

## “God has done his miraculous”

This was Bishop Almasi's joyful response to SOMA's mission this May to the Dioceses of Newala and Masasi in southern Tanzania. SOMA had been invited to these rural Dioceses to 'lift the lives' of the 150 clergy and catechists, who needed a time of refreshing and encouragement as they lead many parishes (400 in Masasi) with little training, resources or opportunity to meet together for fellowship. A team of six from the UK and South Africa together with their vital team of intercessors, was assembled and arrived in the small town of Newala on 1st June for the first conference. They celebrated an inaugural Eucharist with more than 200 participants, and prepared to minister with 150 'hungry and excited' delegates at the Cathedral, as an intercessor spoke from Isaiah, "Therefore My people in Newala and Masasi shall know My name; Therefore they shall know in that day That I am He who speaks." As ever, the role of the Intercessors was

crucial, and Matthew sensed that their prayer had 'undergirded' this day. Tuesday saw the introduction of Lumko, a seven-step method of Bible study which emphasises listening, persevering, togetherness, enabling scripture to be relevant and prayer. There was a 'brilliant' exposition of Saul and David on the theme of Leadership and Loyalty, and a closing ministry time at which 80 delegates came for prayer, with Bishop James also bringing healing and unity through his ministry.

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The team ended the day rejoicing and grateful that, as an intercessor had said, their feet 'brought good news'. During the following days of ministry concerning evangelism in the power of the Spirit, marriage, unity and stability in loneliness, there was a



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sense of focus and momentum amongst the priests and catechists, with continued modelling of the Lumko Bible study method, often led by women catechists, and powerful input from Bishop James. By the end the delegates had, "a new unity, energy and commitment", with one commenting that, "this has been a marvellous conference and the way that the Holy Spirit has been at work was wonderful."

### Momentum and focus

The Masasi Conference took place close to the granite block Cathedral in this thriving town. Uplifted by the prayers of the intercessors, the team celebrated a joyous Pentecost with visits to three full, lively churches on the Sunday before starting the conference with a Eucharist for the 120

delegates. Bishop James followed each session with eloquent local applications, earthing the team's words in his own diocese and vision, and by the second day there was a momentum and focus which encouraged everyone. The catechists made a 'step change' in their devotional life and a new dynamic emerged between priests and catechists as this was the first opportunity they have had to share ministry together. Bishop James expressed his delight and joy in all that took place concluding "God has done his miraculous."

Jonathan, reflecting on his 18th visit to this Diocese said, "we were bathed in the presence, the power and the life of the Holy Spirit throughout"... "the chief joy was to observe the ministry and working of the Holy Spirit in the priests, catechists and evangelists: a joy to see the Lord working in them so powerfully and richly" and "there will be much fruit, fruit that will last in these two Dioceses."

**Team:** Team Leader Rev Matthew Grayshon (UK), Rev Rob Jobling (South Africa), Matt Lawrence (UK), Mrs Ellen Tungwarara (South Africa), Canon Jonathan Rendall (UK). Bishops James Almasi and Oscar Mnung'a. Intercession Co-Ordinator Helen Foster.



*A new unity, energy and commitment*





After the Sunday service

## “Come and sit at Jesus’ feet”

This was the invitation to the 48 delegates at this May’s SOMA mission to Maasai Land, Kenya. They were to, ‘set aside thoughts and worries of daily life, to listen to all He has to say to them, to dwell on it and learn from Him’. SOMA had been invited by David Kereto, founder of the Maasai Evangelical Association (‘MEA’), to share with the ministry of the Maasai Church Association, a group of indigenous independent Maasai Churches in rural Kenya, by hosting two two-day conferences for pastors and leaders who needed bible training in evangelism, discipleship

and the work of the Holy Spirit. The MEA was founded by David in 1996 to, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation’ and a burden to effectively make known Christ to the Maasai community.

### Exuberant worship

During the months before the mission, there was drought and therefore famine in the rural part of Maasai Land, so the conference venue had to be moved to the Maasai Highlands, but thankfully rain came just before the team arrived. An Intercessor wrote, “The delegates are surrounded by the ‘wilderness’ of famine, lack of education and many other difficulties, yet I believe they will be given a sense of the presence and holiness of God and will be encouraged to ‘take off their shoes’ and worship.” The mission started with ‘exuberant worship, testimonies and a well-received sermon’ at Niasoya church on the first Sunday before the first conference began the next day at the Mission College in Narok town.

Teaching sessions on evangelism and leadership were followed by worship and prayer ministry, with the delegates pleased and a word from an Intercessor that, “light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” Tuesday’s teaching sessions addressed leadership, avoiding exhaustion in ministry, repentance and forgiveness and the Holy Spirit, with another final session devoted to worship and prayer ministry. The delegates reported that they were ‘much happy and very fine’ and there was a powerful presence of the Holy Spirit.

The team travelled through heavy rain on just-about-passable roads to Kisiriri for the second conference, where 33 delegates responded positively to teaching on evangelism, leadership, and perseverance. The conference ended the following day after more teaching and ministry time, with delegates happy and going away with many new ideas, on good roads, with an intercessor reporting, “with joy you will drink deeply from the

fountain of salvation!” The mission ended with well received preaching at two local churches in Mara, followed by two days marvelling at the Lord’s creation at the Maasai Mara game reserve. After the mission, Stephen Punyua, the principal of the Mission College, reported that the delegates are now more motivated than before, and would be taking the message far and wide, and that the spirituality of the team had changed him and touched his heart. Janice reflected that, “the harvest is indeed plentiful, but the harvesters are few’ and Stephen Punyua asked for SOMA to come back soon. Please continue to pray for the Maasai Churches, and for discernment about SOMA’s future involvement. A follow-up mission is planned for 2020.

**Team:** Team Leader Revd Stephen Dinsmore (UK), Jenny Brown (UK), Janet Dinsmore (UK), Peter Hadden (UK), Andrew Henderson (UK), Capt Janice Maina CA (Kenya). Intercession Co-Ordinator Kate Brankin. Inviting Church Leader David Kereto.



Pondering a point



Congregation and Team at Niasoya



# Stepping Stones To Peace

This March saw SOMA's fourth mission in seven years to the Diocese of Boga, DR Congo. The team was led by Michael Asaba with a multi-cultural team from Kenya, Uganda and the UK. Bunia, the capital city of the province, is the base for one of the largest UN Peace Keeping forces in Africa, tasked with preventing conflict arising between ethnic groups but there is still ongoing conflict and loss of life in this area, with Ebola and political turmoil adding to the complexity.

## Prophetic word

With these challenges in mind, and whilst reflecting on how to reach out to these young people and newly ordained clergy, the team had been called by a prophetic word to build 'stepping stones' to peace. The process was to be like walking over a swamp on stepping stones, and the location of the next stone would only be revealed when the team stretched out their feet, in faith. With this in mind team member Don prepared a detailed training course for the 86 delegates to be translated into Kiswahili, used for discussion and prayer and then to be shared with their home parishes afterwards. Topics included leadership, worship, caring for God's creation, evangelism, the Holy Spirit and discipleship and identity in Christ as a young person, aimed at addressing issues affecting the community as a whole such as climate change, equality, intergenerational relations and the violence of exclusion. "Over recent years SOMA UK has had the privilege of developing a close working relationship with the Diocese of Boga... extending our teaching from 'internal' topics to the responsibility of the Church towards bringing healing and peace to the community and the nation" reports Michael.

## Significant challenges

The team members faced significant challenges even before they arrived, with struggles over visas, physical attacks, injuries and illnesses affecting relatives and were acutely aware of their reliance on the dedication of their team of intercessors. However despite these challenges the conference took place in the Cité Church, Bunia from Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd March. The team did not have as many opportunities for group discussion and prayer ministry as they would have



Above: The Bunia Team

liked, but nevertheless by the end of Wednesday's teaching, the delegates were asking real and challenging questions about Christian marriage, being filled with the Holy Spirit, the role of clergy in the church, prayer, and recognising the different gifts of the Holy Spirit. Thursday's topics were Building up our Christian Lives – in the Power of the Spirit, the Church's Primary Task, and Equipping the Saints. The final sessions on the Friday addressed building mature leaders, countering the violence of exclusion and youth and community, after which an intercessor had a word: "God has raised up for us a mighty Saviour to save us from our enemies, free to worship you without fear... as you guide us into the ways of peace." The team then preached at six different services at churches in Bunia on the Sunday before returning home.

*Step by step fruits are growing, and reconciliation is visible among the communities, leaders, and union.*

Michael reports that, "through all these teachings we are seeing a successful change in this Diocese. Step by step fruits are growing, and reconciliation is visible among the communities, leaders, and union."

Please continue to pray earnestly for the Diocese of Boga, joining with an intercessor who noted, "We praise God for the sowing and we trust Him for the harvest to come! We pray for the delegates as they travel back home, for some the message is beautiful but too big for them to share. They feel inadequate to pass it on to others. May God give them the courage to share this good news," and with Michael who notes that the Mission, "will have failed in its full intention... if the delegates do not share what they have learned with their colleagues in their home areas."

The final word goes to the Diocesan Secretary who says of the struggles and suffering faced during and after this mission, "You will understand that these vicissitudes were seen in advance... desolate in its strategies, and seeing the successful result of the conference appreciated by all the participants, the Devil could certainly try to disturb the winners at the end. As we trust in God through his Son in the Holy Spirit we don't worry".

**Team: Team Leader Michael Asaba (Uganda), Revd Raymond Bukunya (Uganda), Revd Don Brewin (UK), Revd Lovincer Katana (Uganda), Milly Mirembe (Uganda), Revd Joshua Opondo (Kenya). Bishop William Bahemuka. Intercession Co-Ordinator Kate Brankin.**



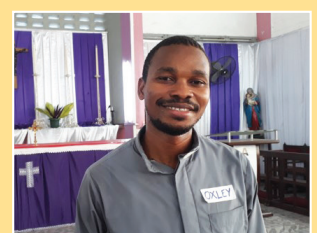
## "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy"

Dar es Salaam, population 5 million, is the largest city in Tanzania, the third fastest growing city in Africa and has a long-established Anglican church. SOMA was invited to share in this church's ministry by Bishop Sosthenes at the instigation of Bishop Tendwa, so this March a multi-cultural team of six, led by Patrick Whitworth, was organised to facilitate three conferences on the theme of 'When the Spirit Comes'. They were for Clergy, Evangelists and Youth Leaders, and the Mothers Union together with clergy and leaders' spouses. The team had the privilege of preaching and sharing at various churches in Dar both on the Sunday before and after the Conferences were held.

## Full to bursting

Team member Annie experienced St Michael's, a church in a poor part of Dar, crammed full to bursting with people having to stand outside and peer through the windows, with a very large children's work and the foundations built for a larger new church building. Joanna spoke on purification at Christ the King church, where the choir spontaneously sang the Hallelujah chorus for her in Swahili, which she describes as 'stunning'. Paul spoke on 'How God Guides Us' at St Paul's, and Patrick preached at the Cathedral and then on healing and deliverance ministry at Bishop Elisha's parish Church.

The first conference was attended by 100 clergy, all male. The team spoke about the coming of the Spirit in Acts and



Delighted delegate Oxley

Continued overleaf

## SOMA UK Residential Conference

Here is what some of the 38 delegates said about this September's UK residential conference for our UK supporters at High Leigh, near London.

*"I enjoyed the unembellished hype-free straightforward delivery of mission reports, and the atmosphere of welcome, friendship, zeal and the Presence of God".*

*"It's valuable to make virtual friendship actual."*

*"I enjoyed hearing about what the Lord is doing in places where we normally only hear bad news".*

SOMA's thanks go to Bex Holden for leading worship and to all who shared and made this such a time of refreshing, blessing and faith building encouragement.

**Our next UK conference is on Tuesday 18th – Thursday 20th May 2021, again at High Leigh Conference Centre.**

## Get involved

### FUTURE MISSIONS include:

October	Melbourne	Australia
November	Kinshasa	DR Congo
November	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	South Sudan
December	Palorinya Camp	Uganda
February	Jonglei Internal Province	South Sudan
February	Rutana	Burundi
March	Kindu	DR Congo
March	Masaai Churches	Kenya
May	Kibondo	Tanzania
June	Biharamulo	Tanzania
June	Muyinga	Burundi
July	Manono, Katanga	DR Congo
October	Western Equatoria Youth Leaders	South Sudan
2020	Soroti	Uganda
2020	Liwolo, in exile in Imvepi Camp, Arua	Uganda

**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 when teams are on mission.

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 [info@somauk.org](mailto:info@somauk.org). 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

Continued from page 3



Left: Outpouring of the Spirit – Vivian

ran a workshop on the gifts of the Spirit. The team felt that they were breaking new ground with these themes, with some clergy receptive and some not because of existing church traditions. None of the clergy came forward to receive prayer for a fresh in-filling of the Holy Spirit, as it seems it didn't accord with their tradition, although the team sensed that many of the younger clergy did have open hearts. An Intercessor had a word that, "they that sow in tears shall reap in joy" and another that the team should "wait patiently for the Lord", which was a great encouragement.

### Fruitful

Patrick describes the Evangelists and Youth Leaders' Conference as, 'much more positive'. 200 men and women attended, the team spoke about including the outsider, equipping the evangelist, and speaking to the needs of young people. Vivian used her gift of creative communication, using balloons in a bowl of water to represent problems, but as the 'water' of the Holy Spirit is poured in to the bowl the balloons are forced up and out. Team member Paul reflected that Africans will be leading the praise in Heaven after experiencing worship and praise with the young people. There were fruitful question and answer times and extensive prayer ministry at the end with great rejoicing and gladness at being together.

The one day Mothers' Union and Clergy Spouses' conference was attended by 200 delegates. Annie spoke with great honesty and power about the challenges of marriage, Patrick and Joanna about being members of the Body of Christ, and Zadock and Vivian about having a vision for young people. There was a high level of engagement and honesty, and many came forward for ministry.

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The team finished the week with an evening meal with Bishop Elisha and his wife and enjoyed their lovely hospitality and prayer. Bishop Elisha is well known to SOMA from his five-year service as a missionary Bishop to DR Congo, and his participation as team member on the Goma and Kibondo missions last year. Please continue to pray for him and for Dar es Salaam Diocese, for the new Diocesan Bishop Jackson Sosthenes, and all the delegates who attended these conferences, that the seeds sown would bear much fruit.

**Team: Team Leader Revd Patrick Whitworth (UK), Paul Bright (UK), Revd Zadock Oluoch (Kenya), Annie Robertson (UK), Vivian Ritho (Kenya), Joanna Skinner (UK). Bishops Jackson Sosthenes and Elisha Tendwa. Intercession Co-Ordinator Kate Brankin.**

### Thank you

We really appreciate your continued involvement for the ministry of SOMA. However, if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, or no longer wish us to hold your personal details on our database, please email us at [info@somauk.org](mailto:info@somauk.org) and we will update our database accordingly. Please see our website [www.somauk.org](http://www.somauk.org) for a full privacy statement.