

Richard Moy meets with Anglican Primates in Cairo at the GSFA meeting.



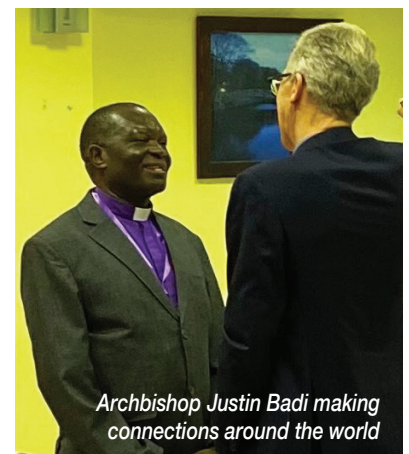
The nervous system is shouting: Could you help us bring back olive branches of hope?

Ever since a pre-Lambeth Conference in 1978 helped launch SOMA our need for the Global Church has been clear. The image God gave the conference of a hurting body was accompanied by a call: to join the Holy Spirit tending to the nervous system of the body of Christ.

The nervous system sends messages back and forth from the brain via billions of tiny cells called neurons. These send messages to and from the brain through the spinal cord, to the nerves throughout the body. They guide actions we do by choice and those we do involuntarily, including getting the body ready to react to stressful events. This part of the nervous system is the 'sympathetic nervous system'. Sympathetic is a word formed from syn- ("with, together with") and páthos, "experience, misfortune, emotion, condition. For SOMA this links us to 1 Corinthians 12:26: "If one part of the body suffers, every part of the body suffers with it".

It also wakes us up when we are sleeping or at risk of hurting ourselves.

This autumn SOMA UK has had teams in Lebanon, Rwanda, South Sudan, Ireland, Uganda and the National Director has visited with 14 of the Global South Archbishops in Egypt. It has been quite a ride. Our SOMA International partners have extended that reach worldwide. With each visit teams have brought back perspective and passion for their home church and context. One team saw thousands come to faith as part of a Diocesan wide mission, and got to pray on a prayer mountain with 5000 intercessors. A perspective we sorely need in the West. Olive branches of hope that say the current cultural flood you are facing need not sweep you away. Messages of encouragement that give us strength for today.



Archbishop Justin Badi making connections around the world

SOMA reaching a new generation: META Youth

We are now into our second META Youth programme. While a fresh cohort of international 16-19 years olds has been recruited and have started their weekly training the first cohort has carried on meeting together when their programme has finished! It has been such a joy to see how they flourished on mission in Lebanon after a year of discipleship, character building and leadership development.

Even before the mission the young people were calling META youth 'life changing', but when you add in the chance to serve Syrian children and Lebanese youth as part of a team that also equipped and encouraged the adult leaders it is clear that those changes have produced lasting fruit.

I was converted when I went on a church mission to Romania, aged 17, when suddenly out of my depth, I prayed for the Holy Spirit. So I have always been keen young people experience the Global Church. As the second cohort begins we are preparing for a new mission trip on another continent, and wondering how God might use SOMA UK and META Youth programme to change many lives in the UK and beyond.



Syrian children watching to see if our META Youth team can act as well as they do



META Youth team enjoy time in the upper room

SOMA Missions

This term we have been in Ireland, Egypt, Lebanon, Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan. You can keep up with all our SOMA Stories on somauk.org/blog, and there are lots of highlights.

In **Uganda** SOMA Trustee Wayne Massey was part of a team that reaped the fruit of earlier SOMA missions to South Rwenzori. The Diocese had been inspired to reach a million people in a week, and after our 2021 visit had trained 2500 evangelists! Wayne got to see hundreds of conversions, healings and incredible faith as part of a mission that ended up planting more than 20 churches into the various archdeaconries and saw more than 6700 recorded conversions. You can see a video report on our blog and YouTube channel.

Experienced SOMA Pastor Kay Hunter Johnson recently came back from **South Sudan** supporting new team leaders



Graduating from SOMA Youth Training Conference in South Sudan

Right: Crowds gather across the diocese in South Rwenzori for week of mission



Paul and Becky Harcourt. They are also joined by younger International team members William Malish and Ronald Chol who have made the costly journey from Ugandan settlement camps to be there. It makes such a difference to have these mixed teams come together for teaching and modelling life. And what a

SOMA UK Appeal: Our Budget Need

You may know that SOMA is 45 years old as a mission, with a wonderful heritage to celebrate. That means a few things for us though:

One is that many of the original SOMA supporters are now cheering us on from heavenly glory! We need new generations of individuals and churches to rise up and stand with us financially, in prayer, on teams and in giving of their time. The good news is it is an incredibly rewarding ministry to get involved with. Few charities get to see the high level impact we have from teams and training around the world. Someone has said it is a bit like supporting a 'Spiritual SAS' [Commando Unit], who fly in, make an impact, and leave a legacy of hope that lasts for generations to come.

To increase our capacity to bring back olive branches of hope to the UK as we connect the nervous system, and to enable fruitful teaching to continue around the world, we need to raise up teams and funding. As we head into 2024 we once again face a substantial deficit budget (£45,000) and there is so much more we could do if we could increase our budget further. We are not daunted because our history at SOMA is the story of miracles of provision and we have seen God provide extraordinarily for our work. But many of the areas we minister in have seen costs of travel, food and fuel skyrocketed in the wake of global disasters, and we really need your support to keep going.

We would love to send more young people, ordinands and active church leaders and members on missions, to wake up the body of Christ here in the UK, while also sending them with experienced SOMA Pastors.

Your support provides:

- good enough administration to make this all happen.
- Sponsorship for team members who cannot afford some/all of their costs.
- Developing online and print resources for follow up from missions.
- Grants for running missions in areas which cannot afford to train clergy or lay people
- Funds to help us enhance our commitment to young people, and those in training for church leadership.
- To connect the body of Christ in the UK with the Global South and bring olive branches of hope here through amplifying the stories of what God is saying and doing around the world.
- To fund our National Director and small part-time staff team to spearhead all this.

SOMA is a tiny organisation that punches way above its weight. Every pound you can send makes a substantial difference.

joy to see Paul and Becky Harcourt, who are used to talking to thousands of people at conferences, seeing what God is doing in South Sudan. Paul writes:

“At the end of the first session on Wednesday, we were asked to pray for several sick people. In the event about twenty came forward. As a result, we brought forward the teaching on healing to the following session, so that we might try and train them to pray for each other. They joined in enthusiastically. We had an extended time of prayer with a family that turned up with a sick child. The wife had taken her to the witch doctor but the husband was repentant and wanted them all to turn to Christ. As well as prayers of cleansing and deliverance from evil, we prayed for the child’s healing. The family also threw away charms from the witch doctor, which were taken away to be burnt. The spiritual battle is very real over these people’s lives.”

In **Ireland** a group of intercessors returned to Down and Dromore and saw the ongoing impact of the SOMA International mission in June as well as learning how to see

spiritual breakthroughs in churches. In **Egypt** National Director Richard Moy was able to meet with 14 of the senior Archbishops from around the world and received many more invitations to partner with countries in the Global South for SOMA Missions, including in the Province of Alexandria. The **Rwanda** mission already mentioned both consolidated past ministry and opened new doors in newly formed dioceses, preparing the way for future missions as well.

We praise God for opening so many doors for SOMA to walk through at the moment, and for all the opportunities to come.



SOMA International

We are organising to respond to over 70 viable invitations for mission in the coming 2-3 years, working in partnership with SOMA International colleagues. These will include missions to reach a whole Province with SOMA teaching, through a three stage strategy. First we do a central teaching event with invited national delegates, second we form mini-teams to each archdeaconry of three international and three local members to equip local delegates in each archdeaconry. From the archdeacons the third stage is for these delegates to take the teaching to the parishes. This builds on the successes in Shyogwe, Rwanda in April 2023. Our follow on SOMA Parish Mission Team revisited 6 months later: Greg, the team leader writes:

"It has been very encouraging in terms of feedback on earlier teaching. Real results in terms of understanding; coupled with fruitful implementation. To be honest I was rather blown away. The pastor told me they were using their SOMA training to replicate and apply the teaching on healing and prophecy into their regular parish activities."

So in 2024 we are intending to do SOMA Province missions in Tanzania and Kenya and will be recruiting large teams to take part in these high impact missions. Tanzania dates are already out 29 May - 8 June, with Kenya anticipated for the autumn. Check somauk.org for updates.



Final Thoughts

One of the things I have noticed with teams this year is how many team members have had deep and life altering prayer ministry during team prayer times. In April we saw one of the oldest team members (85) minister a father's blessing to people in a powerful way. At other times we have had team members delivered from spiritual forces or curses that have impacted them for years, but only became manifest to them when they stepped out in SOMA ministry. All of this has been gentle, kind and left a lasting change.

Truly the nervous system of the body of Christ is a great analogy for SOMA's work. We are living at a time when we need to amplify the voice of the Global South in our Western context to bring us hope and remind us of our old, old story which the West is in danger of forgetting. And we are also so encouraged that we have something to offer too! Those inviting us keep reporting that SOMA teams teaching and facilitate an encounter with God makes a lasting change to individuals, parishes and whole dioceses.

Thank you for your support for SOMA. Please do respond to this appeal in the most generous way you can.

For more information on how to give please contact us on info@somauk.org, check out the website or phone 03303 411 320



If you do not already receive SHARING by post, and would like to, simply complete the form below and post it to: SOMA UK, 295 Chiswick High Road, Suite 132, London, W4 4HH. or email info@somauk.org

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