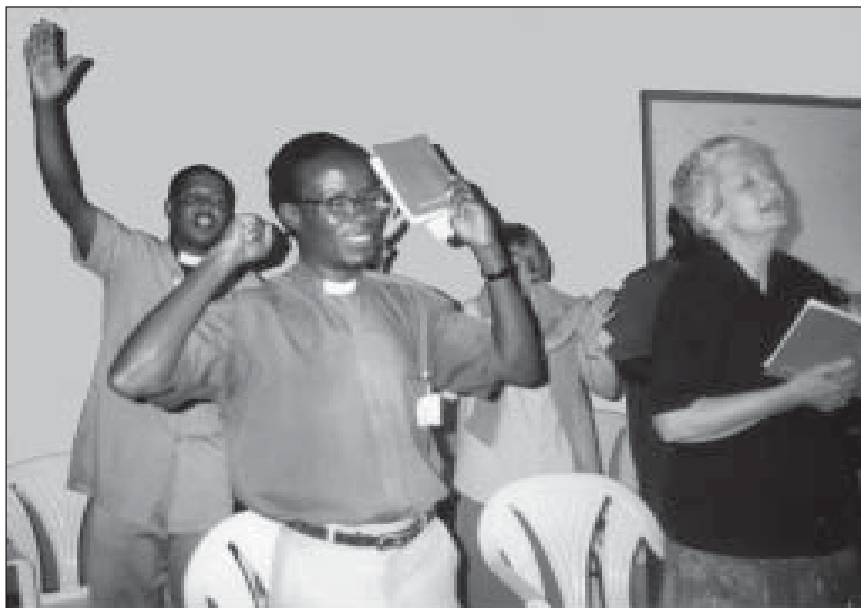


We Give Thanks

We give thanks to you, O God;
we give thanks; we call on
your name and recount your
wondrous deeds. Ps.75:1



**SOMA USA
celebrates 19
years of ministry.**

SOMA USA - Sharing of Ministries Abroad

We Give Thanks...



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*The Most Rev.
Benjamin Nzimbi,
Archbishop of
Kenya...*

*I thank you most
sincerely for your
ministry to the
Anglican Church
of Kenya. The
Bishops and their
wives retreat that
we just concluded
(May 2004) is a
great inspiration
and renewal in the
church leadership
of Kenya. There is
no doubt that this
retreat has added
value to the
spiritual renewal
amongst us.*

July 2004

We Give Thanks...

On the occasion of the celebration of our SOMA International family's Silver Jubilee, SOMA USA takes a moment to pause and give thanks for our nineteen years of ministry and the goodness and blessings of God which we have all encountered.

We give thanks...

That God first called SOMA USA and gave us vision, passion, and opportunities.

For the hundreds of missionaries who have shared their spiritual gifts to equip spiritual leaders around the globe.

For faithful leaders of SOMA USA: our founding director, the Rev. Brian Cox; present and former board members and staff personnel; volunteers; and patient family members.

For the international family we love, respect, honor, serve and learn from.

For each financial gift entrusted to us to accomplish His work.

For every prayer uttered on our behalf.

For every life touched, changed, empowered or challenged.

We give thanks for you. You are our family!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edwina Thomas".

Edwina Thomas
National Director

*The Rev. John Guernsey, All Saints', Dale City, VA
Because of SOMA, we now understand what it means to be world
Christians with a more biblical vision for the mission of the
Church. We no longer have a small, manageable and comfortable
sense of what God wants us to do. He has stretched and challenged
us and changed our lives.*

SOMA's Impact in the Diocese of West Texas

Canon Garry Schnelzer

In 2003, the Diocese of West Texas sent over 600 people on short-term mission to destinations all over the world. What is remarkable is that these numbers represent a tenfold increase in missions over the last decade. Why this surge in missions? A large part of the answer is SOMA.

In 1996, SOMA USA brought Bishop Henry and Phoebe Orombi from Nebbi Diocese in Uganda on a mission to West Texas. They were SOMA's first "Mission to the USA." Their impact upon local churches started a new relationship between Nebbi and the people of West Texas. Bishop Orombi preached at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Major Robert E. Lee, who later became the South's military leader during the American Civil War, was its first senior warden. Now, approximately a century and a half later, an African bishop preached in a slaveholder's church. Yes, reconciliation does come at the Lord's timing and sometimes via SOMA.

Over the next several years, Bishop Henry and Phoebe Orombi were frequent guests traveling throughout the diocese. In 1999, our bishop, Jim Folts, was the first "western" bishop to visit Bishop Orombi's diocese. Many fruits of that relationship have been forthcoming. For Nebbi – a new Women's Center, and funding for new businesses and scholarships for clergy children. For West Texas – the priceless gift of understanding what it means to be brothers and sisters in Christ with a people half-way around the world.

SOMA Ireland is another connection West Texas has with this unique ministry. For the last four years, SOMA Ireland has sent a team to West Texas. Their emphasis has been on church and community transformation. The teams are composed of Protestants and Roman Catholics, a mixture that is of great value to us, since the majority of South Texas is predominately Hispanic and mostly Roman Catholic. The Anglos (non-Hispanic) are mostly Protestant. SOMA Ireland has ministered to us in the reality of our differences and consequently has been able to bring us together as a Christian family. In Del Rio, a town on the Mexican border, SOMA missions have resulted in churches from varied denominations worshipping together on a routine basis.

Yes, the SOMA mission circle continues and so does the transformation of God's people, churches and communities.



Archbishop Henry Orombi

"Mission to the USA"

A goal of SOMA is to re-evangelize the Episcopal Church of the USA (ECUSA) by strengthening churches and believers whose faith is grounded in the truth of Holy Scripture and by modeling and imparting anointing for ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit. We invite teams of two outstanding leaders, usually including one or more bishops from the non-Western Anglican Communion, to give a month of their time to be missionaries to ECUSA. The team is then deployed for one-week segments to a diocese, a region or a local church. We specifically ask our missionaries not to use these visits for fundraising in order that they may be understood and experienced as "givers" thereby positioning us in ECUSA as "receivers." Results include: lives changed; churches and dioceses transformed from a "maintenance" to a "mission" vision; hope rekindled in Godly and faithful leadership of the Anglican Church; and long-lasting relationships established between the entities in the USA and churches abroad.

We Give Thanks!

We Give Thanks...

A Taste of Heaven

The Rev. Phil Ashley, South Riding Church, South Riding, VA

My short-term SOMA Mission to Kenya in 1996 was absolutely life-changing. I have been a follower of Jesus and an avid student of the Bible for over 30 years. I believed by faith the New Testament miracles I read about— but nothing prepared me for what I saw as the Holy Spirit moved upon us time and again as we ministered in Kenya. Limbs healed before my very eyes. People delivered from demonization. The incurably sick—little children—totally healed. Hundreds of people walked through the night to the villages where we stayed, seeking the healing touch of the Savior. Throngs of people listening to the Gospel, receiving Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and dancing for joy for hours. It was a taste of heaven.

I am sure the Lord used us in some way...But truly I came away the most blessed. My faith in Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit was strengthened immeasurably. I discovered the true meaning of “the Body Of Christ”—in the faith and love of Kenyan Christians whose hospitality and witness simply humbled me. And in the faithful, loving, mutually caring unity of my team, whose witness also humbled me. I learned the joy of submission to Jesus Christ, to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and to each other... It was the closest experience I have ever had to what I imagine the early church experienced after Pentecost.

Confessions of a Prayer Warrior

Mrs. Debbie Petta, St. Andrew's, Fort Worth, TX

Reflecting upon my call to intercession and prayer ministry, I can clearly see God's hand providing for growth and opportunity. God has blessed me with a variety of “training fields”. Interestingly, I realize many have been through SOMA, though I have never actually been on a SOMA overseas mission team. Similarly, a large number of people with whom I am in community and share ministries have ties to SOMA. These people challenge and encourage me to a level of excellence that is difficult to find in other communities.

Because of SOMA's vision and understanding of prayer, I have come to know Him and His people at depths I never imagined. I have seen, felt and “tasted that the Lord is good”. I have allowed myself to believe and ask for those secret desires He places in our hearts. I have been healed, blessed, and experienced wonderful worship. I have known the joy that God is speaking the same things to His intercessors around the world. There is little more exhilarating to a prayer warrior than having a like-minded army who are in agreement and are boldly asking for those “secret things” that have been revealed. Even more exciting is having the environment of faith and worship where those things can truly come to our world and fulfill what is in our Father's heart.



The leadership of SOMA and the teams they call embrace the power of prayer. As a result, those who pray grow in their gifting. The honest communication and the humility of those involved with SOMA is refreshment and encouragement to those who are called to the place of intercession within the Body.

Called to Ordination

The Rev. Agustin (Pepe) Zubieta, Truro, Fairfax, VA

My first missionary experience was with a SOMA short-term trip to Ecuador. It was a very special experience in my life. I had no clue what to expect, but as the activities unfolded, everyday became more and more exciting. The Holy Spirit worked among us with healing power and changed lives.

At the end of the mission our leader told the team to mention something special we noticed in each other. Everybody agreed that I had a pastor's heart; it was scary, but at the same time it was also the call from God to serve Him. I was ordained as an Anglican priest in the Diocese of Bolivia in 1996, where my wife Amanda and I served in the missionary field for 8 years.

Another great SOMA experience was when a SOMA team visited our Diocese in Bolivia to conduct a seminar on inner healing. It was a wonderful time and very special for each of us since this time we were the ones who were healed, instead of helping others to be healed for brokenness in their spiritual lives. I thank God for these great life experiences with SOMA.



Together we learn...

The Rev. Praveen Bunyan, St. James, Newport Beach, CA

To be an active member of SOMA means more to me than anything else in ministry. My SOMA friends have shaped me and continue to do so by His grace. I am so grateful to have encountered SOMA in this walk of life. As you know, I believe that our Lord has called SOMA and uses SOMA to strengthen and expand His Kingdom on earth particularly in and through the Anglican Communion. Perhaps SOMA is the hope and link to the rest of the Anglican Communion with the Episcopal Church, especially in the ensuing circumstances.

Team Training

Mrs. Julie Fanton, Prince of Peace, Woodland Hills, CA

We can't stop thinking about the wonderful weekend of team building. I really think that we have come together as a team in a way that never would have happened



Together we seek the Spirit's anointing to serve...

without the SOMA "Preparing the Heart for Mission" training. It brought out the best in everyone and also made us identify and face our potential problem areas. What a wonderful gift. My rector even noticed that our team is more energized. He said that he can already feel shifts and changes and growth in us, himself and the congregation.

We Give Thanks!

We Give Thanks...



The Impact of SOMA to the Rift Valley Anglican Diocese - Tanzania *The Rt. Rev. Alpha Mohamed*

The new Diocese of the Rift Valley was created in 1991. It was our dire cry that we should create a diocese that will suffer no embarrassment to meet the King of Kings Jesus Christ when He calls us home.

We prayed that we may be able to bring all the clergy and their wives and all the Diocesan workers for spiritual renewal.

SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad) is a team that we considered would help us deeply. We invited SOMA, who willingly accepted. We organized conferences at Kilimatinde and at Manyoni. The teachings were clearly focused on our relationship with God and ourselves. During these conferences we saw with our naked eyes “tears,” “laughter of Joy;” we had healings of our bodies. Even one case was very strange; one of the wives was demon possessed, and she was cleaned and healed. We were deeply thrilled to realize how our Lord could visit us in such a very gentle way, and you could sense deep PEACE, which brought the desire to serve the Lord in the team. We saw how much we have to do to bring the Living Faith of our Lord to everyone living. Next we began to use Faith more than reasoning. We saw spiritual growth. People are willing to come to the Lord to seek his help, sometimes with tears. Many, many prayers were being answered.

There is so much to report, when this ministry went into us. We miss the right words sometimes; we just stand before the Lord with awe and wonder. He does transform the lives of people. We give him all Glory and Praise.



The Positive Impact SOMA Has Made in the Dominican Republic *The Rt. Rev. Julio Holguin*

The Anglican Church in the Dominican Republic has had a very significant expansion since 1992. This is as a result of a tremendous spiritual renovation in the clergy and the lay people of the diocese, starting with a series of conferences and spiritual retreats by the SOMA team.

These experiences have given fruits in abundance in areas as vital for the church as evangelization, Christian education, stewardship and social service. The tangible results are, among others: the increase from 23 to 50 congregations, including several preaching stations; the increase from 13 to 28 clergy, with three more deacons to be ordained in 2004; the increase from 7 to 17 schools. Our mission vision became wider and deeper, thanks to SOMA’s contribution to our spirituality. Our missionary spirit took us to the conception that mission should be guided toward the formation of a committed Christian with prayer, evangelization and service to the poor.

In my opinion, I am deeply grateful that God has let SOMA include the Dominican Republic Diocese in the pilgrimage of its ministry, to share with us the depth of the faith and help us to grow in the commitment of taking onward “The Great Commission.”



Local leaders put teaching into practice.

*Mr. Chris Culpepper,
Seminarist at Nashotah
House...*

I saw God at work in the hearts of our mission team members. Six men ventured to Africa carrying with us all of our religious and cultural trappings. Yet almost immediately a spirit of affection born of a common love for Jesus broke through all of our barriers and allowed us to learn from one another and grow together in Him. That's the power of missions.



God's Time Not Mine

The Rt. Rev. James Tengtenga

I came to know of SOMA in the 1980s when I was a student at theological college. As bishop I have invited two teams to my diocese (Southern Malawi), and their ministry has made an impact on a number of our people and clergy. The training given to our evangelism team has been invaluable.

I have now been on two "Missions to the USA." Even though my style does not quite show it, I tend to like things planned in advance. In many ways I would like God to meet that demand from me. My first "Mission to the USA" was a rude awakening to the fact that God has His own way of acting and does not fit into any of my molds. This was the first time I ever went anywhere without knowing what I was going to say and do. All I knew was that I was going on a mission. I had prayed for guidance but did not get any even as I was arriving in the USA. God ministered to us and to His people during that visit. He gave us words to speak. I was ministered to as I ministered to God's people. I learned to trust that God never sends you on a mission without giving you a word at the right time. The right time is God's time and not mine. The Spirit does not depend on my organization or preplanning. He blows effectively when we let Him do His own way. I was challenged to trust Him when He says go. Just go when He says; He has a word for His people even when you have no clue what it is! I love Jesus.

My next "Mission to the USA" was different. This time the Lord preplanned it! He gave me words. Guess what? Instead of receiving them for the people I was going to minister to I started pairing them with people and places. As we ministered, we discovered that the Lord was speaking to all places with the same Word but differently. I thought God had learned His lesson! He was now doing it my way! Again the Holy Spirit demonstrated that He has his own style. My ego is being worked on. Oh, how I love Jesus! He is working on me still. Working with SOMA has given me this opportunity to learn these lessons.

My Parish Sees a Difference in Me

The Rev. Ven. Chris Viljoen, National Director, SOMA South Africa

I give special thanks to God for the opportunity to participate on a SOMA USA mission in Uganda. It was a most moving time of ministry to be part of a team that worked so well together and quickly released the variety of gifts within one another. I came away so encouraged and affirmed in my ministry. Add to that God's special moments of revelation and work in my life – this time was a real answer to prayer. I thank God that my congregation also noticed that something had happened. I love going on mission – it is a real growth time and so fulfilling to be doing what I believe God wants.

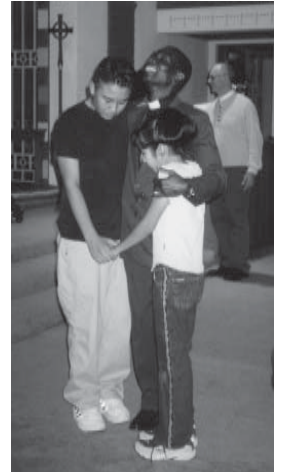
A High and Holy Calling

Mrs. Sandy Thebeau, St. John's, New Braunfels, TX

The time I spent at a SOMA conference on strategic intercession held in the US was life changing. Not in the usual sense, but in the spiritual realm my Christian life will truly not be the same. My eyes and heart have been opened to see a God worthy of total obedience. Worship will no longer be confined to the four walls of the church but is ongoing with an invitation to meet Him in His Throne Room! Prayer is no longer a cup-of-coffee chat but a heart-to-heart conversation with the Almighty One who created all. He alone provides a victory over all that enslaves us. Our role, my role, in the war of the spiritual realm has become clear. As an intercessor, I have a high and holy calling. I accept, Father, I accept!



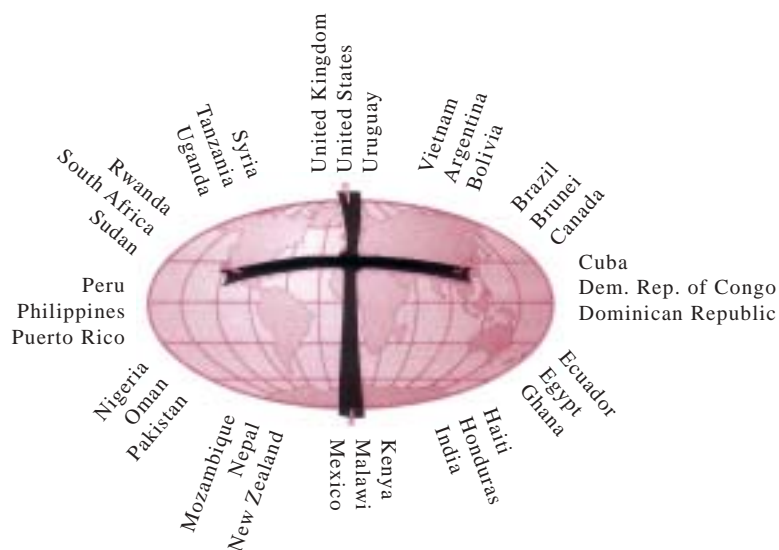
Prayer Works!



Americans receive ministry from an African pastor.

We Give Thanks!

God has blessed SOMA USA over the past 19 years to be able to minister in these 36 countries.



In these uncertain times in the life of the Anglican Communion, we are encouraged by The Rev. Titus Baraka, Mission Coordinator, Mukono Diocese, Uganda, who wrote, "It has stuck to my mind and my heart that SOMA is one of the remaining arteries in the life of the Anglican communion that promises hope for spiritual recovery and continued vitality."