

# sharing

2010 No. 1

the newsletter of  
**soma**

SHARING OF MINISTRIES ABROAD

## “The history of oppression is changed”



### Torit, Sudan

Evangelist Evans Gogonya, the Episcopal Church of Sudan's Provincial Youth Coordinator, is committed to running a series of Regional Workshops to train Youth Leaders. The first of these was held in Juba in February 2007, the second in Rumbek in March 2008, and the third in Torit in late 2009, all led by SOMA Teams, in partnership with the Diocese of Salisbury Sudan Link.

As the leaders of the Diocese were also resident at the conference site we were able to combine the Youth and the Clergy & Leaders' Conferences into one.

A total of 75 delegates attended the Conference: 36 Youth Leaders and 39 priests, deacons and lay readers.

Conference delegates reported:

- “I was ill when I arrived, now I'm healed, I didn't want to leave. Please come again. We're lacking worship materials. I've seen only good in people here.
- Ps 103. The Holy Spirit filled me.
- A very strong experience.
- The history of oppression is changed.
- The Holy Spirit sent SOMA – it's very important and good.
- I thank God for leading SOMA to Africa. The Holy Spirit led the Team here. The word of God lives in SOMA.



*Kapoeta, Diocese of Torit, Sudan, Regional Youth Leaders' & Leaders' Conference, 6 – 22 November 2009. Team – Stephen Dinsmore, Lado Lobalang, Janet Darg-Forsyth, Justin Lotio Wani Lokosang, Jean Kirk, Evans Gogonya Israel, Stephen Holmes, Philip Kirk.*

- I give thanks to God for SOMA, you have brought many things, I am now well, I was sick.
- My body was weak now I feel I can fly and am full of the Holy Spirit!
- I give thanks to God for SOMA coming. I have learned from the teaching.
- If you do not have faith you can never win. Ps 121 1-7.
- I have seen many miracles.
- I had a headache for a year – the Team prayed, now it is gone.”



*Delegates, Torit, Sudan*

## PASS IT ON

In this issue of SHARING we see the transforming power of God's Holy Spirit at work. As you would expect, there's testimony from abroad of blessing and challenge during recent SOMA team missions to Congo and Sudan. And in addition there's testimony from the UK too: SOMA experience transforms those involved, be they supporters, intercessors, team members, or partner churches.



This is good news – too good to keep to ourselves. So, pass it on!

If you find an additional leaflet in your mailing this time please pass it on to someone who you can encourage to be involved with SOMA. Draw the attention of your church and leaders to the SOMA Parish Mission Partners scheme. If you received just SHARING then pass it to others who would be blessed from being part of SOMA's mission and ministry. Be ambassadors of this good news of God's transforming power at work among us!

Stephen Dinsmore SOMA UK National Director

## SOMA Teams for 2010

Tanzania	Tabora
Kenya	Lodwar
Sudan	Kajo-Keji
Congo	North Kivu
Uganda	Madi & West Nile
Sudan	Ibba
Nigeria	Jos
Uganda	Ruwenzori
Sudan	Regional Youth Leaders
Uganda	Luweero
Sudan	Nuba Mountains
Congo	Boga

Other invitations are in the process of negotiation. Contact the SOMA Office if you would like to be involved with any of these, or other emerging, teams.

## SOMA Parish Mission Partners

*“Every SOMA Team I’ve brought back has had a massive impact on the DNA of mission in my church.”*

The SOMA Parish Mission Partners scheme builds a live, active and mutually beneficial relationship between your parish and SOMA, envisioning and renewing your church for Holy Spirit ministry and mission at home and abroad.

SOMA Parish Mission Partners receive

- SHARING for each member of the congregation
- a SOMA speaker for a Sunday about once a year
- invitations, information and encouragement for leaders and members of the congregation to participate in SOMA mission teams abroad and for Intercessors to join the SOMA Intercessors Network
- regular communication with the designated SOMA parish contact, as well as the Incumbent & staff team

In return SOMA Parish Mission Partners

- encourage prayer for SOMA in services, groups and by individuals
- regularly communicate news about SOMA to their congregations
- encourage individuals to get involved by joining Teams, becoming SOMA Intercessors, hosting visitors, attending SOMA activities
- seek to support SOMA financially

For further information or to discuss the scheme contact Stephen Dinsmore at [info@somauk.org](mailto:info@somauk.org) or 01460 279737.

### Incredible

*Returning SOMA Team member Stephen Holmes, in response to ‘Summarise your Team experience in a few words’:*

*“Incredible, remarkable, challenging both spiritually and physically, scary, exhilarating, powerful, exhausting, wonderful fellowship, beautiful, disturbing, partnership, supportive, great spiritual power, prophetic, signs and wonders, focus on the Word, inspiring, healing, spiritual battle, protection, provision, guidance, worship, blessing, – JESUS.”*

## Heaven Touched Earth

*The invitation from the Rt Rev Bahati Bali – Busane Sylvestre, Bishop of Bukavu Diocese, DR Congo read: “Greetings to you and all the staff members of SOMA UK in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. We are well in Bukavu and the Church activities are going very well. We thank God who is establishing peace in our country. This is to remind you of the moments we spent together when God blessed us for meeting. Can it be possible to come in Bukavu Diocese to teach our Church Members about the Holy Spirit and prayer? Everybody would be much edified by your visit and teaching, so that we hope that God will enable you to arrive.”*

*Bishop Bahati and the Bukavu Team*



*Team Leader David McDougall with Margaret Chan, Trevor Patterson and Simon Dust rose to the challenge...*

God led us on this visit and, because of the tremendous prayer support we were well protected. The Conference was a tremendous success in all kinds of ways, not least and most importantly because Biblical teaching was shared, Holy Spirit ministry occurred from session one and God was given all the Glory. We saw miracles of healing, people released literally from captivity by militia, oppression lifted, relationships restored and gifts of the Holy Spirit accepted.

*Continued on back page*

## The answer to prayer walked in!

### Torit, Sudan

It was a dramatic moment – the answer to prayer walked in!

The Holy Spirit had been stirring the delegates about the challenge of the absence of the majority local tribe, Toposa, in their churches. The previous day the Team had received a text from the Intercessors back in the UK that they were discerning the importance of addressing the issue of repentance. So, that morning the Team taught from the Word on repentance and the healing of communities. The delegates responded with a time of heartfelt confession and repentance.

The Lord followed this with a dramatic sign – the arrival of a local Toposa woman. She walked straight to the front row and sat down. Asked to explain her arrival, she said: “My name is Suzana. This is a place of God. I am a worshipper of God, I heard that there is worship here, that you have guests and so I came to worship with the girls. I am Toposa.

I have told the people to stop stealing cattle and worship God – I want to build a church in my community. I will not leave God, I always pray to God, now I am happy, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”



*Suzana*



## SOMA Intercessors

We are always keen to hear from people who feel called to pray regularly for the mission and ministry of SOMA. Our Intercessors are indispensable, playing an invaluable and deeply appreciated role at home whenever SOMA Teams are abroad. SOMA Intercessors are supported both by regular Prayer Briefings and directly by email when SOMA Teams are abroad.

Please contact Intercession Coordinator Hilary Steynor at [intercession@somauk.org](mailto:intercession@somauk.org) or 01483 301 013 for more details.

**soma**

SHARING OF MINISTRIES ABROAD

## Michael Harper 1931 – 2010

The former International Director of SOMA, and a significant leader of the charismatic renewal movement during the second half of the twentieth century, Michael Harper, died on January 6, 2010.

Michael was a pioneer figure in the charismatic renewal in Britain and the world, the convener of the charismatic conference for Anglicans immediately before the Lambeth Conference in July 1978, which led to the formation of Sharing of Ministries Abroad, of which he was appointed full time International Director from 1984. Michael developed and grew SOMA into the International organisation it is today.

### A personal tribute to Michael Harper by Don Brewin

Michael's apostolic vision was widely ecumenical. He saw the need to bring together leaders involved in charismatic renewal, in the UK and internationally, to encourage one another, and to develop a maturing understanding of Renewal which could be fed back into their churches and denominations. One of these agencies was the 'International Charismatic Consultation on World Evangelisation', now the 'ICC', which networks charismatic leaders throughout the world. My first and

life-changing experience of such a conference was at Brighton in 1991, when one of the most memorable speakers was Cardinal Raniero Cantamalessa, the first time I had heard a ringing endorsement of the charismatic renewal from a senior Roman Catholic.

Michael was an apostle, a visionary, a planter. When he saw that what he had planted was established, he moved on. Some of these moves were because of his nature; others were to do with how he saw the Spirit leading; and others because of his personal pilgrimage, which led him to join the Antiochian Orthodox Church, and to move on from SOMA.

As the then new Director of SOMA I was able to experience what has probably been the most enjoyable period of my own ministry with SOMA – I want to pay tribute to the way he Michael supported me and the ministry, and gave me advice, particularly in the early days when I had little idea what I had taken on!

We thank God for him, and for what the Lord achieved through him. We remember Jeanne, his patient helpmeet and support for over 50 years, and pray that the Lord will sustain her.

## The measure you use...



*...same measure, pressed down, flowing over...*

Thank you to all who gave so generously to our Christmas Appeal. As a result, and God willing, we are planning to send Teams to the three Dioceses featured in the Appeal – Ibba in Sudan, North Kivu in DR Congo and Lodwar in Kenya.

SOMA is completely dependent upon the financial generosity of our supporters – people like you. We were filled with thanksgiving that, in the face of the global economic downturn, with reduced incomes at home and increased prices abroad, your financial support for SOMA remains strong. Regular giving by bank standing order, gift aided where possible, greatly helps our planning and is a terrific encouragement to us. So, we ask you to pray and review your support for SOMA, increase it if you can, and, if you have not already, arrange regular giving by bank standing order, gift aided, to SOMA – which will allow us to respond to more of the increasing number of invitations to send SOMA Teams to dioceses, regions and provinces abroad and bring back renewal for mission to the church at home. Contact Steve Fincher at [info@somauk.org](mailto:info@somauk.org) or return the 'Yes I'd like to support SOMA' response form on the back page of this edition of SHARING.

## SOMA – Renewal in the UK

Team Member Esther McCafferty, Rector of Basildon, Essex, recounts the fruits of her SOMA Team experience...

### Faith and Confidence

Being part of a SOMA Team has really energised my faith and confidence in the Lord, which has in turn made a hugely positive difference to my ministry in the parish in the UK.

### Parish Renewal

Encouraged by what I experienced on the Team abroad, here we are holding our first Spiritual Renewal weekend for the parish. In preparation for this we have been growing a group of intercessors to spiritually prepare the ground. I now have stronger networks of spiritual support locally, as well as through the SOMA Intercessors.

I preached for SOMA at a parish in my Diocese, whose Vicar Stephen Holmes then went on his first SOMA Team just 6 months later! My report, including photos and experiences of the SOMA team, has been shared with the Deanery clergy, my parish and local Rotary Club, with copies of Sharing and SOMA's introductory leaflet widely distributed.

### Prayer and Giving

As a result my own parish have begun to commit themselves through prayer and giving and has been stimulated to support SOMA's calling to the Anglican Communion. They have released me to co-lead a SOMA Team to Tabora, Tanzania this year. I am being sent out from this parish as their representative, and I look forward to reporting back and sharing with them, and SOMA, the wonderful answers to their fruitful prayers and blessings of their faithful giving. In this way the ripples of God's blessing and transformation abroad are spreading here in the UK.



Esther McCafferty

## YES I'd like to support SOMA

### 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 with SOMA in prayer and intercession in this unique and invaluable ministry.

### Invite

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

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

### My response

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

### Please...

- tell me about becoming part of a SOMA Team
- tell me about becoming a SOMA Intercessor
- tell me how to financially support SOMA's ministry
- send me details of giving to SOMA by bank standing order
- send me SOMA's free regular SHARING newsletter and Prayer Diary
- contact me as I would like to invite a SOMA team to my Diocese
- tell me more about my church becoming a SOMA Parish Mission Partner

## Rooted in Jesus continues to grow

**Alison Morgan**, editor of *Rooted in Jesus* writes: I am immensely grateful to SOMA and in particular to the intercessors for their sustained and crucial support for *Rooted in Jesus* over the years. As *Rooted in Jesus* moves into a new phase as a project of ReSource, its publisher, it will be coordinated from the ReSource office, where we have appointed a dedicated administrator, Richard Thomas. We look forward to continued close relationships between ReSource and SOMA – we pray that the new arrangements will work for the benefit of both organizations at home in the UK and through our contacts in Africa.

**Stephen Dinsmore** writes: This development of the course is great news. SOMA Teams will continue planting *Rooted in Jesus* into the three Dioceses where we have already started, namely South Rwenzori in Uganda, North Kivu in DRC and, we pray, Diocese of Kadugli, Sudan. For these Teams, and any future SOMA Teams planting *Rooted in Jesus*, administration, financing and intercession will be the responsibility of SOMA, as currently.

*Rooted in Jesus* continues to be directed by Rev Dr Alison Morgan – who can be contacted at [www.rootedinjesus.net](http://www.rootedinjesus.net)

## I saw an Angel

*A team leader recounts a late night encounter on the road...*

It was getting late, darkness was falling and we were still on the road. Yet there was still one police checkpoint to successfully clear before nightfall – or be refused permission to go on, have to stop at the checkpoint, spend the night short of our destination and sleep in the van. I urged the Team to pray 'pray that they'll let us through'. Then the nagging doubts began – if the police are nervous of us travelling that road by night, how safe was it to carry on? At that point my own prayer changed to "Lord, if it's safe..."

With some reluctance on their behalf, the police allowed us to journey on.

But my concern for the safety of the Team grew. It was then that I saw, what? By the side of the track, just momentarily caught in the headlights. A white figure, right hand raised in worship, slightly bowed, left hand ushering us on our way. A double take – and the figure had gone. At that moment a terrific sense of peace completely overwhelmed me: we were in God's hands, our passage protected by Angels – all would be well.

## Heaven Touched Earth

*Continued from page 2*

### Among the highlights...

- Prophecy and many words of knowledge.
- An HIV – Aids seminar with a hugely helpful Q & A time, 1½ hours.
- The filling of clergy and wives with the Holy Spirit – a holy moment.
- Being broadcast on local radio and Television Congo – the Bishop's welcoming speech and some of our talks, a first for me with SOMA!
- One of the clergy was kidnapped one morning by militiamen. Wonderfully, after many were alerted to pray, he was released that evening.
- The final talk on Job. They were very hungry for this. After which there was a time of prayer, it started quietly, seemed steady, and then exploded into amazing heavenly intercession.
- Worship led by the women – to lift the eyes of those who grieve. Amazing – drums, shakers, worshipping in the Holy Spirit. Heaven again touched the earth.
- Fun, dancing, laughter, joy in the house.

We introduced the idea of a Prayer Tunnel – where everyone passes through being prayed for and then joining on the end as others pass them for prayer. It worked wonderfully. We also encouraged small group work which went down really well.

Bishop Bahati is encouraging all his clergy to be open to God's Holy Spirit and minister in the Power of the Holy Spirit in the parishes. He is keen for prayer ministry to become common in all meetings.

### Team member Trevor adds...

Wow! What a fortnight! Reminders of Congo's fragile state were always before us – I have known the Lord's peace here despite constant reminders of danger. Thank you Lord for the privilege of being here. The ministry time was amazing, with people rejoicing and crying out to God with all their hearts to be filled with the Spirit. This was led by the Bishop. A number stood to repent of anger and ask the Lord to fill them with self-control. The prayer support has been phenomenal.

### SOMA UK

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