



SPREAD

February 2014

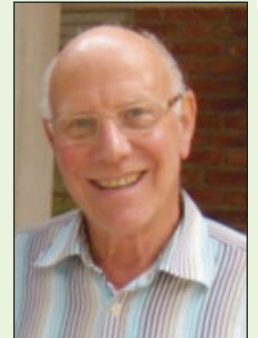
From the Chairman—Tony Thompson

In this edition we include news from countries that we have not reported on before – Haiti, El Salvador, and Bahrain. These stories demonstrate some of the effects of the dedicated and disciplined use of SEAN courses. These include enrichment of the lives of individuals and a desire to spread the Word of God.

In SEAN, we want to give better support to our partners around the world and to be able to continue to deal with the constant stream of enquiries coming our way. We are very grateful to a small team of dedicated and qualified people who are helping us do this. We have included, this time, the testimony of just one of those people.

Thank you for your support and partnership. Now please read on and pray for the people and projects outlined.

Tony Thompson



Pastor Nelson Juarez

Nelson had been a member of his local Baptist Church but, whilst in Belize, gradually ceased to practise his faith and drifted away from the Lord. During that period in his life he met a Christian missionary, who led him back to the Lord. The missionary then proceeded to disciple, Nelson, using SEAN courses – starting with the 'Abundant Life' Course. Nelson's life changed dramatically. He continued with his studies, dedicated himself to Christian ministry and became a leader and pastor.

When the war finally came to an end, and an amnesty was declared for deserters, Nelson returned to El Salvador and there, planted his first church. He named the church '**Abundant Life – Baptist Church**' after the SEAN course that had been such a blessing to him!

This church is thriving and has grown by setting up daughter congregations in other parts of El Salvador and in Belize too. In order to generate more leaders for these new congregations, they have formed a Bible Institute in which TEE* and SEAN courses play a central role. When asked, "**What has SEAN meant to you**", Pastor Nelson replied: "**SEAN, for me, is the basic foundation for all the leaders we have trained in our churches in Belize and El Salvador**".

The 'Abundant Life' Baptist Church, and its TEE Bible Institute, has now become one of SEAN's representatives, or partners, dedicated to training other churches and denominations in the effective use of SEAN Courses in TEE in Central America.



El Salvador

In El Salvador, in Central America, a brutal civil war was fought during the years 1979 to 1992. It was a time of extreme violence - the war included the use of death squads, the recruitment of child soldiers, the deliberate terrorizing and targeting of civilians, as well as other violations of human rights.

During that time, a young man called Nelson Juarez, like many young men of his generation, was conscripted into the army. Very soon he found himself witnessing many horrific acts. Unable to bear being part of this any longer, he deserted and fled to neighbouring Belize.



*TEE = Theological Education by Extension



Bahrain

The National Evangelical Church in Bahrain is attended by people of many different nationalities. Some are resident, others are in Bahrain on short-term contracts. For several years now the NEC has been offering discipleship and leadership training using SEAN Courses. Many of these courses have been led by Chaplain Appu Varghese and Pastor Richard Westra.



Chaplain Appu Varghese surrounded by some of the students.

Chaplain Appu Varghese recently wrote:

"I have had the privilege of sharing in directing a TEE program in Oman and then here in Bahrain over the last 23 years learning new lessons every time. I sit with our keen students representing various Churches in the Middle East. It has been a life enriching ministry."

One of the students wrote:

"From Bahrain I am now back in the Philippines... On behalf of my whole family, I would like to express my sincere and deepest gratitude to our Sovereign God for SEAN through Chaplain Appu and Pastor Westra's work in Bahrain. If not for these key people and SEAN materials, my sanity as a believer and as a wife & mother would not be restored fully. God bless you even more. In gratitude, Ruth."

Here are extracts from a letter received from another ex-student:

"I completed the SEAN intermediate diploma while I lived in Bahrain, where the programme was run by the NEC church, under the leadership of Appu Varghese and Richard Westra. I also presented the Life of Christ courses and a couple of my students finished the basic diploma by the time we left Bahrain. I would like to use the opportunity to thank the SEAN team for making these wonderful courses and study methods available. It meant a lot to me personally and to the students that went through the classes that I presented."



The NEC, Bahrain.

*I am now back in South Africa, where I am part of the New Covenant Fellowship (NCF) church... We do not currently have a well-structured discipleship and pastoral development programme. I discussed this with our Lead Elder and I shared some of the SEAN material with him. He is very excited about the opportunity to use this methodology and I am ready to start up the programme and take ownership for it.
Regards – Hendrik."*

Editor's Note: SEAN has since received, from Hendrik and the leadership team of the New Covenant Church, in South Africa, details of their plans for the establishment of a TEE/SEAN programme. An agreement has now been signed to enable the NCF to go ahead and publish several SEAN courses for use in their programme. It is wonderful to see the way that the Lord works amongst us!

A Chance Encounter That Changed Everything...

by Ben Stansfield

“ *My first meeting with Terry Barratt, (SEAN’s International Director) was meant to be just a quick opportunity to find out a bit more about what SEAN had to offer church leaders. I wanted to know in connection with another charity that I was involved in. However, after 30 minutes of listening to Terry share his heart and vision for SEAN, I sensed this would not be the end of our conversation. At that point in my life, despite having spent over 20 years working in full-time Christian mission and in Community Development organisations, I had never come across SEAN before. So as I heard about the journey of SEAN and some of the stories behind it, I knew I needed to find out more. I could hardly believe the amount of work going on, especially with such limited resources. So I offered to meet with Terry once a week to see if there was anything I could do to help, but in reality I was just grateful to have the opportunity to spend more time learning about this ministry and being inspired.*



To help give you a feel for some of what I was discovering, a few weeks later I was invited to attend their Executive Committee. One of the agenda items for that day will stay with me for a long-time. It was to do with a new license that had been signed with a student from London Theological Seminary who was over from Myanmar (Burma) and wanted to translate SEAN’s courses into the regional language spoken in the part of Burma from which he came. The initial challenge for him was ‘how to take the courses with him back to Myanmar’ given his limited financial resources.

Sitting there quietly not knowing how much money was needed, I was thinking about how wonderful it would be to get SEAN’s materials into that part of the student’s country to help teach and disciple the emerging church there and how sad it would be if lack of money was going to prevent this happening.

Then Tony Thompson (Chairman of SEAN) revealed the answer – a pen drive or memory stick. How much was needed? £17.50!! I don’t think I have ever been part of a decision to spend £17.50 so well!

Since that meeting (over a year and a half ago) I have been doing a few days work each week for SEAN, helping the trustees look to the future. It is an exciting time with new opportunities emerging on a regular basis, but it is also one of challenge, uncertainty and real responsibility. Over the past 42 years, God has used SEAN to grow and strengthen His church across the world in incredible and humbling ways, and the spread of where its courses are being used continues to grow.

However, to cope with this increasing demand, there is need for more support in time, prayer and resources.

*As Jesus says in Matthew 9:37-38, “**The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.**”*

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

It would be great if you could join us in this prayer for SEAN at this time. ” ”



Supporting SEAN International Financially

If you would like to give a donation, you can now do so by debit or credit card online (see overleaf) as well as by cheque (see below).

To give by cheque please make your cheque payable to ‘SEAN International’ and post it to: Mr Philip Tadman, Ferndale, Cranston Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3HL.

So that we can acknowledge your kind gift, please enter your details below. Thank you!

Name..... Address.....

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If you would like to give regularly to SEAN International by Standing Order, please tick box

If you are a taxpayer and would like to ‘Gift Aid’ your donation, please tick box



Haiti



Emmanuel, Terry, Mitch, Guenson, Gaudelyn & Pedro

Haiti is one of the poorest and most needy countries in the world. The practice of Spiritism, and Voodoo is common. There is a limited supply of Bible teaching resources.

Over the years, we have received many requests for SEAN courses to be translated into Haitian Creole, but up to now, no one has taken up the challenge.

This year, quite independently from each other, leaders from three different denominations wrote to us asking what could be done about this situation. After a period of letter writing, coordination and then a brief field visit by our International Director, Terry Barratt, a way forward has emerged!

These three leaders have taken on the responsibility to produce one course each.

Pastor Mitch Mitchell of the Assemblies of God has agreed to fund the translation of the *Abundant Life* Course. SEAN International and Pastor Pedro Abreu of the Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA) will fund the publication of *The Big Picture (Abundant Light)*.

Pastor Guenson Charlot from Haiti has taken responsibility for the SEAN Course, *"The Spirit World"*. This work will be partly funded by SEAN International and the UK based charity The Buckle Collins Trust.

Thanks to this co-operative effort, a Haitian Creole translation of three SEAN Courses is now 'in sight' - we praise the Lord!

Courses

For courses in US English, + other languages, contact SEAN International at: **contact@seaninternational.com**

For courses in UK English, contact SEAN UK at:

admin@sean.uk.net

Websites

www.seaninternational.com (English & Spanish)

www.sean.uk.net (English)

Addresses

SEAN International, Ferndale, Cranston Road, East Grinstead, W Sussex RH19 3HL, UK

Registered Charity No. 286965

SEAN UK, Weycroft Hall, Axminster, Devon EX13 7LL, UK

Tel: 01297 630104.

Registered Charity No. 1102491

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If you would like to give a donation, you can now do so by debit or credit card **online** (see below) as well as by **cheque** (see overleaf).

To give online please go to our '*give.net*' donation page from '*Stewardship*'. You can do this EITHER by clicking on the link below, OR by typing this web page address into your web browser:

<https://my.give.net/seandonationgen>

Then just follow the simple, online instructions.

If you are a UK tax payer (UK income and capital gains taxes only), your giving could be increased through Gift Aid.

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Thank you very much for your support for SEAN International