

“You are the Daniels and Nehemiahs of Kenya.

So what are you going to do?”

By Mrs. Edwina Thomas

An almost full House of Bishops and their wives from the Anglican Church of Kenya gathered in Mombassa for a retreat held by the SOMA International family in late April. Four National Directors participated (Nigeria, Uganda, USA, UK) and three bishops (Nigeria, Uganda, and USA).



Bishops discuss concerns in light of the teaching

Our teaching topics addressed the question, “What is hampering the growth of the Gospel in Kenya?”

On the first day, the group was open and frank about their major concerns and identified areas of culture and practice that were, in reality, less than Biblical norms of life in God’s Kingdom today. Speakers addressed these areas in talks that dealt with, for example, immorality, idolatry, witchcraft, broken covenants, and the impotent Church (the Church without the power of the Holy Spirit).



Times of worship together

Teaching and small group discussions were lively and relevant. Workshops addressed issues such as integrity and transparency in dealing with money and developing a prophetic role for the Church in the Nation.

On the fourth day, we looked at the great leaders, Nehemiah and Daniel, noting, most particularly, that they repented with sincerity and conviction for the sins of their forefathers.

The team challenged these leaders, the Daniels and Nehemiahs of Kenya, with the question, “So, what are you going to do?”

After a pregnant pause, one bishop’s wife stood and poured out her heart. Another courageous bishop stood and confessed and soon was kneeling before his archbishop in repentance. Led by the Holy Spirit, God began breaking down barriers and animosities.

May this confession, repentance and forgiveness prophetically open the floodgates of healing for Kenya, for its land and its people. May the gospel flourish in new and powerful ways.

Archbishop Nzimbi said in his sermon during the Friday night Eucharist: “What I have seen here as we confessed the sins of our forefathers makes the church to be a new church. Bishops are the Reverend Fathers in God...we must apologize—most of the things apply to us. It is time to repent of our sins, the way we used to repent—and to grieve our sins. We need to come before the Lord. Have we listened? Wake up to the Spirit of walking in the Lord. If bishops get there, it will be easy for the church to get there.” ■



Archbishop Benjamin and Alice Nzimbi

Team list: Mrs. Edwina Thomas, SOMA USA and the Rev. Don Brewin, SOMA UK, team leaders; the Rt. Rev. Tunde Adeleye, SOMA Nigeria; the Rt. Rev. Stanley Ntagali, Masindi-Kitara Diocese, Uganda; the Rev. Lovey Kisembo, SOMA Uganda; the Rev. Stephen Dinsmore, SOMA UK; Mr. Immanuel (Richard) Oewang and Mr. Barham Banyenzaki, Kampala, Uganda.

SOMA USA

is a Christian mission agency in the Anglican Communion dedicated to fostering renewal in the Holy Spirit throughout the world.

Empowering the People

By Mr. Richard Hines

The rector of the team's host parish told his congregation at the Sunday morning service after the team concluded their program, "We should not be looking for SOMA to come back." "Rather," he explained, "we should take what they have taught us and make it a part of our everyday ministry."

The Rev. Daniel Genovesi had caught the team's intention exactly: to empower the people of the Diocese of Argentina to experience healing and spiritual transformation not only through their personal experience of the power of the Holy Spirit but also through their corporate life in small groups, congregations and the diocese itself.

At the request of Argentina's Archbishop Gregory Venables, the team led a set of four evening workshops on discipleship for clergy and lay leaders, followed by a day-long open conference/workshop on emotional healing. Since about seventy percent of the clergy and laity of the diocese live in the Buenos Aires area, the one ministry site at San Marcos, in the suburb of Hurlingham, allowed participation from most diocese parishes. One participant, speaking of the emotional healing conference, said the next day, "We experienced the finger of God." ■

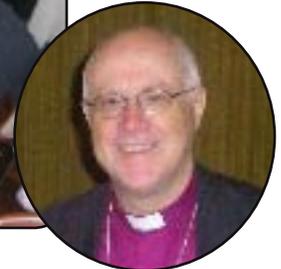
Team list: Mr. Richard Hines, team leader, Church of the Apostles, Fairfax, VA; Mrs. Martha Menees, St. James, Newport Beach, CA; Ms. Hannah Mudge, Christ Church, Duanesburg, NY; the Rev. Mario Agreda, a newly-ordained priest in the diocese and the Regional Representative for Latin America of SOMA International.



The music team



Conference participants working in small groups



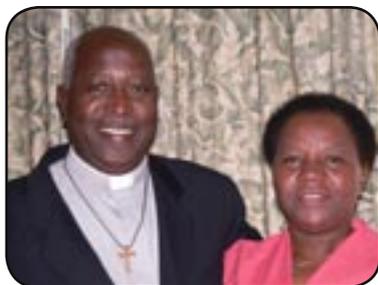
The Most Rev'd. Greg Venables, Primate

"I was struck by the sensitivity, gentleness and hospitality of many of the Argentines we met. I desire those qualities. I was impressed to learn that some of the churches insist on having husbands and wives serve together in various ministries—the point being that ministry should build up marriages and not create hardship and time apart."

- Martha Menees



Mission to the USA from the Church of Uganda



The Rev. Benoni and Joyie Mugarura-Mutana

The Rev. Benoni Mugarura-Mutana and his wife Joyie are considered the mother and father of renewal in Uganda. Affection abounds for these beloved leaders. Ben was the Anglican Chaplain serving St. Francis Chapel at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, for many years and has very recently

retired. Over the decades of his ministry he has influenced the lives of countless Church leaders, public officials, and other university graduates who are now leaders.

The international SOMA family has leaned on the teaching expertise of both Ben and Joyie over the last 20 years: they

have served with mission teams to their own country and led or participated with SOMA teams on most continents of the world.

In June SOMA was able to bless several churches in the US by bringing them to minister as part of our *Mission to the USA* program.

From the Rev. Jack Tench: "Pentecost was special at St. Charles Anglican Church in Poulsbo, WA, with the SOMA mission visit of Ben and Joyie. The main focus of their week long visit was the three day ministry weekend over Pentecost. Ben's preaching that gets to the heart was a significant encouragement for us. St. Charles is named for one of the Martyrs of Uganda and Poulsbo is originally a Norwegian settlement. One of the elders of the S'Klallam tribe is a member of the parish, and he hosted a time at the elders lodge on the nearby reservation. They were joined by another parishioner of Southwest tribal ancestry. So at one point in the week we had combined "Little Norway" with Ugandan, Aztec, Hopi, S'Klallam and Suquamish peoples!"

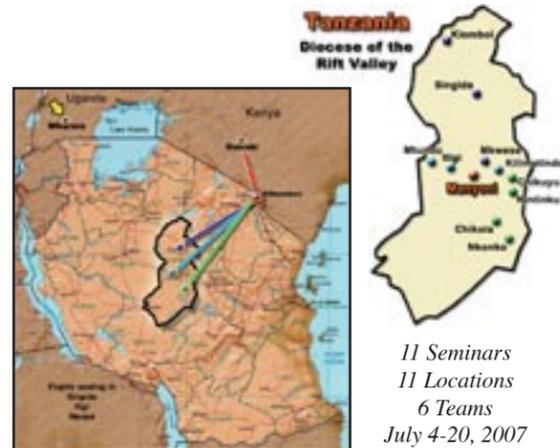
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MEMBERS: •from TZ: Michael Chihawa • Faith Chiloya • Joyce Chimandi • Monica Chiteto • Anderson Lesilwa • Nelly Lubangala • Melina Magawe • Janeth Mazuguzwa • Rose Mbami • Madelina Mbani • Mahewa Mhambe • Rhema Mrema • David Mtindo • Aginita Ndatila • Joynner Nzenzo

TRUST TRUTH PEACE EXORCISM DELIVERANCE WARFARE INTERCESSION FATH

RECONCILIATION PEOPLE NATIONS THE CHURCH DENOMINATIONS VISION TO MINISTER

Emotionally Free Tanzania The Diocese of the Rift Valley

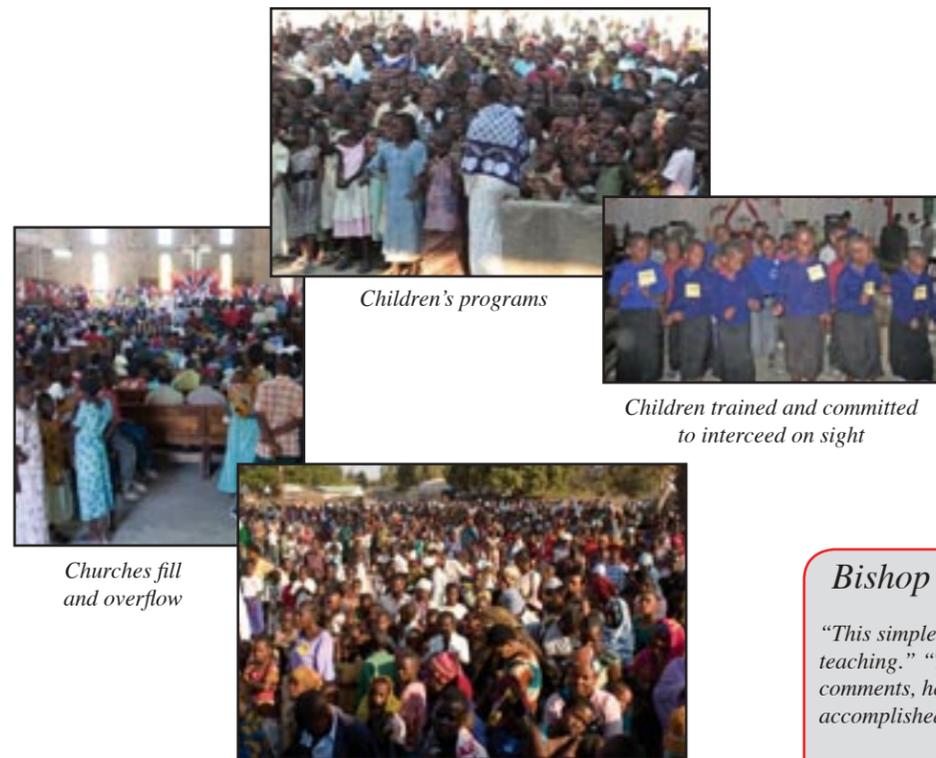


11 Seminars
11 Locations
6 Teams
July 4-20, 2007



Prayer at the Manyoni seminar sight—
local intercessors join the team

From the son of a priest— “At the start of this seminar, I thought to myself, ‘There’s nothing to this inner healing business.’” “But, many of you may not know (because I haven’t told many), that seven years ago I was deeply hurt when my fiancée broke off our engagement. The pain of rejection immobilized me and I contemplated suicide. Today, as the prayer began, I felt a stirring in my heart. Jesus has completely removed the pain!”

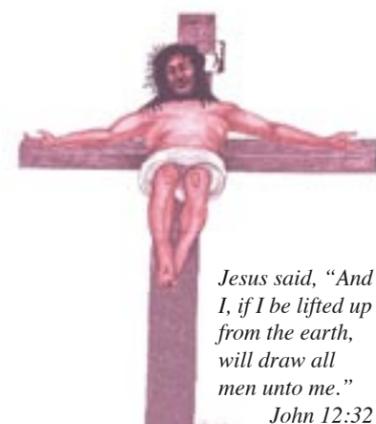


Children's programs

Children trained and committed
to interceed on sight

Churches fill
and overflow

Outdoor seminars—thousands attend



Jesus said, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”
John 12:32

Bishop John Reports —

“This simple teaching about Jesus has big power!” “We’ve never before received such thorough and deep teaching.” “This was the first big seminar in Manyoni in which all denominations participated fully.” These comments, heard from around Anglican Diocese of the Rift Valley (DRV), Tanzania, celebrate what the Lord accomplished between July 3 and 20, 2007.

Thousands attended the 11 seminars conducted by the SOMA teams. Each seminar was unique and varied in size. Participants came from at least 11 different denominations and it is estimated there were 16,000 participants in Manyoni alone.

In one day at Manyoni, more than 200 accepted Christ; Chikuyu about 20; Chikola about 150. Many received inner healing or physical healing. God healed one woman of heart decease! Others were set free from evil spirits. Even witch doctors opted to follow Jesus.

Pastors have started teaching the seminar at their local churches and report that God is faithful; they are experiencing the same power in their seminars!

Please pray for the DRV. Bishop John plans to appoint new SOMA leadership and train teachers who will teach others to teach the Emotionally Free® material. Ask Jesus to grant the money for his ministry. ■



Reconciliation between denomination
leaders—God's church becoming one

Prayer to heal life's hurts
Jesus brings peace

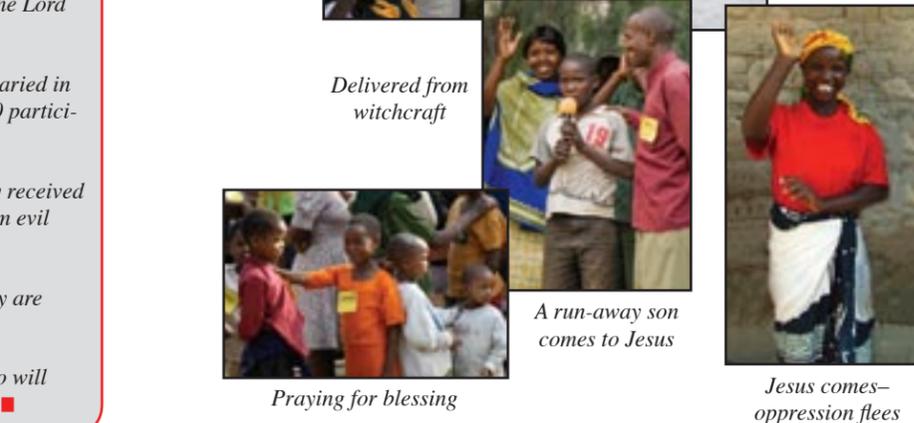
Passing the
Emotionally Free
leadership mantle



Prayer for healing

Overcome
by the
Holy Spirit

Thank You from The Rt. Rev. John Lupaa
“I thank you for coming to do the seminars in DRV. Thanks for those who contributed the money for this wonderful mission. I thank the SOMA – USA leadership for accepting these seminars to be done in DRV. I thank all intercessors who prayed during and after the seminars.”



Delivered from
witchcraft

A run-away son
comes to Jesus

Jesus comes—
oppression flees

CO-TEAM LEADERS: •from KENYA: Daniel Kiman • Mary Waiguchu from TZ: Robinson Chinigu • Alfonse Lesangwa • Michael Macha • Anderson Madimilo • Nelson Msokolo • Tumaini Ndumula •from UGANDA: Sam Ewou •from USA: Bonnie Bashor • Judie Craycraft • Sue Wheeler

“The Mission Was — Simply Amazing”

by the Rev. Mark Brown

I have spent much of my 27 years of ordained ministry perfecting the fine art of ministering in my comfort zone. To say that I looked forward to the SOMA mission trip to the Diocese of Jos, Nigeria with mixed emotions is perhaps the understatement of the century!

Our five-member team was headed up by SOMA’s Associate Director, Fr. Les Martin. We had been invited by Bishop Benjamin Kwashi to attend the diocesan synod (Jos) and then lead a three-day stewardship event for the clergy and spouses of the Dioceses of Jos, Bukuru, and Pankshin. Weeks of preparation to teach on the subject and an intense two-day team-training program gave me the “illusion” of control I needed, and on the afternoon of Sunday, May 20, we boarded our flight for Nigeria. [Those of you familiar with the powerful way God works on SOMA mission trips, in spite of our best efforts to the contrary, should be smiling broadly by now!]

I thought I was ready to witness first-hand the vitality of the Nigerian Church—one which plants more dioceses in a year than our American Church plants missions—but nothing could have prepared me for the vibrancy and beauty of their ministry and worship! The parish chosen by Bishop Kwashi for his diocesan synod was one built in 14 days—yes, I’m talking about literally constructing the building with local Anglican talent—after having a major revival on the site of the future parish.

Having endured close to 30 such diocesan events during my American priesthood, the joy of their gathering and eucharistic worship simply blew me away. Yes, the Nigerian Church deals with some of the same procedural struggles that endlessly bog down our diocesan conventions, but the overwhelming differ-



Bishop Zhumbe and Canon Joe Okolo celebrate God’s awesome love

ence in the two churches is a matter of the heart and the Spirit. My Nigerian brothers and sisters have paid dearly to worship our Lord and Savior—beatings, arrests, imprisonment, death—and God’s presence, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is palpable when the Nigerian Church gathers.

God, the Holy Spirit, was also powerfully present as we led the stewardship conference. With abandon totally uncharacteristic of my past “ministry-in-the-comfort-zone,” my teammates and I were able to deliver sound teaching on the subject, challenging our listeners to take a fresh look at stewardship of all of life, including embracing the biblical tithe. Spiritual attacks, medical problems, and the simple struggles of transcending the cultural divide notwithstanding, God was able to do infinitely more than we could ask or imagine!

This trip was life changing in every sense of the word: I will never be the same and my ministry “in-the-comfort-zone” died a peaceful death amid the physical and spiritual beauty of a place and a people I will never forget. ■

Team list: the Rev. Canon Dr. Les Martin, SOMA USA; the Rev. Mark Brown, All Saints’, Woodbridge, VA; the Rev. Dr. Dennett Buettner, Our Savior, Ambridge, PA; Bob and Toni Smith, St. Marks-on-the Mesa, Albuquerque, NM.



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Mission to the USA

(Continued from page 2)

From the Rev. Bill Guerard: “St. George’s parish in Helmetta, NJ, was blessed to receive a visit from Ben and Joyie Mugarura-Mutana. These two dear saints brought us greetings and encouragement from Uganda, and a first-hand look at what the spiritual revival in the global south is all about. They ministered at two mid-week services and at meetings with the Youth Group and the Vestry. But, the highlight was Ben’s preaching on Sunday morning where he challenged us to “make a decision for Jesus Christ.” As the people came forward for communion they said, “I choose Jesus.” ■

The SOMA USA Newsletter

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*“The Church Exists by Mission as Fire Exists by Burning”**

by Edwina Thomas

Think with me of a beautiful cloth, a tapestry woven from threads of many colors into beautiful and intricate designs. But ripping has torn us—we are not whole, but have many internal ragged edges. Perhaps someday we can be stitched together like some carefully planned patchwork quilt—an heirloom piece that is cozy and comfy to boot and which will bless generations. But for now we are like some piece of abstract folk art that embraces empty spaces (holes) within.

So how does SOMA work in the unraveling Anglican Communion? Friends, we are doing what we have always done: we train leaders, those who invite us, to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit in order that all the world will know that Jesus Christ is Lord. We go as we have always gone: where we are invited. We teach as we have always taught: lessons from Holy Scripture and not from the nationalities we represent.

Labels don't work for SOMA right now. There are faithful, Kingdom people in every corner of the Anglican Communion; and there are those who are hungry and thirsty everywhere. Our SOMA missionaries are called to be vessels that carry the Bread of Life and the Living Water that flows from His throne to leaders who are weary, discouraged or just in need of refreshment and comfort. We come along side leaders, laity and clergy, and “urge them to live lives worthy of God, who calls [them] into his Kingdom and glory.” (1 Thessalonians 2:12)

SOMA USA has been about their task since 1985 serving in almost 40 countries and innumerable dioceses and provinces on almost every continent. During these years, SOMA has strengthened relationships of the Communion. It is our privilege to say with Paul, “It’s especially gratifying to know that you continue to think well of us, and that you want to see us as much as we want to see you! In the middle of our trouble and hard times here, just knowing how you’re doing keeps us going. Knowing that your faith is alive keeps us alive.”

(The Message, 1 Thessalonians 3: 7-9) ■

*William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, during World War II

