

*Bishop Edward of East Ruwenzori*

## 'We cannot out-give God'



*East Ruwenzori delegates, sharing and caring*

of Cyprus partner diocese Thika in Kenya. He commended Solomon, who has a gift for preaching styles and demonstrations that work in an African context.

*"The bishop and diocese love one another"*

God used Solomon powerfully time and again, said Derek, and his style was complemented by team member Paul's careful and thoughtful biblical teaching. Both were used to call people to repentance, commitment and re-commitment in different contextual expressions of service to Jesus.

### Word and Spirit

Recognising that Ugandan Anglicans are heavily influenced by the 1930s' East African Revival and the 1960s' Charismatic and Pentecostal Revival, the theme of the mission was *Word and Spirit* – not alternatives but both of God. The venue was a new diocesan secondary school, and local officials extended the school holiday for a week

*continued overleaf*

**W**ORSHIP is at the heart of the life, witness and mission of a rural diocese in Uganda; it is exuberant, enthusiastic, a coming together of mind, body and spirit in Christ.

Derek, who led a SOMA team to East Ruwenzori in May, said: "The call of the drum, the singing, the ululation, the clapping and the dancing open the lives of western Christians to the Spirit of God in a way that may be everyday

joy to soul-rich and financially poor Christians in the developing world."

However, it also raises the question of discernment. "When are we witnessing a routine expression of Church life and when is the Holy Spirit truly at work?" Derek wondered. "On the surface the two may look and sound similar to an outsider. Any SOMA team has to ask these questions in order to recognise the hand of God at work during a mission."

This was a SOMA UK mission with a difference, as all but one of the team members live in Cyprus, drawn from the congregations of SOMA Parish Mission Partners St Barnabas in Limassol and St Lazarus, Pissouri, plus two from St John, Deryneia.

Derek also wanted an African team member who could be a cultural bridge, someone with a heart for mission, and consulted Bishop Julius

## Bishops embrace renewed unity

**A**N image of tears, received by an intercessor, provoked fervent prayer that unity would be invigorated when bishops gathered in DR Congo in August.

The intercessors were alerted and urged to pray for the Lord to challenge everyone to real unity, deeper than mere words, when the House of Bishops gathered for the SOMA-led retreat in Butembo. Please make real the message of Psalm 84:6, they prayed, that as the intercessors weep God's tears, wilderness will be transformed into fertile land.

DR Congo is a huge country; in the east people eke out a fragile existence even when not displaced by violence and war. The seat of government is remote

*continued overleaf*



*SOMA team members Bishop David Williams, far left, and Archbishop Donald Mtetemela, far right, with DR Congo bishops, from second left: Sylvestre Bahati of Bukavu; Zacharie Masimango of Kindu; Elisha Tendwa, missionary bishop from Tanzania in Kalemie area of Katanga; Marcel Kapinga of Kasai; Archbishop Henri Isingoma of Kinshasa and Congo Brazzaville; Titre Ande of Aru; Molanga Botola, Suffragan Bishop of Kinshasa, with responsibility for Archdeaconry of Congo Brazzaville; Isesomo of Nord Kivu; Muno Kasima of Katanga; Lambert Funga Botolome of Kisingani*

**'We cannot out-give God'**

*continued from page 1*

to enable the mission to take place.

The first conference, from Monday to Wednesday, was for clergy and spouses; Thursday and Friday was for lay leaders, mission co-ordinators, and leaders of the Mothers' Union and Fathers' Union.

Bishop Edward and the diocese were engaged, supportive and ready to receive. Although he was away for a few days on national Church commitments, Bishop Edward was in constant phone contact, an active participant who set the tone for a responsive diocese. "The bishop and diocese love one another," said Derek.

Many parish clergy are gifted, with a wide range of experience, and some 200 readers have been trained residentially. Teaching was based around the Acts of the Apostles, and the second conference proved even more ready than the first.

Delegates had stepped back from other responsibilities to take part, and the response was swift and open. Testimonies of forgiveness were especially powerful, beginning from the diocesan hierarchy; the response of repentance and renewed commitment, the fruit of forgiveness and healing, inspired everyone.

*"We were greeted not as visitors, but as friends"*

A bonus was the 45-50 minutes of airtime provided every Sunday by *Voice of Kamwenge* local radio for Christian mission in the district through testimony, speaking and preaching with translation. Team members Sue and Christine were given complete freedom with this slot.

"East Ruwenzori expresses an openness to further SOMA involvement, as well as to further contact with our dioceses," said Derek.



*East Ruwenzori members of the Mothers' Union and Fathers' Union pray together*

"We were greeted not as visitors, but as friends. Every team member felt deeply at home there.

"The dynamics of the Holy Spirit operate in a particular way in short-term mission. The discernment is about God's plan for East Ruwenzori.

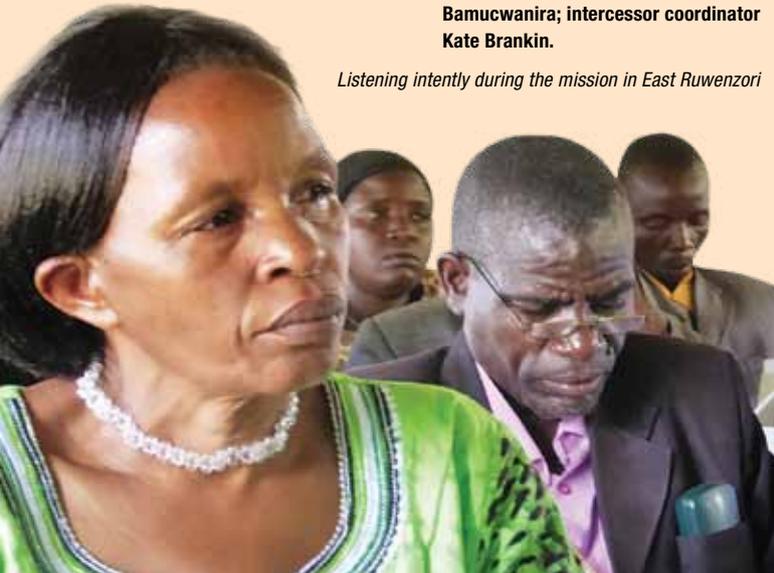
"Every member of this team offered important contributions in worship, in conversation, in encouragement, in teaching, in testimony, in preaching, in drama and in generosity. Every member felt they received much more than any of us was able to give – after all, outgiving God is beyond us all."

**Intercessors protect**

When the time came for the team to return home, it seemed the straightforwardness of the outbound travel would not be repeated. The journey saw hailstorms with minimal visibility, and accidents including a car flattened by a quarry lorry. Phone batteries and signals were fitfully available and stress-inducing. "Our intercessors were more obviously needed for protection on journeys than on the mission itself," said Derek.

**Team: Leader Canon Derek Smith, Nora Ananides, Christine Goldsmith, Canon Paul Maybury, Sarah Maybury, Sue Smith, all from Cyprus; Revd Solomon Maina, Kenya; Bishop Edward Bamucwanira; intercessor coordinator Kate Brankin.**

*Listening intently during the mission in East Ruwenzori*



# The whole,

COMMUNICATIONS can be a challenge at the best of times. Throw in multiple languages and the vagaries of the internet and erratic phone signals, and the ingredients are in place for chaos and confusion.

There's nothing the enemy likes more than chaos and confusion, and the SOMA team which travelled to DR Congo in July was especially on the alert, following wise advice about languages which led to the recruitment of linguistically gifted Congolese team member Bertin. Thanks in large part to his skills in translation,

the conference on leadership was well received.

"The bishop and attendees were incredibly grateful for our presence, and Bertin has told us it has been a significant seminar," said team leader Matthew. "However, we have had no personal conversations with attendees because of the language barrier, which has been a frustration."

Matthew summarised the conference as a "quiet and intense seminar", possibly because the 21 clergy and evangelist delegates were unfamiliar



*Kasai delegates in Mjubi-Mayi respond to a Scripture challenge*

**Bishops embrace renewed unity** *continued from page 1*

in Kinshasa and the Church takes on community responsibilities. As this divided nation prepares for elections in 2016, it is vital that church leaders stand united as a visible witness for Christ.

When leaders get together, sometimes that very gift of leadership becomes a problem because all are used to leading – their usual role. It can be hard to sit back and receive.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was acutely aware of the opportunity to deepen unity among the Congolese bishops and so a vital partnership was established with Lambeth Palace, which provided generously towards the cost of this mission.

The retreat in the Diocese of Nord Kivu at a Baptist Conference Centre in Butembo was the first time the bishops had spent a whole week together, a unique opportunity to get to know each other better in a relaxed

environment, not looking at the clock to get business done. They could talk at mealtimes and, especially in the evenings, they could be prayed with and pray for one another.

**Mission, Unity, Calling**

Each day's programme began by using a modern Anglican form of Morning Prayer in Kiswahili from Kenya or Uganda, followed by team leader Don using excerpts from Titus to highlight issues of leadership. SOMA team member Archbishop Donald provided challenging input on Mission, Unity, and the Calling of a Bishop; and colleague Bishop David focused on the Parables.

As the retreat neared its conclusion, Archbishop Henri rejoiced that there had been reconciliation. He knelt and the other bishops gathered round and prayed for him before he embraced each one, which each received. They then prayed in threes for the Holy Spirit to pour out His love on one another.

# vital armour



Kasai delegates in Mjubi-Mayi focus on their Bibles

with such a gathering and were shy. The Diocese of Kasai is the size of England, and many of the delegates had travelled long distances on rough roads and across risky terrain to Mbuji-Mayi, so fatigue was also a factor.

Mbuji-Mayi is the third largest city in DRC, but is ill-resourced by central government and the new Diocese of Kasai is extremely poor. The bishop has a small pension, the clergy are self-supporting and any income from parishes is tiny.

*“I pray we have spoken into their isolation and encouraged them in their biblical approach to ministry”*

Matthew said: “It became clear that most parishes are 80 per cent traditional religion, of a pretty dark kind. However, the Anglican Church is growing as people leave Pentecostal churches for something more stable with broader teaching.

“Mbuji-Mayi is literally the end of the line, with everything twice the cost of Lubumbashi or Kinshasa. They have no links with the west, links which in East African dioceses provide much tangible support.

“I pray we have spoken into their isolation and encouraged them in their biblical approach to ministry; the latter is,

for me, the key offering of Anglicanism in this country. Remarkably, everyone had a Bible and used them intently.”

This SOMA mission was held between two adjacent discipleship courses. Matthew and team members Ken and Bertin were involved throughout, and the time already spent together served them well during the SOMA week.

The intercessors covering the mission became used to receiving updates and prayer requests at unusual times. With erratic satellite internet connection, some messages arrived out of sequence or very belatedly, but this had the advantage of keeping everyone focused because of the heightened awareness that the enemy could slip through any gap.

## A key weapon?

There was a further test of vigilance in the extreme heat, with disrupted sleep at night and a consequent struggle against lethargy by mid-afternoon and exhaustion by evening. “All three of us need stamina, especially around 3pm; perhaps this is the enemy’s key weapon?” Matthew wondered in an update to intercessors.

The gifts of those sponsoring the mission enabled travel for the clergy to and from the conference and for each delegate to have a substantial meal every day. There were gifts too for the team – fresh papaya

for elevenses and, on the Wednesday evening, “a slap-up meal with our host: delicious but poignant because [we were] surrounded by poverty,” Matthew observed.

With opportunities to meet being so rare, Bishop Marcel had invited the pastors’ wives and children but none arrived – although there was plenty of interest from the local children who peered through the windows of the cathedral to observe the conference.

“Our teaching on the Lordship of Jesus, on the whole armour – especially helmet, shield and breastplate – has given fresh faith and courage for their challenging ministries,” said Matthew. A second session on deliverance and discernment was engrossing and informative for me and, I think, gave them a new confidence in their evangelism.

“The gifts of the Spirit are known but rarely used, essentially because of lack of teaching.

We have learnt much about listening, prayer in small groups; understandings of evangelism and deliverance have given new heart for ministry.”

**Team: Leader Revd Matthew Grayshon, Revd Ken Wiebe, UK; Revd Bertin Mwale, DR Congo; Bishop Marcel Kapinga; intercessor coordinator Kate Brankin.**

*This group in Kasai helped to keep everyone well fed during the conference*



The following day, Archbishop Donald highlighted challenges faced by bishops in their work, from abuse of authority to materialism, and he stressed that unity is essential if the church is to mature. That evening, Archbishop Henri presided at Holy Communion.

*“We praise God that in each of these areas we experienced the victory of Christ, but it took its toll”*

Team leader Don said: “The consequences of this will have to be worked out, of course, but we rejoice with them and pray that the evil one will not be able to reverse this breakthrough.”

Team member Eva observed: “The spiritual atmosphere has changed and there is a new determination to put this into practice.”

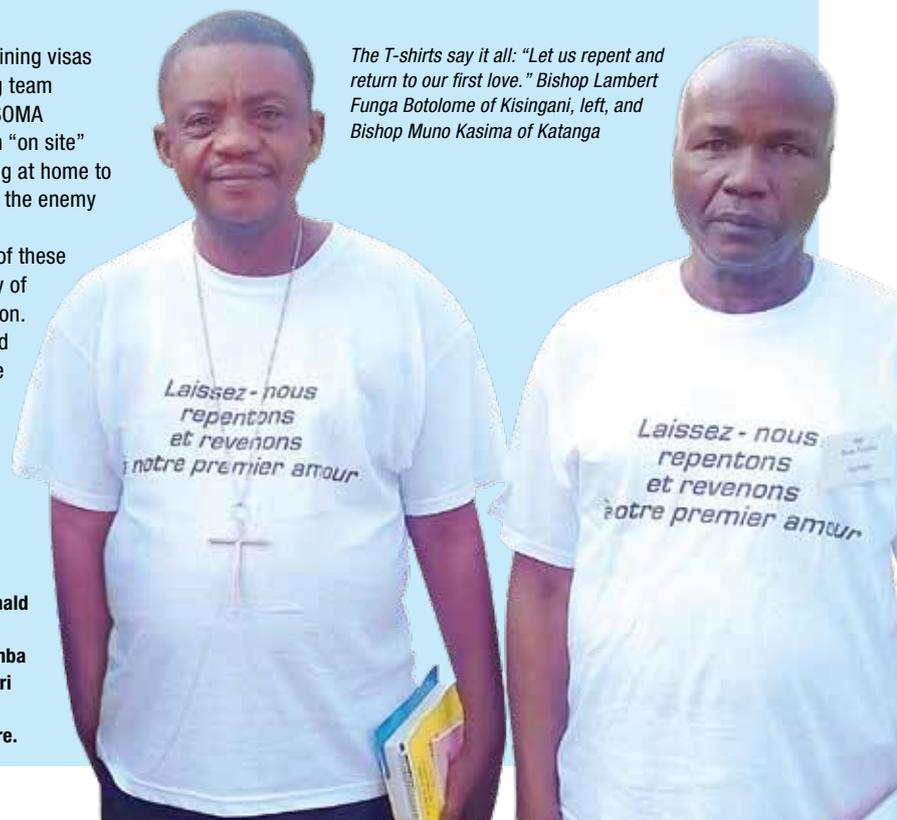
The bishops’ retreat suffered attacks on nearly every level, from setting dates

to recruiting the right team, obtaining visas and, particularly, illness affecting team members and/or their families. SOMA intercessors stand in prayer both “on site” and through the hundreds praying at home to provide a spiritual shield against the enemy during a mission.

“We praise God that in each of these areas we experienced the victory of Christ, but it took its toll,” said Don.

“Obviously what was said and done on one evening needs to be worked out in practice as the weeks and months go by. This will not be easy; and I ask that we continue to uphold each of the bishops in prayer, that this new unity may be reinforced.”

**Team: Leader Don Brewin, Rt Revd David Williams, UK; Most Revd Donald Mtetemela, Tanzania; Eva Mdachi, Nancy Ndungu, Capt Moses Musumba CA, all from Kenya; Most Revd Henri Isingoma, DR Congo; intercessor coordinator Revd Stephen Dinsmore.**



*The T-shirts say it all: “Let us repent and return to our first love.” Bishop Lambert Funga Botolome of Kisingani, left, and Bishop Muno Kasima of Katanga*

## Meet our new trustee

**D**AVID Rowe has had 16 years' close association with SOMA UK and has participated in three missions, as well as UK conferences.



"I was happy to be asked to take on the responsibility of joining the trustees of SOMA," he says. "I have had a keen interest in SOMA, seeing at first hand how effective short-term mission can be, particularly in encouraging and resourcing local leadership."

David was a SOMA team member in Arua, Uganda, in 1999; in Maseno, Kenya, in 2002; and the following year in Kajo-Keji, South Sudan. He lives near London with his wife, Davina.

"After professional qualifications I studied theology at London Bible College, and Davina and I have been very involved in church leadership, particularly in a pastoral capacity involving running marriage courses and in counselling. We were personally very impacted by the Renewal movement in the Church in the early 1990s," he said.

"Davina and I have five children and 11 grandchildren; a daughter and four of the grandchildren live in South Africa, which we visit fairly regularly.

"I retired from being a lawyer a couple of years ago and have had quite wide experience in business and financial matters. It will be a privilege to, hopefully, make a contribution to the important work SOMA does."

## Clarity of our call

**O**NE of the great delights of being the leader and vision bearer of SOMA is that it is absolutely clear what we are about. Our call, vision and values are unambiguous, writes *Stephen Dinsmore*.

SOMA's prophetic commissioning call is a great foundation, to "care for the nervous system of the body of Christ". SOMA's ministry is *for* the body of Christ, the Church; it is *to* the nervous system, its leaders. As we fulfil this call to minister to the leaders, we strengthen the whole Church; then, as the church is empowered by the Spirit, the wider community is transformed too.

And so we steadfastly hold in mind the call, and the Caller. In addition, SOMA's values draw us back, and back again, to seek to only do what we see the Father doing (John 5:19), to remain tightly yoked to Jesus (Matthew 11:29) and to keep in step with the Spirit by an intentional, proactive and conscious reliance upon His leading, guiding, directing, equipping and empowering (Galatians 5:25).

It is through short-term, cross-cultural mission that SOMA fulfils this ministry to clergy and lay leaders, pastors and youth leaders across the Anglican Communion, working for the



transformation of individuals and churches and the healing of communities and their lands through the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. Our focus is on preparing God's people for works of service, that is for their own mission and ministry, so to build up the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12).

Grounded in the rock of Christ, intercession is the foundation upon which SOMA's ministry and mission is secured. It is the key to discerning where, to whom, when and how SOMA directs its ministry.

Practically, our missions and ministry have two legs that make it run: concerted intercession and short-term, cross-cultural teams, built upon the solid base of our call, vision and values.

SOMA does not have a set programme or product. For each mission, a unique programme and team is constructed; it is flexible, responsive and adaptable, walking by faith. Listening to the Spirit is key for intercessors and team, adapting plans as the Lord directs before and during the missions

Long term, SOMA places special value on building, nurturing and maintaining relationships with dioceses, teams and intercessors, sometimes for decades, as well as immediately before, during and after mission by staying in touch and through continued prayer.

There are numerous challenges in leading SOMA's ministry and mission, so I praise God that a lack of clarity of our call, vision and values is not one of them!



## Get involved

 **INVITE** To invite a SOMA team, email [stephen.dinsmore@somauk.org](mailto:stephen.dinsmore@somauk.org)

 **PRAY** Find today's live prayer nugget on our website home page; find our full Daily Prayer Diary via the button there; or receive a "new each morning" prayer request from SOMA via Twitter or Facebook. It is upon intercession that SOMA's ministry and mission is founded. SOMA intercessors are supported by regular, extensive Prayer Briefings and with live, two-way emails when teams are on mission. Read more on our website: click on 'Prayer and Intercession'; or contact Kate Brankin at [intercession@somauk.org](mailto:intercession@somauk.org)

 **GIVE** We really value financial gifts. To resource SOMA's ministry go to our website: click on 'Get Involved' then 'Support Us'; click on the 'Donate' button on the top right of any web page; or email [steve.finch@somauk.org](mailto:steve.finch@somauk.org)

 **PARTNER** A SOMA Parish Mission Partnership builds a live, active relationship between your parish and SOMA, inspiring your congregations for Holy Spirit ministry and mission at home as well as abroad. Partners receive *Sharing* newsletters, *Update* with news and information, a SOMA speaker about once a year, and encouragement to participate in everything from SOMA missions to our intercessors' network. For their part, our partners encourage prayer for SOMA; regularly communicate our news to their congregations; encourage individuals to get involved in teams, as intercessors and supporters; and seek to support SOMA financially, when they can. Visit our website – click on 'Get Involved' then 'Parish Mission Partners': – email [stephen.dinsmore@somauk.org](mailto:stephen.dinsmore@somauk.org) or call 01460 279737.

 **TEAM** For an 'application to be considered for a SOMA Team', simply contact SOMA via email, Facebook, Twitter, phone or post. Read more on our website: click on 'Join a Team'. We look forward to hearing from you!

 **FUTURE MISSIONS** include:

South India	Nandyal
South Sudan	Kajo-Keji
Sierra Leone	Freetown
DR Congo	Nord Kivu
South Sudan	Twic East
The Internal Province of Sudan	
South Sudan	ECSSS Youth
Uganda	East Ruwenzori
DR Congo	Bukavu

## SOMA UK Day Conference

Saturday 7 November 2015  
at Bletchley, Milton Keynes

JOIN SOMA intercessors, team members, Parish Mission Partners, supporters and staff as we gather at this one-day free conference.

It features team members and intercessors sharing their experience and insight from recent missions, and the commissioning of the SOMA team to the Diocese of Harare, Zimbabwe. There will be time for fellowship, to pray, worship, share, learn, reflect, be refreshed by the Spirit and meet others involved with the vision, mission and ministry of SOMA. The conference begins at 10am and ends at 4pm; refreshments are provided, bring your own lunch. There is no charge – a collection will be taken.

The conference is hosted by SOMA Parish Mission Partner St Mary's Church, Church Green Road, Bletchley MK3 6DZ on Saturday 7 November.

**Getting there:** For travel details, visit the church website at [www.stmarysbletchley.org](http://www.stmarysbletchley.org). If you expect to attend, it will help us if you call the SOMA office on 01460 279737 or email [zena.durrant@somauk.org](mailto:zena.durrant@somauk.org)