

Mission to the USA

“You are welcome
as intercessor, prophet,
teacher, preacher...”

by Mrs. Edwina Thomas and Mrs. Debbie Petta

On the way to the airport to meet and greet Sam Ewou from Uganda, I felt that I heard the Lord speak to me: “Welcome Sam to this soil and release him in the appropriate spiritual gifts.” In obedience, I joyously welcomed my friend, put my hand on his chest and spoke, “Sam, I welcome you to America as intercessor, prophet, teacher, preacher and release healing and pastoral gifts.”



Edwina Thomas, Sam Ewou, Bishop Robert Duncan

In the time I spent with Sam in our training together and the time of ministry in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, I saw God move powerfully in all of those ways. Approximately 70 intercessors and diocesan leaders attended a two day conference and most would call it an encounter with God.

Teaching was often in the African style, through stories. Worship moved the participants to a place of intimacy with our Lord. Teams from various congregations met together to pray. The last afternoon ended with corporate intercession for diocesan leaders.

As a result, 12 Pittsburgh area churches now have corporate prayer groups meeting, a significant numerical increase. A plan is being established for the whole diocese to sharpen hunger and increase vision for intercession in a corporate and diocesan setting.

Sam’s ministry in New England with small group settings and individual appointments afforded the congregations an opportunity to grow from his experience as leader of intercessory prayer for Archbishop Henry Orombi.



Sam exhorts his audience.

Those attending workshops were encouraged to persevere in the words given by the Spirit until the answer is seen. He referenced his own experiences as well as the Biblical example of Elijah, who continued in prayer when the clouds of rain promised were but the size of a man’s hand.

In preaching to several congregations in the area, Sam called them to reach for a new level and larger vision in their ministries both individually and corporately.

Sam is the Africa Director for Youth for Scripture Union and is a very effective communicator to the hearts of young Anglicans. In two youth rallies, young men and women were challenged not to wait to do great things for the Lord and His Kingdom. Many Christians of older years live in regret wishing they had ordered their days differently. Many made open proclamations to follow God’s plan for their lives and to seek to “number their days to gain a heart of wisdom.” ■

Team list: Mr. Sam Ewou, Kampala, Uganda; Mrs. Edwina Thomas, SOMA USA; Mrs. Leah Turner, All Saints, Attleboro, MA; Mrs. Debbie Petta, St. Andrews, Fort Worth, TX.

“Sam Ewou’s visit was a turning point in the life of our congregation. While we still have questions about the future, his teaching and willingness to be used by God and to hear God in any situation served as an example to us all. The example of this one man and his ministry has helped to open our ears and our hearts to hear God speaking to us as we go forward in strength of purpose and unity of spirit. Thank you SOMA and Sam for your vision.”

Leah Turner

Missions to Ghana and Uganda

Exceedingly Abundantly

by Mrs. Sheila Todd

His Grace the Archbishop and Primate of West Africa, the Most Rev. Dr. Justice Akrofi and Dr. Maria Akrofi invited our SOMA team to minister at their April Clergy Wives Conference and to give technical advice to improve the Diocesan School of Music in Accra, Ghana.



Jim instructs at music school.

Archbishop Justice and Mama Maria officially welcomed us at the airport and hosted us in their home. It was an outward and visible sign of the spiritual covering and resultant

liberty that this mission enjoyed. Throughout the mission we had “divine appointments,” anyplace and at all hours. Whatever the need, the Holy Spirit met it exceedingly abundantly.

Archbishop Akrofi dreams of musical support for worship in every congregation under his oversight. Jim and I were able to teach about worship and vocal production in a setting that allows

every person to learn from the others’ lessons. In addition to training in music, worship and servant leadership, every person had an opportunity to receive the Archbishop’s anointing.

Betsey and Michael Mulloy joined us the second week for the Clergy Wives Conference. The theme was, “Chosen” (John 15:16). Betsey taught on the Song of Songs, the deep love of the Lord for His bride. The clergy wives understood and were blessed. She gave each woman an autographed a copy of her book, Divine Love Song.



Michael and Betsey give books.

The vision given our intercessors to walk “low and straight,” like train tracks on which the Holy Spirit could travel, was vital to this mission and a lesson for life. Our memories of Ghana are of the beauty of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of His love, beautiful people, the tender loving care of true hospitality, lots of prayer interspersed with ministry, an awareness of God’s love flowing continually, God appointments in unexpected places, the liberty to do things we didn’t know we could do because the Holy Spirit within us is able. ■

Team list: Mrs. Sheila Todd, team leader and Dr. Jim Todd, All Saints’, Woodbridge, VA; Mr. Michael and Mrs. Betsey Mulloy, South Riding Anglican Church, South Riding, VA.



Seven to Uganda

by Mr. Joshua Bullock

Seven students from Nashotah House Seminary traveled to Uganda in January for 12 days. Our purpose was to learn more about the Anglican Church in Uganda as well as strengthen ties between it and Nashotah House.

Our trip began at Uganda Christian University in Mukono where we met with several of the faculty and students. They pay very close attention to what is happening in the United States and asked many questions about our current situation. We saw first hand that the Anglican Communion is truly a communion and what we do is watched closely and has ramifications around the world.

One of the things that is so hard to get used to in Uganda is the massiveness of the Anglican Church there. It comprises roughly 10 million out of a population of 27 million people. We visited Rwenzori Diocese, which is made up of 600,000 congregants with 800 congregations. This means that a rural diocese in western Uganda has more members than all the Episcopalians who will attend Sunday services in the entire United States during an average week.

The Anglicans in Uganda are very proud of being Anglican and being part of the communion. From the experience of worshiping at the Uganda Martyrs Shrine with the saints of today, we were deeply impacted with the faith and culture of the saints that have gone before. We certainly left Uganda with a stronger sense that our Church is global and that mission means growing in relationship with one another. ■



The Nashotah House Seminary Team

Team list: Mr. Joshua Bullock, team leader, Mr. Philip Cunningham, Mrs. Judith Dalmasso, the Rev. Shaun Doubet, Mr. Tobias Karlowitz, Mr. James (JD) McQueen, and Mr. Micah Snell, Nashotah, WI.

Emotionally Free Mission to Kenya

“Do what ever He tells you.”

(John 2:5)

by the SOMA USA team members



God's affirmation given & received.

God uses ordinary, everyday people to do His work in the Kingdom. That work becomes extra-ordinary acts of God, not because of anything that we do, but because God is using His vessels to do His work.

Vanguard Ministries invited six ordinary people, 4 from the USA, 1 from Kenya and 1 from Uganda to travel to

Nairobi, Kenya, to teach a course on healing from life's hurts called Emotionally Free. We also had the privilege of sitting at the feet of Vanguard to learn more about spiritual warfare.

People learning together, working together, eating together, ministering together, staying together and praying together witnessed God work His might and extraordinary acts of healing as He set captives free. Mark 6:12-13 (The Message) reads: “They preached with joyful urgency that life can be radically different. They sent demons packing, they brought wellness to the sick, anointing their bodies, healing their spirits.”

Intercessors also did “whatever He said to do.” Their work of prayer enabled the team in Africa to hear the Spirit more clearly

and gave us courage to do the work. They fought many spiritual battles, so that the team was freed to move forward.

During the mission God brought extraordinary healing; He set captives free from oppression and depression. There was deliverance from bitterness in life and sadness of heart and soul. Through the work of His Holy Spirit, God restored and renewed His people. Isaiah 61:1-4 became real.



Mar. 30

Transformed through prayer

“God has given me a new heart!”

Virginia



Apr. 12

Our team got to be part of that work, simply because we followed, as closely as we knew how, and did what He said do. God is continuing to work His healing and more wholeness will come.

Those who went and those we went to serve will never be the same. Ordinary people transformed by a loving, all-powerful extraordinary God. ■

Team list: Mrs. Gail Patton, team leader, and Mrs. Sue Wheeler, All Saints', Woodbridge, VA; the Rev. Sue Hardman, Diocese of VA; Mrs. Leah Turner, All Saints, Attleboro, MA; Mrs. Mary Njeri Waiguchu, Vanguard Ministries, Nairobi, Kenya; Mr. Charles Kayondo, Diocese of South Rwenzori, Uganda.



Christian Renewal Association's



Mrs. Rita Bennett

(CRA) mission is to bring emotional, spiritual, and physical wholeness to those in need.

CRA was founded in Edmonds, WA, in 1968 by the late Rev. Canon Dennis and Mrs. Rita Bennett.

Known internationally for her work in emotional and spiritual healing, Rita is a well-traveled speaker, author of eight books and developer of **The Emotionally Free® Course**. For almost a quarter century, Rita has trained others to teach the course. The ministry continues to expand. Today people are being trained internationally using **Emotionally Free**.

Emotionally Free for East Africa is an ongoing cooperative effort of SOMA USA and CRA. God uses this ministry to multiply the impact of the principles for soul-healing prayer that He taught Rita. As a result people experience freedom and wholeness in spirit, soul, and body as Jesus heals the inner hurts that rob their lives of joy and peace.

Vanguard Ministries



Rev. Elizabeth Utugi

in Nairobi, Kenya, is a ministry of intercession for the nations. The term “Vanguard” means to be in the most advanced position, the front of the army moving into battle. Under

the leadership of the Rev. Elizabeth Utugi, an Anglican deacon, Vanguard prays and trains others who are called to move forward in spiritual warfare for their nations and cities. Vanguard teams travel the whole nation of Kenya and throughout Africa to raise up schools of prayer and train leaders in intercession and spiritual warfare.

“Why gather for something called ‘team training’ for the first three days of my mission trip?”

by Edwina Thomas

Director's Corner

The days we spend in training are days of formation, days when we focus on how to be citizens of the Kingdom. We prepare our hearts and minds to encounter, with grace, new persons and circumstances. More importantly, we make our own internal cultural shift.

The three days are a time to decompress, to lay down drivenness and slavery to time and calendar. (Yep, a vacation does that too!) We shift our focus from the world with its distractions and intentionally become servants, slow paced and deliberate in following the Holy Spirit minute by minute. (Not like a usual vacation!)

SOMA's ministry is by team. We do not do mission alone but join with others in an accountability relationship, to pray (including listening to God), to obey God's Word and the Holy Spirit, and to go. During training we worship together, remove extraneous items from our packed bags, learn principles of entering a new culture, discuss conflict resolution and pray for the mission and each other. Together the team decides how to live as a worshipping community seriously engaged in the mission. We keep “short accounts” by checking assumptions and being quick to forgive. We agree to afford one another grace (“bear with one another”) and make it our priority to live in right relationship with God and with others. Obedience to God's command, “Go,” coupled with the thrill and anticipation of the unknown, is the perfect opportunity to learn to do it God's way, not my way. We become radically dependent upon Him.

Smooth sailing? No. Without conflict? No. It is difficult to experience Godly body life in the midst of close community with persons you didn't choose, especially when you're fatigued and feeling overwhelmed by a new and sharply different culture. Yet these challenges become opportunities to apply generous amounts of prayer, repentance, forgiveness and humility, as we prefer one another in love.

Sometimes the biggest impact of SOMA teams on our hosts is not what we say, but our attempt to live as a walking model of Christian life. And sometimes the fruit is the transformation which team members themselves experience in the radical discipline of living together in the Kingdom way that is so very different from the ways of this world. ■

