

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

Lambeth Edition, Summer 2008

the newsletter of
soma

SHARING OF MINISTRIES ABROAD



One of my father's favourite photographs, which I've now inherited, is of me as a child. I don't remember the exact occasion, but there were a great many of us there and all, like me, under 10 years old.

The other thing we had in common is that we are all dressed the same – short trousers, long socks, caps and goggles – yes, I was a Cub Scout. Yet what I do remember is that for weeks, it seemed, we had been drilled by Akela (the Cub pack leader) to get our marching right, to keep in step. Even now I can recall some of her exasperation! The reason for my father's particular delight for this photo only became clear to me some years later. He's often gone through the same ritual: getting out the photo, pointing me out among the marching ranks and proudly remarking "Look they are all out of step – except Stephen".

Secret weapon

Keeping in Step with the Spirit is one of the prime values of SOMA. This is just as challenging for an organisation as it is for an individual. In this we are greatly helped by our wonderful group of committed and dedicated intercessors – SOMA's almost unseen secret weapon!

I recently returned from a Team Mission to Rumbek, Sudan. The country, at last, seems to be coming out of decades of

devastating civil war in the South. Indeed, none of the delegates were born prior to the start of hostilities. With a team of five, from Uganda and the UK, I was there to share teaching at the Regional Youth Conference organised by the provincial Youth Adviser, Evans Gogonya. Delegates came from the Dioceses of Wau, Pacong, Cueilbet and Rumbek. Despite transport and accommodation difficulties (for the delegates and the team) the conference was a success. The Christian formation and renewal of these particular young leaders is vital to the future of the Church and Kingdom in the region. The Church is one of the few institutions that has endured the decades of strife, and, as a result, holds a special place in the minds of the Southern Sudanese people. It also provides a God-given opportunity for mission and a God-given challenge to this younger generation to transform their communities and land in the emerging peace.

For SOMA *Keeping in Step with the Spirit* in South Sudan means continuing to support, share with, challenge and resource its young church leaders so that they can obediently

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Praying for Lambeth 2008

Introducing Pray Lambeth

Pray Lambeth is a joint initiative of SOMA UK and the Crosswinds Prayer Trust that aims to mobilise and resource global prayer cover for the Lambeth Conference 2008.

We will provide easily accessible briefings before, during and immediately after the Lambeth Conference, with input from delegates and contributors to the conference. Through *Pray Lambeth* we will also circulate appropriate responses from intercessory groups and individuals around the world.

Rather than praying about specific issues, *Pray Lambeth* enables intercessors to stand in the gap – upholding the Anglican Communion and those present at the Conference, that God's best purposes will be carried out and His grace and truth unleashed.

SOMA and Crosswinds offer this service to the whole church. Individuals and groups who sign up to the service will receive our free updates.

How are we doing it?

Andy Page of Crosswinds and technical director for *Pray Lambeth* explains, "as well as the more conventional meetings and communications methods, we are using all available technical means to provide prayer briefings to virtually every country in the world – text messages, emails, rss feeds and website bulletins. Anyone with a mobile phone or a computer with internet access will be able to benefit from our service".

Getting Involved

Hilary Steynor, SOMA Prayer Co-ordinator, has some ideas to get you started...

If you are concerned for the Anglican Church or feel God has put into your heart a burden to pray for the Lambeth Conference, whether on your own or by encouraging others in your group or parish to get together, *Pray Lambeth* is for you!

The process of intercession – upholding the Bishops before the Lord as they meet – is not one of petitioning prayer alone, but a process of praise, confession, offering ourselves, waiting on

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make the most of every God-given opportunity.

Also in this issue of *Sharing* you can read of Growing Disciples... in South Rwenzori. Here for SOMA *Keeping in Step with the Spirit* means working with the Bishop and Diocesan Mission department to introduce, establish and support the discipleship course for ordinary Christians Rooted in Jesus. The delegates were so delighted with the course ('an answer to prayer') that the team had to convince the delegates to start with a manageable number of groups running the course when they returned to their parishes – so enthusiastic were they about the course, having grasped a huge vision of how it would provide much-needed discipleship training at a local level!

For SOMA and the Lambeth Conference *Keeping in Step with the Spirit* means launching the *Pray Lambeth* initiative with Crosswinds Prayer Trust – aiming to mobilise and resource global prayer cover for the Conference. Do read the article and pray.

For our future in SOMA *Keeping in Step with the Spirit* means a continued commitment to those Dioceses and Provinces where we have been privileged to minister to over the years, as well as seeking new opportunities. We are pleased to have been invited to the Congo and once more to India.

Our commitment to *Keeping in Step with the Spirit* always keeps us mindful of SOMA's call to work for the transformation of individuals and churches, and the



Stephen Dinsmore
National Director of SOMA UK

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.

SOMA Intercessors

We are always keen to hear from people who feel called to pray regularly for the work of SOMA. Our Intercessors take on an important commitment, are an indispensable part of SOMA's ministry and play an invaluable role at home whenever SOMA teams are abroad. Please contact Hilary Steynor on 01483 301013 for more details.

Reconciliation and Rain in Bungoma

by Canon David Munby

Earlier this year Howard Barnes and I visited Bungoma, Western Kenya, teaching on reconciliation and unity to groups of inter church leaders, Anglican clergy, Anglican evangelists and also their lay readers.

The first full day of the first conference opened with a powerful spirit of repentance amongst the leaders for divisions and wrong attitudes. That afternoon a fierce hailstorm stopped us speaking so we committed ourselves to pray and worship for around an hour. Howard felt the rain significant. After the storm finished Nairobi witnessed the signing of the peace treaty between the two political leaders, ushering in a power sharing agreement. We sensed that at that moment hope arose and the national mood was transformed.

The response at the conferences was very positive. There was fresh repentance for divisions, new attitudes formed about other denominations, spiritual renewal and physical healings. One Pentecostal pastor said that before the conference he didn't think that Anglicans could be saved, let alone be filled with the Holy Spirit, but now God had opened his eyes and his whole ministry would be different!

There were some problems of 'love of money' amongst a few leaders but the majority were very positive and have invited SOMA back for a further conference. The Bishop was very encouraged – he has been working hard to bring unity amongst church leaders both nationally and locally.



David Munby with Pastors.

SOMA Conference: 12 – 14 May 2009

Following positive comments and the success of our 2007 SOMA Conference the National Director, along with SOMA's Trustees and Council, have set the date for the next conference:

Lunchtime on Tuesday 12th May 2009, until lunch on Thursday 14th at High Leigh conference centre, Hoddesdon, Herts.

The conference is for supporters, intercessors, team members and leaders – in fact everyone who is a part of or wants



to be a part of SOMA. There will be plenty of time to meet friends old and new, pray, worship, reflect, and meet together as leaders, intercessors, etc. There will also be news updates and

ministry, all set in the Hertfordshire countryside in 40 acres of lawns, parkland and woodland. High Leigh is easily reached by train, car and even plane (!) Put the date in your diary now – places will sell out. More details will be sent out later in the year.



Growing Disciples Rooted in Jesus

by Revd Sonja Arnold

When Bishop Jackson Nzerebende Tembo told members of his Diocesan mission team about his plan to introduce the "Rooted in Jesus" participatory small group discipleship programme into the Diocese of South Rwenzori, Uganda they knew that God had answered their prayers. Revd Captain James Tumwesigye and his colleague William Musisi had been praying about the need for discipleship across the Diocese, praying for the Spirit to reveal the strategic solution. It was therefore a very expectant, committed and enthusiastic team that welcomed our SOMA team to the Diocese in May 2008.

The team of Revd Stephen Dinsmore, Alex Scott and myself led three conferences, two in very rural areas in the breathtakingly beautiful South Rwenzori mountains and one in the cathedral town of Kasese. The clergy, senior lay reader and senior mission co-ordinator from each parish were invited by the Bishop. In all we were able to train and commission 150 people as leaders of "Rooted in Jesus" discipleship groups. Both the material and participatory method of leading the small groups was received enthusiastically. Its design allows for the material to be used in areas with low literacy rates, which is still the case in some rural areas in that region. At the end of each of the three conferences the delegates had begun the process of thinking and praying about who should be invited to the first of their groups. With the first part of the course translated into Lhukonzo, the delegates left the conference raring to go, with all they needed to begin!

As well as establishing "Rooted in Jesus" the conferences were a time of refreshing and renewal for many. We were deeply humbled to hear testimonies about how God had been touching lives and bringing conviction. In one, a woman publicly confessed that she had been contemplating committing suicide before the conference but God had intervened and had given her new hope. It was very moving to see the love and compassion shown to her by other leaders who immediately put into place follow up support.

As with so many SOMA conferences we too felt the gracious hand of the Lord upon us and the power of intercession supporting us during the whole trip. We praise God for sustaining and healing Revd Captain James' wife Harriet through a bout of malaria which began the day we arrived and for the many unseen ways that God protected and guided us.

Planted by water

A recurring theme throughout the trip was Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17:7,8, the image of a tree planted by water, its roots going down deep so that there was fruit, even in times of hardship and trouble. This is our continued prayer for the people of the South Rwenzori Diocese and we look forward to seeing much more fruit in the years to come.

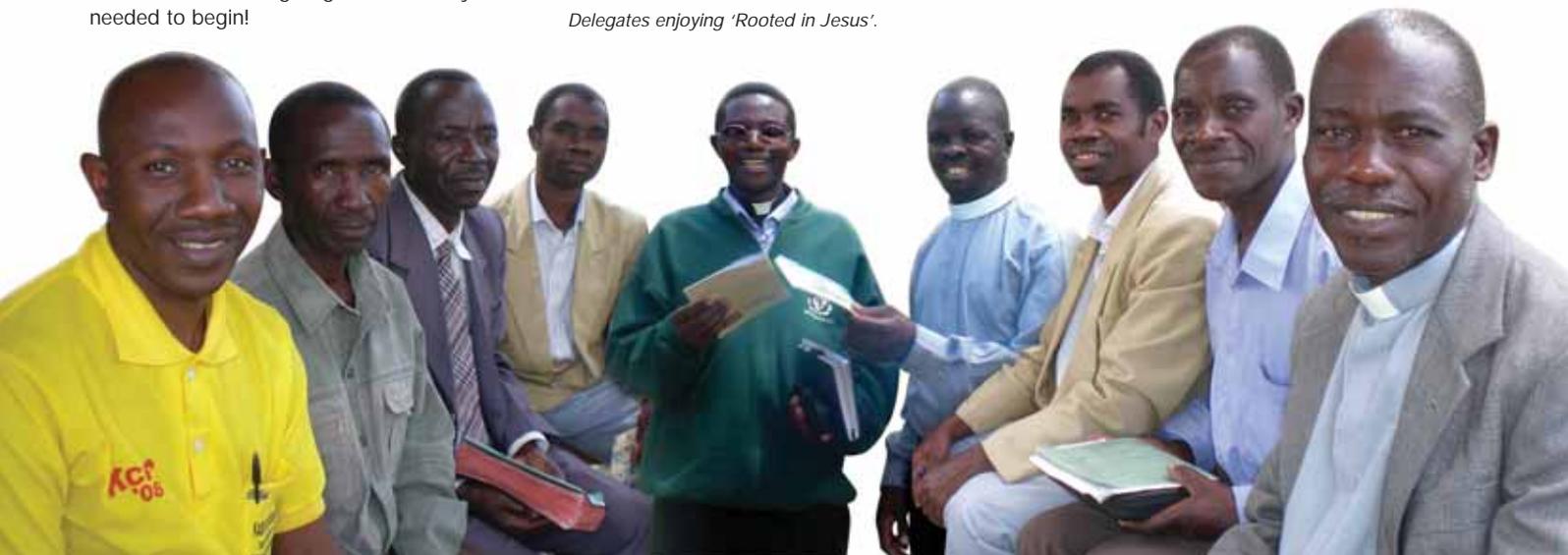
Sonja Arnold is an experienced SOMA Team Leader and lives in Bristol where she is involved with planting a Fresh Expression of church.

Delegates enjoying 'Rooted in Jesus'.

Alison Morgan, editor of *Rooted in Jesus*, writes...

"Rooted in Jesus is a course in Christian discipleship written by a team of clergy, teachers and people with experience of working in Africa. Especially for the use of ordinary African Christians, rather than translated from material developed for the West, *Rooted in Jesus* is written to enable groups of Christians to meet together, under the guidance of a leader, to learn to live in close and effective relationship with God, with one another, and with those around them. The course runs over a period of two years. The material is absorbed and practised orally, each session is summarised by memory verse and it is not necessary for group members to be able to read or write. The emphasis is on the active participation of each member, in direct dependence on the Holy Spirit and a considerable amount of time is spent in prayer and in group discussion. The overall aim is to build strong fellowships of Christian disciples who will in turn be able to teach others. First introduced in 2002, the course is currently translated into 14 languages in six countries where there are around 2,000 *Rooted in Jesus* groups with some 20,000 members".

Rooted in Jesus is introduced, at the invitation of the diocesan bishop, by a SOMA team of people from the UK and Africa. Further details of the course and its use can be found at www.alisonmorgan.co.uk, or visit www.somauk.org.



YES I'd like to support SOMA

Invite

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

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

My response

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

Please...

- contact me as I would like to invite a SOMA team to my Diocese
- tell me about becoming part of a SOMA Team
- tell me how to financially support SOMA's ministry
- send me SOMA's free regular SHARING newsletter
- send me SOMA's free regular Prayer Diary

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

SOMA TEAMS for 2008 – 9

Teams in the final stages of preparation:

- Tabora Diocese, Tanzania in the first half of August, team leader Matthew Grayshon
- South Malawi in August, a team lead by John McGinley

Among the teams being put in place are:

- With staff and students from the Church Army Training College in Sheffield and some of our SOMA international regions in September in the Province of Southern Africa. The 'Growing the Church' initiative starts with a combined training conference in Johannesburg and is followed by the teams travelling to Dioceses across the Province.

For late 2008/9 opportunities include:

- Sudan – Kadugli-Nuba
- Tanzania – Kondo
- Sudan – Maridi
- India – Karimnagar
- Sudan – Rokon
- Sudan – Youth leaders Juba
- Uganda – South Rwenzori
- Congo – North Kivu
- Kenya – Maasailand
- Uganda – Luweero

Contact the SOMA office to register your interest if you would like to be considered for these or any other potential teams.

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the Lord, listening, and praying Scripture and words received. We, and others around the world, are committed to this process formally by setting up and taking part in Prayer Rooms. Yet most people involved are drawn to intercede alongside continuing to run the business of their daily life.

Action!

Use the resources available from the *Pray Lambeth* website:

- view the bulletins
- sign up for the email briefings, the text message service, the rss feed
- watch Archbishop Rowan's Call to Prayer on Youtube
- pray through the Bishops' programme (including their day out in London)
- prayer-walk the Canterbury campus virtually
- use the daily BRF readings and commentary, just a click away
- use the Lambeth Prayer bookmarks on the Conference website (print some off to put in your church)

May you know God's blessing, growing and stretching as you seek to follow his call for these crucial days in the life of the Anglican Communion.

Pray Lambeth website:
www.praylambeth.org



"It emerged..."

A SOMA team to the Indian Ocean

A door-opening, strategic SOMA mission has just taken place to the Anglican Province of the Indian Ocean, thanks to the invitation from the Archbishop of the Province to set up an Anglican Renewal Body in this scattered Province – which centres on the widely different islands of Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles.

Following a Renewal Conference small teams from SOMA returned with delegates to their dioceses to introduce renewal at a local level. Don Brewin, former National Director of SOMA UK reported, "the Holy Spirit used the teams to manifest the love of Jesus Christ into situations of real need". Future involve in this Province "will emerge". Watch for further news.

Indian Ocean team members receive a warm welcome



SOMA UK

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