

SEAN International

SPREAD

45th Anniversary Edition July 2016

Thank you so much for your on-going partnership and support in this ministry. The 14th July will be SEAN's 45th anniversary. **So we are organising a day of prayer and thanksgiving in which we invite you to participate.** The purpose of this celebration and day of prayer is to thank God for the wider TEE ministry and SEAN's role within it, for the positive results worldwide and to ask for the Lord's guidance regarding our ministry. As you know, Sean is in the process of restructuring and renewing its leadership; therefore we need wisdom from on high to make the right decisions and also for the provision of the means to continue serving our partners.

Below are some snapshots of the work that continues to grow around our world. We hope you will be encouraged as you read...



Bolivia

Here is an extract from our partner SETE in Bolivia... *"Not long ago, I visited one of our study groups in Entreríos, located in the tropical region about 5 hours outside of Cochabamba. This group of students had formed in a newly planted congregation that met under a plastic tarp next to the home of one of the church's elders. While I was there, a 17-year-old girl named Herminia approached me and expressed how much God was teaching her from our SEAN TEE course. I congratulated her on being a student in our program, but Herminia responded that she wasn't actually one of our students, her mother was. But as her mother, a small Quechua lady, was illiterate, Herminia would read the course for her and together they would discuss how they could apply the Bible lessons to their life and family. It was heart-warming to me to see that the TEE lessons were not only spiritually impacting two believers at once but they were also strengthening the bond between Herminia and her mother."*



"Late last year an 80-year-old pastor named Napoleon stopped by our home to discuss matters relating to SETE, our Extension Seminary. He has been using our SEAN study materials for decades to disciple church leaders in a barren stretch of the Bolivian highlands where he has been pastoring for more than 60 years. Most people look at Napoleon and see a poor and insignificant old man, but I know him as a hero of the faith and a man of God who pioneered in the early years of the Bolivian evangelical church. His life has impacted many for Christ!"



Richard Hart, SETE, Bolivia



Colombia

Every few days we receive emails from people all over the world requesting to use our materials. It is wonderful to see how the word keeps spreading. Here is an example from the last couple of days from the north coast of Colombia... *"I am president of the Good News of Salvation church. We already have about 10 churches and we are interested in your programmes of theology. Our pastors and leaders need training and we believe that your courses are our best option.*

Pastor: Luis Martinez Monterroza, Colombia."



Albania

It is wonderful, to see churches in Albania actively using our courses again. It was exactly 20 years ago that our International Director Terry Barratt was there running a workshop with Dutch missionaries. But after that there was a change with mission policy and sadly the contact was lost. Now we have three groups that we know about - PTL!

Here is an extract from a newsletter from one of these groups, along with some recent photos of their students:



"3 words describe the ministry of our church "Discipleship Through Action". Every member of our churches will be part of a small group of 3, 4, max 5 persons. They will all study the same SEAN discipleship programme that will teach us: Who is Jesus? Why he came? What does He want us to do? What does it mean to be a Christian?"

"The small groups are working perfectly, they meet every week, and because they are small, they are flexible to the needs of the group members! So with just a few calls they can arrange the time and hour and never miss a meeting or activity! The other great thing about this programme is that it does not require the presence of all the leaders, one is enough! A further blessing is that the members of the group bond to each other very easily. Now all the load of the ministry is not on the pastor, this is a great change!"



Central Asia

We praise the Lord for the exiting conference 'Building on a Good Foundation' which brought together the leaders of the national TEE teams from: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and their supporting programme from Russia.

The work is growing quickly in many local churches in these countries despite severe government restrictions. Through the sacrificial ministry of these leaders, over 1300 Christians are being equipped through grassroots SEAN TEE across the region! Four Increase Equippers also helped in the training, alongside the national leaders.

For more information on the TEE programs offered in Central Asia please contact Increase in Kuala Lumpur www.increasenetwork.org

Asia

As a follow-up to last year's conference in Kuala Lumpur, when Increase was officially launched as an organisation, 25 people again came together this April from 14 countries for a conference entitled: 'Moving Forward Together'. Most of the participating organisations use SEAN materials at least as part of their curriculum.

Four Task Groups planned specific ways for Increase to respond to 21st century needs, focussing on four areas:

- Group Leader Training,
- Serving the Diaspora,
- Curriculum Development for the 21st Century,
- Transformative Learning.

In addition to the Task Groups, 14 people were commissioned as **Increase Equippers**. These are people with experience in TEE in different countries of Asia, and skills they can share with other countries. For instance they can help new national TEE teams start up in a healthy way, or equip existing teams in how to train and support local group leaders, or how to write new transformative courses.



A lively **digital brainstorming** session also helped us think how to use technology as we move forward.

'Moving Forward Together' was an important opportunity for SEAN to partner with Increase in this significant step forward. SEAN was represented by David Ball, our Regional Coordinator for Asia, as well as Tim Green and Graham Aylett who are both Trustees of SEAN as well as working for Increase.



Mozambique

There is nothing closer to our hearts than ministries that serve the needy with practical help and also share with them the Word of God. As reported in our 2012 SPREAD, Spanish NGO DIGNIDAD is one such ministry working in rural Mozambique, where in the Marcacao region over 80% of women cannot read or write.

To meet this need, DIGNIDAD set up a literacy programme in 2009 using our Abundant Life course. Since then, over a 1000 students have learned to read and write, and the programme has expanded to: 4 Districts, with 19 Study Centres, enabled by 17 voluntary trainers who cycle to the remote areas to fulfill their teaching ministry. Last year alone, 275 men and women were enrolled in the different levels of study.

Now they plan to triple these numbers by sharing with other churches and using the literacy programme to include a TEE programme for the leaders using the SEAN Life of Christ course.



You can find out more about NGO Dignidad at www.dignidad.es



China

In April, in China, a congress brought together over 80 leaders who use SEAN courses in regions of Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau and Malaysia. It was exciting to hear of what is going on there. Here are just three testimonies gathered from the many presented:

One pastor said: *"We had never seen something so easy, simple yet detailed and profound. Excellent for training church leaders. This is my vision and I am so happy and grateful we can use SEAN TEE."*

A lady present shared: *"Another church asked me how we trained lay people, so I showed them. Then they asked me to train them!! I am just an ordinary layperson but God used me to train pastors!! I have also led a group in my own church. In one year we gave 6 classes to new believers Abundant Life and Abundant Light (The Big Picture). This brought many blessing to people in our church and they in turn went out to lead classes to others. In our group there is one old man 'over 80 years old' he passes all the exams and works very hard."*

Another pastor shared: *"Our church had a revival because SEAN TEE classes teach the truth about being a disciple. We were 100 members in our church when we started the Abundant Life course as a required study for all new members. That way they began to grow and our church also started to grow and now we have 500 members. Because other churches saw the impact in our congregation, they asked us what happened, so we share with them TEE."*

Anniversary prayer topics:

We praise the Lord:

for so many wonderful testimonies of changed lives,
for the growth of serious local church based discipleship and leadership training
for the many churches mobilised in mission
for the 45 years of fruitful SEAN ministry

Please pray:

for several SEAN partners who have serious health issues
for the TEE ministry in lands of persecution
for SEAN's future, for new leadership and for the resources to continue the ministry.
for the new INCREASE organisation and network.

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). (<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