



*Ro and delegates, Kibondo*



## A place of refreshing springs

*“What joy for those whose strength comes from the Lord... when they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs...”*  
 Psalm 84:5-6.

This was the experience of many of the 120 delegates who, in April this year, gathered together at Kibondo, Tanzania, with Sospeter their Bishop and a SOMA team, for their first diocesan conference for clergy and leaders. Kibondo is a new diocese, located in verdant rolling countryside, and the key purpose of the mission was to create a renewed sense of

unity and vision for evangelism.

SOMA team leader Matthew remarked at the start of the week that this area had a, “particular peace and friendliness” but that the rains were going on for longer than expected. However, the rain was an outward sign of the outpouring of spiritual refreshment, healing and salvation that the Holy Spirit intended during the coming week.

On the Tuesday morning an Intercessor had a picture of the team, “holding hands in a circle and dancing, a bit hesitant at first and then

dancing with more confidence. Gradually others joined in and... they were the delegates. The dance, which was of course led by the Holy Spirit, became livelier, and more joyful as people danced to the same tune, but in differing ways and creating new steps, and the steps were not taught by man but taught by the Spirit... until there was a wonderful chaotic, hilarious, noisy, joyous people dancing to the tune of the Spirit, and the drumbeat was the heartbeat of the Lord God Almighty

as Jesus the Saviour wove his thread of healing and salvation through the dancers”.

During Tuesday’s conference session, this is indeed exactly what happened. Matthew spoke on Psalm 23 and then team member Bishop Elisha gave a compelling and moving testimony of his sacrificial journey of faith as a missionary bishop for five years in Katanga, DR Congo, where he suffered hunger and separation from his family in

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## A polished arrow



This year and next year see the 40th anniversary of the conception and birth of SOMA. It was at an evening meeting adjacent to the 1978 Lambeth Conference that a diverse group of leaders, archbishops, bishops, clergy and laity met to worship, pray and seek the Holy Spirit. Each had been touched by the then new move of the Holy Spirit sweeping the mainstream denominations. Each

was concerned not to quench the Spirit and as to how they could support and encourage each other as they sought to keep in step with the emerging renewal. As they sang, danced, prayed and celebrated the eucharist together they were not disappointed: among the many words, pictures, and scriptures one prophetic word endured – ‘care for the nervous system of My body’: SOMA was conceived, and the following year

SOMA was born. It became clear that the Holy Spirit was calling into being a unique ministry of renewal based on this prophetic word. “Care for” meant relationships, “the nervous system” meant leaders and “My Body” meant for the whole church.

Today SOMA’s ministry continues to be the outworking of that founding prophetic word. A primary value for SOMA is, ‘keeping in step with the

*Above: Delegates, Kibondo*

*Left: Batwa arrowhead, Kalemie, DR Congo*

‘Spirit’: remaining flexible and fleet of foot, having no set product or programme, actively responding to the nuance of the Spirit’s intended work, building a unique programme and team for each mission. As the mission progresses, we adapt the conference to address the issues revealed by the Holy Spirit through Intercessors, delegates and the Team.

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*Kamango congregation*



## “I have found myself to be a servant of God”

This was the response of one delegate after attending a five-day SOMA conference for church leaders in Kamango, DR Congo, in July. SOMA had been invited by Bishop Sabiti as Kamango is a new Diocese where there is a need to build good foundations – spiritually, physically, economically and socially. As Bishop Sabiti says, “we are in a pioneering phase.” The people of the Diocese suffered much during the civil insecurity between 2012 and 2014, and there are now many widows and orphans. Despite being just 10km from the Ugandan border, Kamango is in many ways quite an isolated community and Bishop Sabiti’s concern had been that in this area, most people identified themselves as Christians but there was a great need for discipleship and stewardship training, to address some difficult cultural issues concerning syncretism, polygamy, early marriage, and lack of education.

The five-strong cross-cultural SOMA team spent five days teaching and leading workshops about the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, discipleship and stewardship, knowing

and valuing the calling for Christian ministry, and spirituality. One Intercessor when praying was reminded of a dry-stone wall, made up of stones of all shapes and sizes placed together to build a strong wall, and thought that, “each Christian is uniquely shaped and loved by God for their specific purposes and put together as part of the church as the stones are in the wall.” Another wrote that the team was, “going in humility to present the Water of Life and we join them in waiting expectantly on God to turn it into wine in the hearts of each one attending.”

### Water of Life

Over the first few days the delegates started to develop a relationship of trust with the team members and became increasingly receptive to the teaching and to the Holy Spirit.



So much so that by the fourth day, the healing rain of the Holy Spirit had started to fall – the evening prayer ministry was “excellent”, all delegates were praying for each other, with many words, scriptures and pictures from the delegates and the team including everyone from the young people to the Bishop and his wife. In fact, there were so many testimonies that the next day’s first session had to be changed to allow time for them to be shared.

One delegate concluded that, “I have found myself to be a servant of God...with responsibility to be a follower of Christ”, and an Archdeacon that, “I will stay under Jesus and listen to Him, so I continue as a good disciple. You have given me the way”. Mama Bishop said, “I must not keep worrying, as I am serving God.

The prayer helped me to do His work with a full heart and feeling free. Thank you for the teaching”. Still another pastor said, “I did not know that everything belongs to God!” The Mother’s Union leader said, “I didn’t realise I could teach another person. From SOMA I see I will go to teach others, younger children at Sunday School... I am praying those I teach will remain in Christ.” Yet another said, “I heard God is preparing me for work in His kingdom. Previously I’d not heard it or honoured it. I must do as God expected me to do... now I realise the purpose of the Church”.

### Please pray

Please continue to pray for these delegates, that the good work began in them will be carried on to completion, and that there will be much more fruit from this mission. Please also pray for the new Diocese of Kamango and for its Bishop, Sabiti, its clergy and leaders.

**Team: Leader Rev Stephen Dinsmore, UK; Bishop Edward Bumucwanira, Uganda; Helen Doery, Australia-UK; Rev Amos Semuzima, Rwanda; Rev Ken Wiebe, Canada-UK. Intercession Co-ordinator: Kate Brankin.**

*Delegates, Kamango*



*Rev Oswald, delegate, Kibondo*



*Benon and translator in action, Kibondo*

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order to live alongside his parishioners. His conclusion to the delegates at Kibondo was, "The Lord was faithful to me, and I could be faithful to my people. We had all given up much, and all depended on the love of the Father." Matthew concludes, "we ended with a song which became a dance that became exultant." (There is a video of this dance on the 'SOMA UK' Facebook page). The delegates and team were, "bowled over and moved by the Good Shepherd's amazing grace".

Further sessions during the rest of the week covered Christian marriage and family life, leadership, pastoral work, repentance and renewal with prayer ministry, evangelism and traditional religion and walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. The teaching on marriage, to some, raised conflicting ideas due to cultural differences (for example the idea that husbands can help their wives with cooking) but delegates reflected that the teaching was, "understandable and very touching" and both men and women were "very pleased" to learn these lessons together. Indeed, the Vicar-General, Eliezer, reported that the teaching, "helped us as couples to help and support one another in a better way". Couples in ministry together also learned that the success of parish work depends on wives' involvement after the SOMA team challenged them to work closely with their husbands.

Teaching on the Holy Spirit also helped the delegates to learn the, "power of prayer not the power of noises" and that, "it is not the loud voice which drives away demons".

The delegates particularly appreciated the devotional teaching sessions, describing them as,

"so touching" and "[more] practical than one could imagine". Matthew comments that when team member Katie spoke on Psalm 139, "all were caught up with her into the Father's love". Praise the Lord that delegates were able to drink from the "refreshing springs" as the Intercessor had spoken about at the beginning of the week.

*"The delegates were able to drink from the 'refreshing springs' as the Intercessor had spoken about at the beginning of the week".*

Towards the end of the week several team members suffered illness, but the Holy Spirit was nevertheless at work among the delegates. When team member Benon led the last session on repentance and reconciliation, Bishop Sospeter reported to Matthew that, "God is very much at work here... two clergy are seeking reconciliation." The Bishop himself in the last session then sought reconciliation and forgiveness with his clergy. Matthew reports that this was, "moving, and a sign of the new beginning the Diocese is entering".

Rev Eliezer summarised the conference as having, "great impact" to the clergy and wives, and that the delegates were, "encouraged to the maximum".

SOMA's particular thanks go to the Intercessors who covered this mission, upholding team members during their travel in the rainy season and during illness, and whose prophetic words sustained and inspired the team and the delegates.

Please continue to pray for Bishop Sospeter, Rev Eliezer, and the delegates as they continue the work in their parishes; for ongoing unity of vision and purpose in evangelism.

**SOMA Team: Leader Rev Matthew Grayshon, UK; Rev Katie Lawrence, UK; Ro Knight, UK; Carol Preston, UK; Rev Benon Ssemambo, Uganda; Rev Samuel Ssebbaale, Uganda; Bishop Elisha Tendwa, Uganda; Rev Ken Wiebe, UK/Canada. Intercession Co-ordinator: Stephen Dinsmore.**

## Battle for discipleship in DR Congo



*Delegates and team, Butembo*

Do you want to know what it looks like when the Lord of Hosts rolls up his shirt sleeves and engages in the struggle to advance the Kingdom of Heaven in a battle-torn country? Then read on! Butembo, a city of 800,000, is the second largest city in beautiful Nord Kivu, which is the eastern-most part of DR Congo, bordering Rwanda and Uganda. The region has suffered much, both during the Second Congo War and the current Kivu Conflict, with widespread reported use of child soldiers and very large numbers of internally displaced people. It is exactly the sort of place to which SOMA is called to work for the transformation of communities through the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.

### Nothing in the kingdom of God is ever simple!

This was a joint mission led by SOMA and Church Army Africa ('CAA'), at the invitation of Bishop

Ilesomo, for 20 church leaders from the Anglican, Baptist and Pentecostal churches in Butembo, and followed on from a previous SOMA mission in November 2015. The theme was urban mission and discipleship but as team leader Don says, "nothing in the Kingdom of God is ever simple!" The mission was a battle from the outset: just days before the mission was due to start, team member Joel suffered a close family bereavement and Don an injured leg in a road traffic accident, and then team member Michael had to leave the mission early to move his family and a group of orphaned children away from violence in their home area of Bunia. As Don reflects, "the prayer... of intercessors is seen to be at its most important when... the enemy tries to frustrate the work."

### Intentional Discipleship

The 4-day conference did nevertheless go ahead. After the first day, an Intercessor had a picture of

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## SOMA 2019 UK Residential Conference

### Guests Graham and Jackie Cray

**Tuesday 17th – Thursday 19th September 2019**  
**High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Herts**



Join us for a great time of fellowship, teaching, prayer, worship, ministry and relaxation. Be inspired, be encouraged and ignite your passion for intercession, prayer and for mission. Hear about SOMA missions. Spend time aside with God. Enjoy great company. Please email [steve.fincher@somauk.org](mailto:steve.fincher@somauk.org) to register your interest.

*"A spiritually uplifting experience."  
"It re-invigorates my motivation for intercession."  
"A total refreshment in the Holy Spirit."  
"I was greatly encouraged, loved and learned so much."*

(2018 Residential Conference delegates)

**Book the date now!**

## Battle for discipleship in DR Congo

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Joel, Dan and Simon, Butembo

the team members springing and leaping for joy, surrounded by angels blessing them all. This was shared on the second day with the delegates and it transpired that in one local language the meaning of 'SOMA' is 'to jump with joy in praise and worship'. After the third day of teaching on evangelism, ministry to children and trauma counselling, Don reflected that, "we are beginning to have a sense of how these are vital if the Church is going to have an impact on this nation for the future." Team member Joel reflected that, "intentional discipleship is critical for the strengthening of the Church," and team member Michael that the only verse to come to his mind was the Great Commission to, "go and make disciples."

The delegates themselves responded by recognising the need to establish discipleship groups as there are currently none in the Nord Kivu district. One delegate said that, "we live with people but don't know their problems", which led to a recognition that the church needs to engage with people's pastoral needs, to "go deeper" in discipleship and "re-awaken our parishes". Another reflected that, "we need to empathise with the people of Butembo" and another, "God is calling us to wake up and be diligent in His work."

There was fresh recognition of the importance of children's ministry, with one delegate stating that it is, "imperative to look after the children"

**Team Members:** Leader Rev Don Brewin, UK; Michael Asaba, Uganda; Rev Joel Soti CA, Kenya; Captain Simon Waiti CA, Kenya; Daniel Omondi, CA, Kenya.  
**Intercession Co-ordinator** Helen Foster.

and another, "may God grant us the grace to serve our children". Several delegates asked for more regular training especially for pastors and their wives and one reflected that if the training is implemented it will, "unite and improve the life of the church."

### Fruits of the mission

Bishop Isesomo reflected that, "the SOMA visit has been a big blessing for the church in our diocese."

As a result of this mission, Bishop Isesomo has engaged with ministering to 56 demobilised young soldiers, teaching them about repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation and peace; one of the delegates organised a youth conference in July in Butembo; and the school chaplain coordinator organised training for other school chaplains in different schools.

In addition, during the conference, representatives from the Congolese Army called on Bishop Isesomo and informed him that they want to work in partnership with the churches for peace in this region. This is a wonderful development and a real sign of how God is at work in Butembo in and through the church to bring peace. A final message from an Intercessor summed up this mission. "God is faithful. He even uses problems by turning them into strong bricks to build us up." Please do keep on praying for the effectiveness of both the church's work in making disciples and the work of CAA, and also for an increase in peace and stability in this region.

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Relationship is vital – 'sharing' well describes the peer-to-peer nature of our ministry, and diverse, multicultural teams ministering cross-culturally are part of that. Intercession and prayer are critical – it is upon intercession that SOMA missions are founded. SOMA remains both Anglican focused and focused on leaders: to encourage, equip, envision, enable and empower them for their own mission and ministry.

For SOMA UK, 'keeping in step'

has meant continued challenge, recently, again by prophetic word, to going to the 'places less visited' – so, as I write, the Spirit's focus for SOMA seems to be on the needy areas of DR Congo and South Sudan.


Praying and musing recently I was reassured as He showed me SOMA to be as a polished arrow, snug in His quiver, then taken, placed in His bow, drawn, aimed and released to find its intended target. May SOMA long continue to be so.


Stephen Dinsmore, National Director

## Get involved


**LIKELY FUTURE MISSIONS** include:

November 2018	South Sudan	Northern Bahr El Ghazal
January 2019	Uganda	Ruwenzori and East Rwenzori
	South Sudan	Athooch
February 2019	Burundi	Rutana
	South Sudan in Uganda	Kajo-Keji in exile in Uganda
March 2019	Tanzania	Dar es Salaam
April 2019	Tanzania	Southern Zone Dioceses
May 2019	Kenya	Maasai Land
June 2019	Tanzania	Tabora
July 2019	DR Congo	Kalemie

 **PRAY:** Intercession and prayer are the foundation of SOMA's ministry and mission. Find today's live prayer nugget on twitter, facebook and our website home page. Receive our 'Daily Prayer Diary' with your copy of 'Sharing'. SOMA Intercessors are informed by regular, extensive Prayer Briefings and two-way daily emails during missions. For more on intercession: on our website click 'Prayer and Intercession'; or contact Kate Brankin at [intercession@somauk.org](mailto:intercession@somauk.org)


 **INVITE:** To invite a SOMA team email [stephen.dinsmore@somauk.org](mailto:stephen.dinsmore@somauk.org)

 **TEAM:** Come on a mission! We welcome new team members. To be considered for a SOMA Team, simply email SOMA at [info@somauk.org](mailto:info@somauk.org) or phone us on 01469 279737. Alternatively click on 'Join a Team' on our website [www.somauk.org](http://www.somauk.org)

 **GIVE:** **Electronic transfer:** please email [steve.fischer@somauk.org](mailto:steve.fischer@somauk.org)

**Post:** our address is SOMA, PO Box 69, Merriott, TA18 9AP, cheques payable to 'SOMA' please.

**Online:** please go to [www.somauk.org](http://www.somauk.org) and click 'donate' to give by card, Paypal or CAF.

 **PARTNER:** A SOMA Parish Mission Partnership builds a live, active and mutually beneficial relationship between your congregations and SOMA, making an effective resource for you, envisioning your church for renewal & mission at home and abroad, and fulfilling SOMA's worldwide call and ministry.

Click 'Get Involved' on our website, then 'Parish Mission Partners'. Alternatively email [stephen.dinsmore@somauk.org](mailto:stephen.dinsmore@somauk.org) or call 01460 279737.

### Thank you

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