



Sharing

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To Serve our Hosts with Excellence

“There are two blessings for team training. One, the teaching itself prepares us in practical ways for doing Kingdom ministry in different cultural contexts. Second, an equally important blessing, is the prayer and team building, the relational work we do, that knits us together and makes us a team in Christ even before we board the plane.”

—The Rev. Phil Ashley

Leader training was great fun!



For many years now SOMA has understood that a mission team is a walking sermon! How we live together, serve each other, love each other and love the people we have come to visit all shout louder than any of our words. Training each team that serves is a mandate for SOMA—the highest priority.

Team training involves sharing our spiritual journeys in some depth, facing our fears and looking at our expectations. Like a good orchestra of expert musicians, we “tune up” spiritually—we review Christian worldview, including the Kingdom of God, the kingdom of Satan, and spiritual warfare. In order to be sure our attitude is one of humility, we look at the discrepancies between our own culture and the Kingdom of God; this enables us to approach the experience of a new culture without arrogance.

Our training also includes cultural information, practical tips for health and safety, and a significant focus on conflict resolution. We end our training with affirmation of each team member.

For years, our team leaders have been chosen primarily because they have excelled at leadership on a SOMA team. In order to expand our ministry, we have recently held four two-day sessions to refresh former team leaders and train potential team leaders.

In these gatherings, we discussed the subjects: who should go on mission and who should not; the nature of servanthood; who owns the mission; the concept of team; spiritual authority; flexibility; and the role of team leader. We focus a great deal on keeping the team healthy (physically and spiritually) and on practical issues such as the role of money in mission—good practices.

Although he has been on several SOMA missions, the Rev. Dr. Dennett Buettner flew across the country to attend our course: “I thought the training was great because it combined the right mix of overview with specific content that will give me confidence that God has given me the basics I need in place before I lead a team. I also enjoyed the learning environment with a strong group of others who understand God’s call to the nations.”

SOMA realizes that mission changes the missionary, but that is not our first goal. We aim for serving our hosts with excellence so that God’s presence through us makes a difference. We prepare, pray and purpose to be Kingdom people sharing a Kingdom message, all for His sake and His glory.

Holy Spirit Power in Soroti Diocese, Uganda

“How Pentecostal should the Anglican Church be?” This was probably one of the best questions we received all week. The question came from a young priest who said this SOMA conference was the greatest thing his diocese had done for him, short of sending him to seminary. He went on to add that he had recently read that, “A church that emphasizes the Word and not the Holy Spirit, dries up. A church that exercises the Holy Spirit without the Word blows up and a balance is needed for a church to grow up! If we believe the church was born at Pentecost, we should all be Pentecostals!” A response came from the Rev. Canon Lovey Kisembo of Ruwenzori Diocese, Director of SOMA Uganda, “In all these things we are seeking to renew and grow the church. Our guidance in the Holy Spirit is the Word in the Bible.” Such was the goal of this conference, to grow churches and clergy families in reliance on the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

The five-day retreat in early December focused on *The*



Praising the Lord.

Promise of the Holy Spirit and Clergy-Spouse Relationships. Our international team was composed of five experienced SOMA Uganda missionaries from three dioceses, and the four of us from SOMA USA. One hundred and fifty clergy and spouses participated.

Teachings were followed by ministry times focused on receiving the power of the Holy Spirit, deliverance, and healing. One priest came forward to say that he was pleased to know that this was very easy. He had imagined fighting with devils. He was grateful to know that the Holy Spirit was available at any time. Another participant came forward to say

that she experienced “...a tremendous feeling of peace after being visited by the Holy Spirit.” She stood with a glistening face, a picture of peace.

One session, *Messages: Husbands to Wives and Wives to Husbands*, elicited much humor, many tears and an acknowledgement of just how stressful ministry can be and how much the Holy Spirit needs to be a part of their marriages. A follow-up session with individual couples sitting and talking, knee to knee, under the trees all over the hostel campus was a beautiful sight.

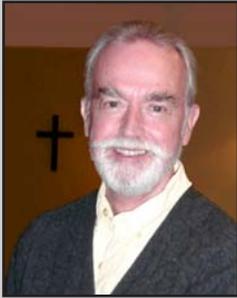
At the end, testimonies told of marriages that had experienced healing, lives that had been changed, physical healings and deliverances that had occurred and many that had been set on fire by the Holy Spirit. We were awed by His power and presence. **Eyalama-noi!** To Him, **Edeke**, be the glory!

Team list USA: Clark Smith, team leader, and Carol Rogers Smith, the Rev. Marc and Alice Robertson, Christ Church, Savannah, GA; Uganda: the Rev. Canon Lovey Kisembo, SOMA Uganda; the Rev. Moses and Carol Bushendich, Sebei Diocese; Charles Kayondo, South Ruwenzori Diocese; Perpetua Gimadu, North Mbale Diocese.



Praising brings joy.

Profile in Faithfulness: Richard Hines



“Well done good and faithful servant!” These are words the SOMA family speaks to Richard Hines for his extraordinary and grace-filled service to this organization.

Richard has served on the SOMA USA Board from its inception in 1985 and continues to offer his considerable gifts to us. At an earlier time he chaired the Board; and from mid-1994 until mid-2008 was our diligent Chief Financial Officer. In this capacity, Richard made a long trip to the SOMA office weekly. He has led many missions, mostly to Latin America, using his linguistic gifts in Portuguese and Spanish. Richard also served the SOMA International Board of Directors as Secretary for 10 years.



“You are deeply loved and radically accepted...”



“Jesus, Transform Me”

“We were under the spout where the Glory came out,” said Father Charles Myers. God is on the move among young people in Bolivia, and He was present in amazing ways during the SOMA mission to a diocesan Youth Camp in mid-January. The theme for the week was “Jesus, Transform Me.” The third evening, after more than three hours of ministry, the fire of God descended. A number of participants received inner healing from the brokenness in their past.

God’s message of grace and forgiveness brought transformation and reconciliation. As He ministered and confirmed His love to His children, God raised up a generation to bring renewal to the diocese and to the country. Bolivia seems to be on the brink of a breakthrough of the Holy Spirit; many of its future leaders were present at the camp during this time of renewal.

Myers’ prayer for those in attendance, “You are deeply loved and radically accepted sons and daughters of the Father in the Beloved Son, transformed by the Holy Spirit,” sums up all that God accomplished during this mission.

Team list: the Rev. Charles Myers, team leader, and Stephen Holt, St. David’s, North Hollywood, CA.

Sharing about “Mission to the USA”

SOMA’S “Mission to the USA” asks dioceses and parishes in the United States to host short-term missionaries from abroad. They bring a leadership that draws upon the rich spiritual resource of the Anglican Communion and possess a faith tested by adversity and a passion for the Gospel. SOMA believes that the church in America can benefit greatly from the fire and commitment of our Anglican partners by offering a radically different approach: bringing spiritually mature leaders from the two-thirds world whose purpose is to give, not to receive.



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Director's Corner by Edwina Thomas

What's your dream job? For the first half of my life I couldn't identify any job that was ideal for me: I just knew that I was waiting and praying... vaguely hoping for whatever would be fulfilling.

In 1991 SOMA USA Board made a radical and rather chancy decision to hire me as National Director. They were placing the baton in the hands of a person who had never had full time employment, never studied at seminary, was not ordained, and didn't/couldn't fill out an application for the position. Besides that, I was a woman.

And what a wild and wonderful race it has been being the National Director of SOMA. We have had to learn to run; to summon courage to get back up after falling flat; to jump hurdles; and to both find our way and lead others. We have learned, taught and encouraged. Our goal is to listen to God and obey...for His glory.

At the end of 2009 I will pass the baton of leadership to another. I grieve leaving the

organization I love and have poured my life and heart into for 23 years. But since SOMA is all about relationships, and those are about God's love, then my heart is full of eternal treasure that cannot be taken away. I have deep peace as my wonderful husband, David, and I unfold the Lord's will for the next season of our lives together.

As SOMA's Transition Committee works, we invite you to join us praying: "Father, send the Holy Spirit to prepare the one You choose. Reveal to that person, to others, and to us Your calling and anointing. Stir up in them every good and perfect gift uniquely fitting him or her to accomplish Your will on earth through SOMA. Father, we choose to make a wide place in our heart and in the organization for the gift of this new leader."

Please pray for me. Pray that I will run this race hard and strong to the end. I plead with God for a smooth handoff of the baton to one who is eager to run with vigor, vision, wisdom, and obedience.

