

SOMA works for the transformation of individuals and churches, and the healing of communities and their lands through the renewing power of the Holy Spirit by sending and receiving teams worldwide on short-term mission within the Anglican Communion.

# sharing

Spring 2009

the newsletter of  
**soma**

SHARING OF MINISTRIES ABROAD



This year SOMA is thirty years old! It was back at Lambeth 1978 that the prophetic word to 'care for the nervous system of the body of Christ' was received. The next year, 1979, in obedience to outworking that word, SOMA came into being. Since then innumerable teams have been sent and received worldwide on short-term mission, ministering in the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. God has been good and SOMA International, as it has become, now has national bodies in 11 countries and regions around the world. Looking back there is much to celebrate and, as we look forward, much to anticipate. SOMA has a hard earned and carefully nurtured reputation across the Anglican Communion – a reputation for integrity to which we are fully committed.

## SOMA Conference 2009

Building on the successful elements of the 2007 conference and the much appreciated SOMA Prayer Conferences of the past, SOMA's 2009 UK Conference is for supporters, intercessors, team members and leaders – in fact everyone who wants to be a part of SOMA! There will be plenty of time to meet friends old and new, pray, worship, reflect, and meet together as leaders, intercessors and colleagues.

With 2009 the 30th Anniversary of SOMA we have much to celebrate. To help us do so we will be joined by speakers Jane Grayshon and Alison Morgan.

Jane is a multi-talented communicator, speaker, broadcaster, magazine columnist, as well as best-selling author. She has a depth that comes from facing hard questions about life and death and prolonged illness, so her insight, combined with her bubbly vivacity, promises a thoughtful, creative and fun time together!

Alison is a thinker, writer and a member of the Archbishops' College of Evangelists. A linguist by background, she has written 'The Wild Gospel', commended by Archbishop Rowan, published in 2004. Alison is the editor of the *Rooted in Jesus* discipleship course, has been a part of numerous SOMA Teams and she comes to help us think together about mission and to catch her passion for it.

As host I very much look forward to welcoming you to the Conference. There is further information and a booking form on the back page of this issue of SHARING.

## Join a SOMA Team

Building on the good relationships established over the last 30 years, and as a result of meeting many Bishops at Lambeth, we currently have a large number of

invitations to send teams abroad. One of the challenges of fulfilling these is finding sufficient UK team members. So, please do not wait to be asked – if you are interested and want to be considered for a team in the next twelve months take the initiative and contact the SOMA office!

Stephen Dinsmore, National Director.

## SOMA TEAMS for 2009

### Teams are committed to

- |                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| ■ India        | Karimnagar               |
| ■ Sudan        | Kadugli – Nuba Mountains |
| ■ Kenya        | Narok                    |
| ■ Uganda       | South Rwenzori           |
| ■ Tanzania     | Masasi                   |
| ■ Uganda       | Kisoro                   |
| ■ Kenya        | Lodwar Mission Diocese   |
| ■ Sudan        | Regional Youth Leaders   |
| ■ Congo        | North Kivu               |
| ■ South Africa | Polokwane                |

Other invitations are still in the process of negotiation. Contact the SOMA office to register your interest if you would like to be considered for these or other potential teams.

## YES I'd like to support SOMA

### Invite

SOMA carefully and prayerfully considers all invitations for teams to minister and responds positively whenever we can.

### Come on a Team

We are constantly looking for new team members to bring fresh impetus to our teams. Team members finance their own travel and costs, trips last between 10 and 20 days. Teams are always exciting, challenging, faith building and life changing!

### Give Financially

We are always in need of financial support for SOMA's missions and ministry abroad. Your financial gifts further this strategic work of the Holy Spirit and make a real and lasting difference to people and communities abroad.

### Pray

Prayer and Intercession are the solid foundation of SOMA's ministry. Partner SOMA in prayer and intercession in this unique and invaluable ministry.

### My response

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

### Please...

- tell me about becoming part of a SOMA Team
- tell me how to financially support SOMA's ministry
- send me SOMA's free regular SHARING newsletter
- send me SOMA's free regular Prayer Diary
- contact me as I would like to invite a SOMA team to my Diocese

Please detach and return to  
**Stephen Dinsmore, SOMA UK**  
**PO Box 69, Merriott. TA18 9AP, UK.**  
Thank you.

## 'May the Able God profoundly bless you!'

So wrote Fr Elias Mwale, of Mawanda parish, Petauke, in the Diocese of Eastern Zambia. He continues 'On behalf of all the participants I wish to thank you for giving us such excellent spiritual food, so that our roots, fully anchored in Christ Jesus, will never wilt, but be ever drawing water to sustain us throughout our Christian journey. Rest assured that we shall preciously guard against losing the knowledge and new pastoral skills for church growth which we have obtained from here. With the help of the Holy Spirit we will deliver to the highest capacity of our strength, joyously, as this course has tremendously uplifted our spiritual wellbeing.'

Fr Elias was responding to the SOMA team that visited the Diocese of Eastern Zambia last summer.

The 11 parishes of the Anglican diocese of Eastern Zambia consists of 118 congregations, staffed by eight priests and 100+ lay leaders. It is divided into three archdeaconries, and SOMA was invited to introduce *Rooted in Jesus* through a series of three three-day conferences in Chipata, Mfuwe, and finally Petauke.

The conferences were attended by all the clergy, by the lay leaders and by representatives from the Mothers' Union and the Veronicas. At the end of each conference



participants were presented with certificates by the bishop – 56 in Chipata, 52 in Mfuwe and 72 in Petauke. Each parish met to form a plan for the way ahead. Only those who had attended the conferences would lead groups initially; it is hoped that after participants have completed Book One some will be able to start new groups, whilst continuing to work through Book Two with the original leader.

Each conference consisted of plenary sessions, demonstration and practice lessons from the course, seminars on aspects of leadership, extended times of ministry and prayer, and a planning session. We were particularly fortunate to have on the team Amorim Rocha, the group coordinator from

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*New friends, Tanzania.*



## God will have his way – he will work his purpose out



Delegates Dornakal India

Team Leader John McGinley faced some unexpected developments on a SOMA visit to the Diocese of Southern Malawi, but returned having experienced the Spirit of God at work.

Things were not going according to plan... then just before the conference began we received a text from the SOMA intercessors who were praying for us saying "God will have his way – he will work his purpose out."

### Wonderful answers to prayer

One of the unique aspects of the conference that did emerge was that people were returning to their homes and families each night and bring their needs into the conference. As we taught people how to pray and listen to God they began to do this and saw some wonderful answers to prayer and each morning we had testimonies about this.

One woman when looking for matches to light the evening fire heard God speak to her audibly "Your husband has taken the matches to smoke cigarettes outside. You are to go and tell your husband to take his cigarettes and beer and throw them away. "She did this and he said "Are you dreaming?" She said "No God has told me to tell you to do this". He did not argue, but instead went and did what she had told him (she was totally amazed).

Miriam wanted to start a small pig farm in order to provide for her family. She had

received a micro loan to do this and identified the piglets to buy, but she didn't know how to go and buy the fencing for the pig pen or how to transport the pigs as she had no truck and could think of no-one to ask. She decided to pray about it. The next day someone from further up her street knocked on her door and said that if she ever needed him to transport anything for her in his truck he would be happy to do this for her.

Another woman desperately wanted to keep coming to the conference but did not have enough money for the bus fare. So she prayed for it and the next day went to the bus stop where someone greeted her and offered to pay her bus fare for her.

Elizabeth had been made redundant from her job as a head teacher. She was looking after her four orphaned grandchildren. During the week we prayed with her for this and by the end of the conference she had been invited for interview and been given a new teaching post.

Rachel in the session about 'asking God for more' started to pray for her son – he had caused her great trouble, he had left home leaving behind his wife and children. She continued to pray overnight for him. The next evening he returned home, and spoke of wanting to change his life and come to church.

Jean had some form of obstruction in her throat – after prayer it was completely gone.

Isaac – had an internal lump in his side, was prayed for on one day (no change), experienced God speak to him in a dream, went for prayer again, yet it was still there, but as he got up from being prayed for he felt a 'pinch' in his side and the lump was gone.

### Ask God for more

Anne – had ulcers and had been experiencing growing pain – in the prayer session in which we encouraged people to 'ask God for more', she cried out to God and the pain was instantly gone.

One woman – had many troubles with her family and become very anxious and was unable to sleep. She felt God speak to her saying "You have suffered much, I will help you and I will give you rest". She received prayer. That night she slept for the first time in weeks and felt a deep peace.

Patricia – had suffered from pneumonia a few weeks before the conference. This had left her with a pain down one side of her body and unable to sleep. She came for prayer; the team member discerned that it was an evil spirit bringing this sickness to her. After this was dealt with she said "I felt something leave me – the pain is gone." She slept so well that night that she didn't wake early enough to make the fire for her husband's bath!

"God will have his way – he will work his purpose out"



Tabora and Mwanza Team, Tanzania.

### SOMA Intercessors

We are always keen to hear from people who feel called to pray regularly for the work of SOMA. Our Intercessors take on an important commitment, are an indispensable part of SOMA's ministry and play an invaluable role at home whenever SOMA teams are abroad. Please contact Hilary Steynor on 01483 301013 for more details.

## SOMA 30th Anniversary Conference

### Booking Form

Please use one form per person, one form for married couples. Rooms are ensuite. Fee includes accommodation, full board and conference facilities.

**Please book me** (tick one box only)

Double room, twin beds, double occupancy at £125 per person

I will be sharing with

NAME

Double room, double bed (where available), double occupancy at £125 per person

Single occupancy room at £135 per person

I will attend daytime only, please send me details

Total fee enclosed £

Please specify any special requirements (dietary, access, etc)

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

EMAIL

PHONE

SIGNED

DATE

**Note:** Booking will be confirmed on receipt of full fee and signed booking form; regrettably cancellation by you forfeits 50% of fee up to 15 April, full fees thereafter.

Please return with full fee to SOMA UK  
 PO Box 69, Merriott TA18 9AP  
 before 30 March 2009.

Cheques payable to 'SOMA UK'.

# SOMA 30th Anniversary Conference

Tuesday 12 – Thursday 14 May 2009

High Leigh Conference Centre, Lord Street, Hoddesdon, Herts. EN11 8SG

**The conference starts with coffee at 1100 on the 12th and ends just after lunch on the 14th.**

This conference is for supporters, intercessors, team members and leaders – in fact everyone who is a part of or wants to be a part of SOMA! There will be plenty of time to meet friends old and new, pray, worship, reflect, and meet together as leaders, intercessors, and friends. There will also be news updates and ministry, all set in the Hertfordshire countryside in 40 acres of lawns, park and woodland.



**Jane Grayshon** is a multi-talented communicator, speaker, broadcaster and magazine columnist, as well as best-selling author with eight books to her name. She has a depth that comes from facing hard questions about life and death and prolonged illness, so her insight, combined with her bubbly vivacity, promises for very creative time together. Jane is involved with SOMA Intercession and was recently accompanied by her husband, Matthew, on a SOMA Team to Tanzania.



**Alison Morgan** is a thinker, writer and a member of the Archbishops' College of Evangelists. A linguist by background, ordained in 1996, she has written 'The Wild Gospel', commended by Archbishop Rowan, published in 2004. Alison is the editor of the *Rooted in Jesus* discipleship course, has been a part of numerous SOMA Teams and has written a number of other books and booklets. Alison serves on the Council of SOMA UK. She is married to Roger, and they have three children.



**Stephen Dinsmore** hosts the conference and has been National Director of SOMA UK since 2007. He is married to Janet, they have three children. Along with SOMA office's Steve Fincher and SOMA Trustees and Council members Stephen is looking forward to welcoming you to the 2009 SOMA Conference.

## 'May the Able God profoundly bless you!'

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the neighbouring diocese of Niassa in Mozambique, and Charles Mchombo, brother of Bishop William and also from Niassa, whose linguistic ability, local knowledge and wisdom were invaluable.

Our visit had been planned with great care, and *Rooted in Jesus* was welcomed by all participants as a new and strategic tool for the spiritual development of the diocese. Many of the lay leaders have received little training in the past, and they responded with great enthusiasm both to the ministry and to the teaching. Some had walked or cycled up to 86 km to take part in the conferences. Many gave testimony to physical, emotional or spiritual healing during the ministry times. Amorim's teaching on the Holy Spirit was particularly appreciated.

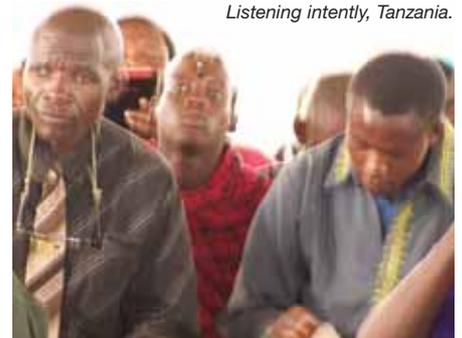
### Generous hospitality

The kind and generous hospitality extended by the diocese to the team made our visit a great blessing. We were also extremely grateful for the wise and effective prayer support extended to us by those who had

agreed to intercede for the team, participants and diocese; as ever, this made an enormous difference to the outcome of the conferences. Team Leader Alison Morgan

The SOMA Team visited the Diocese of Eastern Zambia last summer. Bishop – Rt Revd William Mchombo. Team – Alison Morgan, Amorim Rocha, Amanda Johnson, Nigel Rawlinson, Charles Mchombo. Programme coordinator Canon Missioner Fr Jolophan Phiri, with Mrs Susan Mumba.

*Listening intently, Tanzania.*



### SOMA UK

UK Registered Charity No. 279759. UK National Director: Revd Stephen Dinsmore  
 Finance Administrator: Mr Steve Fincher, Patron: Rt Revd Graham Cray.

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