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Newsletter - April 2016

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support. We hope you too will be encouraged by the testimonies and reports we share below. This is just a brief snapshot of what has been happening over the last few months around the world...



Peru

Every year our partners are asked to send in a brief report on what they have been doing that year. It is always incredible to hear what they have been up to and we thought you would like to share in this too! Here is an extract from our partner ETE in Peru, but this is typical of so many other countries across South America – Praise God!

TO: SEAN INTERNATIONAL
FROM: Gloria Chávez - Director of ETE (TEE) PERU
SUBJECT: 2015 MINISTRY REPORT

Dear SEAN it is for us a blessing to send you this report on the use of your courses in Peru. We thank the Lord for your precious ministry that opens up the possibility of our people to study God's word throughout our nation.

It is by God's grace that we continue to train churches in the correct use of the courses and to report their appreciation and growth.

During 2015, we served:

- Over 50 regions
- 6500 active students
- 241 participating churches
- From 10 denominations.



A study group in Cusco (South)



A study group in Pacanguilla (North)



Students going on evangelistic outreach



One of our Bible Study seminars



A Tutor training workshop



Cambodia

Two of the SEAN Trustees visited Cambodia in February and heard some very encouraging stories about the use of SEAN materials in that land...

The Christian and Missionary Alliance, or C&MA, has an important chapter in the story of SEAN, as Alliance missionaries have taken and used SEAN materials in a number of South-East Asian countries.

The story of SEAN materials in Khmer, the national language of Cambodia begins with an Alliance missionary, Paul Ellison. He grew up in Cambodia, the son of one of the earliest protestant missionaries, and he had excellent Khmer language. Later, while living in the States during the 1980s, he translated the six books of the Compendium on his own! He and others used them to train Cambodian pastors in the States. *The Life of Christ* was then used in Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand and was also used when the first Alliance Cambodian pastors returned to Cambodia in the early 1990s. In 1997, the Alliance along with a number of other denominations joined together to form the TEE Association of Cambodia, or TEEAC for short. TEEAC's curriculum is built on a backbone of SEAN courses, and is divided into a Foundation level, and a leadership training level.

The Alliance in Cambodia has planted a denomination called the Khmer Evangelical Church, or KEC. The KEC has TEE built into its DNA in a very intentional way. The Constitution states that any elder must have studied TEE, or be studying TEE, or something similar.



Here's Tim - SEAN Trustee with the TEEAC Board Chairman, Rev. Rouem Chamroeun; and Dave Manfred, the TEEAC Executive Director

A senior leader in the denomination commented:

"We used the TEE program as a foundation for our training. We have these study centres - that's really where we get our pastors from. This is our strategy.

We can plant churches anywhere, but if we don't have this program to strengthen them, they won't be strong. I really believe this is a very important program."

Over the course of time within the KEC, about a thousand people have gone through the two-year leadership training level. Two stories show what the Lord has done, and is doing...

In 2003, a C&MA medical family were available to serve in Cambodia. The decision was made to send them as part of a team to the darkest place in Cambodia. This was Poipet, which the Lonely Planet Guide introduces as *'Long the armpit of Cambodia, notorious for its squalor, scams and sleaze...'*. In 2003 there were no churches, and no hospital. The team of one doctor, two nurses, someone with training in emergency medical services, and an experienced church-planting couple began to work to meet physical and spiritual needs, with the TEE program as their church-planting and training tool. Today, there is a hospital, and eight churches. The missionaries have made the decision to leave, because the churches can stand on their own feet now. Praise God!



A long-serving missionary, who meets with church leaders from a range of different backgrounds, commented that KEC pastors have an appreciation for the Old Testament: they recognize its significance and use it. Sometimes other pastors will say, 'We don't need the Old Testament'. And KEC pastors are often more able to think critically, to analyse issues and come up with solutions. These characteristics can be traced to the TEE courses and their methodology.

Please pray for the leadership and the staff of TEEAC, and for Centre leaders and students studying all around Cambodia. In 2017, TEEAC will celebrate its twentieth year. Please pray for a new clarity of vision for the way ahead! May there be lots more fruit from the ministry of TEEAC to the glory of God!

New Chair of Trustees for SEAN International

SEAN International is so grateful to Tony Thompson who has served the mission so faithfully in his role as Chair of Trustees over the last 12 years. His wisdom and dedication to the work has been invaluable to us and we are incredibly thankful that he has agreed to continue on as a trustee. But as from the 8th Feb, Tony handed over the mantle of chair to Andy Angel. Here is a brief introduction to our new chair...

'The Revd Dr Andy Angel comes from a background in education, having taught in secondary schools and more recently Anglican seminaries as well as being involved in parish ministry. His research interests include apocalyptic literature and he has published books on this, on angels and most recently on biblical ways of praying through suffering.

Andy is married to Fabiola, who is from Chile, and they have two sons. Although they have always lived together in the UK (so far!), they have an interest in the church across the whole world. Andy has a particular interest in theological education and access to it, especially for the many committed ministers across the globe who may for various reasons find it difficult to attend a seminary. His passion is reading and studying the Bible with others, and teaching and preaching from faith to faith. Given God's call on SEAN and the kind of work it does, Andy describes serving it as Chair of the Trustees as "a great privilege" and asks that you pray for him as well as all who work for and with SEAN so that we might all see the Lord work through it more and more to His glory.'





Russia

In similar vain to the article above from Peru, the following testimonies have been taken directly from the annual report of our partner ORTA in Russia. There is so much more going on there, but we hope these help to give you a sense of the impact on individuals involved:

"I have been a member of the church for about seven years. During my first year of attending the church I repented of my sins, was baptized, but my faith was dead. I would visit the church just to pay respect to my husband. I knew there was nothing bad in attending the church and it is a common phenomenon nowadays. Though I believed that God exists, I did not commit my life to Him. From time to time listening to the sermons, I heard a phrase that some people have been attending the church for many years still their spiritual life is asleep. One day I realized that attending the church once a week will not save me and will not make a close contact with God that every Christian should experience. This contact is a contact between Father and His child. So I understood I needed drastic changes in this respect. I took a decision to study and to know God because as it turned out I knew nothing about Him. At ORTA studies I got to know God more and more and a lot of new things began to be revealed to me. When I took a decision to let God come into my heart, I experienced that first love and felt Father's care, love and tenderness towards me. My heart started burning for Him..."

Nadezhda Tszyu. 'New Life' church, Ussuriysk, Primorye

"We are so thankful to God that ORTA has reached us! When the Lord called us to serve in Krasnodar region we were earnestly praying that He could provide our church with an anointed, living, and life changing teaching program. I wanted this program to be systematic and theologically correct.

When Tutor training seminar was being held in our region, I took part in it and was very encouraged and glad, seeing that God really gave us His key. Using it the believers started growing spiritually, their lives are changing and they get involved in church ministries serving the Lord and people.

Our church has a missionary and disciple training vision and ORTA helps us a lot in it. Our daughter churches are located far away from each other. ORTA helps us to keep unity and move forward in harmony reaching the common goal.

I thank God for ORTA ministry that spreads this anointed God's key. It helps to change the lives of many believers reaching to the very height of Christ's full stature".

Pastor Vladislav Khagai, Krasnodar.



Supporting SEAN Internationally 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