

## The Mighty Hand of God

Dr. Jeff Brown led a SOMA team to Sebei Diocese on Mt. Elgon in eastern Uganda the week of 28 July 2003. This visit was a follow-up to a SOMA mission there last summer. The Lord had been doing mighty and awesome things in Sebei Diocese in the year since the first SOMA mission—six new churches planted, families brought together, more marriages in the church. The team discerned that the Lord wanted the people of Sebei equipped for spiritual warfare.

Bishop Augustine Salimo wrote, “We are extremely and deeply grateful for the work the SOMA team did in Sebei. They covered very essential and sensitive topics. Anytime we have received SOMA there is growth and transformation in Sebei Diocese. They were a great blessing and enablers. They have enriched our faith. We are requesting that we have an annual conference.”



*Bishop Salimo (left) participates in the closing ceremony.*

From the time the Americans arrived in Kampala, Satan tried very hard to break their unity and to keep the Ugandans from joining the team. Huge communication breakdowns plagued the mission. God was faithful. All seven team members made the six-hour journey from Kampala to Kere Agricultural School on Mt. Elgon, and the conference went forward.

Sixty participants (clergy, church teachers, diocesan staff and their spouses) traveled to Kere, often walking or sleeping in their vehicles when they were stuck in mud. During the conference significant spiritual attacks occurred. During one teaching, Alice Sadler was swept off her feet, hit her head on the floor and was knocked unconscious; but she recovered quickly and suffered no major injuries. Those observing concluded that she did not fall but rather was knocked down. God protected Alice and arranged powerful times of identification repentance and infilling of the Holy Spirit.

God won a hard victory in Sebei. We believe mighty things will be heard from the people of this diocese in the future. Praise God who alone is worthy of our praise! ■

*The SOMA Team: Dr. Jeff Brown, team leader, and the Rev. Duncan and Mrs. Sharron Clark, St. Charles, Poulsbo, WA; the Rev Alice Sadler, Trinity by-the-Cove, Naples, FL; Mrs. Kathy Cornell, St. Margaret's, Charlotte, NC; the Rev. Johnson Ebong, Kampala, Uganda, and the Rev. Lovey Kisembo, Fort Portal, Uganda.*

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## Victory in the Lord

*by Dr. Jeff Brown*

Horrendous tribal warfare has raged out of control in the northeastern section of the Democratic Republic of Congo for over a year. Bishop Patrick Njojo of Boga Diocese in Congo invited a SOMA team to minister to Congolese refugees in Fort Portal, Uganda in early August. I led the SOMA team comprised of Mr. Charles Ngethe and Mr. John Mshindi from Kenya and the Rev. Lovey Kisembo and Mr. Charles Kasaija from Fort Portal.

Twenty-six participants came to the conference (all clergy plus two members of the Mothers Union)—eight arrived on 4 August from Boga (a distance of 40 miles) riding bicycles on roads that were literally swamps of mud. They trudged in looking for all the world like the remnants of a defeated army.

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# Streams Of Living Water

by The Very Rev. Philip Jones

Our SOMA team's stated purpose was to minister renewal in the power of the Holy Spirit to over 100 persons, both clergy and spouses, at a diocesan clergy conference in Mbale, Uganda. All reports indicate this was a very successful conference, undergirded by powerful prayer and intercession, which God used to bring confirmation of His purposes.

Our team, led by Mrs. Edwina Thomas, was awesome in its passion to ask God for each detail and then to be obedient. Beginning with team training prior to our departure, we spent a lot of time in prayer, seeking to hear God's voice and to discern which scriptures He desired us to share in Uganda. This exercise in hearing God's voice was incredible. Not only did the team members get many of the same scriptures and themes, but also prayer partners from Texas, Pennsylvania and Virginia sent what they were receiving in prayer. Several were exactly the same, and upon our arrival in Uganda, they were reconfirmed by the intercessors who had been praying in Mbale!



*Claudia meets daily with clergy wives.*

The theme of the conference was "Streams of Living Water," taken from John 7:37-39. Jesus says if we are thirsty, come to Him, and out of us will flow streams of living water. The bottom line for our teaching in this conference was sharing with these clergy the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives and how He desires to flow through them in order that they might be living water to the world.

During these four days, our team met often to make sure we were hearing God on what we were supposed to say. We knew that we had dozens of intercessors praying for us in America. That made a huge difference in the confidence level of what we were doing and how well we could hear God. I know that the clergy of Mbale had intercessors praying for them during the conference as well. Being surrounded by so much prayer not only sustained our faith and confidence in order to minister, but also helped us to hear God better in order to fulfill His intended plans and purposes successfully. ■

*The SOMA team: Mrs. Edwina Thomas, National Director; the Rev. Philip and Mrs. Claudia Jones, St. Clement, El Paso, Texas; Mr. Alan Morris, Our Savior, Ambridge, PA; Mrs. Gail Scott, All Saints', Dale City, VA.*

## God Breaks Through in Peru



*Valarie teaches while Rachel Hill, her host in Arequipa, translates.*

SOMA's first-ever team to Peru ministered in Arequipa and Lima in mid-July. Although small in number, the team of three was the perfect size and combination of people and gifts for the way God wanted to use them.

In Arequipa, the team worked with seminarians, 15-18 men and women who are well grounded Biblically but lack experience with hands-on ministry. Many were already baptized in the Holy Spirit, but some were resistant. By the end of the week, all but one had significant spiritual breakthroughs.

After the team taught on generational sins, identification repentance, and sexual sin, the team repented for sins of the past, including colonial power and greed. One man responded on behalf of the Peruvians: his prayer began with forgiveness and ended in a primal scream which the team believed released some of the pain of the past 400 years.

SOMA's hosts had identified two sites connected with the work of the diocese, a school and a children's home, where darkness lingered and pain and abuse were evident among those who work or reside there. The task of spiritual discernment was an exciting God-journey. One family shared some of their past that was connected to the school property; prayer walking revealed many things; and God spoke through His word and words of knowledge. The team prayed, wept and entered into identification repentance, and God moved. One of our hosts actually "saw" the radical and joyful changes in one child from the home.

When the team ministered in Lima the following week, they repeated the program of evening meetings followed by a weekend retreat. The Spirit moved and people were healed. ■

*The SOMA team: the Rev. Valarie Whitcomb, team leader; Mrs. Gisela Land and Mr. John Tyler; All Saints', Dale City, VA.*

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# Mission to the USA

During June and July the Rev. Elizabeth “Utugi” Kamau effectively became an ambassador for the redeeming and transforming truth of the Gospel here in the US. She began by leading a weekend retreat at Church of the Resurrection in West Chicago, IL, followed by a four day Ecumenical Prayer Mission for the Poulsbo, WA, community, locally promoted and coordinated by St. Charles Parish, and concluded by offering the course *Strategic Intercessory Prayer Training* at St. James, Newport Beach, CA.

As an ordained deacon in the Church of the Province of Kenya, Utugi’s primary ministry is leading renewal and evangelism teams in East Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. She is a leader of intercessors for Africa and the Africa House of Prayer. Traveling the whole nation of Kenya, her ministry team, “Vanguard,” raises up schools of prayer and trains leaders on intercession and spiritual warfare.

Throughout her SOMA *Mission to the USA*, Utugi taught about the historical significance and impact that generational sin such as idolatry, or earthly and spiritual bondages, has on our personal lives and that of our communities. Yet the Gospel message assures us that through acknowledgement, confession, and repentance we receive the Lord’s forgiveness and redemption of those sins—thereby renewing our lives and reclaiming this land for Him.

Many participants took this opportunity to reevaluate areas of their lives which may be displeasing to the Lord, including issues within their past and present cultural, economic or political arenas. Divine grace filled the hearts of those hearing her message, and they received the healing and transforming power of God. ■



Elizabeth “Utugi” Kamau

## The SOMA USA Newsletter

is published by SOMA USA Operations

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## Victory in the Lord

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On Tuesday, the team heard the refugees’ stories. The mighty saving hand of God was evident for all to see. Time and time again, the Lord had rescued individuals from dangerous situations. Stories were told of the horror of warfare and of the inability of humans to forgive the unspeakable acts they had lived through. At the end of the day, the Lord moved among the participants. First one, then another, stood to say that the Lord had given him the desire to forgive his enemies.

The team taught on forgiveness, repentance, healing of community memories, deliverance, the in-filling of the Holy Spirit, and spiritual warfare. At the end of the conference, the normally staid Congolese were singing joyfully and dancing around the room. Where three short days earlier there had been nothing but darkness in the people, there was now joyful light radiating from them. They left the conference victors in the Lord!



Refugees from Congo worship in Uganda.

There is no limit to the power of repentance and forgiveness. The Congo will never be the same—glory be to God! ■

## **NEW ADDRESSES FOR SOMA USA**

*Homepage:*

*<http://www.somausa.org>*

*e-mail: [office@somausa.org](mailto:office@somausa.org)*

## *What Has Changed?*

A reporter asked me, "So how do the decisions made in Minneapolis affect a mission agency like SOMA USA?" It doesn't take much pondering to answer, "Everything has changed and nothing has changed."

**WHAT HAS CHANGED?** Relationships with ECUSA are tentative. SOMA has not left this church, but we cannot agree with the decision to affirm the election of a non-celibate homosexual bishop. Neither do we believe that the local-option freedom to bless same gender relationships is God's plan.

Even though SOMA USA is not an official agency of ECUSA and receives no money from the National Church structures, all of its employees and board members are members. "Membership" implies, in my book, submission to spiritual authority given by God to the shepherds of the Church. Our spiritual covering through ECUSA has been compromised: What do we do when those who are our covering have embraced a veil of deception and now have blind eyes to the truth that Scripture proclaims?

**WHAT HAS NOT CHANGED?** The Holy Spirit does not, and never has, led the Church in ways contrary to the clear revelation of Scripture.

SOMA's message is found in Scripture and only in Scripture. We help team members discover the difference between God's Kingdom truth based on Scripture and the experiential overlay that comes from our own culture. We welcome correction from our SOMA hosts if we ever teach anything that does not have a sound Biblical foundation.

A majority vote is not always a reliable way to discern truth. If it were, we would all be following the gospel of Aaron and worshipping a golden calf. Of the twelve spies sent into Canaan, only two spoke saying, "God is greater than the giants in the land."

SOMA's global ministry and reputation are based on relationships of trust. Next year we will celebrate our Jubilee year, 25 years of servant ministry. The hundreds of dioceses and provinces which have invited and welcomed us know our heart and understand us to be loyal Anglicans who are people of the Holy Spirit. Invitations continue to come. We are still trusted and our ministry sought out.

We can look joyfully to the future because God never changes. He is not defeated, confounded, confused or thwarted. We have been in the Valley of Decision called Minneapolis: SOMA has chosen to walk with the apostles, prophets, creeds, the plain meaning of Scripture AND with millions of our brothers and sisters in our beloved Anglican Communion. **GOD IS BIGGER THAN THIS GIANT!** ■

