

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

2011 No. 2

the newsletter of
soma

SHARING OF MINISTRIES ABROAD



Welcome from the choir!



Kadugli delegates

This is going to strengthen the Christians to live their faith in this critical time

A long-standing relationship between the Diocese and SOMA led to an invitation back to Kadugli in the Nuba Mountains of mid Sudan. The timing was opportune. The succession Referendum in the South was just under two months away, national tension was rising and the future of the Diocese, area and entire State lay not with the emerging South Sudan but with North Sudan. It was at this moment that the Lord opened a window of opportunity which SOMA took.

At the request of the Bishop, the Rt Rev Andudu Adam Elnail, the SOMA Team visited Kadugli to plant the peer-led, interactive, small group discipleship course "Rooted in Jesus". The Team ran two workshop conferences. The first was at Grace secondary school, adjacent to the Bishop's home village of Krkra; the second at the site of the Theological Institute at Dabi.

Each day's programme included drama, small group work, prayer, teaching, discussion, worship and prayer ministry.

The pastors, evangelists and lay leaders were deeply encouraged and agreed to "pray, seek God so that every group would be blessed". They also vowed to "avoid depending on our own strength and understanding" and to "humble ourselves in the group so that members will have the freedom to share and participate". The delegates encouraged each other not to fear but to stand firm and be bold, to spend time preparing and praying, to listen for answers from within the group.

The Mission ended with an exuberant and joyful celebration as recently graduated Diocesan students along with hundreds of

supporters from their churches, choirs, villages, families and friends gathered at the Institute to celebrate their success and look with hope to the future.

The Bishop of the Diocese writes...

Attending and participating with SOMA UK in training & teaching with clergy and leaders of the diocese of Kadugli, gave us strong encouragement. The course was taught and communicated effectively during the training by the SOMA Team, pastors and participants were confident to carry out the teaching to the people in the churches.

This came in a suitable time when the country of Sudan is going to divide and southern Sudan has the Christian majority, we in the North as Christian minority among

continued on page 2

intercession@somauk.org

Called to intercession? If you are, think you may be, would like to be or are exploring if you are, then do contact us! Intercession is the 'hidden' half of SOMA's ministry. We are always keen to hear from people who would like to pray regularly. SOMA Intercessors take on a vital commitment, are an absolutely indispensable part of SOMA's ministry, and play an invaluable and deeply appreciated role at home whenever SOMA Teams are abroad. SOMA Intercessors are supported both by regular Prayer Briefings and support Teams with live, two-way information by E mail when SOMA Teams are abroad.

Please contact Intercession Coordinator Hilary Steynor at intercession@somauk.org or on 01483 301 013 for more details.



Leadership workshop

SOMA Parish Mission Partners

"I thank God for leading SOMA to Africa. The Holy Spirit led the Team here"

"Every SOMA Team I've brought back to the UK has had a massive impact on the DNA of mission in my church"

Being a SOMA Parish Mission Partner 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 as well as 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 or 01460 279737.

continued from page 1

the Muslims we may face increasing persecution in our practising and living Christian faith, this is going to strengthen the Christians to live their faith in this critical time. We are very grateful to SOMA UK for giving to serve our people.

The Team: Eunice Kamau is based in Nairobi, Kenya; Claire Johnson & Annie Wintour from the Diocese of Salisbury's Deanery of Bradford, based on Melksham and linked to Kadugli Diocese; Stephen Holmes; Paul Oakley; Stephen Dinsmore.

"When I was asleep Angels came"

This SOMA Mission was part of the continuing series of Provincial regional conferences for Youth Leaders. On this occasion delegates were invited from Maridi, Ezo, Olo, Ibba and Nzara and Yambio Dioceses.

The Team were David Sharland (Uganda); Evans Gogonya & Lado Lubalang (Sudan) Janet Darg- Forsyth, Lynda Klimas, Jane Hill & Stephen Dinsmore (UK).

As with so many SOMA conferences there came a turning point when the spiritual atmosphere and engagement with the Spirit noticeably deepened. In Ibba it came as one of the Team Members led a session on the importance of releasing forgiveness for the healing of past hurts. It culminated in delegates and Team writing their unforgiveness on small sheets of paper which were then crumpled, placed in a fire basket at the foot of a cross and burned. The release of forgiveness in turn brought salvation, healing, forgiveness and release.



The delegates take up the story...

"I got a new thing in my heart yesterday, I repent of my sins, the talk really touched me, I kept problems on my heart though I pretended to be good I did not forgive. But I sincerely repented and prayed to God for a spirit of forgiveness. When I was asleep Angels came to me and we were rejoicing and praising God together all night for the sin I repented of. I've been forgiven." JG

"It was indeed a blessed time to be with all of you in Ibba and our prayer is to meet again one day." The Bishop of Ibba the Rt Revd Wilson Kamani.

"I thank God for His presence in the Conference. In my life I now see the bad things I did as nonsense. If I die today I know I will be with the Lord. I had longstanding pain in my back and neck – now I feel no pain anywhere". E



SOMA Teams 2011 – 2012

Tanzania	West Tanganyika
D R Congo	Nord Kivu
Uganda	Kinkiizi
D R Congo	Bukavu
New Zealand	Tauranga
Sudan	Kajo Keji
Australia	Canberra Goulburn
Sudan	Western Equatoria
India	Durgapur
Kenya	Kajiado
Sudan	Wonduruba Youth Leaders
Uganda	South Rwenzori
Sudan	Kadugli

Contact the SOMA office for further information or to register your interest in these or other emerging Teams.



...and daughter came too



"I've done sin against the Lord. Someone stole from me. I wanted to go to the witchdoctor to find who did it. But my brother gave me a Bible - I no longer went. But the pain was still in my heart, until yesterday when we confessed. While I was sleeping a light was coming into my head, a voice said 'It's hard my dear for you to go straight on this small road'. I awoke, then slept. Someone called my name 'Elizabeth - you are saved pick up your Bible and look at Luke 13:22.' I awoke, my Bible was by my bed, I called my husband, and I read that verse. 'I have to go on this small road'. I will not think about my loss again."

"...thinking of my two dead children I thought 'God did not do good for me'. But now I've asked for forgiveness for what was in my heart. God who gave took away and I believe." AM

"I thank God for the teachings, they helped me to forgive." MJ

"I was having continuous headache affecting my eyes. Because of prayer I can now see from morning to night really well." JO

First time SOMA Team Member Jane Hill went to Ibba Sudan...

Just before I left home for Sudan, I had to admit to feeling excited and also anxious. I knew I was going to be outside my comfort zone, unable to rely on resources usually available to me. But what I discovered, of course, was that it is a huge privilege and a joy to work with people such as the Youth Leaders of South Sudan. Yes, there were

difficult times and challenges, but it was wonderful to experience the power and love of God at work in every situation.

I was part of the SOMA team that went to facilitate a Regional Conference for Church Youth Leaders and I am delighted to say that it was a great success. Teaching sessions, workshops and Bible studies were occasions for sharing personal experiences and understanding more deeply what it means to be a Christian. Familiar Bible stories were dramatized, to gain a deeper insight into Jesus' teaching. Vital topics such as leadership, forgiveness, respecting and valuing others, were studied, discussed and debated. There were poignant moments, as young men and women told their stories, recalling painful memories and deep hurts from the past. There followed moments of great joy as many of these young adults declared that God's love and grace had helped them to overcome the pain and heal the past. Many delegates renewed their Christian commitment and left the conference smiling and singing, enthused and equipped to continue their work with young people in their churches.

Ibba is located in the south west of Sudan, sharing a border with DR Congo. It is a vast rural area, dotted with thousands of homes of ideal construction of mud brick, with straw roof - remaining cool inside when temperatures outside reach over 40 degrees.

From my short two week experience there are real infrastructure challenges – obtaining

water and electricity, with very few vehicles and public transport. Medical help and medication is difficult to obtain. The main road runs east-west, with a surface prone to erosion when the rains come. This is a country still recovering from decades of civil war.

There is little in the way of employment. Most people spend their days living – walking to the borehole to collect water, gathering wood to make a fire for cooking, looking after the home, caring for children and other vulnerable family members. Early in the morning I saw people digging their patch of land, preparing the ground for sowing and planting groundnuts and maize. The men and boys spend days in the forest, hunting to supplement the family's diet.

But do not think of the South Sudanese people as poor and marginalised. What I learned, of course, is that they are resilient and resourceful; they have a strong sense of family and community, a desire for sustainable peace and hope for the future of their new country.

The relative peace now means that boys and girls are going to school, and have high aspirations – children aiming to be doctors, teachers, pilots. Adults too are gaining literacy and numeracy skills, by which they are acquiring knowledge and understanding, enabling them to improve their communities and their country.

I found Christian faith to be strong amongst the people – the church remained steadfast through the devastating years of civil war and is now to re-build and re-shape the new country. Church services are held regularly; there are thriving Sunday Schools, youth groups and a very active Mothers' Union. The people love to worship God, with vibrant song, music and dancing. They soaked up Bible teaching – even though not all owned a Bible. They believe in the power of God, prayer punctuating every activity with giving thanks to God, and asking for God's protection and mercy.



Youth Leaders Ibba



Team members Jane, David and Janet



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

"Let me welcome our partners from SOMA..."

...were Bishop Anthony Poggo's words of welcome on the occasion of the consecration of the new Cathedral in Kajo Keji, South Sudan. SOMA Parish Mission Partner Holy Trinity Aylesbury had committed to substantially contribute to the cathedral from the tithe from their own church development fund. Bishop Anthony's vision and skill in encouraging and welcoming external partners as well as delegating responsibility within his own team have made the Diocese very outward looking. His invitation to send a SOMA team from Holy Trinity encouraged this three-way partnership.

In 2010 a SOMA mission team had worked with leaders in the Diocese on the different aspects of teaching in the SOMA manual 'Living as a Prophetic Community'. This focused on the challenges of discipleship and the prophetic role of Christians and the church in post-referendum South Sudan. For this latest SOMA mission a programme was developed which included a four day conference of Bible exposition, celebration, testimony, worship, prayer and teaching workshops. Along with preaching engagements, a practical water capture project, representation at the cathedral consecration and prayer ministry times the team were speaking on local radio and in parish churches. The water capture project identified two locations where work involved the building of cylindrical foundations for storage tanks, later to be linked to guttering on the cathedral and large buildings.

The conference workshops focussed on servant leadership and leading worship. The worship strand was to help catechists and lay leaders in leading non-Eucharistic worship for their congregations week by week. Team member Don Brewin used the SOMA teaching resource 'Sharing in Worship' and introduced the new 'Orders of Service for Morning Worship', both translated into Bari. Team member Veronica, being only recently ordained after many years as a Lay Reader, was able to share from personal experience with which many of the



Cathedral worship

participants identified and also appreciated. The servant leadership workshops, led by Andrew Blyth and Hellen Oneka, encouraged the development across the Diocese of a devolved leadership and to formulate the further development of the strategy for growth.

The team worked well together. There was a good sense of reliance and confidence in each other. Each member knew what they needed to do and believed in the ability of others to do their part.

As ever, intercession played a vital part in the mission as team leader Andrew Henderson confirmed: 'Our church intercessory team prayed in advance, then, linked in with our personal intercessors for the mission and the SOMA intercessors they found that their own intercession gave complementary understanding. This was a very positive experience for them and for us, and particularly encouraged individual intercessors who grew in this gift as a result and so have been encouraged to explore it further in future. In addition a lot of individuals prayed for us and strongly supported family members while we were away. The team were very aware of the intercessory support and appreciative of those praying on their behalf.'

Team Leader Mr Andrew Henderson was accompanied by team members Revd Canon Hellen Oneka, Revd Veronica Kabaseke, Mr David Sharland (Uganda); Revd Andrew Blyth, Mr Mike Lenander, Mr Nick Piper and Revd Don Brewin (UK).

The SOMA effect

Asked to summarise her personal experience of the mission in a few words, one Team member replied: *Holy Spirit; change of heart; feeling accepted and loved; privileged to be there; amazing; closeness to God; protected; sufficient provision; unimaginable; indescribable; forgiven; peaceful; thankful.*

SOMA UK

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