The SOMA team in Gambella included several missionaries from the US and two African clergy from Kenya who had participated in SOMA conference previously in their own country. According to Bishop Grant, “Especially powerful for our people in Gambella was the role of the African clergy in the team. To hear challenging things from other missionaries is one thing; to hear challenging things from other Africans meant that they could hear those challenges even more clearly.”

While other mission agencies and ministries had worked with Bishop Gear in Ethiopia, this SOMA mission was the first to include African missionaries on a multi-cultural team.

One of the African team members spoke of the personal impact of this mission: “From my participation in the mission, I learned that God can use me more than I had ever thought. This being my first time to go for an international mission, I felt the presence of God throughout the mission, enabling me to grow in faith and a deeper desire to serve God with higher motivation for work. As a pastor, I experienced firsthand God working to heal lost people. I also grew spiritually from the teachings of the other team members, because it was a learning experience for me as well. This was also an opportunity for me to be exposed to people from different social and cultural backgrounds. This way my first time to bond as an airplane and having to let go of our country was easy.”

The mission brought teach-ins on evangelism to reach the next generation of children and youth, a needed initiative in our area. Bishop Grant described the situation: “Our people, including the students of St. Frumentius’ Anglican Theological College, are not just poor, but are people who have lived through terrible and traumatic events. Many have had to flee for their lives. Some have seen their parents or their children killed in war. Others have been child soldiers.” The students at the newly opened theological college had already experienced their share of challenges, and as a result, they were in need of assurance of God’s comfort, love and inner healing through the power of the Holy Spirit and listening to the Holy Spirit doing his deep cleansing work in each individual heart. As one who considers herself organized and tries hard to keep things in order, I have had to learn to go with the flow and not know what to expect in many aspects of the trip. Having been a participant in other missions, I thought that I was prepared to handle the schedule of who was teaching when, as well as the different parts of each day. However, even though I had some idea of what to expect, it was a challenge and being stretched in this way, as it opened me to new limits. I must say that I am so grateful for the challenge and being stretched before. In reflection, I realize that the Holy Spirit has been trying to teach me this for quite a few years. Although I felt I had mastered listening to the Holy Spirit, this mission was to do this, with a team, especially a group of people I had not met prior to landing in camp for our mission, stretched me to new limits. I must say that I am so grateful for the challenge and being stretched in this way, as it opened me to new limits. I must say that I am so grateful for the challenge and being stretched before. In reflection, I realize that the Holy Spirit has been trying to teach me this for quite a few years. 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In Uganda: In the Spirit of the East Africa Revival

As a team member on the SOMA mission to Nigeria, I was most impacted by several people I met through this mission --

I have been living in South Sudan for the past two years and have had the great privilege of learning from the people who have lived through war and conflict. When I first arrived here, I was impressed by the resilience and faith of the people. Despite the challenges they face, they continue to have hope and trust in God. My heart is forever changed by my experiences here, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve God in this beautiful country.

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In South Sudan: A Heart Forever Changed

The Rt. Rev. John Guernsey

We are a generation of leaders in the Church, and we are called to be transformational leaders. To fulfill this calling, we must first be transformed ourselves. We must be willing to listen, to learn, and to grow in our faith. We must be open to the Holy Spirit's guidance and be willing to take the risks necessary to realize the fruits of our ministry.

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In Nigeria: Empowering Clergy and Spouses in This Generation

SOMA USA Board Members

We are a people of prayer. I have found that the most powerful thing we can do is to pray for one another. Prayer is not only a way to connect with God, but also a way to connect with each other. We must make prayer a priority in our lives and in our ministry.

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In Nigeria: Walking in the Strength and Power of the Holy Spirit

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali

We are a Church of the Holy Comforter, Sumter, SC, and our mission is to serve our community and reach the world for Jesus Christ. We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit to transform individuals and communities. We are a community of hope, love, and service.

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In Nigeria: In the Spirit of the East Africa Revival

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali

We are a people of prayer. I have found that the most powerful thing we can do is to pray for one another. Prayer is not only a way to connect with God, but also a way to connect with each other. We must make prayer a priority in our lives and in our ministry.