



SHARING

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How important is prayer to team on mission.....

What effect does prayer have on a team on mission? The 3 missions of the last 4 months have conclusively proven to me the value of those now increasing numbers of people who have committed themselves to support a SOMA mission in prayer. Deliberately I chose not to use the word intercessors as few of us really understand the enormity of the intercessor's role. Instead the numerous band of prayer supporters have 'stood in the gate' and prayed for particular aspects of the team's activities which are beamed back before, during and after the team is on the ground. I want to honour the growing number of people saying that they want to prayerfully support a mission. Why is honour the right word for this prayer duty? Because on the field we have faced all sorts of hardships, theft, illness, confusion, long tiring travel, team member difficulties, food and cultural differences etc. any of which can detract from what we set out to do. It is all the handiwork of Satan because he fears the value of building up and equipping the church.

In all of the above situations we have been more than conquerors because of the faithful prayers of so many and the everlasting grace and protection given by our heavenly Father.

We have seen Satan and his minions cast out of people and places where they have held dominion, the sick and the

disabled receive healing, the spiritual seekers given full measure of the Holy Spirit, families and relationships restored and people coming to accept Jesus into their lives and deciding to live for Him., bondages broken, broken hearts mended, and inner healing begun.

Want more evidence? We know that the Spirit has been preparing the 'ground' when we see sovereign moves of the Spirit occurring and many people desiring more of God in their lives.

Are you challenged to join this growing band of prayer supporters? Then you can, by E-mailing me or Cliff Parish (our Chairman) on admin@soma.org.au, asking to be 'put into the prayer supporters loop' and giving the best E-address for receipt of prayer messages. While you are doing this ask Cliff to give you a password for the SOMA web site and you can enjoy the testimonies, news, photographs, mission activities etc always available on www.soma.org.au.

Jeremiah 1:4 The Lord said to me, "Before I formed you in your mother's womb I chose you. Before you were born I set you apart. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations."

From the National Director of SOMA Australia.....

I believe that a key factor in the renewal of the local churches in Australia is for people obedient to the call to go out on short term ministry anointed with Holy Spirit and to bring back a portion of that anointing to share with the congregations in their churches. SOMA has a very special role to play in this.

I want to ask all who read this to pray about the role they can play and to offer early for future missions, already we are seeing people putting their names down, a number of whom have never been on a SOMA mission. DO NOT DELAY!

Please support SOMA in your prayers—use the prayer diary as a guide!

Please give generously as we are increasing the activity in SOMA Aust. and I want to provide funds to enable persons from some of the emerging nations to join our teams with a view to them gaining experience so that in turn, they can go out in teams from their own country.

Bless you all.

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

Mission Reports

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.

May 12th through to 3rd June 2009 ... *Seychelles Islands Anglican Diocese*

A report on the first days of this mission was included in the last SHARING magazine. The team continued to see the powerful and releasing nature of the Holy Spirit touch many people in a sovereign way. It could be said that this SOMA mission experienced unprecedented releasing power over the powers of darkness that have gripped these islands for so long. The Seychellois in the churches there generally were well taught and ready to receive the Holy Spirit in a new and life changing way. The lay leaders said, 'we know and have experienced the love of God the Father, we know and have experienced the saving nature of Jesus and we know of the Holy Spirit but have not experienced the release of power and giftings of the Holy Spirit that typified the early church.' What a joy for the team to minister in such an environment. Much must be said of the leadership of Bishop James Wong (supported closely by retired Archbishop French) - their involvement with the team/s gave authority and leadership to all that SOMA did during that mission. We have an invitation to return next year and also Bp James is the contact person to work through as we develop, with the Indian Ocean Province, an ongoing programme of mission activity in that province. Team members were John & Rosemary Davies, Deslee Campbell, Ross Holman and Bruce & Julia Moon.

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

This mission was to a new area of Uganda for SOMA Australia but other teams had held teaching and rallies just in the Cathedral at Mityana. The decision to attempt to reach all of the 6 archdeaconries including those hours (by 4WD from Mityana) was met with considerable enthusiasm and gratitude. This part of Uganda has suffered much under oppressive political regimes and then a war of liberation. Once dubbed the jewel of Africa, Uganda has been wasted and the population is full of widows and orphans and a great deal of pain. Drought was also afflicting the areas we visited causing a number of would be attendees to stay in their huts and to cart water by hand just to keep their families and their valuable livestock alive. The team was humbled by the determination of so many to walk sometimes for days and then to sleep on the concrete floor of the church just so that they could grow in their knowledge and love of God. The new bishop Dr Stephen Kazimba is an imposing and Godly man who has a passion for saving the souls of those underneath his authority (450,000 Anglicans) and for social programs that improve their quality of life. The team split into 3 teams so that all archdeaconries could be covered with a 4 day teaching and ministry time. One archdeaconry pulled out as they had competing events planned.

Many of the priests were unpaid and kept a garden and a cow or goat as their means of providing for their families but there was no doubting their passion for saving souls and for the gospel to go out to all their countrymen. They all expressed deep thanks for the team coming and for going out into the bush to bring powerful Holy Spirit teaching and ministry. See the bishop's letter and appreciate the warmth of our time with them and their desire to have regular SOMA team visits.

Team members were John & Rosemary Davies, Chris Simon, Annette Parr, Bruce and Julie Moon (all from Sydney), Ross Holman from QLD, Noel Townsend from Perth plus Garry & Helen Schnelzer from Texas USA.

Aug 19h through to 25th Aug 2009 ... SABAH Anglican Diocese- Malaysia

SOMA International led regional conference 'Ready for Action' in Kota Kinabalu Sabah on 13-15th August followed by 8 day missions to 22 different areas. A composite team including Dr Robin Ryan (Perth), Bruce Moon (Sydney), Mrs Stella Lo (from Sabah) and Rev Stephen Dinsmore and his wife Janet (UK) flew to Bandung in Indonesia for a mission to encourage and teach the local church leaders. The churches here are small but growing in numbers as they earnestly proclaim the Gospel mainly to the Sundanese people of Western Java. The Sundanese are recognised as the least evangelised ethnic group on earth. Their hunger for the full Gospel was exhilarating and we ought to be constantly in prayer for their boldness and for the provision of Almighty God—they are seeking to win their people and to show how they can live together in peace. They have used ALPHA courses extensively and have a good understanding of the Gospel and entered into receiving the Holy Spirit and his gifts with great enthusiasm and joy. The Indonesian church comes under the leadership of the Singapore Diocese and we need to pray for this relationship to grow in a way that allows the Indonesian Church to maintain its integrity and personality. The expansion of the church has been part of a vision of the local pastor and it was a joy to work with him.

Given that much of the area is under Sharia law, this church needs enormous grace and boldness as they reach out through care centres, bible teaching classes and village witnessing.

One encouraging story comes from a local village thief who was converted in gaol and when he returned to his village the other villagers objected to his new faith and cut off water to his paddy field thus effectively starving him of food. After praying for a month the dry season came and all the paddy fields dried up—wells were dug but the only water came from this converted man's field, he shared the water and now the whole village wants to build a church and to have Christian services there! **Isn't God great in His provision!**

Bruce the team leader, on the second day of the 3 day Holy Spirit Conference in Bandung felt ill and presented to the clinic at the Adventist Hospital where the doctors soon diagnosed typhoid fever and he spent 3 days in Hospital. Prayer was mobilised from all round the SOMA world and he quickly recovered—the local church also ministered in prayer to him and the power of effective prayer was unmistakable. The team worked so closely with the local church leaders that they made a passionate plea for SOMA to return and continue to teach and bring them to greater Christian maturity.

PRAISE GOD for the SOVEREIGN movement of the HOLY Spirit on those leaders.

Some photos, testimonies and letters of appreciation.



Seychelles Mission—Anaelle 10 months old, born with 2 holes in her heart with her mother Lyn. Following prayer she was checked out in South Africa by pediatricians –NO holes found! No operations required! Lyn's husband Jude is soon to move towards being ordained. Praise God for His healing!

Seychelles Mission - Retired Archbishop French (L), Bp James (R) and John Davies at the Pentecost Celebration service St Paul's Cathedral, Mahe Island, Seychelles



Seychelles Mission—Bp James celebrating at St Matthews Praslin Island during the second half of the mission. Whilst here his home was burgled and his laptop, phone and £1000 were stolen. After much prayer a 15 year old boy was found on Praslin Island by Police and brought to Mahe for charging. When asked to visit the boy Bp James asked that charges be dropped, curses removed from the boy and then he visited the boy's mother and children. The Police Inspector, impressed by the bishop's love for the boy and the family, asked if she too could see the bishop herself about her own problems! A true example of grace and love.

UGANDAN Mission Mityana Diocese Dear Brother Bruce. Janepher my dear wife together with the congregation of All Saint's Church-Busimbi join me to greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Hopefully you are still doing well with your dear wife Julie! We still have you in our memories and many people in my Parish and Archdeaconry at large miss you so much for your powerful ministry. Your testimony about your blindness touched many of us and we really thank God for His power and might towards His people. Please convey our sincere greetings and love to your team members who came with you. We hope to hear from you soon. May the good Lord continue blessing you richly and abundantly. Yours brother in Christ. Rev. Canon. Michael Lubowa. Archdeacon-Mityana Archdeaconry/ Parish Priest-Busimbi UGANDA



Uganda mission—a most unusual service of confirmation, 50+ candidates, 6 weddings (see photo) a fiery gospel message to which many responded and gifts for the bishop including a calf, hens, fruit etc. all in 5.5 hours! In the outlying village of Kamusehene clothes were lent to the couples, partners rounded up from near and far and wedding rings lent to emphasize how important being married under God's blessing really is.

Dear brother Bruce Moon and all SOMA TEAM from Australia,

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. I was wondering how you arrived because I have not got any message from you, but Can John Musasizi helped me to know how you went. Thanks be to God for your visit and the ministry you did despite a challenging beginning. However, the end was so sweet because we are still interested in your ministry. We held a meeting with the Archdeacons and everybody reported how the people were blessed by the teaching. Sincerely, the participants had many challenges like, famine caused by the drought, long distances and sleeping uncomfortably especially in churches for many. We are trying to see how we can nurture our people so that they do keep those words burning in their heart, but of course we know the power of the Holy Spirit will enable us. Praise God it has started raining!!! This is really great it is an answered prayer. For two days we did not have water and this reminded me the time you visited when we missed water and electricity. It rained but this did not solve our problem since we have not connected the gutters to harvest the rain water.



Once we get the gutters, we will get the chance to harvest the rain water so that we can still have water even when running water is not available. Our building project is fine, God provides us with funds. pray for us as we still need funds to complete it. October 25 is set aside for laying a foundation stone on the house and a thanksgiving service for one first anniversary as a bishop of Mityana. We expect more than 1000 people. The King of Buganda will be the guest of Honor . Weddings (at confirmation services– edit) are still going on wherever I go and many people still come to the Lord. May you please send this message to all the team you came with so that they see our message of appreciation. My family has sent you greetings. God bless you all and we miss you here, **Bishop Stephen Kaziimba Mityana**

Other missions on the horizon.....Please factor these into your diary—the people of God are on the move!

- 1. **Argentina** (South America) leaving August 28th through September 2009– SOMA Aust is joining with SOMA Argentina to conduct missions in BA, Arias and Mendoza in the south. led by Ken Munns (rebirthed after a long locum at St Peters Neutral Bay) and accompanied by Caroline and Will Fowler from WA—is this the first brother and sister combination sent out by SOMA Aust?
- 2. **Nepal (Kathmandu)** October 2009 a return mission to the church in Kathmandu and possibly to another centre in Nepal
- 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
- 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.
- 7. **Seychelles Islands** 2010 Province of IO.
- 8. **Uganda Diocese of Mityana** Several of these missions have yet to be negotiated and scheduled

From the National Director's diary.....

This is being written from Western Java at a place called Bandung. Greetings to each and every reader of this SHARING magazine in the name of our gracious Saviour and Lord Jesus. Currently we are on mission with a composite team from UK (Revd. Stephen and Janet Dinsmore), from Malaysia (Stella Lo) and Robin Ryan and myself from Australia. We have been privileged to attend a SOMA conference in Kota Kinabalu (Malaysia) along with 400 others. Prior to the conference the SOMA National Directors met and gave some new impetus to the work of SOMA.

Previously SOMA at the international level had a board of International directors some of whom were National Directors and others who were described as office holders, directors at large who were prominent leaders and bishops in the church—this board met every 3 years. An executive committee comprising some appointed officers and 3 National Directors operated to execute the vision and the intent of this International Board. Separate to this was the National Directors who meet annually and essentially represent SOMA bodies from around the world.

Now the boards have been amalgamated into one board and the executive group will execute the desires of the one Board and be answerable to this Board. Eminent church leaders and bishops will be a reference body to the Board advising it of the global perspectives of mission and the Anglican Communion.

This rationalisation was well discussed and unanimously accepted as a simpler way forward for the International SOMA scene. It also makes the National Directors of SOMA responsible for the growth and life of SOMA. Please pray that this will further improve our effectiveness as a short term missionary society.

