



SEAN International
SPREAD
Newsletter
March 2020

Dear readers of Spread,

Recently I went for a walk on the beach of Eastbourne in the UK. I especially like the small beach huts that you can see everywhere. With a size of 6-8 square meters they are not too big. And yet, everyone who owns such a beach hut is happy about it. At one beach hut the following information was written: This beach hut was used by their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary in the month of March 1935. Wow. A king for a visit. What an event and what an honour for that owner of the beach hut!

The king of heaven and earth, Jesus, came to us many years ago. Today HE lives in us. We are His children. What an honour. And Jesus will come again. Until then, we want to proclaim His kingdom faithfully as His children. To help Christians all over the world to get to know him better. To love Him more. That others may also hear of this good news. I wish you God's blessing for the New Year. Keep up the good work.


Blessings,
Markus

Note. In the last issue of SPREAD we reported about the work among the Wichí in Argentina. As it seems, we did not have all the facts. Rev. Maurice M.H. Jones kindly pointed out to us that he and other faithful missionaries had already started translating training material for the Wichí in the 1980s. Thank you for sharing this information with us.

SEAN Costa Rica celebrates 40 years!



On their website, (www.seancostarica.org) they give thanks to God for the last 40 years that has allowed them to be a training tool for the church...

 "More than 35,000 registered students, 4500 tutors, who have grown in the knowledge of the Word, fulfilling our motto: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." II Timothy 2: 2.

"It is difficult in so few lines to write about 40 years of our journey, and to honour so many people that with love, passion, effort etc. have fought for SEAN. God has looked at our walk and we know that he will reward each one in a unique way. We have learned with each of our students, and tutors, listening to their testimonies of transformation, and the awakening of their desire for service thanks to SEAN.

God gave Brothers Tony and Terrick Barratt this system that without selfishness they have shared with everyone, and we in COSTA RICA have enjoyed taking it to every corner, crossing Central American borders, instructing the north of our continent and even crossing the sea to Africa (Thanks Familia Rodríguez). Neither the Barratts or the pioneers of SEAN COSTA RICA would have imagined that SEAN would have spread throughout the world and that together we could reach so many countries.

With forty years of love for GOD demonstrated in the service of SEAN COSTA RICA, let us continue teaching others so that they in turn teach others so the church of the Lord will grow, be strengthened and perfected. To God be the glory and honour."

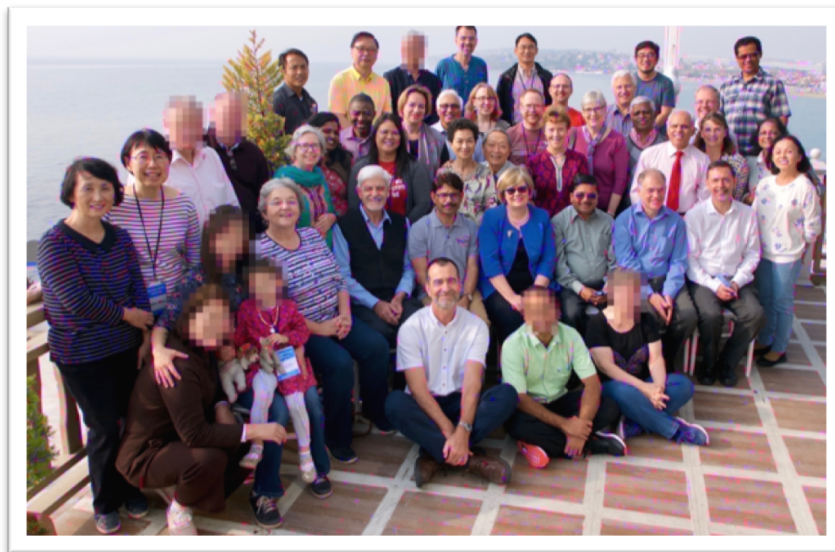


Across Asia, SEAN is privileged to work with the Increase Association (www.increaseassociation.org), which exists to facilitate church-based training throughout Asia and beyond.

Most of the members of the Increase Association use SEAN courses. In November 2019, the **Increase Teams' Gathering** brought together almost fifty people from nearly twenty different nations, including some restricted countries. We met in Silivri, near Istanbul, Turkey.

This gathering brought together:

- the *Equippers' Team* - twenty people who give time each year to serve member movements of the Association in many countries
- the *Increase Committee* - which gives oversight and accountability for the Association
- the *Support Team* - currently two people, in administration and communications
- the *Intercessors' Team* - who pray for all kinds of needs around the Association
- the *Increase Trust UK* - trustees of the UK charity that supports Increase
- the *Diaspora Task Group* - a team helping the Association respond to the opportunities for using TEE to disciple Asian Christians outside their homelands
- the *Course Writers' Trainers* - who are equipping new course writers in Increase member movements.



Some invited guests, who had not previously been to an Increase event, commented on the sense of “family, unity and common purpose”. This is God at work, and we are especially grateful!

On the final day, people were asked what was the best thing about the Gathering...

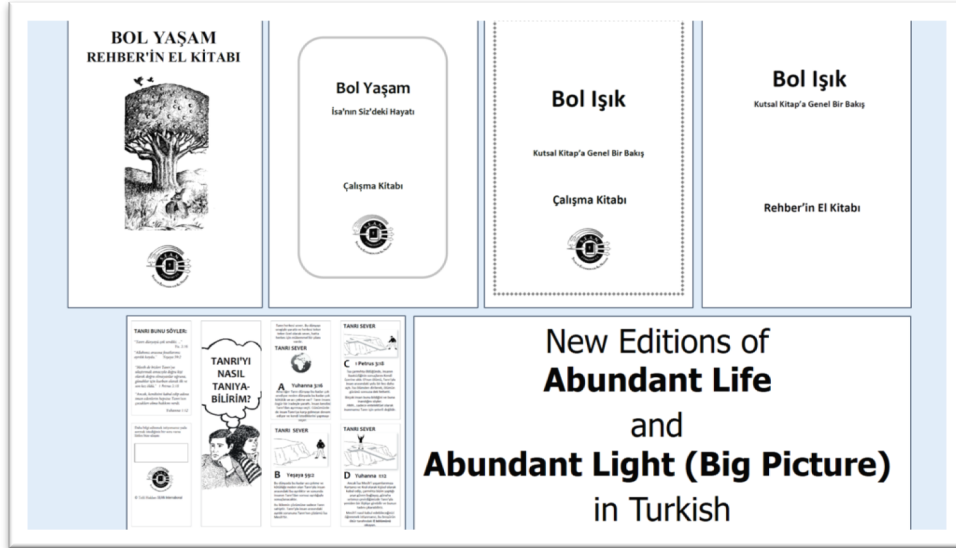
Here are some of the things they said:

- “To experience that basic TEE lessons are really profound”
- “To see national TEE groups in new countries”
- “To sense the family of God in unity and purpose. There is a lot of work being done and there is also a deep sense of family. It feels like a foretaste of heaven.”
- “To see how the diaspora ministry can benefit my country”
- “It’s both spiritual and business. It does not feel like a conference but like a spiritual retreat. And yet we get a lot of work done.”
- “It’s a blessing to hear about grassroot level and new courses for new contexts.”

We are grateful to God for this thriving movement in Asia and the privilege of working with so many people committed to the vision of training God’s people in their context.

New Courses available in Turkish and Farsi.

Our new partner in Turkey has been revising materials that were produced many years ago. The new editions of Abundant Life and Abundant Light (Big Picture) have now been completed and they are beginning work on the Life of Christ courses. Another partner has now completed a first draft of Abundant Life in Farsi. For more information about these courses, please contact us.



The Continent of Africa

The Revd Tony Thompson is a Trustee of SEAN International and, also, our Regional Coordinator for Africa. He writes:- Having never set foot in the continent of Africa, I often feel quite unqualified for the role of SEAN's Regional Coordinator for Africa. Over the years, however, via email mainly, I have learned much from those who live and work there and seen a number of new SEAN training programmes develop. I now share details of just a few. I begin with Portuguese speaking Africa - Angola and Mozambique



Angola

For many years, SEAN's only partner in Angola has been the Anglican Diocese of Angola. The Diocese uses SEAN's 'Life of Christ' course in its training programme for church leaders. In 2019, a mission organisation, based in Luanda, and called 'The Hour of Prophecy', became our second partner in the country. Very soon, they will be embarking on the 'Abundant Life' discipleship course in two centres - Luanda, the capital, and Huambo Province. On February 9th they begin the 'Life of Christ' leadership training course.

Currently, I am exploring with a Canadian missionary the possibility of his organisation becoming our third partner in Angola. He already has knowledge and experience of the SEAN 'Life of Christ' course.



Mozambique

There, several churches and mission organisations use SEAN materials. One, a Spanish NGO, uses the 'Abundant Life' course in a combined discipleship and literacy programme. Another, the Anglican Diocese of Niassa, uses the 'Life of Christ' course for training leaders. A third, launched their training programme two years ago with the 'Big Picture' course which gives an overview of the whole Bible. They are now working their way through the 'Life of Christ' course.

Currently, I am in correspondence with a Brazilian missionary whose church, in Brazil, has a vision to support ministry in Mozambique. She has studied the 'Life of Christ' course in Brazil. Now, the plan is to use this course in Northern Mozambique in a three-year leadership training programme. There will be 40 students in all - 37 from Mozambique,

doing their home study using the Portuguese version, and 3 from neighbouring Malawi doing their home study using the English version! (Over the years, we have come across other examples of students, in the same group, doing their home study in different languages, and then participating in the group meeting in a common language.)

And now for two countries from English speaking Africa.



Kenya

For several years, we have enjoyed partnership with a mission organisation called 'Water for the Needy International' whose Director is a Korean from the USA. WFNI uses a number different SEAN courses. One very valuable development from that ministry was the production of a newly translated version of the 'Abundant Life' course in Kiswahili published in March 2019. Now, we have a second partner in Kenya, namely 'Centre for Ministerial Training' with whom we signed an Agreement in November 2019. CMT is launching their programme with two SEAN courses:- 'Abundant Life' and 'The Big Picture'.



Uganda

One of the important principles of SEAN is that of adapting course material to suit the country and culture in which it is used. Thanks to our colleagues in SEAN UK, a large training programme, using SEAN courses, was established some years ago within the Anglican Church in Uganda.

I learned recently of several ways in which they have adapted the course material for use in Uganda. Based on the words of their programme director in Uganda, I share just one example which, although simple, is illuminating. *"We have not found it necessary to change the personal names used in lessons because since we have different cultures and partly have an English heritage, the names were found not to have any big problem so most of them were kept in. The only name that was changed was Lorraine. This was changed to Maria as this is common here but Lorraine doesn't exist at all in our cultures."*

I close with one more example mentioned by their programme director.

"We have also scaled down on the quality of the printing paper to make the SEAN books more affordable to print and supply in Uganda. The books are now affordable for most average urban based congregations and accessible and very acceptable to users in the East African community."

by Tony Thompson

Supporting SEAN International Financially

We are so grateful to all those who choose to give financially to support SEAN International. Your gifts help us to work towards our vision of seeing 'Local churches worldwide empowering all their members for whole life discipleship, mission and ministry in their context.'



Information about how to give can be found on our website at: <http://www.seaninternational.com/support-us.html>

- Donations can be made via Paypal by using the 'Donate' button
- 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**
- Online you can use our secure online giving facility at give.net. (<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 above.
- If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to 'Gift Aid' your donation, please use the [Gift Aid declaration form](#).

Thank you very much for your support for SEAN International

Our mailing address is: SEAN International, Ferndale, Cranston Road, East Grinstead, W Sussex RH193HL. United Kingdom