

Diocese of Central Zambia/September 2001

A team of eight led by Chris Grundy went to the Diocese of Central Zambia for the last two weeks of September at the invitation of Bishop Derek Kamukwamba. We were: Mary MacDonell, David McAlister, Mary Eaton, Charles May, Jan Moir, Ernest Quickfall, Diana Lester & myself.

This was the first SOMA team to go this diocese since 1994, and was in response to the interest shown at the Cape Town conference last year on Community Transformation. Two of our number (Charles & Ernest) joined us from South Africa. Although we didn't all meet until we reached Zambia, we proved to be a well balanced, supportive and (I believe) effective team.

For the first week, we were based at the 'back of beyond' in an Anglican mission station at Fiwila, where we were joined by some 30 clergy, Mothers' Union representatives and lay leaders. We had felt it right to use the SOMA 'Renewal for Life' material as a basic teaching course, starting as it does with the person and work of Christ and leading on into Community Transformation. Whilst we didn't do it 'by the book' we got there in the end! The worship and ministry time on the last but one evening of the conference was marked by representational confession on the part of the team, followed by a significant outpouring of the Holy Spirit with many 'falling' under His power and blessing. On the last evening, there was an outreach service to the community, when many came forward to receive Christ and be prayed for, with a number (distressingly including children) needing intensive deliverance ministry.

During the second week, we split into three teams based at Ndola, Luanshya and Kabwe. Whilst there was clear evidence of Community Transformation teaching being applied in Ndola and Luanshya, in Kabwe we found ourselves involved in children's ministry and a series of unforgettable evangelistic crusades, with many coming forward either to commit their lives to Christ or receive Holy Spirit ministry (or both!).

We returned with a deep sense of privilege that we had been able to share in this mission together. The Zambians made us warmly welcome, and, despite having so little themselves, were unfailingly kind, hospitable and generous. Their depth of faith and love for the Lord spoke volumes. The Diocesan driver is called 'Hapi', which says it all!

Chris Grundy

4/10/01

