



# SPREAD

JULY 2013

42ND  
ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION

## From the Chairman—Tony Thompson

This month we celebrate SEAN's 42nd Anniversary and continue to be amazed at the way more and more requests for SEAN courses continue to come in – almost on a weekly basis. We are also very thankful for the way our financial needs are being provided for by the Lord and his people. On this topic, I'd like to just mention that it is now possible to give to SEAN International online by debit or credit card – for details see later in this newsletter.

These are vitally important times for those of us at the heart of SEAN – trustees, colleagues, and stakeholders. Several developments, including plans for a major step forward, are in the pipeline. Big decisions need to be made in order for us to meet the challenges facing us. So, thank you for your support and partnership. Please pray with us and for us.

*Tony Thompson*

*\*Theological Education by Extension    \*\*Study by Extension for All Nations*



## Colombia

On the border between Colombia and Venezuela, live members of the Wayuu indigenous people. They are the largest indigenous group in Colombia, and number some 400,000.

There are many small churches in that vast area, but most pastors have received very little Biblical training. So, three years ago, CIPEP Colombia under the able guidance of its director, Ubaldo Restán, started using SEAN courses to provide training for pastors and leaders amongst the Wayuu.

We praise God that now, over 150 Wayuu leaders, representing 12 different denominations, are faithfully studying a range of SEAN courses.

The Wayuu dialect is basically an oral language. So they use the Spanish study materials for their written work but, in their group meetings, prefer to discuss the lessons in their native tongue!



*Wayuu students of CIPEP with Pastor Ubaldo Restán.*



*The first group of Wayuu pastor and leader graduates.*



*Wayuu pastors who participated in the Congress at which a Wayuu pastoral association was formed.*

The goal is to see 100 Wayuu pastors complete 4 years of study and graduate, by the end of 2014.



# Canada



*The Revd Jim Christie PhD is Senior Pastor of the 'Joy City Church', Toronto, Canada.*

*The vision of the church is based on Acts 8.8: "Through new life in Jesus, much joy in our city."*

*Jim received his doctorate in Classics from the University of Toronto in 1994. He teaches New*



*Testament courses at Tyndale Seminary, Toronto. We were delighted to receive this letter of appreciation from him.*

This is just a short note to tell you how deeply we appreciate the SEAN courses. They are making such a difference to our church life.

We appreciate them because they are:-

1. **Well written and very accessible for the average Christian, whilst also useful for the most educated.**
2. **Strategically planned so as to provide a process of discipleship, training, and equipping as students work through the various courses.**
3. **Balanced in their design, to foster individual participation along with group dynamics and community development.**
4. **Available and affordable.**
5. **Offered within a well-defined philosophy of education, and including a structured approach for the user.**
6. **Soundly based on the Scriptures and written by capable, mature Christian teachers, as evidenced by the material itself.**
7. **Mostly self-instructional, therefore groups can be led by a facilitator rather than by a teacher.**



All of my ministry years, I have longed to bring a 'Bible School' type ministry into the church.

SEAN has provided the opportunity to do so.

Our first **'Life of Christ'** group is now on Book Six. A second group is now working through Book Four. We have had good experience with **'The Big Picture'** (*Abundant Light/Pure Gold*), **'Abundant Life'**, **'How to Preach'**, and the **'Bible Encounter Manual'**.

I especially like the way that the SEAN courses allow me, as pastor, to quickly equip and mobilize other capable Christians to lead SEAN groups. The multiplication process is well under way for us!

So, please accept my sincere "thank you" for making SEAN available to us. God bless all the people that have had a hand in developing the SEAN materials and approach. It is too bad that SEAN is not better known here in Canada! Surely it would be beneficial to many more churches if they were aware of it and were willing to give it a try.

God bless you and all the National and International team.

Jim Christie



# Botswana

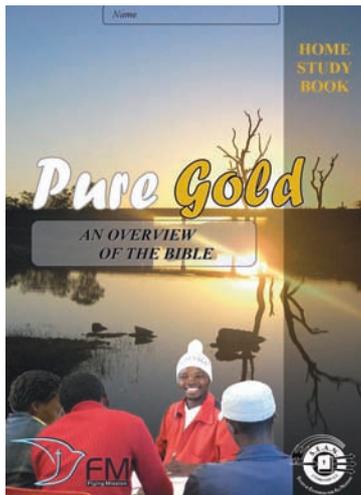


Six years ago, the Flying Mission, signed an Agreement with us for the use of SEAN Courses in Botswana in the English and

Setswana languages. We are delighted to have recently received the following news and other items from them.

Flying Mission greatly appreciates the use of SEAN materials. The discipleship programme that was set up some years ago continues to bear fruit in the local churches throughout Botswana. The Flying Mission provides training and supplies course materials. The churches then run the courses for their own members.

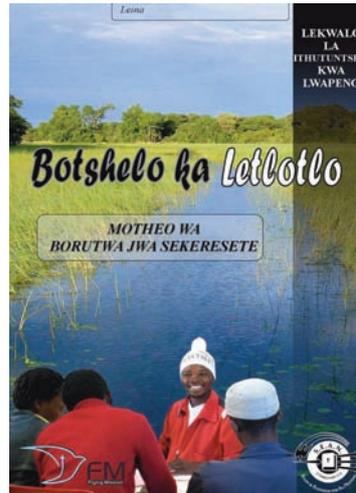
Currently there are 159 students led by 23 trained leaders studying **Life to the Full** and **Pure Gold**. Some use the English version others the Setswana version.



Pure Gold in the English language

Certificates are awarded to those who successfully complete the course, in recognition of their effort and achievement. The required standard for successfully completing the course is:

**Students must have completed all the lessons in their Home Study Workbooks.**



Life to the Full in the Setswana language

**They must have attended at least 14 of the 18 group meetings. (80%)**

**All course workbook costs must be fully paid for.**

Certificates are usually presented during the church's main meeting, which recognises those completing the course and promotes it to others. This can also be a good time for the graduates to give a brief testimony of what God has done in their lives through doing the course.



A sample of the certificate awarded upon successful completion of the course.



## 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.....  
..... Postcode ..... Email .....

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



**The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Matt. 9:37-38**

**On 14th July, SEAN International celebrated its 42nd anniversary. From a small beginning in South America, in 1971, SEAN courses are now used in over 100 countries and 80 languages. We estimate that the number of courses printed and used now exceeds 1,500,000.**

For SEAN to continue to meet the needs of the world-wide church in the 21st century, we need to restructure. We asked our friends and partners around the world to pray with us and for us on our 42nd Birthday. Our hearts were warmed and encouraged by the many responses we received as a result of that 'Call to Prayer'. Here are just a few of them:-

The ORTA team in Vladivostok, Russia – *"Beloved workers at SEAN International, we send our heartiest congratulations, on the forty second anniversary of your organization! We thank God for all of you, for your work 'produced by faith and your labour prompted by love'. Be renewed in the Holy Spirit and 'strong in the Lord and in his mighty power', with much love and appreciation."*

SEAN Italy – *"We will certainly pray with you about the future of SEAN."*

José Castillo, Peru – *"Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. On July 14th we will be supporting the cause with a congregational fasting from the distant city of Jaen, Peru."*

Sue Fairclough, UK – *"The call to prayer has been heard and I will be glad to focus on SEAN on July 14th. There have been many times, often unexpected, when the teaching that I received through the SEAN course has been useful in my daily and work life. I hope that the prayers will be answered and the restructure of SEAN goes ahead with vigour and foresight."*

Liz Richards, principal writer of the 'Abundant Life' Course, and now well-retired – *"Being involved in SEAN and then seeing its amazing development worldwide, is by far the most memorable thing about my time in Paraguay. I can hardly believe what has happened, especially, of course, with regard to "Abundant Life", although it would never have got so far without Tony Barratt also working on it."*

### Courses

For courses in US English, + other languages, contact SEAN International at: [contact@seaninternational.com](mailto:contact@seaninternational.com)

For courses in UK English, contact SEAN UK at: [admin@sean.uk.net](mailto:admin@sean.uk.net)

### Websites

[www.seaninternational.com](http://www.seaninternational.com) (English & Spanish)

[www.sean.uk.net](http://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

---

## Supporting SEAN International Financially



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.

Our 'give.net' donation page enables you to 'Gift Aid' your donation.

*giftaid it*

**Thank you very much for your support for SEAN International**