.

"The tension is the same in Yambio and the main road linking Ezo and Yambio which will make access to essential goods and services difficult for us in Ezo for we mostly depend on said roads. If the situation is not stopped, we expect the number of displaced people to grow in Ezo just like it happened in the previous violence."



Image bottom: Bishop Isaac and his team at the Ezo Diocesan car dedication, South Sudan



This conflict is unknown to the international press. However, as Bishop Isaac described how he and his community were experiencing the impact of the recent violence in a project suggestion for CMSI support, his words took a different turn.

"The peace programme shall promote peaceful coexistence among the communities as the Church is the strong voice that people still respect even in such situation."

His words were powerful. His words changed my sense of helplessness. As soon as conflict arose, Bishop Isaac knew what it meant to 'act justly and to love mercy' (Micah 5). He understands what it means to be church of the God of gods. "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no

Top images: Ezo Peace Building convention, October 2024

'to act justly and to love mercy'

Micah 5:8

bribes. 18 He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing." Deuteronomy 10 v 17

Within a few weeks, Bishop Isaac reported:

"The Episcopal Diocese of Ezo mobilized basic items, including soap and salt, and distributed to the most vulnerable especially lonely, elderly and people living with disabilities. 100 vulnerable people are supported with the items. The need is great and the church did only what they could afford.

"We as the Church are putting pressure on our government to do what is possible to arrest the situation before it goes out of hands. We are grateful that they are taking some actions. They just sent more troops to boost security in Tambura and Nagero as well as to search for the missing priest.

"We are also trying to guide our priests who are on the ground to advocate for peace instead of allowing revenge killings to go on.

"An outreach team from the diocese regularly visit Nakofo refugee camp within the diocesan area. They bring food gifts which have been gathered by local Christians from their farms. They also pray with and try to bring encouragement to those who have been displaced by local conflict."

As I write this, less than six months after Bishop Isaac's initial report, Ezo Diocese is currently facilitating a Peace Conference: "targeting over 3,000 people including church leaders, community leaders, and local government officials, different groups in the church and the community such as Mothers' Union and women's associations/league,



- **Rev. Canon Oliver Philip Magaga;**
Central Archdeaconry
- **Rev. Dominic Acento Ngbakungba,**
Tambura Archdeaconry
- **Rev. Inyasio Joromo,** *Bafuka Archdeaconry*
- **Archdeacon Rev Zapier Dakoabini,**
Naandi Archdeaconry
- **Archdeacon Rev Philemon Boniface,**
Source Yubu Archdeaconry
- **Right Rev. Isaac Ephraim, Bishop**
of Ezo Diocese, Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

Please pray for them as they seek justice and peace, and pray too that the global church, including ourselves, will walk on in the confidence of God's might and his command to act justly.

youth in the church, youth association in the communities and couples from both the church and the community."

The text for the conference is from Psalm 37 v 37: 'A future awaits those who seek peace.' What a witness to confidence in the God of justice, and trust in his command to the church to act justly! All of the diocese's responses have been a comprehensive strategy of justice meted out by the church because of who they are, and the God they know, not because of how much they have, or how powerful they are.

I began with a list of death and despair. Let me conclude it with a list of hope, a list of God's leaders called to lead God's people to act justly in Ezo:

We recently agreed Ezo Diocese as our newest CMSI Global Partner. Therefore we are actively seeking parishes to come alongside Ezo for prayer, learning together, encouragement and financial support. Please contact Linda Abwa if you would like to discuss this opportunity (+447568448852).

"Thank you for your prayer and support for the people of Ezo. With prayer, sharing of the word of God and knowing that we have friends like you who think of us, we are encouraged to remain strong and keep serving him."

Bishop Isaac



Linda Abwa
Partnership Coordinator



journeying towards justice

An Interview with ANM

Gillian Maganda is CMSI's personnel manager. She is also heavily involved in the local charity, All Nations Ministries. In recent years, CMSI has formalised its partnership with ANM and, through a variety of ways, shares in their joys and struggles in our local community.

As an organisation seeking to enact God's justice of caring for the stranger among us, it seemed only fitting to let our readers hear directly from ANM's volunteer director, Gillian. And so, with her other hat on, we spent a bit of time exploring this aspect of Gillian's work.



1. Gillian, tell us a bit about All Nations Ministries. What motivated you to support your husband, David, in the development of ANM?

All Nations Ministries (ANM) is a Christian charity which was established in 2010. We exist to make Christ known through supporting local people, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers out of our centre in North Belfast. ANM's services include providing household items and clothing for anyone in need; signposting people to relevant government or charitable services; advocating for those facing challenges in relation to hate crime and racism; providing classes in English, IT (in partnership with Ulster University), tailoring and driving theory; and upcycling bicycles at our workshop in Belvoir Parish. We have developed a strong relationship with the Community Policing team in North Belfast who run a monthly advice clinic out of our centre. We also host several community events and outings annually, along with a residential weekend in March.

What has motivated me personally to support our Trustees and others in the development of

ANM, is hearing and witnessing firsthand the challenges that David and others have lived through as refugees. If we, as believers, are called to love others as we love ourselves, then that includes refugees and asylum seekers. In my role as a volunteer director, I look after all the official administration for the charity, as well as fundraising and reporting to donors. CMSI have given me 4 hours a week to assist ANM, which has proved invaluable.

"The Bible has a lot to say about caring for the stranger in our midst."

The Bible has a lot to say about caring for the stranger in our midst. In the Old Testament, God's people are directly told: "Don't mistreat any foreigners who live in your land. Instead, treat them as well as you treat citizens and love them as much as you love yourself. Remember, you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God" Leviticus 19:33-34. Refugees are uniquely vulnerable individuals who have fled their home countries due to persecution or conflict. As God's people, our biblical faith compels us to respond to their plight with compassion and hospitality.

2. ANM depend on volunteers. Can you tell us a bit about how and why this works?

Uniquely ANM are enlisting the help of volunteers from within the refugee community who give of their time to serve others. Many of us volunteering understand the language and culture of those seeking assistance and value the importance of making people feel welcome. This is not always the case with some government departments.

Image: ANM IT Graduates at Ulster University



3. What do you see as the key justice issues facing ANM folk?

- The current Home Office policy prevents most asylum seekers from working and this is a great injustice which has an adverse impact on skills, mental health and people's ability to integrate more fully within society.
- Meeting basic living needs is a daily struggle for many newcomers.
- The use of 'contingency accommodation' hotels has resulted in several human-rights breaches for asylum seekers. The emerging evidence indicates that this type of accommodation is particularly harmful for children.
- At the end of the asylum process, those who have been refused asylum are quickly evicted from their accommodation, making them homeless and destitute, and reliant upon local charities and churches to step into the gap.



Image top: Upcycling Bike Shed volunteers - Belvoir Parish
Image bottom: Podcasts at ANM with Helen, Nagla, Johan and Gillian

"Don't mistreat any foreigners who live in your land."

Leviticus 19:33

4. What are some of the keyways for local churches to step into this justice space too?

- Churches can actively be involved in advocating for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in local government. This is already happening, with many of our political representatives demonstrating compassion and solidarity in areas related to housing, health, education and tackling human trafficking.
- There is a real need for churches to provide friendship and hospitality for newcomers. Many churches throughout Ireland are hosting friendship groups, skills training and English classes to reach out with the love of God and enabling those seeking refuge in Ireland to better integrate.
- God's family in Ireland can pray, volunteer with us and give financial and physical resources to organisations like ANM who are providing services to refugees but whose funding options are limited.

Gillian's deeply personal involvement in ANM affords us, as a staff team, regular contact and updates on their work. The partnership between us is strong and mutually beneficial – our Ignite conference was hugely enriched by the presence of some of the ANM family.

If you would like to hear more about the work of All Nations Ministries as they reimagine mission, reaching up and reaching out, or indeed if you would like to explore opportunities to volunteer with them, please get in touch with Gillian at CMS Ireland's Belfast office on **02890775020**.

snippets

cmsi news in brief



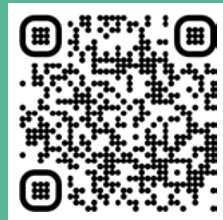
Prayer Room

Even if you haven't managed to join us yet this year, 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 on the first Wednesday of the month at 1pm. Bishop Jered from Rwanda will be joining us on 6th November and we will hear from our partners in Egypt on 4th December. We will then take a break in January, resuming again on 5th February. For all these meetings there is just one zoom link. If you haven't done so already, go to our website to register or scan this QR code:



Extra Guest

As you think about ways to open up your home this Christmas, why not consider using our Extra Guest resource to bring the global, local. With a series of prayers and stories from our partners, this pack will help you celebrate with God's global family this festive season. Scan the QR code for more information or call the office on 028 9077 5020 / 01 497 0931 to order our 'Extra Guest' materials.



Food for thought: Intercultural Church

"There is no dominant culture for a Christian. There is no marginalised other, and everyone has to work together with differences rather than in spite of the differences."

Fr Anthony J. Gittins, author of Living Mission Interculturally



Easyfundraising

It's that time of year...why not join our supporters on easyfundraising to help CMSI boost Mission Resource funds whilst you shop for your loved ones online?



COP29

As the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP29) convenes in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November, please pray along with us for the meetings. Ask God to give leaders ears to listen to one another. May they have empathy that prompts action rather than mere words of sympathy. Decisions made will have a lasting impact on our partners and our future.



Mission Partner Update: The Quills in South Sudan

Next month, Ibba Diocese is exploring the topic of marriage. Andrew and Joanne are sharing in the teaching and training, and they have asked the CMSI family to pray for this work.



We are told to give generously to one another. As an outworking of our faith in and love for God, the Bible encourages us to care for each other in practical ways. But have you ever considered giving to be a deeply enriching practice, how we receive through the very act of giving?

CMSI's online bitesize teaching videos gently guide you through some of these ideas using the lens of giving in global contexts. Through 5 short videos, we begin to reflect on the reciprocity of giving in the global church.

To access the series, visit our website www.cmsireland.org/give or scan the QR code and scroll to the bottom of the page.

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  facebook.com/cmsireland

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