Earlier this year, Dublin footballer, Ciarán Kilkenny was injured while playing a league match against County Kildare. The injury required surgery, which was a success but he needed to take time off from the game. During his recovery, Ciarán visited Mazabuka and Kabwe in Zambia to meet the children and young people in the schools and youth projects run by Edmund Rice Development missionaries and the local communities. Supported by Misean Cara, Ciarán is pictured with children from Changa Changa Primary School, Mazabuka, Zambia. Photo: Jennifer Barrett.
Funding
The funding deadlines for 2014 are as follows:
MPSS Round 2 2014 – Friday, 12 Sept 2014
PSS Round 1 2015 – Friday, 28 November 2014

Mentorship Programme Updates: upcoming visits to Zimbabwe, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

A new country has been added to those served by development mentors. Joe Makano will support members in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Joe is planning a visit to the DRC in September or October. Members who would like to be visited are invited to contact Joe to make arrangements: joemakano@gmail.com, jmakano@miseancara.ie.

In turn Andrea Cortemiglia will take over the reins from Joe, and work with members in Zimbabwe. Andrea will be visiting Zimbabwe during the first two weeks of September to familiarise himself with projects and provide support on request. Members in Zimbabwe who would like to be included in this visit are encouraged to contact Andrea directly by emailing acortemiglia@miseancara.ie.

There is also a mentorship visit to Malawi planned for the first two weeks of September. Members who would like to be included are invited to contact Joe: joemakano@gmail.com, jmakano@miseancara.ie.

Apart from these scheduled visits, members are welcome to contact mentors in their countries for assistance with any part of the project cycle.

For projects in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan, please contact Paul Gichuki: pgichuki@miseancara.ie, paul@coratafrica.com, corat@coratafrica.com.

For projects in Zambia, Malawi, Uganda and the DRC, please contact Joe Makano: joemakano@gmail.com, jmakano@miseancara.ie.

For projects in South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe, please contact Andrea Cortemiglia: acortemiglia@miseancara.ie.
**Highlights from this year's Afternoon Tea event**

This year more than 30 missionaries from 16 member organisations joined staff and some members of the board in attending the members' social Afternoon Tea event. This was a great opportunity for members to catch up with missionaries who are visiting Ireland during the summer. Some missionaries were visiting from as far away as South Africa, India and the Philippines.

Misean Cara Board of Director
Andy Cole; Presentation Sisters
Sr. Regina Twomey; Sr. Analie Garciano; Sr. Mildred Soldevilla; and Sr. Patricia Quigley from the Columban Sisters chat with Misean Cara CEO Heydi Foster about the reconstruction work in the Philippines that has been underway since last year's Typhoon Haiyan. Photo: Tara Finglas.

Misean Cara Projects Officer
Tom Carroll, Fr. Padraig O'Donovan from the Columban Fathers, Misean Cara Head of Funding Séamus O'Gorman, and Carmel Terry from the Notre Dame des Missions catch up on some of the key projects that the Columban Fathers and Notre Dame des Missions manage in Asia. Photo: Tara Finglas.
Lights, camera, action!

Last week, Misean Cara hosted its first media interview skills course with the legendary Jack Murray from MediaContact.ie. A collaborative initiative with the Irish Missionary Union and World Missions Ireland, 12 missionaries participated from 11 member organisations. Participants learned best practices and tips for preparing for interviews, and they even got to do a one-on-one TV interview with Jack himself. Here is a selection of the photos from the day.

Sr. Cecilia Sweeney from the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa shared her harrowing experience of returning to a new Ireland after living in Africa for 40 years with Jack Murray.
Jack listens as Kerryman Fr. Donie O'Connor from the Mill Hill Missionaries shared an inspiring story about a child living with cerebral palsy in Nairobi, Kenya who is making great progress despite physical challenges.

This training resonated from the Inaugural Awards Ceremony for Returned Missionaries held last November to promote the stories of missionaries, and the good work they do. By strengthening the media skills of some of our missionaries, we hope to create a list of missionaries we can call on for media interviews. Thank you to everyone who participated, and who shared their stories of mission.

The training focused on helping each individual learn to be in the moment, and hone their natural ability for storytelling. (L - R) Deirdre Ruane (IMU), Fr. Donie O'Connor (Mill Hill Missionaries), Sr. Cecilia Sweeney (Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa), Jenni Barret (CEO Edmund Rice Development), Sr. Sheila McGowan (Holy Sisters of Bordeaux), Jackie Pallas (World Missions Ireland), Michael O'Callaghan (Patrician Brothers), Ronan White (Sisters of St. Louis), Liam Dunne (Divine Word Missions), Sr. Margaret Doyle (Poor Servants of the Mother of God), Sr. Cora
Stories from the field

Namibia

Last month Development Mentor for Southern Africa, Andrea Cortemiglia, visited the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor (OFM) in Windhoek, Namibia. This was Misean Cara’s visit to Namibia.

One of the OFM’s flagship programmes is a peacebuilding initiative called “Healing of Memories,” which supports individuals and communities to heal scars from the Namibian War of Independence. A related initiative called “Monitoring of Elections” supports democracy and good governance through assisting the conducting of free and fair elections in the country.

During his visit to St. Andrew’s Primary School, Andrea met Ms. A. Mujoro, and her Grade 1 class who are aged between 6 and 7 years old. Photo: Andrea Cortemiglia.
The Franciscans in Windhoek also support education programmes for children in Katutura and Khomasdal, poor and marginalised townships on the outskirts of the capital. These include the St. Martin de Porres Kindergarten, and St. Andrew’s Primary School, which prides itself on strong academic achievements. Last year 100% of St. Andrew’s Grade 7 children passed their year-end examinations.

Andrea would like to thank Fr. Teddy Lennon and Ms. Lizette Louis for their warm hospitality and for sharing their passion for their work.

Other members working in Namibia who would like support from Misean Cara are encouraged to contact Andrea who will visit next time he travels to the country.

Meet the Misean Cara team
Members have expressed an interest in knowing more about the staff at Misean Cara. This is the fourth of a series of introductions to our team in the Dublin office.

Lara Allen
As Head of Information Lara Allen is responsible for support programmes at Misean Cara, specifically capacity development, monitoring and evaluation, research, and communications. Born and brought up in Zimbabwe she spent most of her adult life in South Africa, apart from 6 years at the University of Cambridge in the UK where she did her PhD and held a post-doctoral fellowship. Lara moved to Ireland in 2009 and has been with Misean Cara since 2012.

Lara has 19 years of experience as a lecturer and researcher in the history and anthropology of music at universities in South Africa and the UK. She published widely and gave public lectures and conference presentations in Africa, Europe, the USA and Japan.

However, Lara discovered her calling in international development in the early 2000s when she became involved in a livelihoods programme supporting a rural community in South Africa. She co-founded a not-for-profit organisation to serve this community, which she ran for a decade on a voluntary basis.
After re-skilling into development studies, Lara left university life in 2009 to become a development practitioner and consultant for three years before joining Misean Cara.

Lara’s particular development interests include sustainable rural livelihoods, the arts and development, effective models of knowledge-exchange between students, volunteers and developing communities, and enhancing the benefits of conservation protected areas for poor and marginalised communities living close by.

She enjoys cycling, gardening, birding and being close enough to elephants to listen to them chew.

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**Open invitation for submissions to Ireland's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security**

Events and training courses

Take part in the Mission Cook Off!

Kildare GAA football star, Dermot Earley, Soprano, Celine Byrne and Rugby pundit, Brent Pope recently launched the World Mission Ireland Mission Cook off. Photo: John McElroy.

Time to get cooking! World Missions Ireland has organised a one meal cookery challenge to find the best dinner menus to feed a family of six for €5. Menu entries will be judged by rugby pundit Brent Pope, Soprano Celine Byrne, GAA football star Dermot Earley and political figure Mary O’Rourke who will whittle entries down to a final five contestants. A final cook off will take place between the finalists in October, the traditional month of mission. Recipes can be sent to pr@wmi.ie or posted to World Missions Ireland, 64 Lower Rathmines Road, D6. The closing date to submit recipes is 26 September. Further information is available here http://www.wmi.ie/.

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To find out more information contact: Eugene Smith, Email: eugene@vmminternational.org  
Tel: 01-6334421 or visit http://www.vmminternational.org

Kimmage Open and Distance Education (KODE)

The Kimmage Open and Distance Education (KODE) programme offers a range of distance education courses to development workers globally. Students from practically any location around the globe can participate, even in areas of limited internet connectivity. Course components include: one-to-one tutor, dedicated online discussion forum and materials via internet download or CD.

All KODE courses are practical, learner-centred and skills based. The average commitment of study hours is 8 hours per week, and the majority of study takes place offline. Students do need internet access at least once a week to communicate with their assigned tutor, submit assignments, and participate in the online discussion forum. Courses range from 5 to 10 weeks in duration. Students receive a certificate of completion from Kimmage DSC at the end of the course, which is widely recognised by international NGOs and development organisations.

Upcoming courses include:

Monitoring & Evaluation
Project Management Governance & Accountability
The international NGO training and research centre (INTRAC)

The International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC) specialise in areas such as monitoring and evaluation (including impact assessment), capacity building, organisation development, gender and advocacy and many more.

All of INTRAC's open and blended learning courses are tailored according to the needs expressed by participants in their application form and during the course itself. Each course is designed and delivered by a highly experienced practitioner. Trainers have on average 20 years of hands on experience from the sector to share with participants, and most have backgrounds in consulting, delivering on various assignments worldwide. Click here to view the 2014 calendar of training courses.

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