

# CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY (CMS)

Our charity focus for June

CMS works all over the world, partnering with local churches and Christian organisations to bring practical and spiritual relief and development. We hope to have a speaker from CMS later in the year, but for now, here's a glimpse of work they are doing to help refugees from the civil war in South Sudan:

▶ When the war in South Sudan began at the end of 2013, many communities descended into anarchy as different tribes fought each other. Children were drafted in as soldiers, women were raped, men were killed.

Over the next few years, many ran for their lives to Uganda. Betty remembers running from gunfire with her brother and his children. Betty's brother looked back and was shot down. Betty kept running with his children and they made it to the border, where they were taken to a refugee camp.

In the refugee camp, people are safe from the war, but their suffering stays with them. "Everyone is traumatised," says Satimon about people arriving in the camps. Satimon is a facilitator of Bible-based trauma healing first trialled in 2018 as church leaders saw how trauma affected refugees' daily lives.



*Writing things down on pieces of paper and burning them is deeply symbolic of God's work of healing*

Many people also felt justifiably angry towards those who killed their loved ones. For adults, in many cases, this leads to domestic violence, alcohol and substance abuse and sometimes suicide.

Children in the refugee camps act up, doing whatever they want, and their parents are unable to control them.



*Audio players help more people access trauma healing teaching*

Betty lived with terrible pain in her heart and became very thin, wasting away through bitterness towards those who had killed him. One day, someone gave her a digital audio player (DAP), and it played Bible stories such as the story of Joseph being sold into slavery and later forgiving his brothers.

Betty was also invited to a trauma healing group, where she could open up and talk about her trauma when she was ready. Through meeting Jesus, spending time in God's Word, sharing with others and actively working at forgiveness, she has found God's healing and now has peace in her heart. She has even been able to forgive those who killed her brother, and others can see the difference in her. She has returned to a healthy weight.

You can read more about this work and other ways CMS is bringing the love of Jesus to people all over the world, including in the UK, at <https://churchmissionsociety.org>.

