



# SHARING

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## March 2010

### A message from the National Director.....

We have all begun the New year with new resolutions and plans for our lives at least during 2010. So it is with SOMA Australia! The last 3 months have been times of searching the mind of the Lord as far as where SOMA should go on mission, how many teams, listening to the needs of the inviting bishops and attempting to communicate all this to our many supporters Australia wide. What is our focus at least for the coming year?

SOMA's core values are our reason for mission and put succinctly it is to encourage overseas church leaders and to teach for renewal in the Holy Spirit thus helping equip these churches to live life to the fullest. Evangelism is part of the mission thrust but there are many organizations doing a great job in evangelizing countries and regions where SOMA operates. Few groups focus on the equipping of the churches overseas to grow in the knowledge and power of the Holy Spirit.

SOMA Aust. has decided to concentrate much of its efforts into building up churches in several chosen areas of the world. This means establishing ongoing relationships that help us identify the needs of these dioceses and tailoring our missions to meet these needs whilst encouraging the churches to rely on all the resources of the Holy Spirit to grow their churches. We have chosen the Province of the Indian Ocean (covering the sovereign countries of Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles) and Uganda (Mityana Diocese at this stage). Maybe some of the churches in the Solomon Islands open to renewal will also be an area SOMA adopts.

There are a number of clergy (mostly retired) in Australia who may well become involved in another initiative we are examining—that is supplying teaching and lecturing help to the theological colleges in the I.O. Province. Archbishop Ian Ernest has enthusiastically supported this move as it will help bring his clergy more into renewal and thus be better equipped to minister to the people where they are sent. It is an initiative that is long term in nature but is also very cost

effective. The Abp also wants to bring his clergy already in ministry to attend such teaching/ training. He has made it clear that the students receive the teaching and then are sent out to churches to immediately share the teaching and the experiences that follow the empowering by the Holy Spirit.

We are planning to incorporate into the mission to the Seychelles this year, preparation for marriage material from the Alpha courses. The plan at this stage is to bring to the people their the need to commit themselves to each other leading to the partnership transforming into a marriage with and under God's blessing. Given the deception that has brooded over these islands as a consequence of the prohibition of slaves from marrying (Seychelles was settled by released slaves), there needs to be teaching about true marriage and release from Satan's deceptions. Bishop James Wong has reported that since May when the SOMA team found itself proclaiming release to many caught in this deception, marriages in the church under God's blessing have increased many fold and people are asking what all this is about! Praise God! The bishop is talking about providing wedding rings as a help to the poorer people to embrace true marriage.

There is so much to do in mission and the excitement within SOMA Australia has greatly increased since people here have seen the worth of the mission ministry. Has it excited you to think about joining a team?

We need people who can intercede for the mission, those who can pray for those in need and of course those who can share their faith in teaching and leading. Would you like to talk this over—please give me a ring.

Bruce Moon



# 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 .....

## Specific Mission Issues

SOMA Australia has commenced an initiative with the Indian Ocean Province and Mityana Diocese in Uganda to identify and assist potential leaders, who are full of the Spirit and have a heart for mission. The aim is to substantially sponsor these leaders as full team members (whether clergy or laity) to join SOMA missions to nearby countries. Both parties feel that this will assist these dioceses to be able in their own right to send out their own SOMA teams at some future date. The Committee of Management of SOMA Aust. has allocated \$6000 to commence this program and the outcomes will be priceless! Does this not stir you to thank God for the bountiful blessings He has bestowed on us and how we need to be generous to others? We hope to feature these leaders in subsequent issues of SHARING for your prayers and an opportunity to write to them encouraging them.

Previously we had mentioned the Mityana (Uganda) All Saints Mission Choir whose music and lyrics (written by them in Bugandan) were so wonderfully used as they went to villages 'in the outback of Mityana Diocese. SOMA saw an opportunity to fund the professional recording of their works and the

production of CDs and tapes for distribution in these villages. [Most of these villages have battery operated tape players and few have electricity for CDs.] Through the generosity of several people approx \$650 has been sent to cover the costs for this work—rejoice with us at God's provision and pray for the word in music to impact their mission work and to be a reminder to the villagers when the missionaries have left.

In the Seychelles, Bishop James has been given an open opportunity to reach a captive audience in the prison on Mahe Island. The Diocese has a chaplain there and has provided a DVD player. Bp James has asked do we have used DVDs of movies having a good message (not espousing violence or sex or drugs) and would we collect them for his use in the prisons? English is understood by all. Please send them to PO Box 305 Hornsby NSW 2077 and we will send them on.

Please continue to give generously to SOMA so that it can minister God's grace in mission and selected opportunities such as listed above.

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**SOMA missions are exciting and very fulfilling for those adventurous enough to step out of the comfort zone and to be obedient to the call of God to short term missions.**

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

# Mission Plans for 2010

Dates & duration	Destination	Team size & est. cost	Description of mission
May 2010 2 weeks + travel	Kashmir (India)	5 \$3000 Visa required	To encourage & support the small Anglican church as it ministers to a predominantly Muslim community
May 2010 2.5 weeks + travel	Seychelles Islands (Indian Ocean Province)	2 x teams of 6 pax \$2500	One team to teach on God's plan for marriage and train leaders to run Alpha marriage preparation courses. Second team to minister and teach matters concerning the Holy Spirit and the equipping of the church for its work of ministry.
July (first half) 2 weeks + travel	Solomon Islands Diocese of Malaita	5-6 pax \$1200 + Visa required	To encourage the local church to grow in renewal particularly through the celebration of the sacraments and understanding of the empowering by the Holy Spirit.
July 2010 2.5 weeks + travel	Mauritius (Indian Ocean Province)	6 pax \$1800	To teach about renewal and to encourage the local church particularly in their healing ministry.
August 2010 2 weeks + travel	Nigeria—Diocese of Jos	?? \$3000 + conf accom	Participate in a SOMA International conference and then go out to areas with mission teams drawn from many countries. This area is currently experiencing civil unrest but the church there has grown under persecution. International Conference of SOMA National Directors will be held prior to the conference.
September 2010 2.5 weeks + travel	Uganda—Mityana Diocese	6-10 pax \$3000 Visa required	Follow on from the work begun last year in most of the 6 archdeaconries in the Diocese. Bp Stephen welcomes another mission to build on the growth that has occurred since 2009 mission.
October 2010 2.5 weeks + travel	Madagascar—(Indian Ocean Province)	6 pax \$1900– 2500 Visa required	To teach at the theological college about renewal in the Holy Spirit and the equipping role of the Spirit as a natural part of the students and clergy working in their parishes. Following the teaching segment it is hoped to go with the students on a weeks mission to nearby churches. Other opportunities in other diocese may arise.
November 2010 2 weeks + travel	Macau—China	4-5 pax \$1800 + Visa required	First time mission to this small Anglican Church and it very much will be a mission of encouragement , teaching in renewal and ministry with the members.

## Notes regarding the mission plans for 2010.

1. Actual dates are still subject to the inviting Bishops finalising their diocesan schedules.
2. Costs are estimates and dependent upon when air fares are purchased and seasonal influences. Jetset Merrylands continues to serve SOMA so well in advising and finalising ticketing and visas—for their input we thank God so much!
3. Normally the host diocese supplies accommodation and meals but in some cases depending upon their ability, each team member may have to contribute towards these costs.
4. Team leaders are not decided yet and is a matter occupying the National Director's efforts.
5. The National Director in conjunction with the mission team leader is responsible for accepting or rejecting invitations from people who express their desire to go on mission.

# Important matters of concern to SOMA Australia.

It is with sadness that we report the death of the Rev Canon Michael Harper, who died on January 6 aged 78. Michael was for 30 years leader of the Charismatic movement in the Church of England, and his influence extended to many other parts of the world and to several other Churches.

SOMA was born largely out of Michael's vision to see renewal of the church through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, with a commitment to sharing ministries between the developed and developing world. We praise God for his vision and commitment to founding SOMA.

*"Well done good and faithful servant"*

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**The Annual General Meeting of SOMA Australia will be held 1-2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010 at St Peters Watsons Bay commencing at 2:30 pm on Monday concluding with dinner and again on Tuesday there will be celebrations of communion, praise, prayer and teaching concluding 5:00 pm. Please see the SOMA web site for more details. Please come and make your input to SOMA's life. Let us know (for catering) if you are coming.**

Reports from the AGM will be available from the web site including the financial status of SOMA as at 31st December 2009.

Mission planning will be updated on the web site as information is obtained from the churches where we are planning missions this year.

As from 1st January 2010 the membership fee of SOMA Australia has been abolished but each person who wants to vote or speak at the AGM must still apply—see web site for application form.

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Dear SOMA Supporters,

Since our last Sharing newsletter, Christmas has come and gone, the New Year has been celebrated and most of us are back into our usual routines. I do hope that all of you managed to have some rest and recuperation and are refreshed for 2010. I do pray that this will be a year of great peace and joy for you and your family.

For SOMA it will be an exciting year with plans for at least eight missions to be undertaken - see page three. If you are excited about any of these please contact our National Director Bruce.

Bruce's tenure as ND was to finish this month, but he has been persuaded to carry on for another year! He does an amazing job, but as we engage in more and more missions the work load for Bruce increases mightily! In last month's 'Sharing' we listed some of the 'every day' administrative tasks that could be undertaken by others to relieve Bruce so he can focus on promoting the work and mission of SOMA, here and abroad. As he points out, many people could do these jobs - and more quickly than he because of the limitations of his eyesight. Sadly there wasn't as much response to the plea for help as we would have liked! Maybe everyone was getting ready for Christmas and were going to think about it 'later'! Could I please ask that now you all consider if you can help in any way?

To recap, we need:-

Someone who can use Microsoft ACCESS to record details to keep the data base up to date.

Someone with publishing and editing skills to help with the preparation of the Sharing magazine.

Someone with a gift of encouragement and communication skills to contact people either by phone, email or letter to encourage their support for SOMA.

Someone with skills to help maintain the SOMA website.

Are you a 'Someone'? If so, please contact Bruce for more details to see if this something that you can help with - he will be delighted to hear from you!

You will have noticed the many references in this edition of Sharing to information on our web site. I encourage you to have a look and be enthused about what the Lord is doing with us and through us.

Many blessings,  
Cliff Parish.  
Chairman.



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**IF YOU WANT TO READ THE REPORTS FROM PAST SOMA MISSIONS PLEASE GO TO THE WEB SITE AND CLICK ON MISSION REPORTS—GOOD PHOTOGRAPHS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.**