

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

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SHARING OF MINISTRIES ABROAD

**“Your coming has made a big impact.
We will never be
the same”**



Phil Kirk reports on the SOMA Mission to the Diocese of Kajiado, Kenya, in the Maasai heartland. The invitation from Bishop Taama was for a conference for clergy and lay leaders on mission, evangelism, stewardship, and the personal life-style of a missionary.

On the road to church, a wildebeest crosses in front of us, then a zebra, some ostrich and a large family of guinea fowl, watched by two secretary birds aloof and indifferent. We are on the way to St. Mark's church, Oloilalei, one of Revd. Obadiah's many churches in his parish of Insinya, forty kilometres in the middle of Maasai heartland. It is 11.00 am, and one by one people appear from different directions out of the bush. They have had a long walk to collect water from the spring to take to their livestock, and are now coming to church. At 11.00 church starts, and finishes after 2.00. While Jean and I are here, Peter and Jackie, John, Esther and David are in two different churches in Mary Kuria's parish of Kitingayla. They were richly blessed. Esther and David preach at one, John and Peter at another, they have preaching aids: John's a large lump of rock salt weighing several kilos, and Peter's a splendid Maasai rod of authority, encrusted with colourful beads.

This is the Sunday after our conference with Church leaders from Kajiado Diocese, Kenya. Invited by Bishop Jeremiah Taama, the first Bishop of Kajiado who retires at the end of the year, it is a significant time for this Diocese as it faces transition, and all the challenges of a Diocese rich in vision and faith and with a heart for mission, yet short of the resources taken for granted by wealthier dioceses. However it is wrong to say this is

impoverished. The wealth of faith, hope and love is an inspiration... and the worship and prayers... joy rings in our ears, and will do for years. Other SOMA missions have preceded this one, and we in the team are so grateful for the careful foundations they laid, much appreciated by the Diocese and by the Team.

The conference provided opportunity for fellowship, relationship-building and teaching, but our chief aim was to make space for delegates and Team to engage deeply with Jesus through the Holy Spirit and for Him to minister to our deepest being so we enter deeper into the transforming light and love of the Lord Jesus.

Our and the Intercessors' prayer was rooted in four significant scriptures: Psalm 105:1-4, Isaiah 35:1-2, 1 Thes 3:11-13, and Psalm 20:1-5. The Lord met with His people and for the lives He touched we give Him praise, glory to His name!

Kajiado Leaders respond – page 2



SOMA Team: David, Jackie, Esther, Jean, John and Phil - Peter took the photo

The same Spirit



In this edition of *Sharing* we feature two recent SOMA Missions, to two very different parts of the world. In Kajiado, Kenya an unexpected and welcome burst of rain

heralded in the natural world an outpouring of spiritual blessing. Across the world in Australia it was a quieter, gentler ministry, but none the less powerful for that. Indeed we had been guided to minister that way by the Lord's direction by words of knowledge and wisdom through our Intercessors at home. Team members, delegates and Intercessors worked together to achieve God's purpose.

In both missions the same Spirit worked powerfully to 'care for the nervous system of the body of Christ', exciting and equipping the church and Team for mission, building faith and hope, extending the Kingdom. As one Kajiado participant put it 'We will never be the same again' and one Team member 'I was inspired. I want to be a bolder person for Christ.'

My thanks to you for sharing in the transforming ministry which SOMA is called to, whether by prayer, being part of a Team, support, inviting a Team or Intercession. It is very much appreciated by us and those to whom we are sent.

Stephen Dinsmore
National Director SOMA UK

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.

Kajiado Leaders respond

"Just you coming, it was very, very special. I have enjoyed the conference sessions I have come to, and so has the Bishop. I from the heart felt blessed. There was good planning and co-ordination. The way you organised and planned what was to be taught was wonderful. The team work that was there: it was good, very good. The Spirit of the Lord could be felt – the joy on your faces tells it all – the Holy Spirit was with you in your presentations. God is summing everything for us – showers of blessing from above – a confirmation of God's acceptance" (*At this time the clouds in the distance opened and we had rain – a special moment! We celebrated! The rains were not expected until the following month*). The delegates that came have all said how much they were blessed, they flocked into my office to tell me about how much they were enjoying it. Thank you." Diocesan Administrator Canon Johnson.

"A most wonderful conference. People were given freedom, people thought, 'I am appreciated, free!' The time for them to share their expectations – that made them feel appreciated. They have gone away empowered, with a message... people were hungry and a foundation was laid. Your coming has made a big impact. We will never be the same." Revd Capt Mary Kuria CA, Diocesan Mission Co-ordinator.



SOMA Teams 2012

Sudan	Wau
DR Congo	Boga
Tanzania	Rorya
Sudan	Youth Leaders
Pakistan	
Sudan	West Equatoria
South Africa	
India	Durgapur
DR Congo	Bukavu
Sudan	Cueibet

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

Care for the nervous system of the body of Christ

SOMA UK is a part of SOMA International along with the other SOMA bodies in the eleven countries and regions of Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, South America, Uganda and USA. The SOMA International Board consists of the twelve national directors and four appointed officers under the chairmanship of Archbishop Ben Kwashi of Jos, Nigeria. We meet annually in the context of the International Renewal Conference and multiple SOMA mission Teams.

This year the Board reaffirmed the central place of God's 1978 founding Call to SOMA to 'care for the nervous system of the body of Christ' and also reaffirmed Intercession along with cross-cultural mission Teams as the dual ways in which SOMA is to obediently respond to God's Call.

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Albert Vun to the Board and officially inaugurate and launch the new SOMA Malaysia under his leadership.

As a focus for the next four years we committed ourselves to continue to bring to birth new and encourage existing SOMA bodies – planting, training, modelling and releasing them into ministry and mission.

In addition we confirmed that intercession and mission are the two equally important elements of SOMA's ministry. So, we are committed to raising the profile of Intercession as central to our calling, and increasing the number of Intercessors.

Bishop Vun is welcomed by SOMA International chairman Archbishop Ben Kwashi



Thirdly we prioritised commitment to the next generations as an intentional part of everything we do. So, the focus is on Youth for the 2012 International Conference and Team missions in South Africa in October.

As well as the establishing of the new SOMA Malaysia it is a time of growth and transition for SOMA's in Australia, New Zealand, Uganda and Canada – each of which is in transition to a new Director. Do please pray for those involved, the bishops, Intercessors, boards and trustees.



I was inspired



Being part of a SOMA Team is always exciting, challenging, faith building and life changing. Here the Kajiado Team share their experiences.

John – I was more and more moved as the week went on. Challenged by how people give time to praise and worship. I was inspired. I want to be a bolder person for Christ.

David – I have been on about seven teams and this warmed up right from the start, caused by the atmosphere of the conference. Personally encouraged and blessed and will come back to my own church encouraged and refreshed – just like the delegates.

Esther – Expectancy right from the beginning. Some real holy moments: teaching, ministry, praising. There was a real awakening here – some of the insights coming from the Intercessors back home were spot on. Scriptures were fulfilled, such as Psalm 105:1-5 and Isaiah 35:1-2, and there was such a lovely rapport with the delegates!

Jean – So much love, joy, challenge. Sense of God, his awesomeness, wonderfully Godly people to be with – it's been an absolute privilege – thank you.

Peter – We shared the impact of our own culture and were able to bring warning of secular pressures we have experienced. I will bring home from this culture the way you express your faith – evangelism. This is what I take back, Praise the Lord!"

“You achieved three years work in six days!”



‘For such a time as this’ was the SOMA International Mission to the Diocese of Canberra Goulburn, Australia. Invited by Bishop Stuart Robinson and with almost 50 SOMA mission team members from countries including South Africa, the UK, Canada, Australia, Egypt, New Zealand and the USA, eleven parishes across the diocese, from Bodalla and Batemans Bay to the Snowy Mountains and out to Young, hosted mission teams for a week of mission, prayer ministry, teaching, support and encouragement.

The mission to Canberra – Goulburn Diocese followed a similar mission in New Zealand immediately after SOMA’s International Conference near Wellington.

Team members were individually commissioned by Bishop Stuart Robinson at St John’s in Canberra, following an orientation session on the first day. Each parish had devised a program and all teams spent time listening and visioning with parish leaders; joining in and leading worship services; teaching; and offering prayer ministry for commitment, recommitment, healing and wholeness. The teams were joined by many others from the host parishes at a rally at St John’s in Canberra on the final Sunday – a great opportunity to celebrate what God had been doing across the diocese.

The team of Stephen & Janet Dinsmore, Alison Morley, Robin Bali with Rector Trish Stuart-Smith were in the Parish of Charnwood St Barnabas and Hall St Michael and All Angels. Trish with husband Paul had recently moved to the Parish. The mission was timely. A week of meeting, teaching, prayer ministry



discussion and encouragement was richly blessed by the Lord. As Trish said to the Team at the end of the mission: “You achieved three years work in six days!”

One parishioner wrote: Thanks so much for praying with me. As you did I felt a real burden lift from my shoulders. I also appreciated the gentle and powerful way your combined together to minister to me.

Team member Robin: God superintended our week together – He planned exactly the right combination of His children – Jesus was with us moment by moment – love and harmony flowed – the people responded.

One of my most enduring memories is that of the many hours spent as a team in intercession in the parish and to then experience the unfolding, positive effect of those times as our Father graciously worked through us, in the lives of many parishioners.

But, the magnitude of the realization that through these prayer times the Holy Spirit was also slowly, imperceptibly but surely working a new thing in me, At present my prayer is ‘where to now, Lord?’. I give thanks to God our healer, to tell of the deep, deep assurance He confirms that He is with us and for us at all times & in every situation. Love and trust overcome fear.

Team Leader Stephen: It’s been a prayer mission to the congregations – loads of prayer ministry to just about every single person in the congregations, for many of whom this has been a new experience – by gentle but powerful ministry through the Team. The Spirit brought real breakthrough, a palpable change – an infusion of hope, love and excitement about mission by the Spirit. The Intercessors’ pictures of gentleness and fire have been really helpful, the work has been done gently but at the speed of fire, the Lord very clearly directing the approach we were to take – praise to God.

Thank you...

...to all who responded so generously with prayer and support in response to our summer appeal. Please continue to pray for the peoples of the N-S Sudan border region. It’s a war seemingly ignored by the West and press. One recent Dutch reporter wrote: Everyday, government bombers fly overhead. The (North) Sudanese government is using the same tactics it used during the first war: bomb the civilians into submission. Tens of thousands of people have fled into the mountains to escape the bombs. They can’t do much farming and the blockades around the cities mean that trading has stopped as well. Students don’t go to school because the bombing is indiscriminate. There is no medicine because foreign aid organisations have been prevented from entering the area.



Greetings from Don Brewin

Former SOMA UK Director Don passed the SOMA UK baton to Stephen back in 2007, yet he’s still actively involved in SOMA’s ministry and mission as Team leader, ambassador, advisor and passionate proponent of all things SOMA and Renewal!

On behalf of Soma International Don is travelling to D R Congo in November to meet with Bishop William Bahemuka of Boga Diocese to plan prayerfully to fulfil the Bishop’s invitation to a SOMA Team. On the way there Don will be at the ‘Prayer Rally for Peace’ in Eldoret, Kenya, a fruit of the ‘Healing the Wounds of Ethnic Conflict’ process.

Earlier this year Don had the unpleasant experience of finding his email fraudulently hacked into: “I apologise therefore if you have sent emails to me on my old (hotmail) address – I have lost thousands of email records and addresses; and have no idea who might have been trying to get in touch, and may be wondering why I haven’t replied! Please delete my previous hotmail address.” Don’s new email is donsbrewin@gmail.com

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

SOMA – Renewal for Mission in the UK

Team members returning from recent SOMA missions abroad tell how the experience shaped and moved forward their mission and ministry at home. As one Team leader put it "Every SOMA Team I've brought back has had a massive impact on the DNA of mission in my church."

The support I got from team members built my confidence. The training materials, prayers and remaining together made me feel well prepared. The Lord taught me through this reliance on the Holy Spirit to listen to what God wants of me. I also realised how important the power of the Holy Spirit is in fulfilling God's will in my being. Eunice.

Praying at home for the SOMA team while they were away was an encouraging experience for individual intercessors who grew in this gift as a result and have been encouraged to explore it further in future. The team were very aware of the intercessory support and appreciative of those praying on their behalf. Andrew.

An awareness of the fragility of life and our moment-by-moment dependence on God. As well as an increased awareness of God's greatness and involvement in our lives and ministries, leading me to an increased expectation in prayer. I was challenged and encouraged by the African Christians' view of prayer as a first resort, in contrast with the Western tendency to try to find a technique to fix a problem and turn to prayer as a last resort! Paul.

I'm more able to speak about our responsibility to mission and to take a more active attitude towards mission outside our parish. I felt God holding us 'in the palm of his hand'. Janet.

Hope and Faith

Veteran SOMA Team member Ron Hart has been part of numerous SOMA Teams, and has a terrific heart for Sudan. Here he reflects on his most recent Sudan SOMA Mission experience in South Sudan...

It is hard to convey just how traumatised some of the people were, especially some who had been directly involved in the fighting. One of the army chaplains had been a child soldier and had never been home since he was recruited. It was some days before he spoke. Yet amongst the sharing of so much pain, was hope and faith, and a church that reaches out to help others. One child came and slept at the back. He had run away from his grandmother who had kept him locked up. He had violent fits and she was afraid and didn't know how to care for him. The church promised to move in with assistance, help and advice. The church was also supporting parents with sick children, as

malaria is endemic and was looking after a woman whose son had died of a dog bite.

It was a privilege to be with SOMA. We were very much alongside rather than coming from above, and we were glad to learn and be prayed for by those we were with. At the end of the conference we all received a certificate of attendance, signed by the Bishop.

Days after we left a lorry was ambushed just a few miles to the north. A number of soldiers died and many were injured. As South Sudan struggles forward, our Sudanese brothers and sisters need and value our prayers, just as we value their friendship and learn so much from a church whose faith has been refined in the very real, daily furnace of war.



SOMA UK

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 Finance Administrator: Mr Steve Fincher, Patron: Rt Revd Graham Cray.
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