

# SHARING

The Newsletter of SOMA UK

**SOMA**  
SHARING OF  
MINISTRIES ABROAD

SPRING 2005

*"We work for the transformation of individuals and churches and the healing of communities and their lands through the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. We send and receive teams worldwide on short-term mission within the Anglican Communion."*

## Strong Stand Urged

SOMA UK is urging Anglican leaders to take a strong stand over archbishops and dioceses that take action contrary to agreed policy.

This follows recent decisions that fly in the face of official Anglican policy agreed at the last Lambeth Conference.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and other primates are encouraged to exercise clear discipline – even to the point of excluding from membership – on those who do not repent and change their minds.

These comments come from Rev Don Brewin, SOMA UK National Director, after London's Anglican Communion Office asked SOMA to respond to the Windsor Report.

This followed a decision by Canada's Diocese of Westminster to permit blessings of same-sex "marriages". It was also just after the actively homosexual Rev Gene Robinson was made Bishop of New Hampshire, USA.

The Windsor report says such actions are totally inappropriate in the context of the world-wide Anglican family.

Don Brewin says: "If the meeting of the Primates in February fails to take this kind of action, we feel that their authority, and the integrity of the Anglican Communion, will be drastically damaged for many years."

The real dissenters, he says, are those who have acted unilaterally, not those from an orthodox position who are being critical of such action. There needs to be repentance he urges, not just "an invitation to express regret".

He adds: "The same criticism could also be applied to Sydney Diocese, Australia, in sanctioning lay presidency at the eucharist."



After the porcupine crash the vehicle is righted and here inspecting the damage are team members Rev Simon Peter Kenyi (left) and a friend.

## Porcupine Midnight Crash

*Reaching a SOMA venue can be dangerous and difficult. Here Walter and Agi, from Uganda, who are engaged to be married, share their story. They were two members of the SOMA team going to Mundri, Southern Sudan, for the SOMA Youth Conference.*

It all began with an invitation to the SOMA Youth Conference in Sudan for our group: Agnes, Lillian, Immaculate Walter and Monica. We travelled safely from Kampala on 2<sup>nd</sup> December to Arua in Northern Uganda

At 3.30pm next day, we set off to the border for Yei and arrived at 8.30pm. Lack of water forced us to sleep covered with dust, which was especially hard for the ladies who all the way kept expressing their anxiety to shower. By 10.30 we were ready to sleep but as we dozed off, the silent night was shattered by gunshots.

On Dec 5<sup>th</sup> we set off for Mundri at 10.00am travelling till 12km from Mambe Payam junction when we broke down. By the grace of God it wasn't worse. A group of six men walked to Mambe to find help while the rest of us remained

in the thick dark forest. Afraid, we prayed and sang aloud and the Lord gave us strength and protected us through the night.

By midday on the 6<sup>th</sup>, the vehicle had not been repaired. We almost lost hope of any help. Hungry, tired and thirsty we watched the mechanic work, without success. At 1.00pm we decided that we would walk to Mambe Payam to find food and water. After 7 Kms, the vehicle rescued us.

At Mambe, which was 90 Km from Mundri, we had food and water to drink and rested as we waited for the vehicle to be fully serviced. The struggle here was getting a battery so the rescue vehicle set off to find one in Maridi a town 32 Km from Mambe. The battery was brought at about 10.50pm. Ten of us together with two conductors boarded and left at 11.00pm.

It was just an hour in to the travel and about 20 miles from Mambe towards Mundri when we entered the fateful scheme of the devil. The vehicle was going fast when suddenly it jacked and wavered on the road. The last we heard was someone shouting: "Jesus! Jesus save us". There was a loud bang.

On recovering consciousness we were all upside down with some screaming for the Lord's intervention. Some confessed later to have prayed their last prayers submitting their souls to God. We struggled to leave the wreckage. Thanks be to God who enabled one of the front doors to fly open enabling someone to open the rear door,

# Birthing of South

# Korea

South Korea has now become the eleventh SOMA-sending country in the world. This birthing took place during the recent SOMA visit to S Korea with an international team from the UK, USA, Singapore and Australia.

The team was led by John and Jenny Simons from the UK and ably assisted by Edwina Thomas from the USA and Chye Ann Soh from CMS.

During the last century 43% of the country became Christian, but the team observed that this phenomenal growth had had little impact on the Anglican Church. Nevertheless said John Simons, many clergy are experiencing the renewing work of the Holy Spirit and there is a growing longing to reach out to other countries such as North Korea and China.

In the latter there are said to be "huge numbers of believers but no buildings."

The theme of the SOMA visit was "Healing the Land and the People," and there was opportunity for a great deal of personal prayer ministry among the 60 people who attended.

Mrs Edwina Thomas, USA National Director, said: "SOMA Korea is in process. We have met and are working with many enthusiastic priests.

"They are a group of clergy who love each other and whom I really feel are ready for God to take them out. I feel they are outstanding as leaders and in their understanding of things of the Spirit."



## New SOMA Canons!

Two more SOMA UK team leaders were made Honorary Canons of dioceses overseas in December and January as a direct result of ongoing pastoral and mission links through SOMA visits. They are Rev David Munby (above), Vicar of St George's, Barnsley who was made a Canon of Bungoma, Kenya and Rev Chris Grundy, Vicar of Chilworth, Guildford, who was made a Canon of Wusasa, Nigeria. They join SOMA Council Chairman, Canon Patrick Whitworth, Rural Dean of Bath who was made an Honorary Canon of Bauchi Diocese, Nigeria in 1995.

Here, David Munby is in procession to St Matthews Webuye, the Cathedral of Bungoma Diocese, prior to the Consecration of the Cathedral.

After this, David said: "Bishop Eliud made me a Canon Commissary of Bungoma and I was inducted in the stall of St Luke. I am now part of the diocesan hierarchy and have a role in advising the bishop and encouraging the clergy. It was a solemn moment.

"I now belong to the Church of England and the Anglican Church if Kenya – which is a strange place to be but I pray God can use me in both capacities."

### "Martha's Day Off" in Bungoma

Busy mothers need time off to sit at the feet of Jesus but are so often too busy - like Martha in the New Testament. With such thinking in mind the SOMA team to Bungoma, Kenya in December nicknamed their mission "Martha's Day Off" after being inspired during a meeting with Rt Rev Eliud Wabukala, Bishop of Bungoma.

The official theme for the Mother's Union conference was "Made in God's image to fulfil his purpose – and restoring that image when broken. Team members were Rev David Munby and his wife Jill, Jane Dickinson from Barnsley and Canon Evas Kurama, Mother's Union Officer from Kinkiizi, Uganda.

About 200 MU delegates came for teaching on Foundations in the Word of God; Being Filled with the Holy Spirit and Being a House of Prayer and Praise. There was a strong response by people wanting to be filled with the Holy Spirit and receive the gift of tongues. There were further talks on Parenting, Discipleship, Fellowship, Ministry and Mission. An address to diocesan clergy was also well received.

Team leader Munby said: "It was so good to have Canon Evas with us both as a speaker and as a team member to help prepare us for communicating with African women. Her role as MU worker and previous experience with SOMA was invaluable."

## Exciting Young People's Work

We were very encouraged to see a transformation in the work among young people.

Two years ago when I was with another team it was sad to hear how the young people were deserting the Anglican Churches. On this visit a church full of young leaders greeted us.

Teaching two years ago had inspired the diocesan youth leader, Joshua Ogutu.

He had been challenged to bring a group of young leaders together and pray for a breakthrough, sharing with them his vision of a transformed church renewing a needy country.

It is a great encouragement to SOMA teams to return to a diocese and see how God has used their work.

Joshua and others have begun a new citywide work with young people on a Sunday afternoon. We were thrilled to go to this exciting new congregation of 100 people. They met for fellowship, worship, teaching and lots of fun, despite the fact many had already been to other services. It was fresh and very much in touch with the culture.

The future is a critical issue for the church in Kenya as it watches

**Team Leader, Rev Simon Brignall from Thame Valley shares impressions in Maseno South, Kenya in this edited version of his report**

a whole generation die of AIDS. The Kisumu area has the highest density with about 20% of the population infected.

The insight that I believe we were able to bring to this complex situation lies at the heart of the 'transformation' gospel. The leadership that the church is called to exercise is grounded in corporate confession and repentance. When we can as a church acknowledge that the sins of our society are our sins, then we can stand with our suffering brothers and sisters in repenting of our failures rather than pointing an accusing finger at them.

Such 'corporate confession' and repentance allows the light of Christ in, where a self-righteous morality only breeds guilt and fear.

The rest of the team were Rev Amanda Johnson, St Stephen's, Twickenham; Rev Sonja Arnold, St Simon's, Shepherd Bush and Simon and Nicola Bray also from St Simons.

## Porcupine crash

### FROM PAGE ONE

thus preventing suffocation due to lack of oxygen and leaking petrol.

We helped each other out of the wreckage. Some were still unconscious as they were evacuated. Rev. John Lukade broke a shoulder bone; Immaculate Mugisha injured her eye and ear; Victor broke some finger bones; Lillian injured her back and Agnes had chest pain. The rest either had minor or no injuries. This was a reflection of God's salvation given the speed of

travel, the time of the accident and its location far from help. Later we heard that the vehicle hit a porcupine that was crossing the road.

Three men walked 8 km to find help. The rest of us shivered with the pain and cold till 4.00am when three men on bicycles arrived and lit a fire for us. They took the three most seriously injured to a dispensary 9km away. Finally we were picked up at 10.00am.

Arua to Mundri would be about 8 hours' drive under fairly good road conditions but instead it turned out to be three days' travel.

In all we thank God who protected us in all the

harsh moments. The early Christians like Paul, Peter and John experienced hardships and even death for the Gospel. Jesus urges us all to carry our cross and follow Him. So wherever He will lead we will follow. His grace is there for us all. May he richly bless you with His sustaining grace.

We also appreciate SOMA ministry for this tireless endeavour to reach out and more still for involving us as partners. May God prosper this Ministry to the Glory of His Name. Amen

# “Distress of Nations...”

I am writing this brief article on the day of the election in Iraq, when many people are demonstrating extraordinary courage in going out to vote for their new national government for the first time in their lives.

Whatever one might think about the invasion of Iraq by the US-led coalition, and the shambles that has followed it, we must celebrate this example of “people-power”, showing the terrorists that they will not be cowed by threats of violence.

What a contrast to the prevailing attitude of cynicism with the political process, which we are experiencing in our own nation. We just don't believe what we are told any more, and the level of trust in politicians of all parties must be as low as it has been for many years. How will this affect the UK General Election which we expect in the next few months? Where is the space for people of prophetic principle these days? Who is going to stand for un-self-centred truth, or sacrificial action for the sake of the poor? Will this really be the year of Africa, the year when poverty becomes a thing of the past?

## Tsunami

This leads me straight to my main reflection – arising out of the appalling global tragedy of the tsunami on 26<sup>th</sup> December. Never in recent history has a “natural” event led in such a short time to the deaths of so many, in so many countries. What are we to make of it?

First, let me dissociate myself from some supposedly “theological” interpretations of this disaster:

I do not see this as an act of God's judgment. The fact that this took place in an area of the world where the majority are not Christians is, in my view, more to do with geology than theology.

Nor can we say, with present knowledge, that this event was a consequence of our sinful misuse of the created order, leading to global warming etc. Yes, the created order is affected by sin – but not as far as we know in the earthquake department”.

## No Radios

It is easy to say that had there been adequate warning systems, far fewer would have died. Maybe – but how would a 30-minute warning have been broadcast to poverty-stricken fishing villages with no radios, without creating panic?

As I think about this event, I am drawn to the words of Jesus about what will increasingly take place in the future:

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world” (Luke 21:25-6).

Of course “the sea” for Jews was a scary place, and had demonic associations. But these verses

By Don Brewin  
National Director,  
SOMA UK

come in the context of increasing dislocation of families, communities, nations, and indeed the world itself, as this age proceeds towards its finale.

This is, I believe, the context in which we need to see this repeatable tragedy. Let me draw you to the following thoughts for prayer and action:

## People Power

1) This unprecedented tragedy has drawn the nations involved, and many others, into amazing acts of compassion which could never have been brought about in months or years of committees.

The leaders in compassion have not been governments. Rather, governments have been forced to act by the spontaneous actions of individuals on a massive scale, and non-political figures who are tired of the inaction of so many world leaders (as well as lack of integrity, in making promises they have little intention to fulfil). We need to applaud another example of “people-power”, and get behind it.

## Pilgrim Lifestyle

2) I have just been thinking about how I should spend my remaining years before retirement! As one who has committed himself to live a pilgrim lifestyle, one gift-day at a time, I am myself smiling at this apparent contradiction. (My excuse is I have to think ahead, as others are affected by

whatever is decided ...) But the major criticism of this way of living is that it can take no account of accidents or tsunamis, which can sweep us to our unexpected deaths in a moment. Are we prepared for this?

Without being complacent – really – by God's grace in Jesus Christ I know why I am here, and where I am going when I die – and I want as many others as possible to have that assurance through the Holy Spirit.

## Sacrificial

3) This is where my compassion leads me, as I think of the devastated families, the broken communities and the shattered livelihoods that the tsunami has brought. What assurance do the survivors have? What hope does their faith give them? We must not be naïve, and advocate the same impersonal spraying of superficial gospel warnings, as a tsunami early-warning system might have given.

Mission into this situation must be what, praise God, it has often been: the long-term, sacrificial, incarnational presence of Jesus through those committed to Him, by a life-style “speaking about Jesus, and if necessary using words” (to misquote from – I think – St Francis of Assisi).

SOMA has a part to play in this, although we are not directly involved in many of the areas affected. Although our calling – so far – is to short-term mission, we seek to serve those who are called to a lifetime of witness where they live. Learning how to do this, in the power of the Holy Spirit, is a lifetime call. May we be worthy of that calling.

## Sudan Youth Peace Challenge

New beginnings in southern Sudan are symbolised (below) as SOMA team member Merisa MacInnes is surrounded by children – the future of Sudan – in Mundri.

With the recent Peace Agreement, after 40 years war there is hope. The

theme of this Sudan Youth Conference was “Arise to Life in Abundance”, with a team led by Don Brewin and including Sharon Aluoch, Andrew Lumbuye, David and Manny Sharland, Estella Tusubira and Simon Peter Kenyi. They were also supported by four young Ugandans, who arrived despite huge travel problems (See page one Porcupine Crash story).

An unexpected joy was to have the Archbishop of Sudan, Most Rev Joseph Marona conduct the official opening. He is a strong supporter of SOMA. The main teaching focused on “Renewal For Life” with further workshops on the Holy Spirit; the Challenge of Peace in Sudan and Youth in Society.

## Bra for Breastplate

There were many challenges and also humour. During the Mundri mission delegates met for group bible studies on Ephesians. Don Brewin said, “this had its amusing moments: for example when we discovered that ‘the breastplate of righteousness’ had been translated in the local language of Moru as ‘the bra of righteousness’ – not quite the meaning Paul intended...!”



# Surprising Solution To Church's Dry Rot

Following a SOMA home-mission to their UK church a Leicester congregation has experienced a surprising solution to dry rot.

Kenyan evangelist, Rev Utugi Elizabeth Kamau was visiting Holy Trinity, Leicester last Autumn when her attention was drawn to the dry rot problem.

Together with the vicar, Rev Roger Morgan she led the congregation in a deep time of repentance and prayer. She and Roger then sprinkled the entire building with consecrated wine.

Afterwards a cold patch of air by the dry rot excavation disappeared as did all traces of dry rot.

Rev Alison Morgan, Roger's wife wrote to SOMA in January that there had always been a cold patch in the corner of the church where the dry rot was and everyone assumed it was a draught.

She writes: "Services continue to be, not always but often, in a different spiritual gear from before - in the strong sense of the Lord's presence, and a freedom in people to worship and to respond in prayer to what he is saying. It is as if a barrier has been removed. Praise him."

## "Mantle Of Praise"

As a new body with many similar aims to SOMA, we congratulate ReSource, the new initiative for Anglican Renewal in the UK, which is now up and running following launches last November in Burford Priory and York Minister.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams commissioned ReSource at Burford Priory. He encouraged everyone to pray that ReSource would be surrounded by a "mantle of praise", drawing many into God's presence.

Director Martin Cavender writes in their first newsletter of seeing many encouragements up and down the country such as awakening in the Church and unity in Renewal. He sends greetings to other Renewal organisations such as New Wine, Clan Gathering in Scotland and ARM in Wales.

In his commendation the Archbishop says: "I welcome ReSource as a refreshing addition to the support for the Church as she moves into growth and renewal. Among other things I am glad to see the emphasis on scripture and prayer, on proper theology and the prophetic - and the breadth of the approach of this initiative. "I believe that the combination

## World Day of Prayer

More than half the 254 nations of the world have signed up as participating in the World Day of Prayer on Pentecost Sunday, May 15. This comes out of Days of Prayer that have spread across Africa like wildfire over the past few years, following the Prayer Conference organised by SOMA in Cape Town in 2,000. It is estimated 200 million people across the world will participate. Organise one locally and help transform the world!

**of renewal and mission, Word and Spirit are key to the communication of the Christian gospel in this generation. I see ReSource as one of the many streams of development which are beginning, by God's grace, to flow together at this important time in the life of the Church."**



## Into a Melting Pot

A moment to relax for team members on the SOMA mission to the Diocese of Jos, Nigeria in January, from the left: Don Brewin, Diana Hunt, Chris Grundy, Dave Rigby and Alison Anderson. The team felt it was a "melting pot" experience as they became aware of confrontations between Christians and Muslims in the area; of tribal differences and of control from freemasonry. Their ministry resulted in the Lord breaking through with repentance, tears and forgiveness; and there were miracles of physical and emotional healing and people being filled with the Spirit.

## Can Church Relate To Culture?

Can the Church and Mission organisations keep in touch with different cultures today? This is the challenge of the SOMA Prayer Conference 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesden, Herts: Mission In A Multicultural World."

The main speaker, Canon George Kovoov, who is well-known for his powerful prophetic insight and sense of humour will be attempting some answers. Born in India he has ministered in the UK for 15 years as an evangelist and Bible teacher, leading ordination retreats, parish and deanery mission weekends and clergy days. The conference is open to all SOMA intercessors, as well as others interested in SOMA teams or

in SOMA generally.

Thirty of the 60 places have been taken. If you do not have a booking form, then please contact the SOMA Office (01525 2379563) or email: info@somauk.org. Otherwise please return your forms to Barbara at the office asp.

## Teams & People

Work is in hand for teams to go to the following areas over the next few months:

Nuba Mountains, Sudan; Nord -Kivu, DR Congo; Wau, Sudan; Luapula, Zambia; Tabora, Tanzania; Orlu, Nigeria. Possible venues include Kinkiizi, Uganda; Kajjado, Kenya and Kitgum, Uganda and Freetown, Sierra Leone.

In SOMA-sending countries, Rev Derek Lim has taken over from Rev Rennis Ponniah in SOMA Singapore; and in SOMA Canada, Bishop Leonard Whitten is the new National Director.

Please detach along this line and send to: SOMA UK, PO Box 6002, Heath and Reach, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU70ZA, UK

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