



“Let no one despise your youth”

Captivated, Katanga Youth

A very apt word for the 95 young people who gathered for a three-day SOMA conference at Lubumbashi, DR Congo, Katanga Diocese, in August last year. Bishop Bertin, a long-term SOMA team member and supporter and now Bishop of this huge Diocese, had invited SOMA back to Katanga to facilitate two three-day conferences, one for church leaders and a second for young people. Lubumbashi, (population 1.5 million), is the second city of DR Congo, and a hub for the country's mineral mining industry.

Live a life worthy

The first conference for 56 clergy and intercessors was held within the Bishop's compound inside the city. After initial introductions, team member Julia spoke on Ephesians 4:1-6: “live a life worthy of the calling you have received”, with team member Edward following on with a session on responsibility and calling. The day ended with team members Janet and Tabitha leading a time of reflection, worship, and prayer

Prayer ministry, Katanga Youth



ministry. Day two saw more worship, both sung and through scripture, with workshops on women in the church and pastor's discipleship, and day three focused on the ministry of the Holy Spirit, led by team leader Stephen, and on Ephesians 6: “Put on the full armour of God” by Julia.

You have so much love you come back

One delegate was particularly touched that the SOMA team had returned to the Diocese, and said, “It is surprising that you will come to Congo with its challenges, you have so much love you come back. It pleases me so

much that you came to Kalemie, because many ladies are not able to stand and teach the Word, they are shy, you stood and gave lots of confidence to the other ladies.”

God brought me here, I go up and down, two steps forward and one back but I will keep going.

Another reflected that, “God brought me here, I go up and down, two steps forward and one back but I will keep going”, and another that, “I give thanks as I was encouraged and helped”. The Bishop's wife shared that, “when we came into the presence of God...I had a dream that angels are sent to protect me every time.”

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“God chose the weak things of this world...”



Worship at Rorya

When 16-year-old team member Rosie arrived as part of the 6-person SOMA mission to Rorya, Tanzania, in October last year, the local headteacher thought she could have ‘nothing to offer’ as she was so young. He was soon proved wrong. Rosie spoke to the delegates, and engaged with the local children in church and when visiting the adjacent church school. The headteacher concluded that, “Rosie turned out to be the very first person to light up the conference with her kindness and love to the children in particular” and, “when she stood up to speak,” (delivering a session at which her

Mother, team member Teresa, was unable to speak) the whole conference was amazed. God’s Word has again been proved right, in that, “God purposely chose what the world considers nonsense in order to shame the wise, and he chose what the world considers weak in order to shame the powerful”. (1 Cor 1:27)

SOMA had been invited by Bishop John for a third mission to this young, rural, poor Diocese, which was born out of the much larger Mara Diocese in 2010, and has about 42 clergy. The programme during this 5-day conference for clergy, their wives and other senior parish ministers was in

line with SOMA’s Call. Team members Steve and Richard shared about ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit, encouraging and using Spiritual gifts, developing a church’s spiritual health, and what it means to be a Disciple. Team members Teresa and Rosie (both involved in youth ministry in their home church) brought their experience sharing about youth ministry and ministry with children, and team member Alex, who has a passion for biblical ecology, envisioned the delegates each day on supporting and sustaining ministry with a biblical model for farming and conservation.

“What’s the time Mr Wolf?” Rorya

Team member Josie completed the feast with contributions on the role of women in the church and discerning a sense of call.

Considerable challenges

The team experienced considerable challenges during this mission as communication with the intercessor network was difficult, and various team members were ill. In addition, some of the environmental and cultural challenges proved unexpected and taxing. They felt, like St Paul, “hard pressed on every side, but not crushed, perplexed but not in despair”. There was encouragement however from an Intercessor who wrote, “the blessings from your visit will be more than we can ever imagine” and also from a delegate,



Children’s ministry, Rorya

Gabriel, who wrote, “the conference was very good and the team are the anointed people of God. They have become great blessings to us.” Another delegate, Donald, who assisted greatly with translation said, “The team is doing a wonderful job. God has been faithful since we began” and “On my own behalf, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of you: SOMA and team for coming and God using you to bless me. I feel humbled to have seen your dedication towards God’s ways and teachings. I will never forget the love that exudes from your heart. May God continue blessing you”.

SOMA Team: Leader Rev Steve Holmes (UK); Rev Alex Arinaitwe (Uganda); Richard Burgess (UK); Teresa and Rosie Bridgewater (UK); Josie Osborne (UK). Bishop John Adiema. Intercession Co-ordinator: Helen Foster.



"I'm a changed man"



Bible study discussion, Upper Shire

This was the response of one delegate after SOMA's mission to the Diocese of Upper Shire in Malawi, last June. He continued, "I will deliver what I have learnt here to other people wherever I visit". SOMA had been invited by Bishop Brighton to facilitate a conference for 80 clergy and lay leaders at the ecumenical conference centre at Chilema, at the foot of the beautiful Malosa Mountain, a short distance from Malawi's former capital city, Zomba. It was SOMA UK's first mission to this Diocese. The 6 member, cross cultural and inter-generational team led the conference on the theme of Leadership in the Power of the Holy Spirit. Workshops on team formation and leadership, growing a healthy church, and using spiritual gifts were well received, as were teaching sessions on the Spirit in Acts, and The Spirit and Leadership from Paul's address to the Ephesian Elders. There were also two evening ministry sessions. Team leader Patrick describes the Wednesday ministry session as, 'wonderful and memorable...in the Chapel in candlelight'. He adds, "many received prayer. There was real hunger for, and openness to, the teaching; with some saying they had been longing to hear this in the Diocese". The team also visited a local primary school and

hospital, as well as preaching in the church at the urban centre of the Diocese, Mangochi, on the first Sunday of their visit.

Delegates blessed and encouraged

The delegates responded wholeheartedly to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. One said, "I have seen the power of the Holy Spirit among us", and another, "I will serve the community in love, unity, compassion, through the Holy Spirit", and yet another, "I have been blessed because my faith has been deepened". They were also encouraged in their ministries, and inspired to take back to their parishes what they had learned. One said, "As a leader I have been encouraged not to give up. In all I should ask the Holy Spirit to lead me", and another, "I am blessed with great knowledge that I would like to deliver to the people in our parish about the teachings of Jesus Christ", and another reflected that, "the conference has been an eye opener in my ministry".

Patrick concluded that the teaching and ministry was, "like water to thirsty ground" and, "there were powerful moments of ministry and a hunger for more".

SOMA Team: Leader Rev Canon Patrick Whitworth, (UK); Jodie Lintern (UK); Rev Nigel Rawlinson (UK); Nia Templeman (UK); Yohane Yakobe (Malawi); Kennedy Zakorchera (Malawi). Bishop Brighton Malasa. Intercession Co-ordinator: Kate Brankin.

The conference has been an eye opener in my ministry. I have been blessed because my faith has been deepened



A big Thank You!

SOMA is very grateful to all those who responded to our appeal last autumn. A total of £5,840 was given, which increases to £6,430 with gift aid. This will enable us to say 'yes' to more inviting Bishops this year, especially in poorer dioceses, and to support more overseas team members like Rebecca and recently Edward, Alex, Kennedy and Yohane on SOMA teams. Thanks again from all of us at SOMA UK and from those to whom we are sent!

SOMA 2019 UK Residential Conference

**Tuesday 17th September –
Thursday 19th September 2019**
High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Herts

Guests Graham and Jackie Cray



Join us for a great time of fellowship, teaching, prayer, worship, ministry and relaxation. Be inspired, be encouraged and ignite your passion for intercession, prayer and for mission. Hear about SOMA missions. Spend time aside with God. Enjoy great company. Please email steve.fincher@somauk.org to register your interest.

*"A spiritually uplifting experience."
"It re-invigorates my motivation for intercession."
"A total refreshment in the Holy Spirit."
"I was greatly encouraged, loved and learned so much."* (2018 Residential Conference delegates)
Booking form now available on our website www.somauk.org
Cost: £182 per person.

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April	Tanzania	Southern Zone Dioceses
May	Kenya	Maasai Land
June	Tanzania	Tabora
July	DR Congo	Kalemie
October	Australia	Melbourne
December	South Sudan	Northern Bahr el Ghazal Youth Leaders
Date pending	DR Congo	Kinshasa
Date pending	DR Congo	Kindu
Date pending	Uganda	Palorinya Camp (exiled South Sudanese Diocese of Kajo-Keji)
Date pending	DR Congo	Bunia, Diocese of Boga.

 **PRAY:** Intercession and prayer are the foundation of SOMA's ministry and mission. Find today's live prayer nugget on twitter, Facebook and our website home page. Receive our 'Daily Prayer Diary' with your copy of 'Sharing'. SOMA Intercessors are informed by regular, extensive Prayer Briefings and two-way daily emails when teams are on mission. For more on intercession: on our website click 'Prayer and Intercession'; or contact Kate Brankin at intercession@somauk.org

 **INVITE:** To invite a SOMA team email stephen.dinsmore@somauk.org

 **TEAM:** Come on a mission! We welcome new team members. To be considered for a SOMA Team, simply email SOMA at info@somauk.org or phone us on 01469 279737. Alternatively click on 'Join a Team' on our website www.somauk.org

 **GIVE:**
Electronic transfer: please email steve.fincher@somauk.org

Post: our address is SOMA, PO Box 69, Merriott, TA18 9AP, cheques payable to 'SOMA' please.

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Click 'Get Involved' on our website, then 'Parish Mission Partners'. Alternatively email stephen.dinsmore@somauk.org or call 01460 279737

"Let no one despise your youth"

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The youth conference took place in an agricultural college just outside the city, with sessions on Holy Spirit ministry, worship, prayer ministry in small groups, as well as some fun group games involving balloons! Team member Julia described these young people as, 'like giant sponges' and Stephen concluded that: "they are the future... they will be great, if nobody spoils them". The SOMA team realised that the young people had really started to become aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit when, on day three, they all stopped their excited balloon game and were engaged in being quietly in the presence of the Holy Spirit within moments of Edward starting to lead a worship song. Stephen notes that they were not just singing, but worshipping through song. One delegate, Laetitia, concluded that, "I thought God only manifests in noise and loud prayer, now I know he manifests in silence."

Now I pray and pray and pray

This was the response of one young delegate, while another said, "I found God because of yesterday, because he restored me to pray and gave me a hunger for him", and another that, "I gave up on praying, now from this teaching I was encouraged and will keep going". Delegate Jacques concluded that, "the teachings sister Tabitha gave us, gives me courage for serving

Time for fun, Katanga



*Think on these things and God...
Katanga*

the youth" and another young man stated: "I had doubts, I was encouraged in prayer, I will not be the same again".

Please do keep praying for DR Congo, for this Diocese, for Bishop Bertin, the clergy, and especially for this precious group of young people. Also pray for the prospective Bishop of the new Diocese of Kalemie which will soon be split off from Katanga. Photos of this mission can be viewed on our facebook page and website (www.somauk.org).

I found God because of yesterday, because he restored me to pray and gave me a hunger for him.

SOMA Team: Leader Rev Stephen Dinsmore (UK); Tabitha Awino (Kenya), Julia Cox (UK), Janet Dinsmore (UK), Edward Kirerti (Kenya). Intercession Co-ordinator Kate Brankin. Bishop Bertin Subi.



Thank you

We really appreciate your continued support for SOMA. However, if you no longer wish to receive SHARING, or no longer wish us to hold your personal details on our database, please email us at info@somauk.org and we will update our database accordingly. Please see our website www.somauk.org for the full privacy statement.