



What is and has SOMA been doing?

SOMA Southern Africa (Sharing Of Ministries **Abroad**) is more about sharing of ministries **Anywhere**. This Newsletter will update you on what we have been doing and make known to you what lies ahead of us in 2019.

Our ministry has involved leading Retreats, Diocesan Missions, Parish Missions, Teaching and Training, within Southern Africa and beyond. The teams are not a fixed group of people. Team members are mainly from ACSA and include Bishops, Clergy, Lay People and some organizations.

SOMA and IVIYO sharing their ministries

Canon Mbatha writes, "May I start by thanking our Almighty God for enabling me to be part of a mission to Botswana with SOMA SA. I would further thank God for SOMA seeing it necessary to invite Iviyo loFakazi bakaKristu to be part of their mission to Botswana. This was to me an eye-opener, that as the body of Christ, we can as church organizations, be united and collectively support each other to "do God's work".



Combined Botswana teams before travelling

"Our mission started in Johannesburg in Revd Christian Viljoen's place where we met for preparations. That's where I could feel the Spirit of God binding us together as one, though, some of us were meeting for the first time. Our sharing together everything, and even our backgrounds, made us one, and our oneness in Christ, became a reality. The team spirit was excellent".

"Our mission overall theme was "Walking in the Spirit" There were many other teachings shared among the team including among others, "Walking in the Spirit", "Walking by the Spirit", "Power of Prayer", "Fighting Social ills in the Spirit", "Gifts of the Holy Spirit", "Healing and deliverance", "Leadership" etc".

"There were times for group discussion and group feedbacks. Most people freely participated. Some of the addresses were done by their people which was very good. But most of the teaching was done by Revd Chris Viljoen, the National Director of SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad). I also shared something on V/F. We thank God for Chris' leadership skills and his dedication and commitment to God's work. And we pray and thank God for allowing himself to be used by God's Holy Spirit the way he used him. There is no doubt that many lives were touched in that mission as God the Holy Spirit was at work".

"The Right Revd Metlhayotlhe Belemi, gave us his heart, and he has a vision of seeing his Diocese spiritually revived and growing into maturity in the knowledge of Christ. He and the Diocese of Botswana need our prayers. The mission started at St Andrew's Mmopane for two days and moved to the Holy Cross Cathedral Gaborone for two days. We then divided into two groups. One to St Andrew's Selebi Pikwe and the other one to St John's the Baptist, Tsabong".



"Observation: SOMA and Iviyo can, work together, as object No 7 of Iviyo is in line with what SOMA stands for as well as Iviyo's theme verse (*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* Acts 1:8)."

Sharing ministry across denominations

This was a very different SOMA mission with a community focus in Rehoboth, Namibia. Normally we spend time building up leaders and equipping them in a Diocesan Clergy Conference or in an Archdeaconry or Parish.

This time the team was ready to go but as the time drew near the focus of the mission changed leaving us

with some uncertainties. One member of the team wrote before the mission saying, "I am rather excited by this; we have no idea where the Lord is sending us and to do what? The only preparation we can do is to pray and trust, and that is a very good thing."

The newly consecrated Bishop of Namibia, Luke Pato, whose episcopacy was only 26 days old, welcomed us. He directed us to work with the Rev Carolina Steyn whose original invitation was to establish a church for the Baster community in Rehoboth.



Namibian Team with Bishop Luke

As the mission progressed, I realized that we were in fact fulfilling a part of SOMA's calling to bring about the transformation of individuals, churches and communities. God opened a door for us to minister with the Rhenish Church at a Conference, in their congregation and they provided some members in prayer support. Our ministry into the wider community came out of being interviewed on their local radio station resulting in many phoning in to make appointments to receive ministry.



Rhenish Church Conference

Sharing ministry with Growing the Church (GtC)

The **Growing the Church** Board has welcomed SOMA to share in their ministry by passing on to us mission opportunities and including us as part of the eldership of Anglicans Ablaze.

Recently GtC and SOMA spent time in the Diocese of Botswana teaching on Evangelism and Healing and making this practical. Ministry included time with their ordinands as well as ministry at Holy Cross Cathedral.

GtC Newsletter reports that this time of ministry "can easily be described in one word – **Lifechanging.**"



After a practical in a shopping mall, the report continues, "Our mission participants experienced a model of evangelism that was holistic, gentle and life-changing. And what was the biggest lesson learnt? That the ministries of evangelism and healing were a lot easier to engage in and

quite non-threatening — more than anyone could have imagined. There was an explosion of joy when we got back to Holy Cross Cathedral!"



Evangelism in the Mall Botswana

We met with leaders from Botswana Diocese about assisting them with hosting their own "Anglicans Ablaze Botswana" in 2019. A door has now been opened for an Anglicans Ablaze Conference.



Team, St Gabriels Florida

Sharing ministry in Parishes

After one of SOMA's Annual Council meetings, a team from that meeting stayed on to share in a mission at St Gabriel's, Florida, Johannesburg. Team members were from Mthatha, Cape Town and Johannesburg.

As part of the Church of the Transfiguration Bellville's patronal festival and to conclude their Centenary celebration of Faith Hope and Love,



Transfiguration, Bellville worship

SOMA was invited to lead a week of mission.

This year once again after our Council Meeting we spent a week of mission at St Andrew's, Pimville.

These Parish missions included time with leaders, men's and women's groups, teachings on worship, leadership, gifts of the Holy Spirit and ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit, prayer and intercession, healing and deliverance and ministry among young people.

Our time at St Andrew's Pimville was particularly meaningful as we spent most of the mornings with a group of leaders. Members of the congregation experienced the power and love of God at work, sharing their stories and feeling equipped and released to continue the ministry of praying with others.

Extract from Bishop Philip and Charmian Le Feuvre's



Free State Mission Retreat Team

report on the mission to St Paul's, George, "The evening meetings went well. What has been so thrilling is the number of the young people who really have been born again and filled with the Spirit this week. Jolin and Jonathan (team members) were fantastic in how they ran the kids' holiday club along with Samantha (team member). One of the teens gave his life to the Lord on Thurs evening and came for prayer again on Friday asking that he would remain true to the Lord and not fall away."

"Saturday evening was a chance for the parish to evaluate the gains of the mission and to talk about a way forward. Many voiced a need for more lay involvement and home groups to be formed. We give thanks for Lyndon du Plessis (Rector), we enjoyed working with him and he certainly gave us freedom to do whatever we felt God wanted us to do."

Sharing ministry during Retreats

Our retreat ministry began with a pre-Lenten retreat for the Diocese of the Free State. Sadly, Bishop Dintoe was unable to join the retreat due to a death in his family. We were delighted to have Bishop Philip Le Feuvre as a member of the team to lead the renewal of ordination vows at the end of the retreat. Since then SOMA has been invited to share in two

pre-ordination retreats in the Dioceses of Johannesburg and St Mark the Evangelist and to preach at the ordination services.



From Retreat to Ordination Service Johannesburg



Preparing for Mission

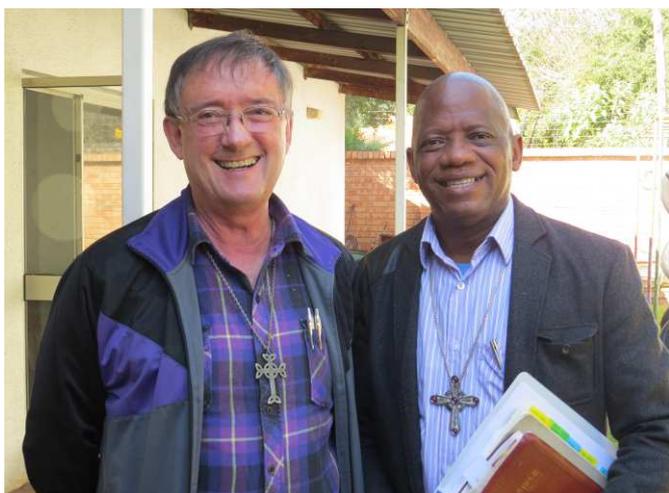
First SOMA Mission experience

Revd Eben Grobbelaar, Parish of Mashishing, Lydenburg writes "You seem odd", says my trusted neighbour to me as I collected my house keys from her upon returning from a SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad) mission outreach to Rehoboth in Namibia. Maybe 'odd' is a polite way of saying it, because I returned challenged and feeling as though a changed perspective has attached itself to me. I personify the change as a means to describe the lingering emotions, and awareness of the severe need and darkness people find themselves in."

"Maybe I'm experiencing return culture-shock, but I think it is more than feelings, because what I've seen, and the pervasiveness in which our team had to deal with it in Rehoboth, made a lasting impact on me as I realised afresh the reality of the spiritual outcry of people in our world. My emotions and thoughts of such a changed perspective become more pertinent as I try to reconcile it with my own

context. I'm not indignant towards those around me, which often times is a typical symptom of return culture-shock, in fact those of my home community have been very eager to listen to my stories as I attempt to integrate back into more familiar life. Indeed, as I developed the need for greater spiritual passion, I hope to demonstrate greater love and compassion as a subsequent influence on my behaviour towards others because of the change that demands of me to live more selflessly in the presence of God. I perceive it as a good, albeit sobering, thing. Thankfully the dazed feeling is wearing off as I better conceptualise my experiences and try to now alter my routines."vd Eben Grobbelaar, Parish of Mashishing, Lydenburg writes "You seem odd", says my trusted neighbour to me as I collected my house keys from her upon returning from a SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad) mission outreach to Rehoboth in Namibia. Maybe 'odd' is a polite way of saying it, because I returned challenged and feeling as though a changed perspective has attached itself to me. I personify the change as a means to describe the lingering emotions, and awareness of the severe need and darkness people find themselves in."

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Bishop Martin (Chairman SOMA SA) and Bishop Steve (Liaison Bishop for SOMA SA)

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES 2019

Dates are being finalised for the following possible missions.

Contact Chris Viljoen if you would like to be a team member, would be willing to pray or would be willing to support a team member.

- Diocese of Kuching, Malaysia
- Diocese of Sabah, Malaysia
- Diocese of Northern Malawi
- Diocese of Toliary, Madagascar Youth Mission
- Dioceses in Zimbabwe
- St Paul's, Haenertsburg
- St Catherine's, Bramley

Next Edition of SHARING

- Report of Mission in the Diocese of Niassa
- Report on Holy Spirit Teachings at YWAM
- More news about SOMA SA's plans for 2019

Let us know if you wish to be on our mailing list: e-mail somasa@somasa.org

We are thankful for these opportunities to share ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit, fulfilling our calling to serve the Anglican Communion and the worldwide church:

- by building up and equipping the Body of Jesus Christ
- through the renewing power of the Holy Spirit
- principally through short term cross-cultural missions
- for the transformation of individuals, churches and communities.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SOMA International is preparing to celebrate its 40th Anniversary. The Diocese of Melbourne, Australia has offered to host this celebration 24 October to 02 November 2019. National Directors are to bring teams to minister in the Diocese as part of the celebration. Contact Chris Viljoen if you wish to join a team

Become a supporter of the ministry of SOMA SA:

- 1) by donating regularly or once a year to:
Account Name: SOMA SA
Bank: Standard Bank, Randburg (018005)
Current Account: 221013792
- 2) by praying for the ministry
- 3) by joining a team
- 4) by inviting SOMA to your Diocese or Parish

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Website: <http://www.somasa.org> Facebook: SOMA SA Sharing Of Ministries Abroad

National Director: Revd Christian Viljoen; Chairperson: The Right Revd Martin Breytenbach

Liaison Bishop: The Right Revd Dr Steve Moreo