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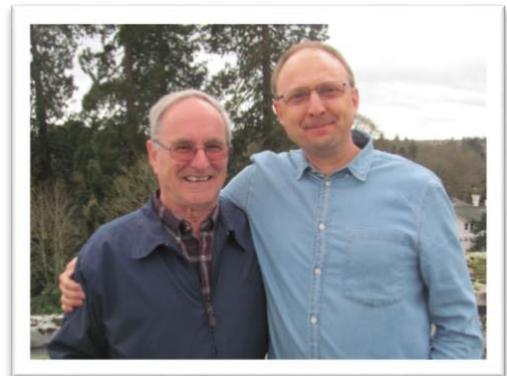
Newsletter - October 2018

A message from SEAN International's new International Director, Dr Markus Völker...

"Dear SPREAD reader,

In mid-September SEAN International had its yearly Trustees meeting in Wokingham, UK. Our management team and Trustees were working together in unity through important issues for us as a charity. Looking over the past year and realizing God's faithfulness in so many areas. Being blessed with committed people who dedicate time and energy to keep SEAN going. Thankful for financial provision to keep going forward (another year) to serve the church in Theological Education.

During this time, Rev. Terrick Barratt handed over to me the International Director's responsibilities. This was a very special and emotional moment in the history of SEAN. As new director, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and thanks to Terry for his dedication, love, humbleness and wisdom, he poured into SEAN over so many decades. I'm even more grateful that Terry will continue serving SEAN as the regional coordinator for the Americas as well as guiding and helping me to settle in as new Director.



Looking forward to the coming year, we as SEAN are excited to face the different opportunities / challenges that lay ahead of us. For example:

- The upcoming SEAN Lima conference in November. TEE educators from 20 countries will meet from the 5th to the 9th of November in Lima. As SEAN, we are looking very much forward to this special event. Thanks for your ongoing prayers for this event.
- We are also grateful to God, that we could contract an IT specialist for one year to help us setting up our much-needed IT department. SEAN as organization is growing, as a consequence therefore is the amount on data we have to process. We believe this is a much-needed investment for running SEAN and will enable us to be more effective in the future.
- We are looking at the opportunity to translate SEAN material into even more languages to serve the worldwide programs better, especially with the Diaspora situation we face today. We realize as well the need for a person who could help as in the area of administration. Please pray with us that we will find a person who can help us in this service.

We as SEAN really do appreciate your ongoing prayer and support as we seek to serve the worldwide church in Theological Education.
Sincerely your brother in Christ."

Dr Markus Völker

An amazing occasion in Malaysia

“Millions flock to Malaysia from different Asian countries, in search of work or refuge or education. They include many Nepali Christians. They are first generation believers of Hindu background. How can the churches here help them grow strong in Christ and active in witness, despite not speaking their language?

One answer is through the TEE discipleship groups which have mushroomed here in the last three years. Just imagine: 60 such groups, meeting every week to do biblical courses in their heart language, with 386 students! In June some of them came together for the first ever Nepali TEE conference in Malaysia. What a joy it was to join them!



- One participant, having worked throughout the night at the factory shift, came straight on the conference the next morning. Despite regularly working 12 hour shifts he still finds time for his TEE homework and even leads two TEE weekly groups as well.
- Another participant has been a believer for four years but previously didn't understand the Bible. He said the TEE courses have given him a way both to understand God's Word and to pass it on to others. When his contract finishes in Malaysia he will return to Nepal where he plans to start a discipleship group in his own village.
- A third person had only ever completed five months of formal education in Nepal. But the first TEE discipleship course helped him to read and write, and this gave him the confidence to persevere with the more difficult later courses. Now he is leading a group himself.

TEE groups are now spreading in three other diaspora languages apart from Nepali, and also in English and Chinese for national Christians. Partnership is growing, as more Malaysian churches give support and help to the diaspora TEE work. This model is gaining traction in Malaysia and could work just as well in other countries, wherever national churches have a vision to disciple the nations in their midst, such as Bangkok, Sydney, Dubai... “ *by Tim Green (SEAN International Trustee)*

'Pure Gold' at the 'Church on the Beach'

SEAN's Regional Coordinator for Africa, Revd Tony Thompson, writes.....

In our retirement, my wife and I live in the English South-Coast town of Shoreham by Sea. We worship at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Shoreham Beach which, because of its nearness to the beach, is often spoken of as the 'Church on the Beach'.

During 2017, one of my Africa-related projects involved working towards the production of the first Portuguese translation of the SEAN 'Big Picture' course – a course that provides an overview of the whole Bible. One of our partners in Mozambique wished to use this course in their Theological Education by Extension programme.

That same year, was celebrated by our Anglican Diocese of Chichester, as the 'Year of the Bible'. So, committed as I was at that time, to the 'Big Picture' for Mozambique, I decided it would be only right to offer to 'Church on the Beach' members the opportunity to study the UK English version of this course - 'Pure Gold'.

During 2017 and 2018, we ran the course five times and 26 of our members completed it.



Here's what three of them wrote about their experience:

*"I enjoyed the Group meetings for our 'Pure Gold' study. Most of the bible study I had done previously was on a particular book or part of the Bible - mainly New Testament. So, it was very useful to gain joined up knowledge of the **whole** Bible and learn of the evidence for its reliability and truthfulness. I also thought that the questions to ask ourselves about a particular Bible verse like "What promise, command, example or warning does this verse contain?" very helpful." (Joy Daintree – left foreground in photo)*

"I found the "Pure Gold" course very enlightening. The group meetings were very interesting and friendly - hearing the thoughts and views of others. The time seemed to fly by. I learned so much about the Bible which I never knew before." (Robert Caffyn – right foreground in photo)

Realising that my knowledge of the Bible was represented by a series of extracts and quotations, I have been seeking an overview to bring these elements together. I, therefore, welcomed the invitation to join the 'Pure Gold' group. The structure of the course, excellently presented in the Home Study book and group sessions, fulfilled my expectations. (Ken Herbert)



SEAN International would like to welcome a new partner called 'Relay Trust'.

Here a short introduction from them... "We at the Relay Trust are very pleased to have entered into a formal partnership with SEAN International.

When we first read about your work, we were excited to find, that we share approaches to training and we are very happy, that our collaboration has been formalized. Through this partnership, we will be benefitting from your many years of experience with grassroots training of church leaders and theological education by extension and are happy to share our experiences and further developments in return.

It is an important quality stamp to us, that the materials are used and tested in so many different countries across the world, which means that the materials are adaptable to almost any cultural context.

We are certain that this will empower our strategy to train church leaders in remote and challenged areas of West Africa, where students are unable to travel far to receive training.

It is our hope that we can help bring this approach to grassroots' training into the new millennia by using mobile technology and e-learning in the distribution of good quality materials to the most remote areas."



By Alex Bjergbæk Klausen, Relay Trust

Figure 1 - Left to right: Alex and Mette Bjergbæk Klausen - Lars Gunnarsson

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 online via PayPal by using the 'Donate' button
- You can also 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](#).
- 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**

Thank you so much for your support for SEAN International