

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. This is through intercession and sending and receiving short-term mission teams across the Anglican Communion.

# sharing

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**soma**

SHARING OF MINISTRIES ABROAD

## Reconciliation in Rwanda



Kigali street scene (William Mather)

**When experienced team member Mary MacDonell found that she was unexpectedly being prompted by the Holy Spirit to return to Rwanda after an absence of many years William Mather and Sarah Holloway quickly agreed to accompany her – a SOMA team had formed! William takes up the story...**

What an extraordinary privilege to go to Rwanda for SOMA. We returned home overawed by a sense of the Holy Spirit's leading and with a clear confidence in the warmth of welcome and invitation to SOMA to serve church leaders in the country. We were very conscious of being supported in prayer.

Mary was with SOMA in Rwanda in 1996, two years after the genocide in which two million people died. Then the country was still in upheaval, there were huge wounds and the SOMA team were called to help bring healing and reconciliation. Inevitably the team were hugely affected as they shared in the deep emotional pains.

We went to the Cathedral to meet with Bishop Muvunyi Louis Aimable and the Mother's Union Coordinator, Mukamisha Peace. Arriving early Mary was able to pray in the same pew where she had sat 18 years before during the closing service for the

SOMA mission. It was there, at the end of the service, that a riot had broken out five rows behind her. It was only ended when police intervened. This left a sense of 'unfinished business' with SOMA and some scarred emotions among the team.

The scars of the genocide are everywhere. One woman shared with us her experiences of finding forgiveness towards those who had committed genocide. Thirteen members of her family had been killed. Two of her children survived and then had to bear the trauma of their mother violated in front of them. This was the first time she had shared her story publicly and there were many tears. Afterwards, Silas their pastor said that the diocese had helped give teaching on healing and reconciliation which had been a big help, yet there was still a great need for healing. The church and the MU were organising a

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## Mending the Nets



When Jesus called to be disciples fishermen James and John, the sons of Zebedee, both Mark & Matthew tell us that the brothers were busy 'mending their nets', repairing them from the wear and damage sustained through use, preparing the nets to be ready to catch fish again. Another place in the New Testament where the same word is used is in Ephesians 4. In verse 12 Paul speaks of the Spirit's gifts being given to 'prepare God's people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up.' So, 'preparing God's people' could well be translated 'mending God's people'.

I am inspired by this call to 'mending and preparing'. It is exactly SOMA's ministry through intercession and teams to empower, equip, encourage, enable and envision.

In this edition of SHARING be inspired – by the reality of the Holy Spirit 'mending and preparing' God's people through SOMA missions in Boga DR Congo, Rwanda and in Rorya Tanzania.

**Stephen Dinsmore,**  
National Director, SOMA UK.

## “One hand cannot clap...”

**Invited by Bishop John Adiema, Bishop of the Diocese of Rorya, Tanzania a SOMA mission team fulfilled his invitation earlier this year.**

At the start of the mission Bishop John briefed Team leader Royston Smith that his approach was:

*“One hand cannot clap,  
You have to have two,  
One hand for me, another for you.  
Tell it to the world and that is a fact,  
That one hand cannot clap.”*

And his prayer was that the conference delegates and the SOMA team would 'clap together' as a partnership in Christ during the course of the mission.

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Flames leading worship, Bunia.



## Blessings in Boga

The Diocese of Boga is the mother Diocese of the Anglican Church in DR Congo.

Bishop William's invitation was received by SOMA with joy. It is an understatement to say that this was a complex mission: a team of 26, a partnership between SOMA UK and Church Army Africa with 'Flames' from All Saints Kampala and 'Healing the Wounds of Ethnic Conflict' Kenya, three conferences in three locations and spiritual attack began before the team had even left their homes in DR Congo, Kenya, Uganda and the UK.

We praise God that He brought together in Kampala the team of 26, none of whom knew everyone else, but who proved to be open to the Lord and to one another, willing to submit themselves to a demanding programme.

The people of Congo have faced innumerable trials and tribulations leaving them constitutionally exhausted, with infrastructure in disarray, with bruised hope and self-confidence, and the hardening that comes from subjection to violence – grace can easily get squeezed out.

The first week conference was held in Cité Church in Bunia, a large church in this major town. From earlier discussions with Bishop William we agreed to use the SOMA resource 'Living as a Prophetic Community' with a workbook translated into Congolese Kiswahili for each delegate, and, mostly for village pastors, catechists and evangelists, some modern services from Kenya and Uganda, again translated.

The team worked hard, we thank God that they were given the stamina to cope. We also thank God for His amazing

provision of the finance needed for this mission, most raised from generous donations.

For stage two the Team divided and ran the second and third conferences in Boga and Komanda. Boga is the historic 'home' of the Diocese, indeed the Anglican Province. Here the key Scriptures were from Isaiah 'Comfort, comfort my people...' Komanda sits at the junction of roads from Bunia, Beni and and Kisingani so many refugees have gathered there. We were aware of the need to minister to the local congregational catechists and evangelists who had few opportunities for participating in such conferences as this. So we concentrated on foundational teaching, discussion groups and encouragement ministry in the evening celebrations.

On return to Bunia we visited two key conflict sites in the town, quietly to pray there. We walked through the town to visit an abandoned petrol station, where many people had been killed, and some buried. Not to draw attention to ourselves we prayed quietly that the Lord would heal the memories of that place and bring lasting peace.

Back in Bunia for Sunday we were directed to Isaiah 40:28-31 and 30:18ff by the Intercessors. The Lord made it clear that this was the message to bring to the Diocese as we prepared to depart. Later that afternoon we met with the Bishop to debrief and de-commissioned the team before sleep in preparation for the 24-hour journey to Kampala the following day.

Team leader Don adds: 'We thank God for the very tangible support for the team on the ground during this challenging mission. We received encouragements, prophetic pictures and key passages from Scripture that were just right for the challenges of this mission.'

The Team – Revd Capt Lilian Karinga, Capt Joshua Opondo, Mrs Nancy Ndungu, Mrs Joyce Njuguna, Dr Allan Waihumbu, Mr Augustine Akimanzi, Ms Milly Mirembe, Revd Capt Canon William Ongeng, Revd Capt Richard Ongom, Revd Capt Fanuel Onzima, Mr Wyclef Rushaju, Revd John Awodi, Mr Timothy Baguma, Ms Rose Kanyunyuzi, Mr Peter Muhumuza, Revd Emmanuel Mwesigwa, Ms Flavia Nalunga, Ms Grace Nambuusi, Ms Priscilla Namirimu, Mr David Olara, Revd Capt Susan Olwa, Mrs Betty Ssebuwufu, Revd Stephen Dinsmore, Ms Helen Doery, Revd Amanda Johnson, Revd Don Brewin.



Delegates, Bunia





# The turning point...

...the breakthrough in Bunia, Diocese of Boga came through an act of repentance by members of the Team – Ugandan pastor Revd John Awodi takes up the story.

## From bearers of good news to agents of destruction

When the Missionaries came to Uganda in 1877, Ugandans received the message with gladness and were willing to be martyred for their new found faith. Two decades later Canon Apollo Kivebulaya went to Boga, the mother Diocese of the Anglican Province of Congo, bearing the good news of the One who saves. This was the planting of the Church in the Eastern part of Congo.

Recently, during the ethnic clashes between the Bahema and the Balendu that caused so much pain and destruction, Ugandans went to Ituri region with the aim of peace keeping and to avert the clashes spilling over to their territory. But what eventually emerged from this supposedly noble goal turned out to be looting of resources, killing and maiming the Congolese, raping the Congolese women, defiling the girls, cutting the limbs. Notorious among the perpetrators were Nyakuni and the Lord's Resistance Army and many other Ugandans.

Uganda did not protect the Congolese who even sought refuge in Uganda. Instead we oppressed them, intimidated them and denied their human rights. We abandoned the women and girls instead of taking care of them. We got involved in witchcraft and all kinds of wickedness and committed wicked things against the Congolese.

How then can we Ugandans be bearers of good news on this Boga Mission when as Ugandans we caused so much pain, grief, suffering and destruction? A word from the intercessors in Uganda helped to resolve this right from the beginning. The evening of the first day was a turning point as all the Ugandans on the Team knelt before the Lord and the Congolese delegates asking for forgiveness for all the atrocities Uganda caused as a nation. It was a time of repentance for the Ugandans standing in the gap.

## Prophetic action

The dramatic evening of repentance and asking for forgiveness was immediately followed by an act of scrubbing. The previous evening when the team arrived, there was a lot of mud and soil adding to the dust that had been there long before on the half-finished floor of the Church. The Church was for one reason or the other not cleaned. There was a stark contrast between the altar area which was tiled and looked very clean and smart and the area where the congregation assemble. The Lord caused the team to get buckets of water and scrubbing brushes and soap to clean the Church, an act which had a spiritual significance.

## SOMA Teams 2012 - early 2013

RS Sudan	Wau
RS Sudan	Awerial Youth Leaders
Pakistan	
Kenya	Bungoma
Southern Africa Youth Conference	
India	Durgapur & Odisha
DR Congo	Bukavu
RS Sudan	Mundri
DR Congo	Nord Kivu
DR Congo	Boga
RS Sudan	Ezo
Rwanda	

Contact SOMA for further information about these and other emerging Teams

## Complete!

Sixteen year old Gloria shared that she'd been born with a malformation of her, as she put it, 'private parts'. She'd been taken, of course, to the witchdoctor as a child and, more recently operated on in hospital. The result had left her with disfigurement and extensive scar tissue. She asked us to pray. The whole team did so, most at a distance, four of us beside her. As we prayed she experienced real pain and movement. She returned the next day. Timidly she reported – "there's a little new skin". When Gloria returned the following day there was no need for us to ask. Beaming smile from ear to ear, she dashed into breakfast and announced a single word "complete!" It was a smiling, beaming Gloria who joyfully shared her story with the whole church the next Sunday.

## 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](mailto:intercession@somauk.org) or on 01483 301 013 for more details.



## 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

## “One hand cannot clap...”

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As the mission unfolded the Bishop's prayer was answered. As one delegate, a translator and visitor to the Diocese, said “today was touching for me, ...deeply thoughtful, it deeply touched my life – especially the act of repentance and forgiveness, the opportunity to write it down and let it all go. In the praising I felt a new power ...I felt heavy about the past but now I feel released with new power”. Another had “...been pleased and warmed by our coming. We have benefited from many and great words spoken by you, we believe and feel we have grown and been empowered in and throughout the training. We have increased in faith and have been equipped for service.”

Team members preached in Obinju, Marasibora, Chereche and St Peter's Cathedral.

Royston adds: “The Holy Spirit guided the conference towards repentance and forgiveness. This proved to be a significant opportunity for Team and delegates to participate in worship that included reflection on times we had failed to forgive and then writing down that sin on an individual piece of paper which everyone placed at the ‘foot of the cross’ – a large wooden cross – placed



in the centre of the cathedral. All quietly walked outside and then I burned the collected, written confessions of past sins on the ground in a hollow outside the cathedral surrounded by a continuous circle of those involved. Then Bishop John gave the absolution.

*Team: Royston Smith, Cathie & John Rutter, Stephen Pike, Joanna Bound, Fran Huff. Bishop John Adiemu.*

## Reconciliation in Rwanda

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number of practical projects to help all the widows and orphans.

Two hours south from Kigali at Bugesera Parish we heard further stories. Ushered into a large church where Mother's Union ladies were sitting together making baskets, one told us how she had seen her whole family killed and had escaped only to live like a wild animal in the bush. After the genocide was over she joined an Anglican church “with other genocide survivors.” There the Mother's Union made her welcome and she said: “Now a former enemy is a good neighbour and I forgive him because the Holy Spirit came in my heart and taught me to forgive and live in harmony with people who were my enemies.”

We met with Archbishop Rwaje. He was full of smiles and instantly welcoming. He remembered the ‘cathedral riot’ well and was very touched that Mary should feel it was so important to come back and re-visit people and places from the 1996 SOMA mission. He immediately wanted to know how to invite a SOMA team and we felt as we talked that God opened the door not to just one team, but several – possibly across the province.

Mary and I took an early bus to Butare to see Bishop Nathan Gasatura. His first thought was: “Let me pray for you...” It was wonderful, all-encompassing, thrilling and rejuvenating.

He had met Michael Harper, founder of SOMA, in Burundi in 1989. He had been deeply impressed and blessed through Michael's ministry and saw a big move of the Spirit in the area after his visit. We started explaining the process for inviting a SOMA team and that he might want to think and pray about this before coming back to us. But he said: “I don't want to pray about it, I WANT a SOMA team to come!!” He shared something of his own burden for the diocese and then with a challenging grin: “Your people who come must be fit. You will be confronting evil powers!” Then added with great confidence: “He who is with us is more powerful than he who is against us!”

Our prayer throughout was that this Rwanda visit would re-open the door for future SOMA UK mission teams and all the signs were that this was happening. Thanks be to God.