

# REPORT OF SOMA VISIT TO ADJUMANI – June 2001

## ECS Diocese of Kajo-Keji

### Introduction

Although this was a visit to Adjumani, in Northern Uganda, the team were working mainly with members of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji, Sudan, by the invitation of the Bishop, Rt Revd Manasseh Dawidi.

The team mainly came from Nashville, Tennessee, USA. St Bartholomew's Church, Nashville has built up a strong relationship with Sudan, and has its own well-developed ministry with the Sudanese community in Nashville. Joyce Shepard, who co-led this team, is responsible for this ministry. As far as St B's was concerned, this was a combined project from the Sudanese Ministry and the Youth Ministry; and the other co-leader of the team was Cynthia Seeliger, the Youth Pastor from St B's.

The team were together for worship and ministry at the beginning and end of each day; but in between, we divided up into groups for different projects:

- "Vacation Bible School" in different schools in the refugee settlements: Cynthia, Kristina, Abby, Erin, John, Josh, Kit
- "Telling your story" – working with men and women in the refugee settlements: Joyce, Lynn, Malcolm, & Pat
- "Training a Diocesan Mission Team": Don, Rupert
- Installing a computer at the Bible College: Pat
- "Establishing a partnership link" and "Seed Project": Kristina
- Teaching at the Bible College: Cynthia, Don, Kristina, Rupert (on occasion!)

As I was involved in just one of these projects, this report will focus almost entirely on this - but it is not intended to imply that it was more important than the others!

### Teaching Material

The teaching was taken from the first draft of the new SOMA UK Manual "Renewal for Life".

### Notes on particular topics:

- (a) The Holy Spirit:
  - (i) How do you define the Holy Spirit?
    - Innermost being of God, "God in us"
    - The stirring power of God
    - Wind, active & purifying force of God
    - Light
  - (ii) Words:
    - Arabic: "roho" = heart / throat / voice
    - Moru: "mulokoty" ("loke" = holy)
  - (iii) Testimony:
    - Spirit revealed in action
    - Spirit leads us into the truth
- (b) Bible study:
  - SU Notes are available in Bari
  - Most people can read the Bible and understand it a little
  - Material needed to be used throughout the Diocese simultaneously
  - TEE in translation
- (c) Inhibitors to Community Transformation in Kajo-Keji
  - Revivalists in K-K arrested by chiefs and imprisoned (1947)

- Commitment to tradition, idolatry etc (trees, streams, rain-makers) – offices passed down to children
  - Problems with language
  - Polygamy/ immorality / family life.
  - “Moslem women have no religion”
  - The Gospel reached the youth first
- (d) Problems with the British:
- British Government did not educate south and north equally
  - Gave S Sudan away for oil
  - “We can only forgive the British if they come and bring peace”
  - No resolutions on Sudan have been passed by the UN Security Council
  - The Church is “the voice of the voiceless”
  - The 1870 Berlin Conference led to the maintenance of informal boundaries, which was against the idea of “2 Sudans”

### **Summary of the visit**

This was a complex operation, and not easy to keep a single focus, with many different projects going on simultaneously. But the Lord gave the team a sense of unity and fellowship, which enabled us to share together in what each other was doing day by day – and this had an impact on the Sudanese friends we were with.

### **What the Lord enabled**

It is always hard to assess the effect of a visit; but we believe the Lord enabled at least the following things to happen:

- A computer was installed, and some basic training given
- Some good contacts were made with women in the camps
- Some good contacts were made with some of the schools
- The relationships between StB’s and the Orphanage were reinforced
- The relationship with the Bible School was strengthened
- Some literal and metaphorical seeds were sown for the future
- Some real work was done in establishing a Diocesan Mission Team
- The new SOMA Teaching Manual “Renewal for Life” was road-tested!

### **The work is not finished**

In each of these areas, there is more to be done:

- The generator for the computer needs fuel, and further computer training needs to take place
- The stories told by the women in the camps need to be publicised, and action taken
- The school children are hardly impacted at all with the Gospel
- There are many other schools that need encouragement
- The Orphanage is doing a great work, but the needs are ongoing
- The Bible School is fragile, with little money and few students – its future development must be a matter for prayer and discernment
- The partnership between the Bible School and Sewanee Seminary has to be developed in a realistic way
- The physical seeds that were sown need to be replicated!
- The Diocesan Mission Team has to be given accessible work to do.

## **The future**

The team from St B's are in an ongoing relationship of support for the Diocese, the Bible School and the Orphanage.

SOMA has been asked to return in the summer of 2002, to work with the Diocesan Mission Team in the different Archdeaconries in the Diocese. This has still to be clarified.

Don Brewin 29<sup>th</sup> September 2001

## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix 1 – Feedback from the Diocesan Team**

#### **The Questions were:**

- (a) In what ways has this course helped you?**
- (b) Which parts did you find most difficult?**
- (c) What are you going to do with this teaching?**
- (d) What has the Lord said to you through this course**
- (e) Any other comments**

#### **Rev. Emmanuel AMULE Timothy**

(a) In the first place, I register my sincere thanks for all that you have done to us: May God bless this ministry. I have been given knowledge to understand the fullness of the Holy Spirit in my ministry and in life as an individual. I hope God will manifest this more and more.

- Renewal. I have been helped to handle forgiveness from the past wounds of my life, exile life which I am experiencing.

- Also I came to discover my gifts which were hidden and I am praying that God will help me, how to use it as I put my life holistically to serve in Jesus ministry.

- The part of the course, which I found difficult, was the Healing of Community Memories, because this involves the reconciliation, which needs the two parts to be involved. Hopefully, and it is my prayer, I am planning to share what I have learned from this SOMA Seminar with my students in this College. As they will go out to the parishes then they will give teaching to the Christians.

(b) Secondly, the organisation of the seminar

- The Lord is speaking to me that I have received, and I have to go and share with other people who have not received the blessing of this teaching in this seminar. I hope I will be translating this manual into Bari language; that is what the Lord is saying so that the people will understand.

(c) Lastly my comment:

- I hope to join SOMA in full time ministry.

- Secondly, I am praying to join any Conference Seminar in Africa and abroad to gain experience to save in this ministry. Thanks.

#### **Bullen BIGGA Möddi:**

(a) This course renewed my knowledge and encouraged me to do better His will amongst His people on earth.

(b) The difficult part is the Renewal of some communities who are dedicated to activities and the leaders of old cultures.

(c) I am now going to summarise the teaching and share it with some church leaders and elders, God willing.

(d) God tells me to pray for my/our Communities as I have been so lenient [lax?] in that.

(e) Anything else? Yes.

- God has something to do for His people through me. That is why He calls me to participate in this course. Because the devil Satan has focus [his attacks on] what I am going to do against his power; that makes me sick, but God has shown His victory in my healing – Alleluia.

- N.B. I would like to request you make 8 or 10 T-shirts for the real group invited to share the SOMA task in Kajo-Keji Diocese as follows: Name; SOMA Team Member; Diocese of Kajo-Keji; New Sudan.

### **Amosa BULLI Gwolo**

(a) This course has helped me in many ways such as - I have learned new ideas, I now know what I did not know before, such as

- 1. Communication to people
- 2. Presentation of the sermon in the church
- 3. Time management (punctuality)
- 4. Telling my Testimony
- 5. Brief short preaching in details.

(b) The difficult parts are: English language problem, long duration without in-service [training], quick talking needs slow by slow learning.

(c) I am going to start with the following:

- 1. Introduction to the congregations about what I have come for.
- 2. Teaching different groups to understand their individual roles in the church e.g. youth; women leaders; church teachers

(d) The Lord said to me

- 1. Forgiving all whom I got worried to
- 2. Pray every day for the Lord to be in me
- 3. To love every body

(e) The good things are:

- Love
- Faith
- The good teaching brought by the SOMA team
- Learning from each other and togetherness

### **Manasseh B. DAWIDI**

(a) This course is very inspiring and has helped me in various ways:

- I learnt a lot about Repentance and forgiveness. Yes, I had been repenting before my Lord. But as you quoted Rev. 3:20 which says “I stand at the door and knock – anyone who opens his door I will go in and dwell with him” But as you put it, I had not allowed the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ to all the rooms of my life, but allowed him only to the front door. Through this teaching, I have opened all the gates of my doors to enter into every room of my life! Praise the Lord. Hallelujah.

- This helps me to forgive every all the people I had held up in my heart. I have forgiven them all in my heart including Omar Hassane Bashir and Dr. Turabi in Jesus’ precious name.

- It has helped me to lead people into the fullness of the Spirit of Christ, discovering the fullness of the Holy Spirit

(b) Healing of the Community Memory is the most difficult. I used to think that renewal is for individual lives. Like myself, when I am convicted by the Holy Spirit of my sins and I have repented, all is over. But I have now learnt that I am transformed in order to help other peoples’ lives. I learnt that renewal is for the betterment of family life and the community in general.

(c) I pray that God will give me time to share this teaching with the people of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji. I shall try to put into action what I have learnt by passing to others this spiritual wealth I have enjoyed during these two weeks. I cannot do it by my wisdom and might but by the help and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(d) The Lord has spoken to me in a mighty loving way and power! He has corrected me in love! He has reminded me of what I ought to have done which I have not done. And He has reminded me to ask for forgiveness. The new way of worshipping the Lord and not clinging to the old method of worship of the Common Prayer Book of 1662.

I am moved Don by your spirit of compassion and humbleness of heart in willing to call for forgiveness on behalf of your people who were our rulers in the Sudan. It was not you who committed the mistakes in the Sudan but kindly you took it upon yourself which made my eyes to run with tears! So this course is a great teaching to those of us who attended it for the first time as the first in its kind of all the SOMA Seminars elsewhere.

(e) The course is very stimulating and inspiring. It has a spiritual authority speaking to me in particular and I also heard from many of those who attended this course that the course is very good and it needs to be expanded, and the teaching period should be longer, in order to equip the Sudanese Team to become more

efficient. So that the Diocese of Kajo-Keji team would be able to teach others well, and extend this teaching to the neighbouring Dioceses in the Sudan. Praise the Lord!

**Rev. Ezibon DUKU Wani**

- (a) This course helped me in many ways by [enabling the] relationship between us and the brethren who came from England and America, to be one in Spirit. Also by having many teachers from brethren, because long ago we did not meet together, so the blood of Christ drew us near to Him. Therefore this course reminds me to wake up [from] sleeping.
- (b) The parts which I find most difficult
  - “Continuing the ministry of Jesus” - reaching out to the lost (D.3). Good news to share: when a Christian discovers the reality of God’s love in Christ and experiences the joy and fulfilment of the love in their own life, [he] will want to share it with others.
  - Secondly, evangelism is a process – the word evangelism I found difficult to describe.
- (c) When I go back to my Parish I will organise my people in groups and begin to teach them what I have been taught here on the course, in different ways.
- (d) God has said many things through our brothers who offer themselves to come to join our Diocese and remained us the relationship between us. Also by [enabling] us to look [at] one another in spiritual [ways]. Therefore, this course encouraged us very much and so us to see what will happen when our end comes. Also taught us how we heal the sick.
- (e) This course helped us very much and we thank God for making a relationship between us and you people from America and England - that was a great relationship.
  - Lack of books which can assist our work in encouraging people. Without books we cannot work well.
  - Need proper teaching or long period teaching.
  - Need additions of other subjects which you know can enable people [grow] in [the] will of God.
  - Need of a Bible Commentary
  - Thank you. I hope God will guide you ... Do not forget us in prayer.

**Rev. Pitia Elisama**

- (a) This course renewed me to look forward and to forgive my enemies as Jesus did.
- (b) The parts I find difficult – because I did not understand English very well.
- (c) With this teaching, I am going to help my Christians in my Parish
- (d) The Lord said to me “Let me repent, then to renew my life to look to Jesus as my [example]”
- (e) This course is important. If possible let another lesson be translated into Bari language so that we understand very well.

**Rev. Edward JALE Wani**

- (a)
  - Receiving of the Holy Spirit
  - How to evangelise community
  - To know personal gifts
  - To practice healing ministry
- (b) The most difficult part I got was forgiveness of one’s enemies. This one needs much prayer for me and my community or countrymen.
- (c) I am immediately going to put [the course] into practice and apply it to my life and my community.
- (d) It is very tough course especially for myself. I thought I have done something to my peoples but in this course needs me to do much and commit my life to follow and do the will of God.
- (e) Comments:
  - Appreciated your effort for the work and difficulties faces during collection of materials and offering your lives as sacrifice for us the Sudanese.
  - You have given us a greater challenge from this course and I don’t know whether you will support the trainee, so that we can establish by supplying some material and any assistance when necessary.
  - Appeals for you certain prayer to the team trained.

**Rev. John JIGO Jamasuk**

- (a) This course helped me.
  - It has changed my life [to be] different from before.
  - It has helped me to build the Kingdom of God through the hearts of the people so that they become faithful in the Lord’s side.
- (b) I find it very difficult to speak in different tongues because of poverty (?). I found very difficult to proclaim the word of God, because our situation is not good such as transport means like bicycle.

- (c) I will go and teach the Gospel to the people and teach them how to pray, prepare them for the fellowship in the community as a whole.
- (d) God speaks to me that I should forgive my enemies and show a good example to the community with all my life and let me have hospitality.
- (e) We thank the SOMA team for having that faith of kindness to come and teach us in renewal life. We are still hoping them to continue in this programme to build up our faith in our suffering in Sudan. Let them pray for us as we are also praying for them. We need more books and more support from the UK and USA. May the Almighty God bless you all and thanks.

**Charles KENYI**

- (a) This course has helped me in the following ways:
  - It has changed some of my thinking about what the Holy Spirit does
  - It has helped me to know my gifts
  - It has helped me to know that suffering is one of the gifts to people
  - It has helped me to know the community memories
- (b) The part which I find most difficult are spiritual warfare, healing of community memories
- (c) This teaching is going to help me in teaching the word of God, organise Church (Diocese) using the gifts we have
- (d) To change my ways, to teach and preach the word of God to unreached and difficult communities
- (e) This course is really very good for the Sudanese people. I wish all the Dioceses in Sudan would have this course so that the word of God will reach to the Arabs in Sudan

**Revd. George KENYI**

- (a) New thing to me deliver the testimony
- (b) To read some English words
- (c) I am going to encourage my Christians in my church and make relationship together
- (d) I should forgive my friends and others
- (e) To renew my life and give my body to God's will

**Simon Ladu KENYI**

- (a) I am really very much encouraged in this course in the sense that we the members of the Anglican Communion are now getting more and more into Jesus' ministry of the Holy Spirit, the teachings, healing ministry and the other spiritual gifts.
- (b) I am now encouraged to go and exercise the teachings in practical in submission to the Anglican rules and mainly based on the biblical teachings of Jesus and the apostolic teaching and ministry by the help of the Spirit having been given light by this teaching.
- (c) The Lord is saying that I should read His word with understanding with prayer and go to help His people in the areas where they are facing problems. By the power of the Holy Spirit I believe I will do this and continue to pray for me.

**Revd. Henry LOKU**

- (a) In this course God has helped me very much as being a leader of the church. I must lead by the power of the Holy Spirit in everything and change my life. I am going to do in my life in this work of God to renew my life. Build up the Kingdom of God to people, Christians and others [in the] community at large and learn a lot to hear different testimony to help me to stand faithful in my faith.
- (b) I find very difficult to pray in different tongues and forgive our Arabic enemies in Sudan. If not the will of God, how [can we] forgive them because of the life of the people in Sudan.
- (c) In this teaching the Lord has said to me now I am going to help other people in teaching and in community, build up the Kingdom of God to other people and renew their life to see Jesus Christ as their Saviour and build the Church of Christ in faith. Continuing the ministry of Jesus teaching the Truth and continuing the ministry of Christ reaching out to the lost.
- (e) The Lord said to me I should go and help other people and encourage them for their faith in their suffering and prayer for one another so that they may know the FACTS about Jesus Christ and teach God purpose for our communities, preach words of God, share the Bible studies together and work together with the community God has given me, and pray for each other.
- (e) I want to thank SOMA team for wonderful teaching they have brought to us for Renewal of our life to Christ and understand our weakness in this ministry as a leader – so thanks to God many and God bless you all in this work.

So brother in Christ, this is what I pray for the team to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We need more time for the SOMA team to continue with this programme and we need more books to be given to us and

transport for us to take the word of God in the Sudan and everywhere. Also prayer for us in the Sudan and the peace so we also pray for you as a team of SOMA.

**Rev. Wilson LOMUGUN Gabriel**

(a) The ways this course has helped me:

- I have learned more about Jesus Christ who came to this world to save us from our sins and he is both our Saviour and our Lord.

- And there is assurance for me that there is salvation for all of us through repenting and receiving Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. Therefore through God's grace since I have accepted Jesus Christ to be my own Saviour, I am certain that I am now God's son and through Jesus Christ I will be taken to heaven to live there with God and all Hosts of heaven and saints for ever and ever. Amen.

- In this course I have realised that Jesus died for me.

- This course has enabled me to discover my gifts God has granted to me in order to perform my duty in His ministry in our Diocese and elsewhere. I have to thank you the Leader of SOMA team and all your members for your come to us and taught us about these gifts through the "Modified Houts Questionnaire".

- We have been instructed to care for our own families very well. Before this I was only thinking of abandoning my family, garden, my other relatives in order to do God's work in the Diocesan office and performing my pastoral duties everywhere. But now I thank God that I am told to care for my family and talk to my children, my wife through Bible sharing, prayers, family fellowships, counselling, family affairs. I have to do these for both God's Church and my whole family and my neighbourhood.

- Our being part of SOMA team

- The other way this course has helped me is the Holy Spirit at work in me as an individual believer. There is now freedom from bondage, especially of sin. The Holy Spirit gives me power and guidance.

- I have gained the ability of allocating duties to others with whom I work in the Diocese.

- I have been helped to train 12 people who will in turn train 12 people each in studying the Bible. Therefore as we are going to do so, the word will spread quickly in the entire Diocese of Kajo-Keji and many people will know the scriptures well.

(b) The parts I found most difficult are as follows:

- Speaking in tongues which is difficult to understand because there is no-one who is found able to interpret.

- The Anglican Communion and our Church history.

(d) What the Lord has said to me:

- The Lord has said to me that let me pray always, because he is willing to speak to me and I to speak to Him, and that He has great pleasure to fulfil our requests. Reference to "Come to Jesus".

- He has told me to care for the Church as well as to care for my family.

- The Lord has said to me that he has forgiven me because He forgets my confessed sins.

- He has told me to have faith and to be filled with the Holy Spirit

- He has told me to put into practice all that we have learned in this course.

(e) Other comments:

- Let the course be one month.

- Let some of us be taken for further degree programmes

- Pray for us.

- Visit us more and more.

**Revd. Canon Yosia K. LONGA**

(a) This course helped me:

- Renewed my life to see the Lord Jesus

- To know more about God creator

- To see that Jesus loves me like His friend and He holds me with His hands because I believe and call Him as my personal Saviour since 1965. Up to now He is my salvation. Is. 12:2.

- The teaching helped how to work in the Parish

(b) The parts I found most difficult:

- A doorway into pilgrimage because of the longer period in the war in our country of Sudan

(c) In this teaching I am going to try to teach my people in my Parish and make a new plan for my Diocese to grow spiritually.

(d) Through this course, the Lord said in many ways: "The Lord protects from all my danger. He keeps me safe and He will protect me where I go now and forever". Ps. 121

(e) After my ordination as a Deacon by the Bishop, I was posted to Yei to work under Revd. Matio Levi for a short period from May to June 1965. On 15<sup>th</sup> June the Spirit of the Lord came to my heart and I saw the Lord

Jesus as my personal Saviour. Because I felt not a clean person in my life and in the Lord's services – so I called God to be my power, my song, my faith and my salvation up to now. Rom 8:28.

**Revd. Peter L. MALA**

(a) This teaching has helped me in many ways. Because I was ordained and not taught in this way – but this teaching has made me learn many things:

- Leadership
- Forgiveness
- The work of the Holy Spirit
- The healing power etc.

I was not properly aware of all this, but enabled me to be aware

(b) All has gone well but the teaching manuals were [too few] for the participants, so it is my prayer that these manuals may be translated into Bari, to enable us teach those who cannot read English.

(c) If I go back, I will organise my people in the Parish and teach them in these areas (e.g. The lay readers, Mothers Union, elders, revival leaders) and highlight them on this teaching to enable the Church of God to grow in Spirit and understanding.

(d) I have learnt many things in this teaching:

- How to pray for each other
- God has given me the Spirit of understanding, even at night God was able to bring me this teaching in dreams

(e) I praise God very much because of this relationship between SOMA and Kajo-Keji Diocese. It is my request that at least this teaching should be brought in every year. I pray that you should print more books to help us in our studying the word of God. Thanks goes to the SOMA group that they were able to open our eyes because of the teaching. May God bless you especially the Team Leader.

**John WANI**

(a) In this course I have learnt how to know the Truth and gave me more knowledge about God.

(b) The difficult part I have found is that I did not get the teaching manual. Secondly, the language was a barrier to me because I could not understand all the teaching very well.

(c) I am going to preach and teach others about what I have learnt here. I have come to learn the power of prayer, then Christian visiting.

(d) God has really helped me very, very much to listen with understanding. I have come to know that God listens to faithful prayer and believer. I have much interest to know more about the Word of God, so to me the days were not enough.

(e) The teaching was good and I feel we should go and share with others – but transport is one of the difficult problems to us. I feel you should provide transport for the team members since we have a large area, we always get some difficulties on how to move from place to place, and transport is needed.

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**Refugees Lamentation**

O Refugees, we were once dignified citizens.  
We were born proud nationals of a vast and resourceful,  
dignified country, called Sudan.

O Refugees, we are no longer nationals,  
but people wandering in foreign lands,  
searching for protection, food, materials and handouts,  
year in, year out.

Refugees, refugees, shall we remain forever?

O Refugees, when will our dear Motherland Sudan  
forgive our sins,  
so that we may truly recover  
our lost glory and dignity?

Refugees, refugees, shall we remain forever?