

SOMA TEAM VISIT TO KITALE DIOCESE, NW KENYA in August 2000

After months of planning our team from Wales set out. Revd Brian Waters (Team Leader), Mrs June Waters, Revd Geoff Waggett and Mrs Lynda Cowan. We were joined in Nairobi by Mr Victor Moore from SOMA South Africa. Revd Elizabeth Kamau from Nairobi, acted as our Kenyan co-ordinator.

We arrived in Nairobi on Thursday 3rd August and stayed for two days at the Anglican Guest House, This enabled us to bond together as a team. We travelled from Nairobi to Kitale Diocese on Saturday 5th August. On arrival we received a lovely welcome. We stayed that first weekend in the Kitale Diocesan Conference Centre outside Kitale. On Sunday (6th), Revd Geoff Waggett and Revd Brian Waters were invited to preach at St Luke's Cathedral, Kitale, We were made to feel very much at home at both services. Our team arrived two members short of the expected numbers.

This made it inadvisable to break into two groups, so our teaching programme was revised.

After receiving the Bishop's blessing on Monday 7th August, we travelled to Mount Elgon archdeaconry. Heavy rain made the last part of our journey very difficult. The road up Mount Elgon to the parish of Kapsekwone was rough and wet but the staff made us welcome and the guest house accommodation was good.

Our teaching programme at Kapsekwone lasted two days (8th - 9th August).

We experienced difficulties in settling down spiritually. Revd William Rop was of great help to us and by Wednesday, we felt him to be a real brother in Christ. We continued the week in this archdeaconry by moving to Kaptam parish. We were encouraged by the growth of the church under the leadership of Revd Hubert Weyoo, who extended wonderful hospitality to us in his home. Our teaching programme, based on St John's Gospel, was very well received. In both these parishes ministry was offered and many people came forward for prayer.

On Sunday 13th August, the team preached in these two parishes as well as Chesito parish. During the morning service at Kapsekwone, five cases of healing were witnessed as a result of prayer ministry through the SOMA team. We travelled back to Kitale on Sunday afternoon. Once again rain caused us problems.

On Monday 14th August, we travelled to Kapenguria archdeaconry. We arrived

at St Andrew's church and centre to be greeted by the Archdeacon. We were

given the opportunity to teach on ministry gifts. After our welcome we

moved on the parish of Kacheliba. We stayed in the vicar's house and were

made to feel like honoured guests by the vicar's family and church members.

After a night's rest, we conducted a full day's teaching in St Peter's

church to a very enthusiastic church congregation. The worship, prayer

time and fellowship always leaves us very moved. Because of transport difficulties, we had to stay an extra night. We returned to our home churches moved and humbled by our sharing experiences, with stories to tell and encouragement to give to our own fellow Christians. We would like to thank Kitale diocese most sincerely for the invitation which took us to their diocese. In spite of the very severe drought conditions, God blessed us with rain at every venue. The Kenyan Christians looked on it as God pouring out his blessings on them through us. We came home tired but content that God had used us to fulfill his purpose.