

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 SOMA's free regular SHARING newsletter and Prayer Diary
- contact me as I would like to invite a SOMA team to my Diocese

Send Me!



Team Members, North Kivu

Intercessor and SOMA UK Intercession Coordinator Hilary Steynor travelled to North Kivu.

What drew me to go on a team in reality after 10 years of being a part of each team 'virtually' as Intercession Co-ordinator? Primarily, when Stephen asked me to suggest Intercessors he could approach, the Lord seemed to say strongly that this was the Team I should consider. Intercessors were needed for the tough spiritual climate. I joined the team of three Kenyan Vanguard Intercessors for onsite intercession and an afternoon workshop. As the days progressed, we got to know those in the workshop and some of their stories as we sought to deepen commitment to prayer and equip them. We were made aware of the influence of tribal customs and the plight of the Batwa. Our onsite prayer meant working a different schedule to the rest of the Team - praying in the Cathedral before and between sessions and standing at the edge to be physically and spiritually aware during sessions. We



Time for a Break, North Kivu

prayed against spirits of noise and confusion and for wisdom and discernment for those leading to deal with these matters. There were many times of ministry during which we were praying for God's enabling and the Holy Spirit and angels' guarding. While travelling we ended up in a ditch in the dark, miraculously with the bus upright - direct protection as result of concerted prayer. Instant answers to prayer always inspire faith that God has all in hand, and this was reinforced both with pictures and words in team times and what was received from intercessors at home.

The Most Telling Moment?

Team Leader Alison Morgan, editor of Rooted in Jesus, took a team to the Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania in August.

The most telling moment? On the last day of the conference, as I sat in the session, conducted in Swahili, on 'what happens next?', I saw the assembled Catechists rise as one to their feet, and surge into a line at the front of the

conference hall. There they stood, hands open, eyes closed, and sang. The speaker and Team member Michael Samuel came up to me. "They have learned that we need to make a specific response to Jesus, and receive the Holy Spirit. Most of them say that although they have served God all their lives, they have never formally done that; they are asking if they could do it now, and would you pray for them?" I said I would...

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Progress and Blessing in Congo



Dancing Feet, North Kivu

In September, after much prayer and preparation, and an earlier reconnaissance visit, former SOMA UK National Director Don Brewin led a team of 25 from 5 mostly African nations to the Diocese of North Kivu in DR Congo. At the invitation of recently appointed Bishop Enoch Kayeeye the Team led a major Renewal Convention which included seven workshop streams at what was an opportune and strategic time in the Renewal of the Diocese.

Challenges

The Mission faced real challenges. Several key team members had to withdraw in the weeks before the mission. Gathering a large international team was not easy, even with email and mobile phones. The majority of the team were from Uganda and Kenya, many receiving no salaries... At one brief point an interloper insinuated himself into the programme - we thought he was with the Bishop; the Bishop thought he was with us!



Convention in the Cathedral North Kivu

We realised that one of the effects of over 100 years of violence, exploitation, looting, warfare and suppression was that many of the Christians had their resources of grace squeezed hard.

God's blessing

I really want to stress the tremendous sense of the Spirit's presence on the mission:

- Every member of the team was preserved in good health.
- Every day the team coped well with unpredictability.
- From the start the delegates were open to the Holy Spirit and acknowledged they were exhausted and spiritually thirsty, and sought prayer.
- In every workshop there was a spiritual breakthrough.
- There was a sense that the discipleship workshop will successfully lead to a growth of Rooted in Jesus groups across the Diocese.

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I Knew to put Faith to Work

Do you 'put faith to work'? It was this phrase that really struck me, a comment by one of our Team Members reflecting on facing challenges while ministering with SOMA abroad. Indeed, according to the book of James, a 'faith' that is not put to work to radically transform ourselves, the church, our communities, our country and the world is not real faith at all!

So will you put your faith to work? Will you take up God's challenge to step out into the new, the unknown and the untried? That could be to come on a SOMA Team, to invite and receive a SOMA Team to your Diocese, to become a SOMA Intercessor or to support SOMA beyond your apparent resources. The experience of those who have previously put their faith to work with SOMA is overwhelmingly positive, transforming, faith building, life enhancing and blessing - read just some of their experiences in this edition of SHARING.

So, will you put your faith to work with SOMA? The opportunities are here, it's up to you...

Stephen Dinsmore
 SOMA UK National Director



SOMA Teams for 2010

Teams are heading to

Tanzania	Tabora on Prayer
Sudan	Kajo-Keji
The Church of North India	
Uganda	Madi & West Nile
Indonesia	Bandung
Nigeria	Jos
Angola	
Uganda	Ruwenzori
Sudan	Regional Youth Leaders
Egypt	Cairo
Zambia	Lusaka
Sudan	Nuba Mountains

Other invitations are in the process of negotiation. Contact the SOMA Office if you would like to be involved with any of these, or other emerging, teams.'



As in the Early Church

SOMA Team Leader Matthew Grayshon from London went with Ven Anthony Ngovi of Machakos, Kenya and Canons Benon and Edith Ssemambo of Mityana, Uganda to Bishop Cleti Ogeto's Missionary Diocese of Lodwar. Formed at the end of 2007 it's in the North of Kenya near the border with Ethiopia and Lake Turkana. The team was in Lodwar in August...

The Bishop has the help of just two ordained clergy, with three more to be made Deacon this Advent. The 500 committed Anglicans are spread between three parishes across a huge geographical area. The 80 people who attended the SOMA seminar were church leaders - the terms churchwarden, lay reader, elder and so on hardly describe their lay roles.

Seminar

The programme evolved as the Spirit led. This is of course axiomatic of all SOMA missions, but this seminar had a particularly vivid leading by the Spirit. The teaching and group work became Fellowship and Spirit centred, reflecting how the congregations scattered through the three

parishes operate. There are so few Bibles and church buildings that, as in the early church, the Christians often have only each other and the Spirit as their resources. On Friday a young female teacher proved an excellent interpreter and, as a result, the women delegates became completely free to participate: it appeared a revelation to all present to hear a traditionally attired Turkana women speaking profound Christian insights.

Intercersion

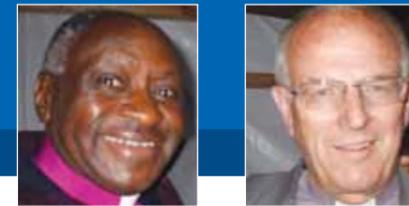
The Team was hugely grateful to the intercessors of SOMA and Hanwell parish for their support and labour in the heavenlies - the heroic enablers of this mission. The Team experienced tangible spiritual attack, especially at night. The mission was covered with the grace sought by the intercessors.

Future

There is a clear positive spiritual legacy from the Kitale clergy who had, in obedience, worked in this area of their former diocese and a core of 50 or so lay leaders who have serious commitment and maturity in their faith. We pray that the Bishop and his lay leadership will be encouraged as they draw congregations into active fellowships and lives of shared prayer. The Lodwar climate is semi-arid with day time temperatures of 35-40. Rains have been poor for several years so there is a convergence on the three towns and growing dependence on UN and British aid. Lodwar town only survives because of a stream of lorries every night with food, fuel et al. Bishop Cleti and his family are trusting the Lord for virtually all they need, their home, resources and salary.



Bishop Cleti and family



Out of the Comfort Zone

Team Member Jenny Brown went to North Kivu DRC, here she relates her experience 'out of the comfort zone'...

I've never done anything like this before! From Day 1 it was clear that the programme was no more than a stepping-off point for a much more significant Spirit-led programme, something of a challenge to my preference for order, control and planning...

Great Fun

That wasn't the only one of my comfort zones that was exploded on this trip. The prospect of 28 in a 6-bedroomed house didn't fill me with joyous anticipation - I'm happier in semi-hermit mode, with mod cons - but the reality was a wonderful answer to anxious prayer, and turned out to be great fun!

Unforgettable Moment

Over the week of the convention the Lord was transforming the delegates in ways I've never seen before. The faith of the gathering started lifting by the end of day 1 to one of engagement and excitement that was tangible. Scores of delegates came forward for prayer, and I learned new and exhilarating ways of praying. The children also started praying for each other. Delegates came forward to testify, there was amazing public repentance relating to theft, corruption and witchcraft, and an unforgettable moment of reconciliation between a Team Member and a delegate who had five years previously attempted to kill her. The delegate had since been longing for forgiveness, and had no idea that the convention would provide that opportunity. Big stuff!

Constrained

One area where I did feel constrained was in the workshop for women. It was salutary to learn about women's lives, their low status, the sheer grind of their daily lives, and the violence so many of them suffer: there wasn't much I could do except listen and laugh with them as they tried to understand how I, being single, survive without a man, and as I tried to understand how some of them survived with one!

Spiritual Opposition

I've not previously been so aware of active spiritual opposition, but I learned fast, from before the trip when some team members had

to withdraw, to the dreadful, unscheduled, night drive from the border to Butembo, to all sorts of disruptions during our sessions, and the riots in Kampala on the way home. Ephesians 6 featured very prominently!

Benefitted

My comfort zone didn't easily stretch to some of the styles of prayer, nor delivery but I learned so much, benefited so much from the prayer and watching the Team Leader that my comfort zone became irrelevant. I was led into new heights and understanding of worship. It made a huge difference to know that the Intercessors with us on Team were doing their stuff and I came to appreciate how important it was for them to be there. It's wonderful to be surrounded by prayer.

Big Step Forward

For me, this was a big step forward in experiencing the Lord as not only living but extremely active - and not just as an intellectual knowledge but in practice, in every aspect of our programme and all the 'unexpectednesses' of the trip. There were constant challenges and distractions to cope with, but from all of them good and exhilarating things emerged. It was not an easy trip, at any level, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world - Praise God, as we say in Africa!



"Sharpened to Sharpen Others"

Bishop Cranmer Mugisha, Bishop of Muhabura, invited a Team to plant the discipleship course Rooted in Jesus in his diocese. Previously Dean of the Cathedral, he and his wife Hope are widely respected, bringing new life and energy to the diocese which borders Rwanda and Congo.

John Lee, Team leader...

We ran two training conferences of two and a half days, one in Iryaruvumba, one in the Cathedral at Kisoro and a half day conference to communicate the Rooted in Jesus idea to the clergy. We asked delegates for testimonies of how they had been helped by the training and ministry.

"I didn't have strength but God strengthened me"

"Praying time helped me to remove the burden"

"We have been sharpened to go and sharpen others"

"Inviting the Holy Spirit in prayer has been helpful. I'm determined to share what I have learned"

"Love is all that matters and before I do anything I'll ask the Holy Spirit to lead"

"The picture of the cross explained God's love"

"I asked myself what will I get out of this conference? - to be rooted in Jesus, but if something is tying you ask others to help you in prayer. The need for the work of the spirit because selfishness has been a problem. That the word of God goes out to others"

"To invite the Holy Spirit at every prayer"

"I'm going to put into practice what I have learned"

"We need to be examples to those we are leading"

"The great commission has been renewed in me"

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.