



SHARING

Mr. Bruce Moon – EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SOMA Australia Inc

P.O. Box 305

Tel: 02 9987 4486

HORNSBY, NSW 2077

Mobile: 0407 209 575

Email: exec.officer@soma.org.au

Website: www.soma.org.au

June 2009

A note from our Vice-Chairman Rex Marre.....

AGM REPORT

The oasis in Sydney we know as The Golden Grove Healing Centre was an ideal venue for SOMA Australia's Annual General Meeting over 12th and 13th March, in conjunction with a meeting of the Committee of Management (previously 'the Board'). To get the balance right we devoted equal times to meetings and to worship, bible study and prayer.

A summary of significant matters discussed follows.

Review of Rules of Association

Following a review of its Rules of Association a number of changes were adopted:

- The title 'Board' is now *Committee of Management* and that of 'Associate Member' is now *Member* – to accord with the Rules;
- *Membership Fees* of SOMA are now at the discretion of the Committee of Management which in the exercise of this discretion, waived the \$10 fee previously charged;
- Meetings of the Committee can be held *electronically*, using technology such as Skype;
- The Committee can make, repeal or amend by-laws (which can be repealed by a Special Meeting of members).
- The maximum number of committee members was set at nine.

Position of National Director

The title Executive Officer adopted last year with Bruce Moon's appointment is inappropriate and the internationally used *National Director* has been re-adopted;

Bruce advised he wishes to conclude his interim appointment to the position at the next AGM and a search committee has been formed to seek out a new appointee.

Membership of the Committee of Management

The AGM gratefully accepted *Carol Price's* (Sydney diocese) nomination to the Committee and regretfully

received *Margie Haddrick's* resignation. Margie has been appointed to a state school chaplaincy position in the Bunbury Diocese.

Mission Team participation

In what amounts to two new by-laws allowed under the rules, the Committee has determined that:

- Participants in mission teams are required to be members of SOMA Australia;
- Because of the considerable administrative overheads associated with arranging the mission and making the necessary arrangements concerning individual missionaries, an administration fee of \$50 is required of each mission participant.

General Business – Missions and Money

National Director Bruce led us in discussion on two key areas.

Overseas mission is our core business and we praised God for the increased number of missions in 2008 and in place for 2009 and by the very encouraging number of new participants coming forward for mission teams. So far for 2009, we have 28 people committed to missions in Seychelles, Uganda (3 regions), Sabah and Argentina. We are challenged by the ongoing need for participants for missions we have been invited to in Nepal (Oct. '09) and the Solomons, Kashmir, Madagascar (2) and Nigeria in 2010.

The other, ongoing challenge we face this year is raising the level of *financial support* for SOMA Australia. For both *mission* and *money* to support that mission, SOMA Australia depends entirely on Christians in a small (sadly decreasing) number of parishes who support SOMA and individual Christians who subscribe to the *Holy Spirit driven* emphasis of SOMA mission ministry – even when their parish or pastor may not. Your interest in reading this article suggests you are one of these Christians. Please prayerfully consider your 2009 contribution to SOMA - of prayer, time (in mission) and finance.

Rex Marre

HOW YOU CAN SHARE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOMA

Enclosed is a gift of \$.....for the work of SOMA (Please make cheques payable to SOMA AUSTRALIA)

With God's help I intend to make a pledge offering of \$.....each month/quarter/6 months/year.

I prefer to do this by direct debit – Please send me details of how to do this.

Please ADD or DELETE my name from the mailing list for Sharing & Prayer Bulletin.

Please send me details of how I can be a member of a SOMA mission team

I want to become a member of SOMA. Please send me a form

I believe God is calling me to become an intercessor for SOMA

I would like to remember SOMA in my will. Please send me the appropriate wording.

NAME..... phone

E MAIL

ADDRESS

Mission Opportunities

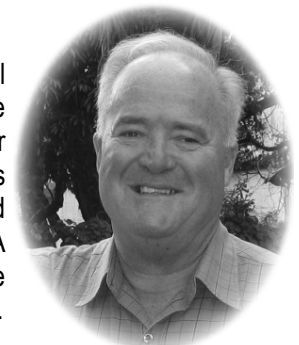
..... from the Executive Officer's diary

July 9th through to 28th July 2009 ... Mityana Anglican Diocese– Uganda

In the March edition of SHARING I published from a letter from Revd John Musaasizi on behalf of his Bishop, Stephen Kazimba, writes 'Praise the name of our Lord Jesus. It is great to be planning for the up coming SOMA Conference due in July 2009 in the Diocese of Mityana. Thank you for choosing to come to this side of the Earth. The Diocese of Mityana has 6 archdeaconries and we would like to reach them all during your stay with us. We expect not less than 100 participants at each Archdeaconry Headquarter. The composition of the participants would be clergy, Lay Readers and some members holding leadership positions in church. As for those archdeaconries that are not far away from your place of residence like Cathedral Deanary, Mityana Archdeaconry, Bukomero and Makonzi Archdeaconries, these may be reached on a daily basis. But as for distant archdeaconries like Kasenyi and Bamusuuta, staying in those places may be the best option until ministry is accomplished. The bishop's house is under reconstruction and it is expected that by June this year, it will be done. One of the reasons for this scheme of reconstruction and renovation is to enable the bishop and his wife to accommodate all visitors that come to Mityana Diocese. This approach avails ample time for bishop and his wife to pray with visitors and also share experiences and future plans with them. John'

Team Composition

The team will comprise 12+ persons who after the first 4 days in Uganda will divide into 3 equal teams, one team going to each of three archdeaconries in the next week of mission and then the teams will cover the next 3 archdeaconries in the next week. Each team should have a teacher and the other members will also be called upon to teach and share their testimony as well as ministering to those having needs. The team can be bigger. Some SOMA people from USA and Ireland have indicated their willingness to join this most exciting mission. Seldom has SOMA been given such a challenge to bring encouragement to the local church and renewal to the leaders. We will be sharing with a number of congregations on the 3 Sundays we are in Uganda.



WE HAVE A VACANCY– WILL YOU PRAY ABOUT JOINING THE TEAM?

Travelling to and accommodation in Uganda

The airfare cost is \$2590 AUD and bookings need to be made asap. Visas are required for entry and some special health requirements (yellow fever vaccination) need to be in place. Accommodation and most meals will be provided by the Diocese. Please log onto www.soma.org.au for details of Uganda, its culture and history. Sightseeing can be done after the team has disbanded on 28th July if you choose.

All you have to do is get in phone or mail contact with the Executive Officer, Bruce Moon, (his phone number is on the front) and indicate your interest. That's all it takes to get started.

Report from Seychelles mission team (in the field)

Breaking Through in Seychelles

This Report comes as we are only half-way through our Mission to the Anglican Diocese of Seychelles, but already we have seen some wonderful break-throughs. The Team of Bruce Moon (SOMA Executive Officer) and his wife, Julia, John & Rosemary Davies, Deslee Campbell and Ross Holman have come together in the first week on the main island of Mahe.

The Mission began with a two-day Retreat for Clergy and their spouses, led by the new Bishop, James Wong, himself a SOMA veteran. As we taught on the basics of the Holy Spirit it was wonderful to see the receptivity of the clergy, and the way God ministered to them personally.

There is an awareness of spiritual issues here as the presence of witchcraft is widely recognized, and visits to the 'gris-gris', or witchdoctor are quite common, even among committed churchgoers. But perhaps the greatest problem is the lack of stable families. Illegitimacy is widespread, with over 90% of babies said to be born out of wedlock, and many couples do not bother to marry, even amongst committed Christians. On top of that, infidelity is prolific. As well as posing great pastoral issues, these problems also impact upon the clergy and their families.

The highlight of our time here, so far, was the day of ministry with a group of 40-50 mainly lay people known as COMRAM (Commission on Ministry, Renewal and Mission.) They already had an awareness of Holy Spirit and His gifts, but were keen to go deeper. It was exciting to see how enthusiastically they responded to the teaching, and how, as they ministered to each other, the Holy Spirit did some deep healing in their lives. Under the Bishop's leadership, this group shows great promise for a revival in this nation.

For three days this week there are Rallies in the Cathedral in the late afternoon. (Work ends at 4.00pm.) The first message on the outpouring of "Power From On High" was enthusiastically received, especially when we declared that the power of the Holy Spirit is greater than any power of darkness operating in their land. There was a lot of ministry afterwards and many were healed, blessed, and some came into the fullness of the Spirit. The Healing night was awesome as the Spirit moved powerfully in people's lives as they were released and bodies and minds healed. The Spirit filled many of the 200+ people and laughter, crying, shrieking (as spirits departed), people 'going down', peace descending and other manifestations of the healing work that had begun. Further messages will be on the Rebuilding of Lives damaged by lack of proper family life.

Ahead of us there is a Youth Rally, ministry on the second Island of Praslin, and a Combined Churches gathering for the Global Day of Prayer. But, more of that later.



John Davies

Aug 11th through to 26th Aug 2009 ... SABAH Anglican Diocese- Malaysia

Archbishop Albert Vun has asked SOMA International to join in a conference 'Ready for Action' in Kota Kinabulu Sabah 13-15th August which is being run by SOMA. For more details of the conference please see their website www.anglicansabah.org

The churches of the Diocese are established on a cell church model (cf Singapore) and have very strong growth. After the conference (which we will attend and help in) we will be sent to various churches in the country of Sabah.

Team composition

Ideally the team should have 6 people to enable teaching and ministry to occur in the churches. Teachers –2 (probably clergy) will be needed together with 4 members who can support with prayer and also share their faith both in public services and/or one on one. There will be areas where the teaching and giving testimony will be open to any members of the team.

Travelling to and accommodation in Sabah

The airfare cost is likely to be around \$1100 AUD and bookings will be made before the end of June 2009. No visas are required before entry and no special health requirements are in place. Accommodation and most meals will be provided by the Diocese. Please log onto www.soma.org.au for details of Sabah, its culture and history. More details will be available in the next issue of **SHARING**

Other missions on the horizon..... Following is an update of the wonderful SOMA mission opportunities currently on the calendar for 2009-2010. The qualifications are few, in fact obedience to the promoting of the Holy Spirit is the beginning of abundant blessings that have become the hallmark of SOMA missions: Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, quite remarkable things occur as we see God sovereignly touching the lives of people we visit. If you come it would help to write out your own testimony (What God has done and is doing in your life) as Peter says in his Epistle (1 Peter 3:15): *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have, But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience..."*

Typically the team will have teachers, intercessors, a leader, and others whose ministry is to pray and witness.

1. **Argentina** (South America) September 2009– a small team of three will join SOMA Argentina in mission in Buenos Aires and Mendoza. Ken Munns will lead brother and sister Will and Caroline Fowler from Williams (WA).
2. **Nepal (Kathmandu)** October 2009 a return mission to the church in Kathmandu and possibly to another centre in Nepal. We have several vacancies for this mission.
3. **Solomon Islands (Ysabel Diocese)** July 2010 - a return mission to encourage the local church and to stimulate renewal in the Spirit
4. **Madagascar - (Antsiranana Diocese)**– this mission has been postponed until the political situation in Madagascar has stabilised and the civil unrest has subsided. Please pray for Bishop Roger Cheung as he gives direction to the church under such stressful conditions. Hopefully this mission will occur later in 2010
5. **Kashmir (India)** arrangements are in place for a mission there to a church outreach to Muslims.
6. **Nigeria August 2010 (Diocese of Jos)** this mission is connected to the meeting of the national directors and we are planning to move out into a number of areas with at least 10-12 teams.

www.soma.org.au

I do encourage you to have a look at the website of SOMA and read through the material contained in the pages. Much of the website is available to any interested visitors giving access to our publications, prayer diary, latest news and recent testimonies and ministry focus etc..

If you were to become a User/Member, you will find so much more information available to you, eg, upcoming and current mission information and news, organisational information, and so forth. Simply follow the prompts under the User Functions and click on New User. After completing the process, an email will be sent to you with a pass word included for use with your Username.

The SOMA board encourages you to become a member of SOMA. There are no fees for joining but by being a member you are able to play an important part in the operation and direction of SOMA.

As a member you can access the 'members' area of our web site www.soma.org.au and have access to team information, links, photos etc.

JOIN SOMA NOW AND PLAY A PART IN THE RENEWAL OF OUR CHURCH