



SEAN International is a member of  
The Evangelical Alliance and Global Connections.

# SPREAD

Newsletter - March 2019

*Our International Director, Dr Markus Völker, writes.....*

“Dear partner of SEAN,

I love history, in general, and church history, in particular. It shows God’s love for humankind in so many ways, over hundreds of years, and all over the world. It fascinates me to see how God uses a movement, an organization and, of course, individuals to bless HIS Church.

We know, however, also from history that not everyone who started well, finished well. So I ask myself – why? One of the reasons, I believe, is that movements, organizations and individuals lost their foundation – Jesus, the Lamb of God. Visions, strategies, influence, power (all of which are good things) took over and became more important.



I love this emblem from the Moravian Church. It shows Jesus the Lamb who has conquered the world, freed us from the slavery of sin,

*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.  
(Colossians 1:13-14)*

and gave us true life.

*Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”  
(John 10: 10).*

To follow HIM – Jesus – was, is, and will be the foundation that SEAN is built upon. As SEAN, we have a vision, strategies, influence, and even some power to serve God’s church through our TEE (Theological Education by Extension) material.

Together with our worldwide partners, who serve thousands and thousands of students, we pray that we never forget our foundation – Jesus.



Together with most of our Latin American partners, we celebrated the SEAN Lima conference from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2018, with 51 participants from 16 countries. Thanks to all who came and to those who prayed and financially supported it. It was a special time to get to know, talk, learn, listen and pray with each other. A major part was spent encouraging and networking with one another. What a blessing to see how God uses SEAN material in Latin America for his Glory. We all hope to meet again soon.”

Sincerely your brother in Christ, Dr Markus Völker



## CANADA

A few weeks ago we received an encouraging letter from Pastor Isaac Harms from Canada, thanking us for our courses which he finds to be valuable tools in his ministry.

He shared with us that, a while ago, he was introducing SEAN's *Abundant Life* course to a church member who ran a small business. The man was grateful, but seeing that the course was very simple, said that he preferred not to continue. Pastor Isaac, knowing that the man had about 25 workers in his business, said to him: “Brother I do think you should continue with this course, because, as it is so simple, it will give you a simple way to share the Gospel with your workers and lead some of them to Jesus”. Eventually, after a bit more encouragement, the man agreed to continue his study and eventually completed the course.

Sometime later, he visited Pastor Isaac to share what a blessing the course had been, and that through what he had learned, he had led 17 of his workers to Christ!

Praise the Lord! We love to hear testimonies like this!!



## Ghana

A new partner, 'Globeserve Ministries International', in addition to using SEAN course materials in English, is planning to translate the SEAN *Abundant Life* course into four regional languages - Ewe, Twi, Likpakpaln (Kolombas) and Mampule.

We wish them every success and much encouragement as they embark on this project.

## Abundant Life Course in Kiswahili

We are delighted to report that the 2018 Revision of this course is now available, thanks to our partners in Kenya.

**SEAN UK and the Group-based Open Learning Discipleship (GOLD)** SEAN UK and the GOLD Project share a vision to equip all Christian believers in the UK in their faith and active ministry in their local churches and communities. As a result of this shared vision, SEAN UK and the GOLD Project entered into a partnership on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to allow GOLD Project to use SEAN courses within its programme.



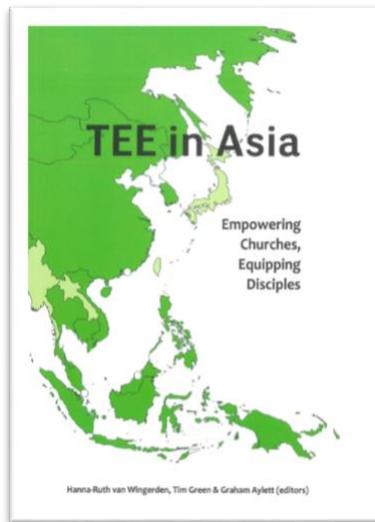
The SEAN courses will be reformatted and added to the courses that GOLD Project already offers. This will enable GOLD Project to provide churches with a range of courses at different levels. The vision is to see church and society transformed as God's people learn to meet him through Jesus Christ in the power of his Spirit. And do this by studying together and applying the message of the Bible in all aspects of their lives.

GOLD Project seeks to work with local and national churches to encourage Church-based discipleship courses.

## TEE in Asia... a new book!

SEAN courses are part of a larger TEE family of training materials that use the same methodology. This is the methodology of *Theological Education by Extension* – or TEE for short. Perhaps it's more easily understood as *Tools to Equip and Empower*, that is, tools for local churches to equip all their members to grow in Christ and serve him actively.

*TEE in Asia*, published in October 2018, opens up windows onto what God is doing through TEE across Asia and the Middle East. The great majority of the stories in this book come from programmes using SEAN courses, translated and contextualized as appropriate.



You can read about...

...Z. from western Mongolia – *From the first lesson of Abundant Life my life became interesting! When we studied repentance, I asked my elder brother for forgiveness. He had really suffered because of my alcoholism! Because of this my brother was saved.*

... Pastor John from Bangladesh – *I see TEE as a tool to raise another generation of pastors*

...Nina from Russia – *She's such a good example of how God can change people through TEE. In a matter of years, Nina went from being a mess in all the areas of her life to being a minister who trains people to train others.*

...a house church pastor from China – *Through this great tool we know that God loves the Chinese church and that he chooses us. We know we are not worthy, but the Life of Christ courses have built up our life. The Bible is no longer theory it has become a life application...*

...Aiman from Kyrgyzstan – *But after the first lesson I understood that I am a child of God, I belong to Him, and nobody and nothing can ever take me from his family. That took away my fear.*

These stories are just a few from the many in **Part B** of the book, *TEE in and around Asia*.

In **Part A**, *Explaining TEE* you will find out about the educational methodology underpinning SEAN courses.

In **Part C**, *Innovation in TEE* outlines some of the exciting ways that TEE is developing. If you want to read good news from Asia, this book is for you!

You can buy **TEE in Asia** from LuLu.com.

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## 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**