



## Let the Glory Fall

When over 350 young people on fire for their God come together from 10 countries to worship, praise and exalt His name, the energy level in the room is like a solar flare pointing straight to heaven. And God's response is to let His glory fall and fill the room with Holy Spirit power to heal, deliver and transform. At the Ugandan 8th Bugolobi Annual Youth Conference in August we participated in miraculous healings and deliverances; we watched the sparks fall, ignite and spread like wildfire!

The healing power spread outward as one team member, while visiting a local family, prayed for the mother who was in great pain with a slipped disc. Following her healing, she asked him to pray for her elderly mother who had trouble walking. In English he commanded the woman's brain to reconnect with her legs. The grandmother said in her local language that she felt something in her head change. She didn't understand the prayer, but she felt God's healing power. She is now able to walk without stumbling.

Following a time of ministry, a young man approached a team member and said he was the son of a preacher and never really believed God still did miracles today. But he does now because he not only saw a miracle of healing, but was the one used by God to do it!

The way Jesus came into the meetings was incredible. Over and over we witnessed God's love and grace change lives, heal bodies, and transform minds and spirits.

All participants were equipped as much as they were inspired. One who was healed testified:

*The back which has been  
paining me for years is  
now history in Jesus' name.  
I am now pain free and I  
have my God.*

Now, when the participants walk out what they were trained to do, God's healing power will spread across Africa and beyond. Spiritual awakening across entire regions is inevitable.

Team: Team leaders: Gail Scott, All Saints', Dale City, VA, and the Rev. Benoni Mugarura-Mutana, Joy Center, Kampala, Uganda; Minh Chau, Minh Foundation, Manassas, VA; Michael Guernsey, Good Samaritan, Paoli, PA; Andrew Walters, Caleb Wang, Jerry Zollo, All Saints', Woodbridge, VA.



An encounter with the Holy Spirit during worship



Several years ago the entire House of Bishops of the Anglican Province of Southern Africa, which includes the countries of South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Lesotho, Angola, Saint Helena and Swaziland, looked at research that showed that all mainline churches were in decline. They decided then to work toward a vibrant, God-centered church that is clearly growing spiritually, numerically and holistically. The Rev. Trevor Pearce, Vice-Chairman of the SOMA International Board, was chosen to head the organization, ***Growing the Church***, to accomplish this vision. Believing that there is no Biblical metaphor for the decline of a church, Trevor visited 23 of the 26 dioceses in the last year to inspire a desire and strategy for growth.

In September, 130 SOMA missionaries from around the world joined South Africans for the launch of this ambitious program, ***Growing the Church***. After the three-day conference, which included informational and inspirational addresses, SOMA missionaries went out far and wide in multi-national teams. SOMA USA fielded three teams to the dioceses in South Africa of Christ the King and Port Elizabeth and the Rural Deanery of Northern Namaqualand in the Diocese of Saldanha Bay.

## Diocese of Christ the King

What energy! Hundreds of youth from all over the diocese gathered on a Sunday afternoon and sang, danced, laughed, shared testimonies, and just rejoiced in Jesus! Our team provided a Ugandan preacher, and lots of smiles and joy.

A large team of eight persons from three nations (men and women; black, white and brown; young and somewhat older!) conducted a Growing the Church Launch Conference for the Diocese of Christ the King. Following the opening address by Bishop Peter John Lee, about 500 persons worshipped, were challenged, and participated in eight interactive workshops. At the end of the day they were sent out more equipped to grow the church.

The team organized and hosted two training days for 16 persons, many of whom were the Diocesan Implementation Team for the ***Growing the Church*** project in the diocese. One participant said, "It is time to stop going to Church; it is time to be the Church." A team member commented, "I am different from being in this kind of meeting because vulnerable



Praise at the Launch Conference

people were on their knees seeking God with earnest and expectant hearts."

*"On Sunday morning we gave our testimonies and preached at St. Peter's Church, which reflected the new and emerging face of South Africa. Every race, ethnic and economic group was represented in the congregation. During tea after the service, standing under a large tree, one black man remarked to my wife that 15 years ago he could have been shot for speaking to a white woman in that neighborhood. While this country has made miraculous progress in reconciliation in a short time, it is still at risk of exploding into a racial/economic crisis. Only the church can provide the platform for the continuing healing as the nation finds its soul. Please pray for South Africa."*

—Clark Smith

Team: Edwina Thomas, SOMA USA; the Rev. Mario Agreda, SOMA Representative in South America; the Rev. Lovey Kisembo, SOMA Uganda; Sampson Bwambale, South Ruwenzori Diocese, Uganda; Ivan Wambuzi and Winnie Wafula, Kampala Diocese, Uganda; Clark and Carol Smith, Christ Church Anglican, Savannah, GA.

## Diocese of Port Elizabeth

The Diocese of Port Elizabeth welcomed a SOMA team of four from the USA and South Africa. They conducted a two-day conference for clergy and laity, preached in local churches and visited youth groups.

Team: Team leader, the Rev. Paul Hensley, Diocese of San Joaquin; Meleca Morelock, Bend, OR; the Rev. Jacques Jethas and Ivan Weiss, Cape Town, South Africa.

# nce of Southern Africa



Growing the Church Launch Procession — Northern Namaqualand

## Rural Deanery of Northern Namaqualand, Diocese of Saldanha Bay

This area (350 miles north of Capetown near the Nambian border) is made up of primarily mixed-race South Africans who suffered under apartheid and now suffer from the poverty that comes from a one-industry local economy where the industry (copper) has closed down. Our ministry included travel to many of the small towns, conducting home visits with local church lay leaders where we shared the love of Christ, encouraged the faithful, and prayed for individual needs. We helped launch the Deanery's **Growing the Church** program at a joint Sunday service of all the Anglican Churches in the area.

This was not the usual SOMA mission where we conducted a conference. We think we were able to provide encouragement and the hope of God in a place that needs a lot of hope to overcome poverty, addictions, HIV+/AIDS and much woundedness, some of which has come from the church. The people we met will remain in our hearts as friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.

Team: Ed and Suzy Speare, All Saints', Woodbridge, VA.

## Rejoice...

*Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' —Luke 15:6*

While ministering in a parish, we were surprised to be the program at a youth meeting of 50 teenagers. After we prayed for each person, "Jane" approached us, looking as if she had the weight of the world on her shoulders. She stated that she had been feeling led to accept Jesus but was afraid that in doing so she would lose her friends who liked to drink and party. But "Jane" decided she was ready to surrender her life to Christ and through her tears we saw a "new woman" filled with the Holy Spirit.

"Jane" wrote a month later:  
*"Our youth has grown spiritually since your visit and everyone in our church was commenting on and applauding it- and it's thanks to your inspiration! Also, I think we are well on our way to accomplishing our goal to grow the church because since our youth has gained the confidence to get up and sing and praise in church we have inspired more youth to join us and church has been getting fuller every Sunday- we're even raising funds to extend it now! It makes me think of the speech our former president Nelson Mandela gave a few years back about how, when we let our light shine we unconsciously give others permission to do the same...May our light in Christ shine always and show many more the way to go."*

## Sharing about Our History

SOMA International was launched in 1979 as a result of the renewal conference held in conjunction with the 1978 Lambeth Conference.

SOMA USA was established in 1985, sending short-term missions to Latin America, Africa and Asia. Since 1996 it has also been bringing teams from abroad to minister to the Church in the USA.

At present there are nine other SOMA national bodies, located in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Singapore, Southern Africa, Uganda, and the United Kingdom.



### SOMA USA

National Director  
Administrator  
Missions Coordinator  
Address

Edwina Thomas  
Carol Updike  
Christine Brown  
5290 Saratoga Lane  
Woodbridge, VA 22193  
Fax 703.878.7015  
office@somausa.org  
http://www.somausa.org

Phone 703.878.7667

e-mail  
Home Page

### Board of Directors

Chairman The Rt. Rev. John Guernsey  
All Saints', Woodbridge, VA  
Chief Financial Officer Kerry Walters  
All Saints', Woodbridge, VA

### Board Members

The Rev. Christopher Culpepper  
Diocesan Mission Vicar, Fort Worth, TX  
Ron Davis All Saints', Woodbridge, VA  
Cynthia Drennan St. James, Newport Beach, CA  
Richard Hines  
Church of the Apostles, Fairfax, VA  
Rose-Marie Edwards-Tasker  
St. Luke's, Akron, OH  
The Rt. Rev. William Love Diocese of Albany  
Dr. Glen Petta St. Andrew's, Fort Worth, TX  
The Rt. Rev. Henry Scriven  
Diocese of Pittsburgh  
The Rev. Dr. Margaret Short  
St. James, Las Cruces, NM

### SOMA International Chairman

The Most Rev. Dr. Benjamin Kwashi  
Jos Diocese, Plateau State, NIGERIA



SOMA USA  
5290 Saratoga Lane  
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Orange, VA  
Permit No. 97

## A Blessing at Lambeth:

*The Rt. Rev. Ken Clarke,  
Bishop of Kilmore Elphin and Ardagh,  
Ireland said of SOMA:*

*“Praise the Lord for the pre-Lambeth  
1978 Charismatic Leaders Conference.  
What a move of the Holy Spirit! What  
joyful Christ-glorifying worship in  
Canterbury Cathedral! What a new  
wave of mission crashed out from  
there! Thank you for all you are  
doing and He is doing through you in  
SOMA!! “*

## Director’s Corner by Edwina Thomas

The longer I minister in the SOMA world, the more I am convinced that only the Holy Spirit knows how to accomplish what He wants.

SOMA is asked by bishops and archbishops to do impossible things—to accomplish what humans can’t do. “Come and help: we need reconciliation.” “Come and help correct excesses among our intercessors.” “Come and teach us to minister healing in our body.” The only way not to panic as we assess our own human resources is to see these invitations as great trust in the Holy Spirit. We can only respond in and because of the power of the Spirit.

I find myself remembering the first Pentecost: The disciples “were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance....And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed....” (Acts 2: 4-7) God got each person’s attention with a miracle!

Then Peter lifted his voice and addressed them. God was in Peter’s very choice of extemporaneous

words, the experience he drew from, and the ordering of the dynamic message. We can read, even memorize and deliver Peter’s words if we choose. But on that day, the Holy Spirit added power to Peter’s message. Not only had thousands heard and understood words in their own language, but Peter’s message “cut to the heart” of about 3,000 persons. Surely, God Himself had brought each of these to the very place where they could hear; He had caused hunger and thirst after righteousness; He used the words of Peter to accomplish His purposes in each life.

So what was Peter’s part? Only obedience. The Holy Spirit takes what we offer (never perfect in our eyes or the eyes of others!) in obedience to His will and calling and adds value!

Our obedient offering, plus the Spirit’s added value, equals results beyond our comprehension, beyond what we think possible or even dream about. This is how we live out “not by might, not by power,” (and not by eloquence, or experience, or fabulous preparation) but by my Spirit says the Lord.” (Zech. 4:6)

