



SPREAD NOVEMBER 2009

News for Friends of SEAN International

From the Chairman—Tony Thompson

This edition of SPREAD follows 'hot on the heels' of our September Conference*, and therefore it contains many of the stories and news items that we heard there.

As you read, you may be amazed at what God is doing in some parts of the world. As you reflect, you may see beyond the words to the dedication of our fellow Christians who live out their faith in difficult and often hostile situations.

We hope that this newsletter will encourage you in your faith and life. Thank you for your ongoing support in prayer and giving. We appreciate it very much.



Tony Thompson

*A joint venture of SEAN International and Matheteuo, at the Axminster TASK Centre, Weycroft Hall.

SEAN — Beginnings and Growth

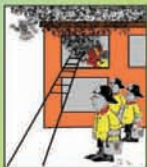
At the start of the Conference, Terry Barratt, our International Director, related the story of SEAN. He spoke of its initial modest, yet important, objectives—to train ordinary members of the Anglican Church in South America for leadership.

He went on to describe SEAN's quite phenomenal growth to the point where today SEAN Courses are used all over the world, by churches, missions, and denominations, to train and equip Christians for ministry and service. Many programmes of Theological Education by Extension (TEE) make major use of SEAN Courses. Thousands of Church leaders have built their ministry upon the principles and practice of the SEAN approach to education and training.

Early in the writing stage, it was decided that the courses would need to be.....

SIMPLE

For many, with only basic education, doing a course at a traditional Theological College or Seminary, was like trying to climb a ladder that had the bottom rungs missing!



So SEAN set out to design courses that would fill in those missing rungs and thus make training accessible to a far wider section of the community.

BIBLICAL

It soon became clear that other churches and denominations were keen to use SEAN courses in their training programmes.

So the SEAN team committed themselves to preparing a Basic Biblical Cake.



Each denomination, with its own particular emphases, would then be free to put on to that cake, its own icing!



PRACTICAL

The Sea of Galilee is a place of LIFE because it receives and gives as the River Jordan flows out of it as well as into it.

The Dead Sea, on the other hand, is a place of DEATH because there is no 'outflow'.

SEAN courses ensure a practical 'outflow' from each lesson.

SEA OF GALILEE



DEAD SEA



AND....
THAT THEY
WOULD
COMBINE
HOME STUDY
WITH
TUTOR-LED
GROUP
MEETINGS



Countries where SEAN Courses are in use: (some are not named for security reasons)

AFRICA
Angola
Botswana
Dem Rep of Congo
Eq. Guinea — by radio
Ethiopia
Ghana
Malawi
Mali
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
South Africa
Sudan
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia by radio

ASIA
Afghanistan by radio
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
China
India
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan + others in
Central Asia
Mongolia
Nepal
Pakistan
Russia
Sri Lanka

AUSTRALASIA
Australia
New Zealand
Papua New Guinea
Tonga

CENTRAL AMERICA
Belize
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
Mexico
Netherlands Antilles
Nicaragua
Panama

SOUTH AMERICA
Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Guyana
Paraguay
Peru
Surinam
Venezuela

NORTH AMERICA
Canada
USA (including videos for the deaf)

EUROPE
Albania
Bulgaria
France
Germany
Hungary
Italy
Latvia by radio
Netherlands by radio
Portugal
Romania
Spain
Sweden
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

cont.....

SEAN TEE Ministry in China



Of the 1,600 million people in China, about 10%, 160 million, are Christians. Every day, about 15,000 turn to Christ. This is the equivalent of 100 new churches springing up on a daily basis.

Given such rapid expansion, the training of leaders is vital. New leaders are needed to keep pace with church growth. Existing leaders, most of whom are lay pastors, urgently need theological training. Many, in both groups, are denied access to training because of the Chinese Government's policies on religion.

Today, SEAN Courses play a major role in providing this much needed leadership training. How did this come about? Here are aspects of the China SEAN TEE story. For security reasons names of those involved are not given.

How and When was TEE started in China?

In 1992 a Korean – American missionary, **H**, started going to China on short-term missions. He saw the need of the Chinese Church to raise up great numbers of "trained" Church leaders. So, during the years 1992-1995, he started to train six leaders in L province using courses then available in Chinese.

Although those leaders were appreciative of what they learned, the courses did not equip them to teach others because they were too advanced for them.

In other words, there was no reproduction!

Back in 1992, **H** had been shown SEAN TEE Courses by the then Director of Intercultural Ministry in the Christian & Missionary Alliance. He was impressed and thought TEE would be ideal for training Chinese leaders, but, at that time, the courses were not available in Chinese.

In 1996, **H** became an ordained pastor and planted a new church in a town in California. Immediately he started using SEAN TEE Courses for the training of prospective leaders in this newly born church. One of those leaders, was then sent to L province to test the SEAN 'Life of Christ' Course Book 1 with the group there.

A Korean missionary in Beijing, **E**, had been searching for almost 10 years for good training material.

In 1996 she happened to visit L province and saw that SEAN Book. She liked what she saw!



In 1997, **E** visited the US to discuss, with **H**, translating the SEAN TEE material into Chinese. It was agreed that: i) she would return to China and supervise the translation; ii) two full time translators would be hired, and; iii) funding would be provided by **H**'s church.

By November 1998 in Beijing, Book 1 of the 'Life of Christ' course was available in the Chinese language. **H** went to China and trained five Chinese Christians (two of whom were the translators), and **E**, the Korean missionary who had supervised the translation.

This was the very first SEAN TEE class held in China!

Four Korean missionaries in other cities heard that TEE was now available in Chinese. They asked **H** to train them in its use. Their training took place in Tianjin, April, 1999. These four Korean missionaries tested SEAN TEE in their fields of mission. They liked the results. They proposed to **H** that TEE be made available to other Korean missionaries.

In 2000, 15 Korean missionaries from several major cities were trained. By then, a team of four trainers, (consisting of **H**, **E**, and two others) had been formed. Upon completion of the training, the 15 went back to their mission fields and began to introduce TEE to Chinese Christians.

The year 2000 was when TEE was formally introduced to the Chinese Church!

TEE in China is a Movement

There has been, and still is, no organization to run TEE in China, and no paid staff. Between 2000 and 2006, the team of four worked together as volunteers. Many workshops were held in different cities in China. The volunteers would come to workshops at their own expense to serve in training leaders.

TEE spread by Korean Missionaries

The main way that TEE ministry in China and abroad developed was through **H**'s relationship with other Korean missionaries. The little team of four, trained 250 Korean missionaries between 2000 and 2005. Through these 250 Korean missionaries, TEE really took off and spread throughout China.



CHINA TEE *continued*

A beautiful story

B is a Korean missionary - one of the four who were trained in Tianjin by **H** in 1999. **B** trained 18 Church leaders in the year 2000. These 18 students then trained 340 students, and these 340 students went on to train 1,500 students in the year 2005. Although not all SEAN TEE training programmes will see such dramatic growth, we can rightly assume that, at this very moment, many thousands of Church leaders are now in TEE classes in China and beyond.

A major leap forward

In **September, 2006**, **H** met up with a Chinese-American couple who were soon to be going to China as missionaries. They had Master of Divinity degrees and served a Chinese church in California.

H trained them, together with five other Chinese Christians. Then between **December 2006 and December 2007**, he travelled with this Chinese-American couple to many cities in China, giving them on-the-job training.

In **January 2008**, they began working independently and are currently training 10 groups in several cities.

We conclude this quite remarkable story with a vitally important observation by **H**, the Korean pastor who has been so instrumental in the development and expansion of SEAN TEE in China.



"Before these two Chinese workers joined this ministry, Korean missionaries contributed in a major way to the success of SEAN TEE in China. However, they had serious limitations in working within the mainstream of the Chinese Church due to several barriers: language, culture, and a lack of trust by the Chinese Church. In China, having a personal relationship is the key to success in any business deal. Establishing such relationships is simply too difficult for foreigners - including Korean missionaries.

This was all changed when these two Chinese workers became involved. In 2007, four TEE groups were opened up in Wenzhou, a major industrial city and known as 'Jerusalem of China'. This city has great influence amongst Chinese Christian communities in China. This move, of strategic importance, had not been possible with Korean missionaries. Now with Chinese workers in the field many doors are being opened up for the expansion of TEE ministry in China.

Negotiations are also taking place which will hopefully lead to the open publication of TEE materials in China."

SEAN INTERNATIONAL/MATHETEUO CONFERENCE WEYCROFT HALL 2009



Carol Freeman (SEAN Trustee)
with Bishop Bernard (Sudan)



Bishop Brighton (Malawi)



Jacqui & Rob Brown (SEAN
UK/Matheteuo)



Canon John and Mrs Joyce
Kateeba (Uganda)

Supporting SEAN International Financially

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MORE FACES OF SEAN



COLOMBIA 2009
 ← Group of Wayuu (indigenous) and others on completion of the SEAN Course "Preparation and Direction of Worship"
 → Graduation of 11 CIPEP* students from the University Javeriana with a degree in Religious Sciences. They gained credits towards their degrees through their completion of several major SEAN Courses. *Colombian Institute for Pastoral Education



← Graduation of "Abundant Life" for children, Colombia (Nov 2008) Also pictured: Terry Barratt, SEAN, and Nick Woodbury (Latin America Mission)

← Ubaldo Restan (on left) Director of CIPEP, talking to key Wayuu leaders from Colombia and Venezuela.

→ Carmen, converted from witchcraft, is a key coordinator for over 100 CIPEP students in Venezuela, all studying SEAN Courses.



More countries, where SEAN Courses are in use... MIDDLE EAST—Several countries

FAR EAST—Cambodia China Hong Kong Indonesia Japan Laos Macau Malaysia Myanmar Philippines Singapore South Korea Taiwan Thailand Vietnam

THANKSGIVING & PRAYER

CHINA Give thanks for the growth of SEAN TEE. Pray for the legalization of TEE there.

TEE CONFERENCE—WEYCROFT HALL
 Give thanks, with us, for the benefits gained by the sharing of encouragements and difficulties in SEAN programmes across a range of countries.

THE PEOPLE PICTURED HERE IN SPREAD

Pray for the people whose photos we have printed. We mention just a few:-

- Bishop Bernard (Sudan)** - in process of establishing a TEE programme in a situation of poverty and destruction
- Carmen (Venezuela)** - transformed by the power of Christ and exercising a key role in leadership.
- Jacqui and Rob Brown**—trainers and promoters of TEE SEAN in the UK and beyond.

COURSES

For SEAN courses in US English, and courses around the world, contact SEAN International at: contact@seaninternational.com

For SEAN courses in UK English, contact SEAN UK at: admin@sean.uk.net

WEBSITES

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www.sean.uk.net (English)

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