

**SEAN UK in Association with Matheteuo
TEE Tutor Training Workshop held at
Axminster TASK Centre, Weycroft Hall, UK
October 6th to 8th 2006**

***(Based on a report compiled by Carol Freeman
along with additions from other delegates.)***

It was indeed an amazing weekend as God gathered 21 of us together from all ends of the earth for this training in the vision of TEE and how to be an excellent tutor using SEAN materials.



From the Cameroons, we had a delegate, the Director of Theological & Biblical Training of the Evangelical Lutheran church of Cameroon; he has profound knowledge of his country's desperate needs and wishes for this program to be initiated in his country. Praise God his visa was granted in last minute enabling him to come. This contact had been initiated through a missionary couple who also attended and who have been involved in Africa for many years.

An English couple, dedicated to prison ministry in England, attended the workshop to learn how to incorporate SEAN TEE material in prison ministries to bring hope and training to those who are shut off from the rest of the world.

Two brothers from Germany, a Chinese lady surgeon from Cambridge, a recent graduate from Japan and a local farming couple involved in the church in Myanmar, are all eager to use this material where the Lord leads them among their contacts. The Chinese surgeon is hoping to use it among Chinese ex-patriots in UK as well as in China itself.

A couple from Kansas USA came in response to a training request through the Anglican Church in Uganda, their vision is to see a SEAN TEE programme established in Uganda. A recent report was quoted where a Ugandan Bishop explained that although people are coming to Christ by the thousands the churches are losing upwards of up to 90% of the harvest to backsliding because they do not have adequate discipleship training in place to raise these infants-in-Christ to maturity.

What a tremendous gift this programme would be for these new believers in Uganda. The couple from Kansas recognized a need to become more familiar with all aspects of the programme in order to successfully oversee its setting up in Uganda. In order to prepare for this task, they will be starting a SEAN class in their large Anglican church in Kansas City. When the Kansas City Anglican Church came under the leadership of the Archbishop of Uganda they asked their sister Church in Uganda how they could best serve them. "Set up a programme for us to properly disciple our believers" was the response. So now they are doing just that with the Lord's help.

An American lady from Minnesota also came to sit under the official SEAN/Matheteuo training for tutoring in TEE. She had already worked for 20 years translating and tutoring SEAN materials in the Philippines in the Ilokano language, but never had the opportunity to be trained by the experts! Her training was limited to what she had read in the tutor manuals and hands-on experience. She is hoping that the time will come when the SEAN material will be incorporated in the curriculum at Bethany College of Missions where she is currently the Dean of Women and also on the Faculty. At this college, they only prepare students for one career - long-term missions. So training the students there in the SEAN material would be to give them a tremendous gift that will be most valuable and effective in the discipling of the ones they bring to Christ around the world in their future careers as missionaries.

While at the seminar, this American lady constantly bent the ears of the *experts* to get them to tell their stories as to how they had successfully set up SEAN TEE programmes in their various areas around the world. She was amazed to hear the stories of the perseverance of Jacqui Brown, setting up classes in the UK. Then there was Michael Huggins, setting up the programme with his Russian colleagues of the Open Russian Theological Academy in Vladivostok and Magadan in the Far East of Russia, whose people, although well educated, are nonetheless hungry to grow in Gods Word.

Among these trainers was Peter Bisset who set up the hugely successful SEAN TEE programme in Nepal with his Nepali colleagues. The Nepalese Church as a whole has embraced this program. SEAN courses are being held through out the country. Through Peter the delegates learnt a great deal of the practicality of establishing and running a TEE program in a country that is one of the poorest in the world.

It was Jacqui Brown, director SEAN UK, who gave the main training sessions on the theory of "grass-root level TEE" and its practical outworking.

The main training sessions Jacqui covered:

- Vision and Mission
- A Mobilized Church - tools for the job.
- Programmed Learning.
- Tutor Training and Group dynamics.
- Practical Assignments linked to the study lessons.

Jacqui has created a powerful *PowerPoint* presentation as a teaching aid in her main sessions. This has already been effectively adapted into both Russian and American.

Other sessions covered experiences from TEE programs in Korea, Russia, Chile and Nepal, ranging from examples of the practicalities of running TEE within a Church to running a national programme.

In the practical sessions all delegates were assigned not only to complete Unit 1 (3 lessons) of Life of Christ book 1, but also the appropriate Tutor's Manual, in case they were asked to tutor a group discussion on the unit the next day, but the delegates weren't told ahead of time who would actually be leading a group the next morning! Michael and Peter decided on who would tutor the two groups that had formed just before that session. The two chosen proved to be sensitive and capable tutors, not taking up more than 25% of the discussion time, but drawing out and involving everybody and encouraging the shy ones to open up and share in the

discussions. The workshop leaders observed the discussion groups to give an evaluation afterwards.

Rob Brown, Director of Axminster Task Centre, explained and highlighted the role of the newly formed Charity *Matheteuo* in serving not just SEAN but other TEE programmes around the world.

Jacqui led some powerful times of worship with help in vocals from her lovely daughter Kate, along with Peter Bisset on the French Horn and Klaus, one of the German brothers on piano. The Weycroft Tutor Training Workshop was both a profitable time as far as knowledge and experienced gained, but also a wonderful time of networking with others who have successfully set up and run the SEAN programmes worldwide; furthermore they included those relaxed times of fellowship around the meal table. We have all widened our circle of Christian fellowship!

One of the big feedbacks from the delegates was their grasp that serious Tutor training is vital before SEAN or other similar TEE programmes can be launched in a church or denomination or a country.

Note by SEAN International:

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