

## Caring for the nervous system of the body of Christ

Issue No: 23/4

What's inside:  
**The SOMA Prayer is needed now more than ever ..."**

*A picture from the Lord reveals how SOMA can be the fibres of hope bringing the Spirit's healing to Jesus' impaired body.*

### **A visit from SOMA International Chair, Rev Andrew**

*In October the SOMA International Chair, Rev. Andrew Allan-Johns visited Australia, enjoying a road trip to Port Macquarie, catching up with SOMA pioneer, John Wyndham ...*

### **Upcoming mission to Tanzania in June 2024. R U interested in joining?**

*SOMA International is organizing "Revive East Africa" a mission to teaching on the role of the Holy Spirit and his gifts ... Would you like to join this mission?*



Greetings to all SOMA Missioners, Perhaps you have had moments when the Lord cuts into your thinking and suddenly you have clarity of vision and a renewed sense of purpose.

One such time for me was at my first SOMA National Directors' meeting in August this year.

It seemed like a new season for SOMA. Rev. Henry Blair had commenced as International Coordinator with SOMA UK and Rev. Andrew Allan-Johns, SOMA International Chair, had received advice that SOMA US was reluctant to participate in SOMA International missions. The prospect of this later separation evoked concern and deep regret. So, Rev. Andrew called us to pause in listening prayer, to be guided by the Spirit of God as to how we should proceed in this new season.

It was during this period of quietness that a scene from a movie, titled, "7 Yards. The Chris Norton Story", I had watched a few weeks earlier, flashed before me. Chris Norton, a young footballer, had become paralysed from the waist down after a life-altering tackle. He was told by his doctors he would never walk again.

Immediately I saw the connection between the movie and the current state of the global Anglican communion.

*Are not the legs of Christ's Anglican body inflicted with paralysis, suffering such serious nerve damage, that her ability to walk and run is impaired?*

## Many respond to the call to join a SOMA mission at Melb Healing Conference

*Bishop Ian Lambert spoke at the St Paul's Healing Conference, recruiting many new people to join one of our upcoming SOMA Missions ...*

## SOMA UK Mission report in Uganda

*A recent mission in Uganda resulted in revival proportions with thousands accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. ...*

## Be part of SOMA Mission to Wonthaggi/Inverloch, VIC in May 24

*SOMA Board members Rev. Graeme & Rev. Susan Liersch are organising a SOMA mission in their parish. Express interest in this mission next year.*

## Would you like SOMA to come to your church or diocese?

*SOMA would love to come and speak at your church to raise awareness of this vital ministry.*

## SOMA Intercessors called to be part of new team

*The recent National Director's meeting saw a unanimous agreement to place prayer as a priority of SOMA's mission.*

The scene before me served as a reminder of the words a SOMA leader received in the early days of the formation of SOMA. He had heard Jesus' cry,

*"I weep over my broken body. When one part of the body is in pain, the other parts do not feel the pain ..."<sup>1</sup>*

It was precisely the pain of simmering friction within the global Anglican Communion in 1978 all those decades ago that prompted a prophetic word to form a ministry that would release the Holy Spirit to tend to the nervous system of the Anglican Church.

However, it was not the scene of Chris Norton's paralysed body that the Spirit quickened within me. Rather it was the occasion when Chris awoke one morning with a noticeable sensation in his big toe.

So marked was the tingling that his body pulsated with a sense of hope and anticipation. Could it be true? Would God be so gracious as to do a work of healing in his body? Might it be possible that his dream to walk his fiancé down the aisle in the coming months come true?

And so it was. Hope fuelled faith, faith birthed perseverance, and after seven years of agonising physiotherapy, Chris' dream became a reality.

In our current situation we might well ask:

*How might the Spirit use SOMA to tend to the nerve damaged body of the Anglican Communion in this season?*

Over the past five decades SOMA teams have fulfilled their calling to be the means by which the Holy Spirit brings healing, reconciliation, renewal and revitalisation, to the body of Christ, and especially to those in most need.

SOMA teams are, many ways, like the nerve fibres which bring the Holy Spirit's healing and restoration to different members of Christ's body.

The scene quickened by the Spirit enabled me to glimpse the significance of SOMA International continuing its missions across the world. Perhaps our continuance in bringing teams of Anglicans from various diocese to minister together in the power of the Spirit, might serve as a 'tingling' of hope to those of SOMA US, that the Lord Jesus would have his people continue sending His healing and restorative power to all members of the Anglican communion.

*Is the Lord calling SOMA to be the fibres connecting the various members of Christ's broken, injured body?*

From its conception, a core value of SOMA has been its reliance on intercessory prayer for the release of the Spirit's power throughout the body of Christ.

This call for prayer was highlighted at the most recent National Director's meeting, when there was resounding

<sup>1</sup> From Everywhere to Everywhere, John Wyndham, page 23.

*“Could not SOMA be like the fibres through which the Spirit brings healing and restoration to Christ’s body?”*

### Regulars:

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agreement of the need for prayer to resume its rightful priority. To that end, National Directors were challenged to raise up intercessory prayer co-ordinators in each of their home countries.

However, Jesus taught us that there are situations when prayer alone may not be sufficient, when prayer needs to be accompanied by fasting. For prayer and fasting enables the Lord to teach us humility, to inspire us towards justice, to release us from oppression, and to enrich our sense of generosity (Isaiah 58:6-10)

The Lord’s promise is firm to those who fast in prayer:

“You will be given water when you are dry and your strength restored.

You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. (v11b)

Is not this the very season when the body of Christ needs her strength to be restored and her innermost parts to be healed?”

In a recent conversation with John Wyndham, author of *“From Everywhere to Everywhere: The Story of Sharing of Ministries Abroad”*, I was reminded,

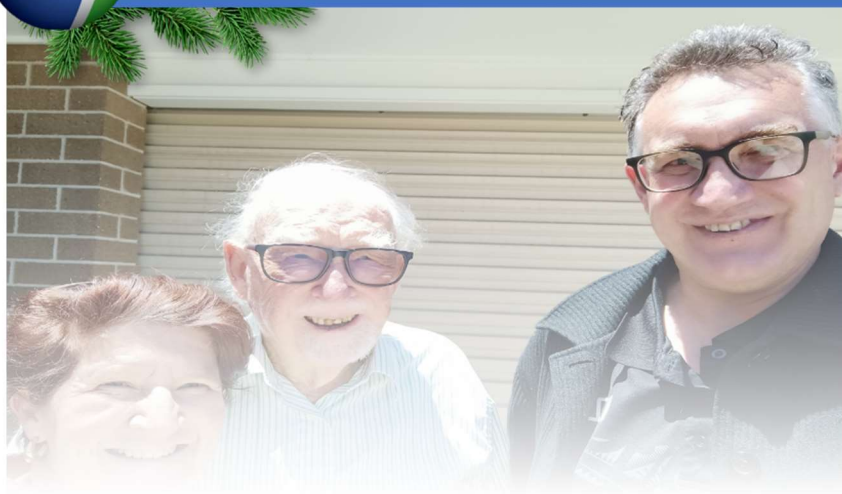
“Intercession is the foundation upon which SOMA’s ministry and mission are secured ... in fact mission and ministry are the two legs that make it run.”

So, let’s keep running and praying that the body of Christ might be nurtured and maintained as mission teams go forth across the world to build up Christ’s body.”<sup>2</sup> During this Advent season of expectation of our Saviour’s return, let us “keep watch” and “be alert and pray for the coming of your Lord”. As SOMA Missioners who have responded to the call of the Lord Jesus, let us continue to be the fibres through which the Holy Spirit brings healing and restoration to our broken world.

Yours in the power of the Spirit, *Rev. Mel*



## Visit to SOMA pioneer & Rev Andrew’s visit



*Report written by Rev. Melinda McMahon, Rector of Southlakes Anglican Church and National Director of SOMA Australia.*

In the last weeks of November, Rev. Andrew Allan-Johns the Chair of SOMA International visited Australia. Starting with a meet and greet with Rev. Graeme and Rev. Susan Liersch, Ministers of the parish of Wonthaggi/Inverloch in

<sup>2</sup> John Wyndham, From Everywhere to Everywhere, page 136-137.



Victoria. Then travelled to Newcastle to spend some time with the saints of Southlakes Anglican Church. As soon as he stepped off the plane in Newcastle, we drove up to the home of John Wyndham in Port Macquarie.

Some may not be aware, John is a pioneer of SOMA Australia and the author of SOMA's historic book *"From Everywhere to Everywhere"*. (A book which is available for purchase from SOMA's website). We spent a delightful morning discussing various aspects of John's account of the formation of SOMA. John shared his prayers as he 'passes on the mantle of anointing' to the new SOMA teams and gave us many of the contacts he had established with SOMA supporters around the world.

We then returned to Newcastle, Andrew was able to spend time with the saints in my own church, Southlakes Anglican, during which he preached at both our traditional service and more charismatic evening service we call, "Encountering God's Power and Presence."

During the traditional service, I interviewed Rev. Andrew on some of the new initiatives SOMA International is introducing and next year's mission to Tanzania (more on this below). Then Rev. Andrew preached from the first chapter of Ephesians on the church's calling to demonstrate the kingdom of God through the ministry of healing. Rev. Andrew had several words of knowledge for healing for those present, which was a new experience for some. His visit inspired many of my parishioners to become more interested in SOMA, and encouraged me as I navigate the terrain of encouraging my somewhat traditional congregation to venture bravely towards charismatic renewal.

## Invitations for SOMA to visit Philippians & Myanmar



Following SOMA International's participation in the last Lambeth Conference, an event where Bishops from around the world meet to discuss pressing issues within the global Anglican communion, SOMA was inundated with expressions of interest and received around 60 invitations! SOMA Australia is delighted to respond to the invitations of the Philippians and Myanmar and will therefore be following up these invitations in the New Year. If you are interested in taking part in these initial contacts, please let Rev. Melinda know by responding to this email.

## New SOMA missionaries respond to call at Melbourne Healing Conference



*SOMA Chair | Bishop Ian Lambert Reports on the Healing Conference held recently in Melbourne:*

The testimonies tell the story of our awesome God in action at the St Paul's North Caulfield conference in November.



- "I wanted to tell you that I had amazing breakthroughs and deliverance from the spirit of control."
- "Have you ever wondered what happens when God's people soak in an atmosphere of prayer and come expectant? Miracles become normal!"
- "We saw God heal, almost everyone with a physical need, and as forgiveness was released, many received peace and inner healing. Demons were dealt with, and joy was abounding!"
- "This was amazing. God has completely changed my life!"
- "Wow, what a weekend! God poured out blessings to us all. I truly felt like I was drinking at a new well." We commenced the weekend with an evening

specifically for pastors/priests to provide an opportunity for them to worship, dine, network and fellowship together.

On Friday we heard of the wonderful healing legacy at St Paul's because of the faithful healing ministry initiatives by Rev. Hickson at the turn of last century. Each session had inspired worship which led us into God's presence and prepared us to receive great messages of encouragement and teaching.

Rev Dr Teresa Parish led each of the evening sessions and ministry times. What an inspiring and lively time we enjoyed with Teresa!

Rev Dr Mark Durie taught authoritatively on *Healing and Deliverance* and then on *Life in the Spirit*. Bishop Ian Lambert shared stories around our *supernatural God* from his *ministry and missions* using Elijah and the prophets of Baal narrative. On Saturday Bp Ian dealt with the difficult subject of *when healing doesn't come*, and *forgiveness*. On Saturday afternoon there were six workshops, including: establishing healing ministry in local church; navigating renewal in the local church; spiritual gifts; and deliverance ministry.

St Paul's were outstanding hosts, and the gathering ran seamlessly. Indeed, the large bold billboard outside the church on the highway: "WE PRAY STUFF HAPPENS!" was true to its word. The presence of God, the weight of His holiness - the *kabod* - was something to be experienced. People were healed, captives set free, words of knowledge, demons fled, and much weeping! Nothing more powerful than when God's presence rested heavily on the clergy as those present were prayed for.

What outstanding young leaders in Rev Brendon and Virginia McDonald at St Paul's, so ably supported by their lay folk. Looking towards more of the same over the years to come - bodes well for the Anglican Church in Melbourne! Praise God.



## SOMAUK mission to Africa



*Written by SOMA International Co-ordinator, Henry Blair*

This article was also published on the SOMA UK Facebook feed.

SOMA International and SOMA UK took a team to Uganda for a mega mission across the whole Diocese of South Rwenzori. Reverend Henry reports:

Mission Director William Musisim uhindo has been keeping a watchful eye on what happened.

Here are some of the stats from the brief report of the mission 13th to 19th November 2023.

\*Kitholhu Archdeaconry: people reached 18060, people accepted Christ 690.

\*Lhubiriha Archdeaconry: people reached 2725, people accepted 870, church planted 4.

\*Bwera Archdeaconry: people reached 34354, accepted 630.

\*Kinyamaseke Archdeaconry: people reached: 31451 people accepted 447, church planted 2.

\*Kisinga Archdeaconry: people reached 36251 people accepted 879, church planted 1.

\*Kyarumba Archdeaconry: people reached 22202, people accepted 657, church planted 3.

\*Mahango Archdeaconry: people reached 12000, people accepted 330.

\*Unnamed Deanery: people reached 38460, people accepted 762, church planted.

\*Nyamwamba Archdeaconry: people reached 41230, people accepted 876, church planted 4.

\*Kasese Archdeaconry: people reached 27300, people accepted 276.

\*Ibanda Archdeaconry: people reached 18333, people accepted 244, church planted 1.

\*Maliba Archdeaconry: people reached 12673, people accepted 358, church planted 1.

\*Rwesande Archdeaconry: people reached 23072, people accepted 463, church planted 2.

\*Kabatunda Archdeaconry: people reached 163444, people accepted 346, church planted 1.

5000 people gathered to pray on Mt Tabor prayer mountain for a whole day in the middle of the mission.

*RevMel, SOMA AU National Director's response:* When I reviewed these numbers and the profound impact of this mission, it reminded me of the day of Pentecost where 3000 were added to the church in one day. I was also reminded of a conversation I had with Bishop Praises from Nigeria with whom I was on team last year in SOMA UK's mission to Northern Ireland. I expressed my desire to participate in a mission in Africa, and he reminded me that in Nigeria 50% of the population were already Christian. When I remarked that perhaps it was the Africans who needed to come to Australia to minister rather than the other way round, he commented, *"mission involves all the Spirit's workings from refreshing, teaching and revitalising – there is always a need for Christ's multi-ethnic body to minister alongside each other. Only then do we get a glimpse of John's vision of "a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the lamb."* (Revelation 7:9)



## SOMA Mission to Wonthaggi/Inverloch being planned for May 2024

Rev's. Graeme and Susan Liersch are celebrating The Church of the Ascension, Inverloch's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year from 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May in Victoria. 100<sup>th</sup> celebrations are not just about the past; they are also about the present and future. As such the mission is designed to reveal an active body of Christ, share Christ Jesus with locals, and highlight the person and work of the Holy Spirit in the present. The mission will also provide Holy Spirit teaching, and sharing the ministry of the Spirit including healing, and the gifts of the Spirit. If you would like to be part of the SOMA team, please contact Rev. Susan Liersch, SOMA Secretary, on [susanl@basscoastanglican.org.au](mailto:susanl@basscoastanglican.org.au)



## Join Revive East Africa Mission | June 2024

From 30 May to 7 June 2024 SOMA International is coordinating "Revive East Africa" mission in Tanzania. The mission is being hosted by the Diocese of Central Tanganyika (DCT) and will follow a provincial training model. At the outset, the Bishop will accompany three carefully selected



teachers and trainers from each Diocese to receive teaching on the Holy Spirit. The SOMA international team will include three missionaries per diocese.

Topics to be taught will include the role of the Holy Spirit, healing the sick, prophecy and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the spiritual realm, deliverance, forgiveness and holiness. Teaching will then be extended further to diocesan leaders and lay invitees. The teams will consist of experienced missionary, international and diocesan leaders. Training will be in Kiswahili and translators will be used. Following this, diocesan leaders will seek to encourage those in their own dioceses to utilise the gifts of the Spirit.

For those interested in joining the international team, SOMA missions take place upon the request of the diocesan bishop and conform to local policies and procedures. As is the case in all SOMA Missions, participants travel at their own expense, but local hospitality is to be provided. Each missionary can contribute US\$200 towards their hosting plus local travel expenses. To register your participation, please contact Rev. Melinda, National Director, at [contactsomaau@gmail.com](mailto:contactsomaau@gmail.com).



## Would you like SOMA to visit your church?

Questions about SOMA are not unusual. "SOMA?" What's that?" Indeed, Rev. Melinda even commented "If truth be told, even though I grew up in the Anglican church, I only discovered SOMA last year". Perhaps SOMA is new to the people in your church, in face your Diocese. If so, would you like to help the Anglican church in Australia to discover the impact of SOMA's ministry? Why not invite a SOMA representative to your church or diocese to learn about how you and others in your parish can become part of SOMA's ground-breaking ministry?



## Calling all intercessors and pray-ers

From SOMA's birthing in the late 1970s, prayer has had a vital role in the organisation of missions, the spiritual protection of missionaries, and keeping the fruit of the mission growing when it had finished. Would you like to be part of the SOMA Australia newly formed Intercessory Team? At the recent National Director's team meeting we were challenged to ensure prayer was given its rightful place in all our activities. We were challenged to raise up intercessors to be trained to become a more effective intercessors, and as well to receive regular updates on what is happening in SOMA around the world, so that they might be better positioned to pray for upcoming SOMA missions. Such an Intercessory Team would make an important contribution to releasing the Holy Spirit's power and healing throughout the nervous system of His body, the Church. All SOMA National Director's are currently in the process of organising a SOMA Week of Prayer for January/February next week. Please let Rev. Melinda, at [contact@somaau.org](mailto:contact@somaau.org) know if you are interested in being more involved in prayer for SOMA.



## Prayers

- ➔ We received news from John Wyndham that Bishop Hamish was promoted to Glory on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> November. His daughter was by his side. Bishop Hamish was one of the pioneer leaders in the Anglican Renewal in Australia and was the last surviving bishop of those who attended the first Anglican Conference on Spiritual Renewal at Canterbury before Lambeth in 1978, which ultimately led to the birthing of SOMA. Let us pray for the family of Bishop Hamish.
- ➔ Rev. Buli, National Director of SOMA South Africa has asked for prayers as many of the clergy in the region are experiencing spiritual attack on their health. Please pray for protection and healing.
- ➔ Rev. Kyle from SOMA US has requested prayer. Kyle has asked Trinity School of Ministry, an Orthodox seminary in the US to prayerfully consider permitting SOMA to lead a workshop(s) for the seminarians. The faculty will meet soon to make a decision. Kyle asks that God to impress on the faculty the importance of raising up New Testament disciples, embracing the fullness of everything Jesus taught, and that SOMA could come along side the seminary to assist the formation of students.

## International News

- ➔ SOMA UK have just released their latest edition of Sharing. It can be read at this link: [New Edition of SHARING Now Out! — SOMA UK](#)
- ➔ SOMA Ireland – you can subscribe to receive prayer updates from SOMAIE’s new website at [Get Involved - SOMA Ireland \(somaie.org\)](#)
- ➔ SOMA South Africa, you can read, Rev Buli Woolley, ND, latest blog here: [Blog – SOMA Southern Africa \(somasa.org\)](#)
- ➔ SOMA USA newsletters may be read at the following link: [Newsletters — SOMA USA](#)

## Seen or heard from God?

### Have you seen or heard from the Spirit of God?

God speaks to every one of us through his Spirit who dwells in our heart. I would love to hear from you if God gives you a vision, a picture or even a word about SOMA’s ministry in Australia.

Please email me on [contact@sommaau.org](mailto:contact@sommaau.org) and we may include it in the next newsletter – may the Spirit of mission continue to guide our coming season of Advent!



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