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# SPREAD

Newsletter - July 2019

Dear SEAN friends and family,

*I love to eat. Sitting together with family and friends over a delicious meal – what could be better and more enjoyable than that? If we read the bible, we can see that Jesus and his disciples loved to eat as well. On one occasion when Jesus enjoyed a meal with them, he suddenly got up “took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.” John 13:4–5. Wow! What a surprise! Washing his friend’s feet. Together with this verse from Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”, we can understand why Jesus stood up and washed his friends’ feet. He wanted them to understand that he came to serve, not to be served. At the cross when Jesus carried our sins, this became an eternal truth. Through this we have forgiveness of our sins. HIS example to serve is incomparable.*

*At SEAN we are committed to serve our partners, churches and students around the world. We are extremely grateful for all our global partners who help us to serve. We are thankful because they honour our partnership agreement and help us financially to continue and extend our service. We are thankful, because they pass on new translations to us so we can pass them on to others who want to serve the church in other parts of the world. We are thankful for each and every one who supports our ministry in prayer and through donations.*

*Let’s take on Jesus attitude to serve each other. Together we can make a difference in this world.*

*Blessings,*

Dr. Markus Völker – SEAN International Director



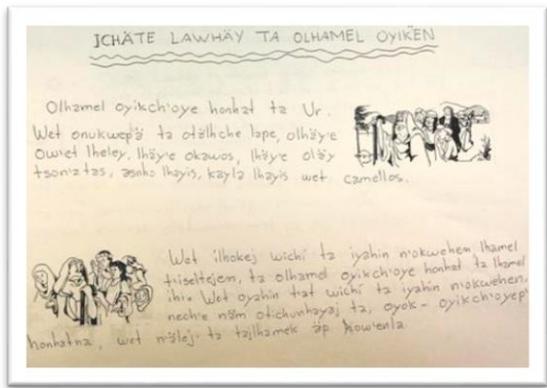
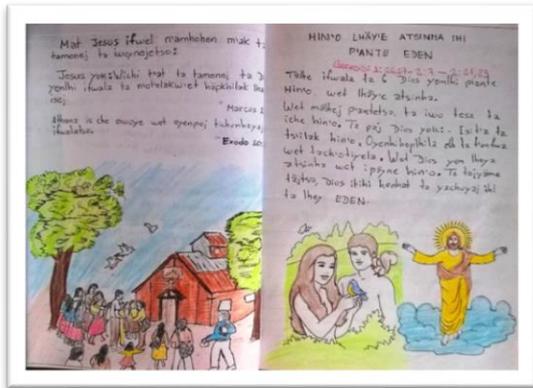
## Progress with our Wichí brothers and sisters in Northern Argentina.

Back in 1971, Wichí Christian leaders were amongst the first students in the world to take SEAN courses. At that time, there was good fruit, but only those literate in Spanish were able to study. However, since 2011, they have received some SEAN courses in their own Wichí language and this is producing good results in growth in the knowledge of God’s word and also in Wichí literacy levels.

Since 1919, faithful missionaries and native co-workers have been working on translations of books of the Bible. Now, at last, the task has been completed. So, having the Bible and some SEAN courses in Wichí, has opened up the study of God’s Word to many Wichí communities, as can be seen in these photos.



In a recent News Letter, we have heard about a wonderful unforeseen outcome of the use of the *Abundant Life* course, with its simple text and many illustrations. A number of Wichí Christian leaders have started to produce their own illustrated studies in Wichí for teaching in their local communities.



Here is a short testimony shared by a young Wichí student: *The Bible passages in the Abundant Life course have been a great help to me. I read them over and over again as they teach me the path I should be going along. The pictures also are full of teaching and help me. For example, the picture of a man reading the Bible and beside him, another man whose Bible is closed, while he is watching TV. This makes me think, what is more important, the Bible or TV? And what do I want to learn, the Bible or TV? So, the pictures also teach me, and I can share them with my relatives as they face difficulties in their lives.*



## Sudan - PTEE brings theological education to the next generation of Sudanese church leaders

PTEE Egypt National Committee members Victor Sadek and Wadie Girgis, along with PTEE Communications Director Kristyn Kuhlman, traveled to Kampala, Uganda to conduct PTEE Facilitator Training for the next generation of Sudanese Christian leaders. PTEE is working with Reverend Tut Kuny Nyang and Reverend Thomas Tut Puot, Sudanese brothers now living in Uganda who have previously studied with PTEE.



Twenty students from Sudan, South Sudan, and refugee camps in Uganda were invited to participate in the training which made possible by a grant from the Barnabas Fund. Many students travelled hours by bus from Darfur, Khartoum, and the Juba region of South Sudan to Kampala, Uganda. Still others came from the Rhino refugee camps and the Bidi Bidi refugee camps in Uganda. The vast majority of these students have come to Christ out of the majority faith background of their families.



## Sierra Leone – “The first batch of SEAN trainers ready for mission”

[by Mette Bjergbæk Klausen, from Relay Trust, SEAN’s partner in Sierra Leone]

*“Testing, testing, 1 – 2 – 3. Are you ready for something completely new? To be equipped for ministry in your own congregation here in Sierra Leone, using a discipleship course developed by SEAN International in Latin America, through an online e-course from Crosswired in Asia? No need to be confused; we’ll take one step at the time. It’s going to be different, it’s going to be modern and hi-tech, it’s going to be great! Are you ready?”*

Ten sets of highly focused eyes shine back at me in response: Some very excited, some a bit doubtful, but all smiling in anticipation. I have young people, mature people, women and men, and from three different church denominations, so it is a good diverse group.

This is an e-learning course for people, who are going to lead their own study groups for Christian formation afterwards. However, one thing is to get the technology to work, another thing is the human factor: Will our intended participants accept such an alternative form? ...With a sigh of relief I note, that they are highly focused on the teachings and fully engaged in the discussions and assignments. During a soft drink break one participant, Daniel, spontaneously proposes a toast to SEAN for making this course available. “Where can we get more training?”, Solomon wants to know. Success: The new form is embraced whole-heartedly.



Ten days later after the completion of the course, eight out of ten participants have formed their own groups and are ready to begin the work later this week. The baton has been set in motion.”



## Australia – extracts from an update on a vision evening & group leader training in Sydney...

“About 60 people turned up on a cold, wet evening to hear stories about what God is doing through TEE across Asia and already in Sydney. It was a powerful, envisioning time. Then the following day we held a TEE Group Leaders Training Day (level 1) which 43 people attended! It was a challenge to have three different courses used for the practice sessions (Abundant Life, Come Follow Me (CFM), and Life of Christ (in Chinese)) but it worked out well. There was a wonderful mix of people – Chinese, Anglo, Iranians, Arabs, Malaysians, Pakistanis and several pastors from Anglican churches, some of whom now hope to start up their own TEE classes for the diaspora in Sydney!

In summary, there is much to thank the Lord for and much to pray for, as TEE starts to get established and grows in different languages, firstly in Sydney and then maybe in different parts of Australia, as the Lord leads. All glory to Him!”

*By Rachel Green - Increase Equipper*



## The SEAN team, thank the Lord for LIZ RICHARDS

30/04/1930 – 07/03/2019



Elizabeth Richards was born in idyllic Woody Bay in Devon, England. She had a varied education which led her to read English at the Royal Holloway College, to train as a secretary, to obtain a Diploma in Theology at St Michael's house in Oxford and, after that, a postgraduate teaching certificate in Cambridge. It was as a New Testament tutor at St Michaels' house that she felt a clear call to serve the Lord in Paraguay.

Between 1961 and 1971 Elizabeth served in the Paraguayan Chaco. Her gift with languages, her profound biblical knowledge and her secretarial skills enabled her to teach literacy, translate parts of the Bible into Enthlit, the local native language. She was much loved by the local people as she adapted to the

extreme conditions of the Chaco with its high temperatures and very primitive life style. The fruitfulness of her ministry in the Chaco led to her being invited to become a founder member of the team, when SEAN (Study by Extension for All Nations) was formed in 1971 in Tucumán, Argentina.

She remained in Paraguay, but helped and served at every level. As part of the team, she played a major role in preparing the *Abundant Life* course, which has now been translated into over 70 languages and is used in many countries around the world. She also helped with editing and proof reading of many other SEAN courses. Her legacy also has provided us with a simple devotional course of daily readings of scripture and a course on Christian Meditation, which is yet to be published.

After 38 years in Paraguay, Liz returned to the UK where she continued with SEAN as a Trustee, as a member of both the 'Lydia Prayer Fellowship' and of the 'Friends of Israel'. She helped many people in many ways and in many places. When eventually old age caught up with her, she became a much loved and active resident of the Abbeyfield retirement home in Minehead, Somerset. Finally, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, 2019, after a good lunch, she retired to her room for her sacred 'Paraguayan siesta', she woke up to the songs of Angels in Heaven...

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## Supporting SEAN International Financially

We are so grateful to all those who choose to give financially to support SEAN International.

Information about how to give can be found on our website at:

<http://www.seaninternational.com/support-us.html>

- Donations can be made online via PayPal or our secure online giving facility at [give.net](https://my.give.net/seandonationgen).  
(<https://my.give.net/seandonationgen>)
- If you would like to give regularly to SEAN International, please complete the [bankers' standing order form](#) and post it back to us at the address below.
- If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to 'Gift Aid' your donation, please use the [Gift Aid declaration form](#).
- By post, please make your cheque payable to 'SEAN International' and send it to: **SEAN International, Ferndale, Cranston Road, East Grinstead, W Sussex RH19 3HL**

**Thank you so much for your support for SEAN International**