



SPREAD

MAY 2012

From the Chairman—Tony Thompson

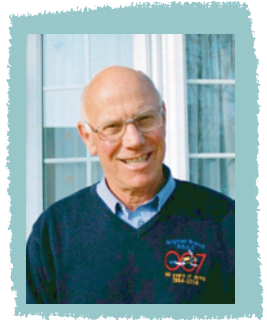
I am delighted to be able to share with you stories, testimonies and news of SEAN from four continents – Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe. In this edition of SPREAD we report on an imaginative and transforming work going on in rural Mozambique, Africa; our up-coming TEE/SEAN Hispanic Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina; important developments in new and older programmes, and tributes to three much loved members of the SEAN family.

Before you read on, I'd like to assure you of our deep thankfulness for your ongoing support.

We appreciate this very much especially in these difficult economic times.

As you read on you will see how your prayers and gifts are bearing fruit.

Tony Thompson



Mozambique



SEAN & Literacy

They use SEAN courses, more particularly, the *Abundant Life Course* (also published as *Life to the Full*) with the double objective of teaching people to read and write, and also to learn from God's word. This programme operates as "The Bible School of Marcação". It is bringing hope to all, especially the women of the villages. In 2011, 147 people completed their first course. This year, over 200 are enrolled in the literacy and Bible study classes.

The SEAN Study Method is proving ideal in this situation. The combination of simple lessons, using the Bible and weekly group meetings led by a trained tutor provide an excellent learning experience. In addition, all are encouraged to live out what they learn and to serve the Lord as members of their local church

continued overleaf.....

Marcação

Near the mouth of the mighty Zambezi river, lies a marginalised and isolated area known as Marcação. In this place a remarkable work is being done in which SEAN Courses (in Portuguese) are playing a key role.

The people of Marcação live in extreme poverty. Illiteracy is widespread. The latest figures state that 90% of the women there are unable to read and write. The figures for men are better but still need to be improved.

In this difficult and deprived area, there is a network of vibrant growing churches, served by Christians from Spain and Colombia. Not only are they sharing the message of Christ, but they are also tackling the problem of the widespread illiteracy that exists there. This work is having a positive impact on the whole community.



Mozambique – continued

But how is all this possible in such a deprived area?

Firstly: because the SEAN courses are made available to students, at a lower price than the cost of printing.

Secondly: because all of the tutors do this work voluntarily – working to earn their living during the day and tutoring in their spare time. They seek to apply the Biblical principle: “freely you have received, freely give”.

Thirdly: because of generous giving by those who support this project.



What are their needs?

First, funds to provide Bibles and subsidise the production of the SEAN courses.

Secondly, the purchase and upkeep of bicycles!! Many of the study groups are far from the village centres and the tutors have to cycle up to 18 kms (11 miles) along dusty tracks to reach study groups of 30-35 people. These men have jobs to hold down so only have a limited amount of time for this ministry. Bicycles enable them to make these teaching trips more quickly. But given the rough terrain, the demands on the bicycles is considerable so their regular maintenance needs to be provided for.

Alongside all the above, goes the need for ongoing prayer.

Footnote!

The Bible School of Marcação is inter-denominational and trains students from several different churches. Poverty is such that even some of the pastors don't have a Bible of their own!

This work is run by a Christian Non-Governmental Organisation called “Dignidad” (Dignity), which is based in Spain. Due to the recession in Spain, Dignidad's funding has been cut dramatically! Consequently some of their secretarial personnel can no longer be paid and are living on social security whilst they continue to serve God in this work.

Any donation towards the funding of Bibles, SEAN courses and bicycles will be a great help towards the continuation of Dignidad's important ministry in Mozambique.

If you feel led to support this ministry, please send your gift to SEAN International and mark it “Marcação”. Thank you!



UGANDA – Late Extra!

We were delighted to receive this photo from Uganda, just as we went to press!

Daniel Muwanguzi of SEAN UGANDA (TEE) holds in his hands three translations of the SEAN Course ‘Life to the Full’ (Abundant Life).

In his right hand is the version in Luganda - one of the most widely spoken languages in Uganda. This was published last year and has been well received by many local churches.

Pressed to his chest, Daniel holds the Runyatikare translation (red copy) and, in his left hand is the translation into Alur (blue and white) – both are regional languages.

These last two are ‘hot off the press’ this year! They represent great commitment on the part of those who translated and field-tested them. We, in SEAN International, are pleased to have been able to help fund their printing. By the time you read this, these course books may well already be in the hands of Runyatikare and Alur speaking Christians?



Alan and Gill Burchell

by Judy Birmingham

We are sad to have to announce the passing of Alan and Gill Burchell, who have been long time supporters and workers for SEAN.

Their home in Wallington London, was in constant use as a place of refuge for SEAN personnel who experienced hospitality and rest. Alan was secretary to the SEAN International Trustees for a number of years and he was also a Reader at their local church, St Patrick's, Wallington.

Gill was a great support to him in both of these roles. Together they worked tirelessly in all aspects of SEAN and Church life.

After a tragic accident in their home, Gill was taken to hospital and died on the 15th December last year. Shortly afterwards, Alan was struck down with pneumonia and died in hospital on the 26th January. Please pray for their five children as they struggle to come to terms with the loss of both parents.

Although this is a sad time for all of us, in the SEAN family, we can rejoice in the fact that they are now together with the Lord.



Margaret Turner

by the Revd Terrick Barratt

Margaret was a wonderful and generous lady. Perhaps her only fault (if you can call it a fault?) was that she was so concerned for others that she gave very little thought to herself.

Her service as a nurse in the Araucanian Mission in the south of Chile was both sacrificial and absolutely outstanding. She was steadfast in her support of the ministry at San Pedro Church in Viña del Mar, Chile, serving quietly in the background without making a song and dance about things.

Her work for SEAN was carried out with similar commitment. During her 20 years as a member of the SEAN team, she never once arrived at the office late, never left early and never refused to do what was asked of her. Glued to her computer screen when almost blind, (in spite of our advice not to abuse her sight), she did not waver even for one minute. She was always ready to learn new technologies, and all for the love of the Lord as she never received a salary – only a small contribution with which to provide for her retirement.

Without doubt, Margaret is receiving in glory the wonderful words, *"Good and faithful servant....enter into the joy of your Lord"*.

A Typical Email (This email arrived recently. It is typical of the many that we receive).

Dear Brothers,

22 years ago I completed the SEAN courses: Abundant Life, Life of Christ, and the Life of St Paul. That was the most precious thing that God enabled me to do. I have now been given the opportunity to teach the new Christians in my local church. That's why I am asking for your help in getting hold of the materials that I need. Where can I buy the course books? I live in Argentina in the Chaco Province in Presidencia Roque Saenz Peña. I look forward to hearing from you. Greetings from the bottom of my heart and many blessings.

Hugo Lara

Supporting SEAN International Financially

If you would like to give a donation please make your cheque payable to 'SEAN International' and post it to:
Mr Philip Tadman, Ferndale, Cranston Road, East Grinstead, W Sussex RH19 3HL

So that we can acknowledge your kind gift, please enter your details below. Thank you!

Name..... Address.....
..... Postcode Email

If you would like to give regularly to SEAN International by Standing Order, please tick box
If you are a taxpayer and would like to 'Gift Aid' your donation, please use the Gift Aid form overleaf.



SEAN trustees news



Bolivia



We congratulate our partners in Bolivia, SETA, (*Seminary for Theological Education to the Americas*). They celebrated their 20th Anniversary on 29th April this year. Sixty congregations, from all over Bolivia, joined in this celebration of 20 years of ministry and leadership training with SEAN Courses. SETA is headed up by members of the Mennonite Churches but, in common with most SEAN programmes, ministers across the denominations. We look forward to continuing in partnership with SETA for many years to come.



Myanmar (Burma)

Earlier this year we granted a license for the translation of the SEAN *Abundant Life* Course into the Lahu language. Lahu is a minority language spoken in the region of Kyaing Tong, Eastern Shan State. This translation project is at a very early stage. When the translation is complete, people in over 20 churches in the region will benefit.



Argentina



Hispanic Conference

Buenos Aires:

24th—28th September 2012

People

As we go to press, signs are that most of the TEE/SEAN programmes in the Hispanic world will be represented at this Conference. They will come from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela. In addition we very much hope to also welcome delegates from Cuba, Puerto Rico and Spain.

Guests with special expertise and experience in the field of TEE will also join us from Argentina, the UK and the USA.

Place

The Conference will be held in a Catholic Retreat Centre which offers comfort at reasonable cost and all the facilities that we require

Purpose

To provide an opportunity for participants to share fellowship and friendship with others doing similar work.

To enable all to learn what is being done in TEE in other Hispanic countries and elsewhere in the world.

To seek to maximize collaboration between programmes and organisations.

To explore alternative educational models and materials in order to enrich current programmes.

Prayer

Our prayer is that this conference will renew, encourage, and strengthen all who participate.

Courses

For courses in US English, + other languages, contact SEAN International at: contact@seaninternational.com

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

Websites

www.seaninternational.com (English & Spanish)

www.sean.uk.net (English)

Addresses

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Tel: 01297 630104.
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Use space overleaf in which to provide your details. Thank you.