



SOMA Sharing of Ministries

Abroad is a mission agency within the Anglican Communion.

Southern Africa is one of 12 National bodies with the newest body, Malaysia received into the family at the annual International Board Meeting in New Zealand, July 2011. SOMA Malaysia covers three Dioceses: Kuching, West Malaysia and Sabah.

At a pre-Lambeth conference in 1978, those gathered received a prophetic word "to care for the nervous system of the body". Soma is the Greek word for body and became the name for a ministry that was being shared abroad. Since that time teams have gone out on short term cross cultural missions building up and equipping the church through the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.

Teams are invited by Bishops into their Diocese wherever it may be in the Anglican Communion and the worldwide church. The ministry seeks to bring transformation to individuals, churches and communities.



SOMA SA Team with Rev Jinny Kean of Churton Park, New Zealand

A DIOCESE IMPACTED BY SOMA

Bishop Stuart Robinson welcomed 50 SOMA team members into his Diocese of Canberra-Goulburn from 1 August 2011. After a brief time of orientation, training, individual prayer for each member by the Bishop, he commissioned them to go into 11 Parishes (a third of the Diocese). A further 11 Parishes joined in either hosting events or joining a mission activity. Since the missions, the bishop has instructed all the Rectors who had received a mission team to book themselves on a mission within the next 18 months.

Team members were from Australia, South Africa, UK, USA and Canada. Each team consisted of 4 to 6 members scattered across the Diocese from Bodalla and Batemans Bay to the Snowy Mountains and out to Young.

Preparing the Diocese

The week before the teams went on mission, Archbishop Ben Kwashi of Jos, Nigeria (chairman of SOMA International) and his wife Gloria spoke at rallies and conducted healing services. Gloria Kwashi shared about their extended family (6 children of their own and 51 adopted children). The adopted children are mainly HIV/Aids orphans who live with them in their home.



+ Ben and some of the children

The Kwashis are "mummy and daddy" to these little ones and the Lord has been pleased to provide all they need by way of medication (for HIV/Aids), food and clothing and education (and Gloria home-schools each child in the early years).

The Mission "For Such A Time as This"

While each parish had devised a program to suit their particular situation, all teams spent time listening and visioning with parish leaders; joining in and sometimes leading worship services; teaching on pre-arranged topics; and offering prayer ministry for commitment or recommitment, healing and wholeness.

The South African team, Chris Viljoen (Johannesburg), Jacques Jethas (Cape Town), Colleen Saunders (Cape Town) and Allan Williams (Johannesburg) were based in the Parish of Young.



+ Ben and Gloria

The Rector, John Thomas reported to Anglican news, "Young District Anglican Ministry (YDAM) hosted a mission team of four, and while the team was based in Young, they also visited Murrumburrah-Harden, Cootamundra and Temora in pairs. "We had gatherings for teaching, listening, preaching they used these opportunities to follow through with their messages."

It was clear that God had prepared the way long before he sent us there. We saw healings, deliverance and people lifted from despair. For some this was the first time that they had asked for and received this type of prayer.

Among those who received ministry: Gwen came up during the healing service and experienced healing of very painful legs. She went up several times after that, coming back glowing each time; Jan tormented and trapped by an extremely difficult home situation, changed completely after ministry, becoming much more light-hearted.

As Bishop Stuart received reports of the various missions, he wrote, "I am most encouraged by what we have seen and experienced."



South Africans in New Zealand

SOMA INTERNATIONAL LOOKS AHEAD

At our recent meeting we affirmed that intercession and mission are two equally important legs of SOMA and that young people should be part of all that we do.

We committed ourselves to bring to birth new and encourage existing SOMA bodies planting, training, modeling and releasing them into ministry and mission.

SOMA teams coming to Southern Africa in October 2012 have already been requested to include young people. SOMA UK is currently preparing a team of young people for mission to the Diocese of Niassa, Mozambique in August 2012. Young people from Southern Africa are welcome to join this team.

SOUTHERN AFRICA SETS THE SCENE

In 2008 SOMA partnered with Growing the Church at their launch in Johannesburg. This set a pattern for the subsequent years: a country hosts the SOMA International Board meeting; SOMA teams from around the world participate in a Renewal or Mission Conference; SOMA teams lead missions wherever a Bishop invites them for about 10 days in the host country.

Since 2008 SOMA has repeated this pattern in Malaysia, Nigeria and New Zealand. Ireland is planned for 2013 and possibly South America in 2014.

Southern Africa has once again been asked to host SOMA International and will team up with a Conference in October 2012. International SOMA teams will again be available to benefit the South African local Dioceses.



SOMA SA Team in Parish of Tawa Linden, New Zealand



SOMA SA Team with Rev John and Mrs Christine Thomas of the Parish of Young, Australia

A first time SOMA Team Member

"I participated in my first SOMA mission in July 2011. There were two weeks of mission, the first in Wellington, New Zealand and the second in the Parish of Young, near Canberra in Australia. The experience was wonderful. God really paved our way with sunshine, and there were no incidents, accidents, illnesses or anything unpleasant. There was such a sense of God's presence and protection and His yea and Amen. God used all of us in amazing ways for teaching, encouragement, healing and deliverance and in each of the teams I was in we worked and served very well together. God loves His church and it was a humbling and heart-warming experience to be His emissary in places where the church is in need of knowing God's love, power and healing. Working with churches struggling to enlarge their membership and to break free from tradition made me realize how we, the church in South Africa are so privileged. If only we knew all that we have available to us and the miracles that God has done in us, and how God has blessed us. Something else that made this trip special was the support from family, friends, colleagues and my home church, who covered me in prayer and through whom God supplied every cent that I needed. This trip has also been an amazing opportunity for me to celebrate and exercise the gifts that God has given me. It was wonderful. God is wonderful.

(Colleen Saunders is part of the Warehouse Team in Cape Town and is the Equipping and Mobilising Coordinator)

"There's no time to waste. God's mission is now, and you're needed on the front line."

Archbishop Ben Kwashi was a key note speaker at the New Zealand Anglican Missions Board (AMB) "Common Life Mission" Conference. About 550 attended the Conference at El Rancho Conference Centre, Waikanae, with about 70 attending the SOMA stream and then going out on missions into various parts of New Zealand.



SOMA Malaysia (Bishop Albert Vun) welcomed by Archbishop Ben Kwashi



Bishop Martin Breytenbach (SOMA SA Chairman) and Bishop Rennis Poniah who led Bible Studies for SOMA stream at Conference

Archbishop Ben reflects on the Conference "Diversity: That was another thing about the Mission Conference. At least a dozen mission-minded bishops flew in from Nigeria, Tanzania, India, Canada, the UK, South Africa, Melanesia, PNG, to be joined by half a dozen home-grown ones. Heaps of other visitors represented mission societies and agencies including, for example, Anton Ponomarev, an Oxford-based Russian (he's Russian Orthodox to boot) who is a director of the Faith2Share network, which aims to back emerging mission movements and build links in mission between what he calls the "pastoral" churches. There was a healthy representation from the three tikanga of our own church, too. And the way they mingled and flourished together in all their diversity was one of the things that warmed AMB Executive Robert Kereopa's heart. 'We'd envisaged a conference that would bring a huge diversity of people together in a safe environment, and I think the conference delivered on that.'

"Tikanga Maori felt safe. Pasefika felt safe. The charismatics in SOMA felt safe to join us and so did the Melanesians, with their Anglo-Catholic tradition." Part of the secret, it seems, was that **everybody seemed to agree about Jesus' parting instruction in Matthew 28:19: "Go and make disciples of all nations..."**

Archbishop continues, "Everyone else I spoke to was just as energised. Not least Bishop Richard Ellena who is on the AMB, President of CMS and Chairman of SOMA NZ, and who was chaplain to the conference. "I'm passionate," he said, "about Tikanga Pakeha making the paradigm shift from maintenance to mission. **Maintenance is not just a barrier to mission it's the very opposite to mission.**" "Over the past few days some people have begun to make that paradigm shift. I suspect all three tikanga will now be seriously grappling with the concept of mission."

Robert Kereopa's words after the conference, "The church must be willing to be shaped for mission," he says. "And that means shaping people for mission."

MISSION TO PARISH OF ST MARY'S, KARORI, WELLINGTON

Bishop Martin Breytenbach (Chairman of SOMA SA) led a team to the Parish of St Mary's, Karori, Wellington with team members, Felicity Roberts (Polokwane), Monika Mpholo (Phalaborwa), and Allan Williams (Johannesburg). The use of words of knowledge was encouraged by Bishop Martin after the teaching sessions and throughout the mission. There were about 70-80 words of knowledge and people responded positively to about 60% of those.

Allan writes about the mission, "Our hosts were wonderfully generous and went out of their way to make us feel at home. The parish of St Mary's and its Rector went the extra mile and we are so grateful. A noteworthy aspect of the Mission was the Lord's answer to our prayers for words of knowledge and the personal ministry they enabled. Thank you Lord!"

Monika Mpholo shared some of her experience of the conference by saying, "What a wonderful event and what a rich experience of the Anglican Communion. We are part of a rich, diverse and vibrant church. Being part of such an event expands our understanding of what it means to be church and refreshes our vision of what God is doing. Faith is enlarged, spiritual vitality restored and I was refocused on what the main thing is."

JOIN A TEAM

SOMA is always looking for new team members. The experience is always exciting, challenging, faith building and life changing!

Prayer and Intercession are the solid foundation of SOMA's ministry. Partner with SOMA in prayer and intercession either at home or on a mission.

THERE IS MORE

SOMA SA has joined Iviyo, New Wine, Soul Survivor, Growing the Church and Anglican Youth under the umbrella of Anglicans Ablaze. We are excited about the Conference being planned for October 2012. SOMA will once again be bringing teams from the other SOMA bodies around the world to attend the Conference and then go out on mission.

Let us know if you want to join a mission or receive a mission team in your Parish, Archdeaconry or Diocese.



Prayer for one another at SOMA stream
in New Zealand Missions Conference

UK priest returning from a SOMA visit:

**"We have been changed as a church;
we no longer have a small,
manageable and comfortable sense of
what God wants us to do. He has
stretched and challenged us, and has
changed the lives of those we serve"**

Please contact us if you would like to:

- Join a UK youth mission team to Niassa in August 2012
- Receive a mission in your Parish or Diocese in 2012
- Go on mission in 2012
- Pray for SOMA
- Contribute financially to SOMA
- Receive more information about SOMA

Banking details for contributions

Account Name: SOMA SA

Bank: Standard Bank, Randburg (018005)

Current Account: 221013792



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