



SPREAD

SEPTEMBER 2012

From the Chairman—Tony Thompson

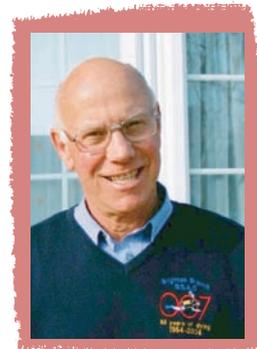
Dear Friends and Partners,

As we go to press, final preparations are being made for our eagerly-awaited TEE*/SEAN Hispanic Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Please pray, with us, for this important event - more details below.

Stories and letters from all over the world, continue to come our way, almost daily. These constantly encourage us - and frequently surprise us - as they describe some of the remarkable things that the Lord is doing through SEAN courses in the hands of His people.

We are delighted to be able to share some of these stories with you. I hope you will be encouraged and inspired, as you read on. Thank you for your prayers and your partnership in this ministry.

Tony Thompson (*Theological Education by Extension)



TEE/SEAN Hispanic Conference – Argentina Monday, 24th - Friday, 28th September



Later this month, over fifty of us will spend five days together in this small Retreat Centre, in Buenos Aires (see photo). We will share news and experiences and, together, address some of the key issues that face those of us who work in the field of TEE.

All this will be done in the context of prayer, fellowship and Biblical reflection and with valuable help supplied by experts in the field.

Delegates and specially invited speakers, will come from

many parts of the Hispanic World and beyond:- Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, England, Mexico, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, United States, and Venezuela. It is important to bear in mind that, those attending represent tens of thousands of students from all sections of society!!

Please pray that we may learn from each other, and come away encouraged and equipped to deal with future challenges.





Mozambique

Last month, we received a letter from Helen Van Koevering - wife of the Bishop of the Diocese of Niassa. Here are a few edited extracts.....

"We have now finished the SEAN course on the Life of Christ. We are all most impressed with it. It works so well for us with our long distances to travel, few teachers, and low level of adult education due to conflicts, war, and lack of development, here in northern Mozambique.

The group of seven candidates for community priesthood learnt much due to the broadness of the course.

One, Hilario, a catechist in Chiure near Pemba, testified to the encouragement he had received from the course for his preaching ministry.

Albertina, in training for community priesthood, spoke warmly about how much she was learning and how interested others around her had become in the course.

Lucas, a catechist for 25 years, says that this method has made Jesus, as God and man, alive to him.

Jaime, age 54, is thrilled with the pastoral care teaching given.

I, personally, believe the group meetings are the strength of the course, and lead quite naturally into further teaching and sharing of experience. For our group, learning about sharing our faith together and with others, was a very exciting part of the course.

Postscript – Helen hopes to do more training, and clergy renewal, using SEAN Courses. We are delighted to have been able to support this work with a small donation from the Tony & Peggy Barratt Memorial Fund.



Nepal

*Tanka Subedi, Director of ITEEN and a SEAN Trustee, sent us a testimony given by Mrs. Sumitra Waiba at the ITEEN, Kathmandu Valley Graduation Ceremony, on 15th July 2012 (see photo above) **Note:** SEAN Courses are widely*

used in the ITEEN Programme in Nepal. ITEEN stands for 'Institute for Theological Education by Extension in Nepal'

"Four families from our church started following false teaching in a recent year and many more were attracted to it and were in a dilemma about this." says Mrs. Sumitra Waiba, pastor's wife from the 'Church of God', Kathmandu.

The 'Church of God' started about 30 years ago in Nepal. Now this church group has many churches in central and eastern regions of Nepal. ITEEN courses were introduced here just over a couple of years ago. Mrs. Sumitra Waiba is the main tutor in this church.

She says, "since we started ITEEN Courses in our church, the believers have become stronger in faith, and they are able to answer those who try to force them to believe false teaching. Now we do not have to worry about losing our church members to wrong hands."

Also, there were two more major problems in the church:-

One was that believers were not regular in giving tithes (one-tenth of their income) and some never gave tithes at all. When teaching on tithes came to the church, many people were angry and argued about it. They said they didn't have enough for themselves so why give a tithe to church?



Another big problem was that, although this is a big church, we didn't have people prepared for Christian service. The pastor and his wife had to do everything - all depended on the Pastor and his wife. If they could not attend a fellowship meeting, it would be cancelled.

"Since running ITEEN Courses," says Sumitra, "all our church members give tithes and we now have a group of sixteen lay leaders who are happy and enthusiastic to lead meetings, do ministry works and take services. It seems like a heavy burden has now been taken off our shoulders."



Community Health

One of our many SEAN Courses is **"Training Children in Community Health"** In connection with this, Jacqui Brown (Director of SEAN UK) recently passed on to us a letter she'd received from Bryan Beaton who, with his wife Renee, lives in Hong Kong. Here's a slightly edited version of what he wrote...

"Dear Jacqui

Thank you for your greetings and the news that our order for Community Health will soon be on its way. We've been back and forth between India (most of the year) and Hong Kong (usually summers) over recent years.

Renée used the SEAN Community Health materials last year to set up two series of about 12 sessions in tribal villages around Santiniketan, West Bengal. We've rented a house there for about 15 years, and we've run a (basically free) health clinic and informal educational activities from there. She's become quite an advocate of your Community Health book and approach.

A previous copy went to the administrator of a school we've been teacher-training in (March to May) - in the forests near Kalimpong (near Darjeeling). He is interested in community outreach.

One of the copies we've just ordered will go to Niger where our son works with SIM in agricultural outreach and his fiancée works with Fulani (tribal) women and children.

Another copy will go to a Bengali friend (woman) who has been working in a rural area south of Kolkata for many years.

A third copy will go to a Nigerian friend who (along with his wife, who is a nurse) is running a variety of community services (school, nurses' training, computer courses, and more) in Aba State, Nigeria."



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Planned Visits



Korea



Venezuela

Keeping in personal touch with our partners around the world is vital to our ever-growing ministry. Emails and telephone conversations are the main ways that we achieve this but, when opportunities arise, our Director, Terry Barratt, makes personal visits – these are always highly valued. Sometimes his wife, Pancha, is able to accompany him.

Just days after their return from the Hispanic Conference in Argentina, Terry and Pancha set off for Korea. Their dates are 3rd to 17th October 2012.

They have been invited to share in several church events and conferences organised by the two TEE/SEAN programmes there.

They will meet with members of both Boards and other key workers. They will also spend time with some of the many Koreans, pastors and students, who study and train using SEAN courses. Across the two programmes, many thousands are involved.



This visit will also be strategic in connection with our links with other countries too, as both of the TEE/SEAN organisations in Korea have expanding missionary work in other places around the world.

They will be back in the UK for just under two weeks and then, on 1st November, they're off to Venezuela. During this one-week visit they will meet with a number of SEAN Programme leaders and discuss ways of taking the work forward.

Both of these visits are important – please pray for all involved.

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)

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