



'SEAN alone has brought the Bible alive'

International Director Terry Barratt reports on his visit to Korea

Incheon Airport was an impressive foretaste of what was to come. It made western airports a bit ordinary and Heathrow quite Palaeolithic. The drive into Seoul on wide multilane expressways jammed with modern cars (all Korean and not a banger in sight); the high modern buildings, neat parks and green spaces made me realise that I was in no small third-world country. But the most wonderful sight was of dozen upon dozen large shining red neon crosses perched on high steeples illuminating the sky line from horizon to horizon. Each was a visible sign of the presence of communities of God's people, and they were certainly not lights under a bushel!

Our arrival at our Retreat Centre made the East become more apparent. It was very modern and comfortable, but off came our shoes, and from then on it was sitting crossed legged on the floor for meetings and eating. The food was Korean and it was chopsticks or starve! I loved it – apart from the torture of sitting alongside the low tables.

Two SEAN workshops

I was in Korea for two SEAN Workshops. The first was for Korean missionaries who work in China. We had 20 present, but they number over 6000 in all, so there is plenty of work to be done. The second was for Koreans in Korea. My job was to tell the history of TEE, how SEAN came into being, and how best to use our courses. The rest of the time they ran themselves, actually doing simulated lessons and practising group meetings.

The main blessing was to meet those working on the field and to hear their testimonies, and the reality of the Church in China. This was something different. For a start, all workers in China have false names, and there was a strict prohibition – no photos or traceable details could be used. Yes, we were in Korea – but there are spies everywhere – possibly one of those present was a Judas! Apart from that, it was clear we were one people, with one Lord and one devotion. No imposed organisation or denomination, just the bonding of the Holy Spirit – it was really moving!

So many stories

Even with only 20 missionaries present there were so many stories

– enough to write a book. There was A caught by the police and expelled from China – but now teaching SEAN in a Korean Seminary for missionaries to China. There was B from Taiwan who is setting up SEAN in Taiwan to prepare missionaries for the mainland. There was C who works in Shanghai, new to SEAN and full of plans to use it in his network of House Congregations. There was D and his wife who supervised the translation work done underground in Beijing. There was E whose wife makes a living for both of them, so he can work full time to supervise his 22 SEAN groups (315 students – all House Church leaders). And there was F a young Chinese national and the first pastor ordained after doing his only Bible training with SEAN. He came to know the Lord in University ten years ago, thanks to the witness of Handel and Bach! He pastors a House Church in a major city and has a wonderful tenor voice. When we started to praise in song he broke down in tears. It was the first time in his life that he could use his voice to its beautiful full power in worship – in China all must sing in whispers behind blacked-out windows.

All this had been organised by Pastor and Mrs G. Their plans are to open many new printing centres in all the main cities of China. The task is vast, the resources few, but their optimism and devotion is unending. Their gratitude to SEAN was unanimous, very vocal and very touching – summed up in the words of Mrs G who with tears in her eyes said: 'Dear pastor Terry, I just don't have words enough to thank the

SEAN writers. I have done just about every Christian course that exists, but it has been SEAN alone that has brought the Bible alive for me. Now, all the isolated facts I learned with others are integrated in my heart and mind – please give my eternal thanks to your team. I pray and praise God for them'.

Simple material, but so deep

The second workshop was a repetition of the first in blessings, but different in nature. This was led by Pastor Gil Kim and his assistant Pastor Han. Their objective is to promote SEAN in the church in Korea itself, with its millions of members. Again, we had about 20 present, some representative of major congregations, others missionaries who are going abroad. The potential for SEAN in Korea can be summed up by the testimony of a Senior Pastor of the Global Mission Church – Bong Hee Cho. He said: 'SEAN TEE has revolutionised my ministry – it is great, great material, a dream come true. Our church in Korea has been worship oriented, but we need to be discipleship and mission oriented. If we don't train our leaders in the word we don't have a future. This material is made for Korea. We Koreans are proud people, we are scared to look foolish – with the answers in the book we can't fail! The material is simple but so deep, and what has impressed me most of all is the balance. There are many good courses, but they are biased towards 'knowledge' or 'Spirit'. SEAN has both in a perfect blend. So, bottom line, our Church is training its 900 Cell Group leaders with SEAN TEE – I recommend you do the same'.

As this is only one of many similar churches, the potential for SEAN in Korea is great. My time in Korea was a blessing from day one to the end. Yes, there are problems. There are rivalries, there are those who don't respect copyrights, and we'll no doubt have many pitfalls on the way – but more than that I see a wonderful future.

To Him be the glory!

Terry Barratt



Glimpses of SEAN around the world

By Terry Barratt and
International Co-ordinator Gloria Dean

I praise the Lord that 2003 has been perhaps the most fruitful year in my experience in SEAN. Basically it has been, sit back and see the Lord bring things together! (*Terry*)

THE AMERICAS Our printing partners in the USA now number eight, not to mention dozens of smaller programmes that buy from them. It is impossible to calculate the number of SEAN students in the USA. Students in Mexico are calculated at 6,000. The hub of activity for Central America is Costa Rica with its estimated 15,000 students. They have now signed accreditation agreements with a major Seminary and a Christian University. Also they have made major inroads into the prison system. Colombia has three major programmes (6000 students) and a major ministry in the prison system and helping refugees in the civil war. Ecuador: 3000 students with many wonderful testimonies in areas that before couldn't dream of having training programmes. This year an indigenous SEAN student starting from the bottom is finishing his Bachelor of Ministry degree with FLET Ecuador. (*Terry*)

REVITALISED COURSES Although we are not currently working on many new courses, major revision and upgrading is taking place of all courses on all fronts. This is a united effort between SEAN UK (English) and SEAN International in Chile (Spanish and American English) working with me and a new professional artist. All 30 courses are being done in three versions with new art and presentation. In Italy, Geoffrey Allen has revitalised the translation and production of courses in Italian: Abundant Life is already done, Abundant Light is in the process, and he has now asked to do the Compendium. A major breakthrough in Arabic has finally happened! Abundant Life has been printed for the PTEE programme. This opens doors for materials in the Gulf, where there are already SEAN programmes in use in Urdu and other languages. Please note that in the UK, the up-dated Abundant Life will now be called 'Life to the Full' (NIV terminology, rather than GNB); Abundant Light is now 'Pure Gold'. The content is the same, so don't think these are new courses! (*Gloria*)

NEW INTEREST There's been a spate of interest across Africa in obtaining SEAN materials, including from Malawi (English and Chichewa), Congo (French), Zimbabwe (English) and Angola (Portuguese). Over the past few months, there's been much interest in obtaining or translating materials in European German, for

Switzerland and Germany. The existing Plattdeutsch version of the Compendium produced in Paraguay is not really suitable for Hochdeutsch-speaking Europe, so a new version would be a big step forward in availability of SEAN materials in major languages. Nena Cadiente, a PCA mission partner in Romania, signed the Production Agreement for translation into Romanian. We have had interest in the language in the past, but no one was in a position actually to take on the translation and production before, so she should have a lot of users. The Voice of the Martyrs mission, based in Canada, has started translation of materials into Mabaan – a language used across SE Sudan and W Ethiopia, areas plagued by strife and persecution of Christians. Ruth Chambers is interested in starting a programme in Vietnamese. (*Gloria*)

Prison Ministry in Costa Rica

From SEAN Users Rigo and Vickie Garro

We are very proud of the guys in our discipleship class in El Roble prison. We had a baptism and graduation in May. All but one wanted to go on and take the next discipleship class. We lost a few as they are out of prison now so we added some more and have started the next class with twenty. We have seen dramatic changes in their appearance and the light of Christ now shines out from their faces.



In Virilla prison one young man, Andres, is from Mexico and grew up in an orphanage with Catholic priests teaching him Catholic doctrine. He knows a lot about the Bible but not until now has he known about a personal relationship with Jesus and the daily walk with the Holy Spirit. He has told Rigo that he has learned more in two months than in all his years growing up studying the Bible. He has fallen in love with a lovely Costa Rican gal, Erica. We are helping Andres get a job offer so that he can go to a half-way house. The executive chef of a five star hotel is going to give him work cleaning up in the hotel kitchen.

San Ramon Prison is a new prison for us and we have our work cut out. We are starting with 17 guys and three of them have accepted the Lord and three more were reconciled to Jesus after backsliding. This prison is an hour and a half away by car, so like El Roble prison, which is two and a half hours away, it is an investment of time and petrol money for us, but we sense that God is going to do great things here too.

Thank You! – Pray & tell others!

Our grateful thanks to readers and churches who continue to support SEAN's world-wide work through prayer and giving. Please be encouraged by what you read here – brief though the items often are. Our aim is to equip you to persevere in prayer – and as you are able, to support financially the work of writing, translation, design, production and distribution. Why not pass a copy of this *Spread* to your magazine editor, for inclusion in a future issue? Maybe there are other ways of letting others know some of the ways the Good News is being spread!



Indigenous People in a SEAN Group in Panama

Stories from Panama

As told to Jimmy Girling,
member of the SEAN
International Executive
Committee

While visiting our son in Panama this summer, I was able to meet Rafael Ugalde, Director of SEAN Panama. It was a brief time in a crowded aroma-filled coffee shop, with our son translating to and from Spanish.

It was so encouraging to hear how effective SEAN materials are in communicating the truth. Later Rafael e-mailed a report in Spanish and attached a translation presumably provided by friend. I've edited the English version a little:

I (Rafael) was in a Bible Institute; the people want to know about SEAN. There was a good number of students. When I started to explain the methodology of SEAN, some students say that SEAN is too much basic. The Director of the Institute say: 'Those that are interested in

SEAN stay here and the others can go out'. Everyone stayed. In the middle of my lesson a woman inclined the head (*was overcome with emotion?*), stood up and went out of the classroom.

Later I met the woman. She say to me: 'Please excuse me. Do you know why I went out in the past lesson? Because I did four year course and I paid \$800 (fees). Now I'm a teacher of third year and I don't know a lot of things that you show to the students of first year in your lesson'. The Director say: 'I'm in the same situation'. Now the lecturers study and teach using SEAN. That happen one year ago. We started with 11 students and now we have more that 60 students in that Institute

I (Rafael) start to work among the indigenous people in Panama in

1999 (the Kuna people and others). We started with 10 people (in the SEAN class). In the lunch time, the boss cook some bananas without salt (they have the kitchen in the garden). I bought rice, other food and of course salt. More and more students joined us. I got help from some brothers and ministers to help me with 50% of the price of the books.

In a graduation the people began to cry and gave the glory to the Lord, because they learn in eight months things they don't learn in twelve and more years of Christianity. Now we have more than 300 students from the indigenous people. We will translate some books from SEAN to the indigenous languages. God bless you.

Rafael Ugalde

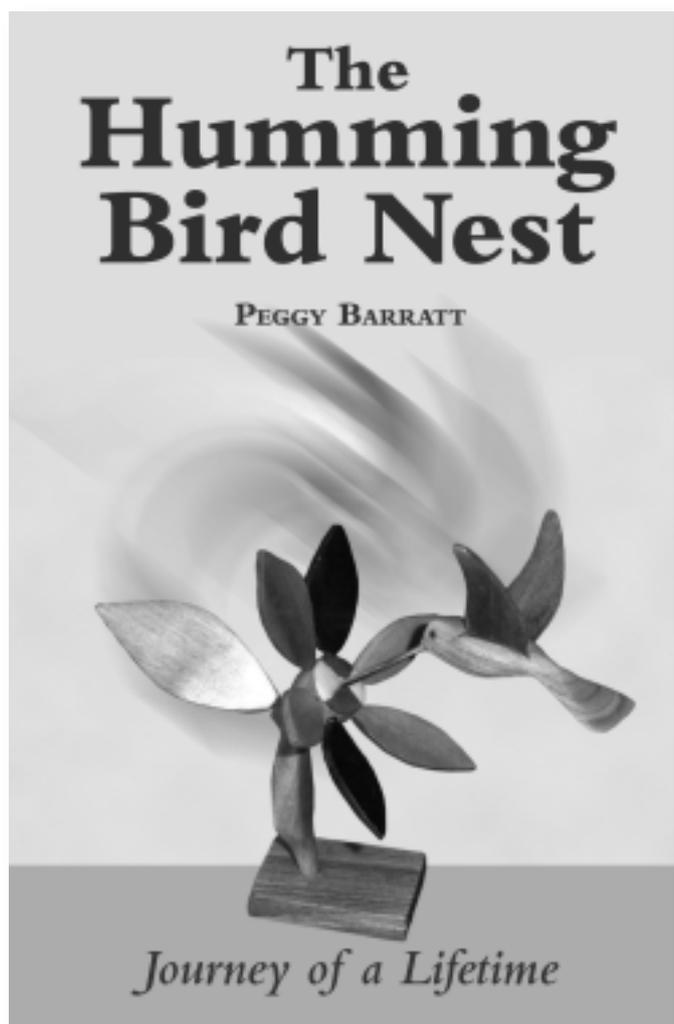
SEAN ON AIR SEAN International Trustee Kath Lefroy writes...

SEAN's course *Abundant Life* is being broadcast by radio to countries in Africa and to India by TWR and FEBA. This initiative begun by David Couchman of Focus Radio, has been developed further by Revival Media and feedback is positive. Many listen and actively participate in the course, feeling they are part of a Bible College; others are being drawn to investigate and test what they are hearing and have come to faith in Jesus. Where possible, enquirers are linked to SEAN groups in their own area.

Success of the *Abundant Life* broadcasts has prompted the adaptation of further SEAN material for radio, this time from the *Bible Encounter Manual*. Patrick Woodward of Revival is heading up the team as they work on the first four programmes - 'Jesus' encounters with different people.' I have the privilege of helping with the first part of each programme. Please pray for the huge potential audience and efficient follow-up. These programmes are reaching places that are often isolated and cut off from Christian witness. Pray too for those whose lives are challenged and changed and have to stand as new believers in a hostile world.



Patrick Woodward, Director of Programmes, Revival Media



Peggy Barratt, wife of Tony and mother of SEAN International Director Terry, has written this story of her family.

The title comes from the Barratt family music group *Los Picaflores* (The Humming Birds) whose 1970 tour of the UK, USA and Canada drew huge crowds.

It tells of God's gracious and often extraordinary dealings with the family – over the thirty years they lived in Chile, Paraguay and Argentina – through a train of anecdotes, moving, hilarious and inspiring.

Tony and Peggy longed to see the churches become truly national. They played a major role in fulfilling that God-given dream, when they developed the SEAN self-instructional teaching materials which have trained many a church leader.

Books at £6.99 each are available from SEAN UK (address below) or the South American Mission Society, phone 0121 472 2616.

After covering costs, 30% from each sale goes to SAMS, the rest to SEAN.

SEAN (pronounced 'Say-Ann'), Study by Extension for All Nations

Publishing printed materials for evangelism, discipleship, and leadership training

- TEE Theological Education by Extension ie distance learning
- a wide range of carefully graded workbooks and tutor manuals
- simple in presentation (not simplistic) but deep
- Bible-based
- for use in small groups within the local church
- equipping individuals for a role in every-member ministry
- ensuring new believers are soundly based in faith, doctrine and witness
- translated into the local language (now more than 70)
- written with an understanding of the local culture
- used in some 120 countries world-wide
- blessed by God, by His grace

Who to contact for what:

Enquiries about Friends of SEAN, 'SPREAD' and donations to SEAN International to:

SEAN International, Allen Gardiner Cottage, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3QU, UK. Phone: 01892 538 647; Fax 01892 525 797; E-mail: finsec@samsgb.org

Enquiries about existing and potential users of SEAN, and materials across the world to:

Gloria Dean, SEAN International, Missionary Mart, 1st Floor, 105 Stafford Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9AP, UK Phone: 020 8773 3948 E-mail: SEAN_International@compuserve.com

Enquiries for SEAN courses in English, Training Workshops and 'Forum' newsletter to:

SEAN UK, Weycroft Hall, Axminster, Devon EX13 7LL, UK. Phone 01297 630 104; Fax 01297 630 105; E-mail: admin@sean.uk.net

See also the excellent and informative website at www.sean.uk.net