



SOMA team highlights

As you will see inside this edition, the new SOMA central team have been hard at work sorting out our archives. There are so many encouragements there.

The first month in office has been such a blessing for us, the new SOMA team. We have absorbed ourselves in powerful stories from past SOMA missions – stories of God's provision, powerful acts of healing and manifestations of his Holy Spirit which changes lives, and communities. So, this SHARING features a selection of stories and testimonies and pictures from past SOMA missions. It is our hope that these testimonies will encourage you, the SOMA family, and excite you for God's action in the future for his Church.

One prophetic word from December 1989 said, "As you share the burden of your heart, so will you see blessing. The bread that I have given to you to share will bring life to many." Our prayer is that all involved in SOMA UK will be able to share that burden and that life. As Paul puts it: 'we all partake of the one bread, so we are one body' (1 Corinthians 10:17).

If these stories and prophecies stir you as they have us, why not get involved in SOMA UK as an intercessor, on a team, or supporting a new generation to go on mission. We pray that through SOMA many in our churches will be awakened again from slumber and propelled into God's global mission.



The SOMA team at their inaugural team meeting!

Message from Richard *'Passing on the mantle'*

"Passing the mantle on well" the theme for the SOMA conference where we said fond farewells to Stephen Dinsmore, Judy Deegan, Steve Fincher and our former patron Bishop Graham Cray.

How can we share ministry with new generations? How can we pass on what we know and allow others to go further still in their walk with the Lord?

These seem really good questions to ask for SOMA. At our autumn conference we saw how Elijah invested in Elisha, who in turn invested in whole schools of prophets. What can we invest forward?

Bishop Graham Cray recently told me that, 'all around the world you will find people who are very positive about the ministry of SOMA UK that



Stephen passing on the files!

you are inheriting, and this is because of the excellent work of Stephen Dinsmore your predecessor.' This has already proven to be true from my conversations with many of you. We have a great deposit of faith to hand on well. Some of these stories are celebrated in this edition of SHARING. So how should our new team seek to build on this excellent legacy from Stephen and others going right back to 1978?

Well, mainly we want to keep doing what SOMA UK has done so well. Firstly, we want to make sure everything is birthed in prayer. Please help us to remain a mission agency where prayer is at the heart of our DNA. Secondly, we want to be obedient to God's calling. We want to join the Holy Spirit tending to the nervous system of the body of Christ. This may mean going to places others may not easily visit, and standing alongside brothers and sisters in Christ when they are suffering. We want to see what the Lord is doing and join in. Finally, we want to amplify the voices of the men and women of faith we visit so the church around the world can benefit from their faith and stories.

I believe these SOMA STORIES can wake us in the UK from spiritual slumber. Perhaps our biggest prayer of all is that through our missions all those who join our international teams, and the churches that support them, are transformed by the Holy Spirit as he tends to the nervous system of the body of Christ around the world and connects us all together.

SOMA STORIES

Inviting the Holy Spirit to the party in Kenya

“The Holy Spirit came when we invited him and started working in many people’s lives. I felt honoured that the Holy Spirit came when I invited him. At the time it felt as if I had invited the Queen to a party and that she actually turned up!”



Real Holy Spirit wind in Uganda!

A team member in 2003 records, “I am asked to lead in prayer, and we begin to see the Holy Spirit moving among us in power, I am welcoming the Holy Spirit like the wind when suddenly it all happens for real!”

A blast of wind hits the church on its exposed hilltop perch, followed by torrential rain. There is great excitement, but the team manage to keep moving about and praying for people. God is at work!”

Leaders renewed in their call in Uganda

Archbishop Justin Welby, a team member on a trip in 1997, shared on the work of the spirit; “one vicar said at the end of the [retreat] that he had arrived having decided to resign from the ministry but was going back with fresh determination.”

“We took Jesus’ example in Matthew 9:35 and taught the people, preached the Good News of the Kingdom and healed the sick.”



Yielding to the work of the Spirit in Tanzania

Some testimonies from a conference held in Tanzania in 1989; “I have great joy in my heart due to the way in which the spirit of the Lord has come into my life. I remember the day 6/8/89 at 5 o’clock in the evening, when I received the power of the Holy Spirit. Previous to that I had obstructed the work of the filling of the Holy Spirit, but I truly have received the power of the Holy Spirit, and I know I desire to serve God with the great boldness which fills my heart. Therefore, I have no doubts now due to the power of the Holy Spirit.” Another participant said; “I thank God for receiving the power of the Holy Spirit, something which I did not understand and had been blocking/obstructing... all the bitterness and anger inside of me has gone. All my sins have been wiped away as I have expressed repentance, and I pray that the Holy Spirit will grant these problems will not return to trouble me.”



Stretching faith in Tanzania

There was “lots of singing, which was really beautiful, we could learn a few things about praising God with all that we are. We were asked to pray for a man who had malaria and wanted to be healed!! This really was a step of faith. We invited the Holy Spirit and prayed in faith that God would show his power and heal this man...and the man with malaria was healed! All praise and glory to God.” “On the second day, during the teaching, one of the pastors started singing ‘amazing grace,’ they all stood up and joined in. They sounded like a heavenly choir, this was the moment that the Holy Spirit moved in power! We went to the back of the church to bless what God was doing. It was so holy.”

Travelling like Jesus in India

The team in 1999 record; “The first few days were spent visiting tribal villages. It was like travelling with Jesus in Galilee – we saw the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. The Word of God was preached, the sick were healed and new believers were baptised, very often whole families. The Church is growing in the Diocese: 28 new congregations have been planted in the last year.” The team running the retreat noted “the Holy Spirit guided us for the programme each day.” Don Brewin shares about the fruitful

work of a local evangelist they went to support. “Along with the bishop and another pastor, two of our team spent an hour up to our waists in a lake, baptising by

immersion over 50 adults. Two people we met had been prayed over after they had died, and had been restored to life, and new faith in Jesus!”



Joy and freedom released in South Sudan!



A team in 2000 were led to dance and sing in the Spirit after a march of witness, “it was exhilarating to know that the Spirit was working in us all and inspiring our feet to dance (even after a 3-hour march!!). We felt

that we had been walking with God and there was a sense that healing of people’s hearts and spirits was beginning, and that as a result the diocese could move ahead into a new beginning, a brighter future.”



‘Milestones of renewal’ in the Anglican Communion in Singapore

In 1981, SOMA gathered in Singapore for a conference, here are some words from one of the participants who really captures SOMA’s heart to see different parts of Christ’s church be a blessing to each other; “we had with us not only those from churches where dynamic renewal and growth is taking place, but a great number of these same brothers and sisters came from some of the world’s ‘hot spots,’ where political, military and economic conditions are causing great human suffering and where no cheap Christian witness or piety will do... Their enthusiasm and unshakable belief in what the Holy Spirit is doing in their areas, despite hardship and persecution, was inspiring.” Likewise, Michael Harper shared at the conference: “the frontline is not always where the real action is taking place; prayer is the real frontline wherever affective and dramatic growth and Christian witness is occurring in the world today, there is a corresponding openness to some radically new moves by the Holy Spirit... at SOMA we bore witness to the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit today, evangelising and renewing His people all over the world... and the evidence is stunning!”



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Send us YOUR stories!

In this edition of *Sharing* we have been remembering what God has done through SOMA UK. Over the next few months the trustees, intercessors, supporters and staff are being asked to seek God together for how he would like SOMA to go and to grow. We would love to hear your SOMA STORIES of God’s work in SOMA and any guidance you think the Spirit may be giving for SOMA’s mission and ministry.

One of the main reasons why we are looking back on past SOMA missions is so that these SOMA STORIES can act as a springboard for the future. We would love these SOMA STORIES to give people a sense of the powerful work that God has done through SOMA UK and what more is in store! Sharing stories like this was a powerful part of our October Conference but we’d love to share and celebrate even more.

Perhaps you could write to us, or send a short video message telling us your SOMA STORIES of how a SOMA mission has impacted you and your community. And in this time of global change please keep praying for vision and wisdom for all at SOMA UK as we seek to join in with what God is doing here and around the world.

We’d love to hear from you!

To contact us:

Email: info@somauk.org or write to SOMA UK:
295 Chiswick High Road, Suite 132, London, W4 4HH.

We love to hear from you on social media as well. Please follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and share your SOMA STORIES there.

Helene’s story:

“I have come home with a stronger and deeper love and trust for God. I have seen His power in healing and anointing on His people. I will now pray for people with the firm conviction that He does heal. We are one family united by the love of God. When we repent of our sins, God forgives us, and throws them into the very deepest of oceans of His love and puts up a sign that reads ‘no fishing.’ One world, one people under God. If you ever get the opportunity to serve God in this way or others, then take it. He is all you need, and His Grace will see you through.” Helene was a team member from a ministry trip to Tobora, Tanzania.

Could you support our ministry?

There are many ways to get involved with the work of SOMA UK:

- Share your SOMA STORIES. Let us know what God has done in you and for you through your time with SOMA.
- Is God calling you to come on a mission with us? This is an amazing opportunity to serve the church where it is hurting, increase your faith for a move of God and develop your gifts in the Spirit.
- Could you pray regularly for us? Prayer is at the heart of SOMA UK’s ministry, and we want it to continue to be a bedrock of the culture here.
- Could you financially support us? We are so grateful to all who support us in this way and at this time we are praying for more financial partners so that we can, in particular, release more young people into ministry and what God is calling them to through SOMA UK. To donate, head to: www.somauk.org then click on ‘donate’!

Thank you for your support of SOMA UK!