

SPREAD—MARCH 2008



International News for Friends of SEAN



From the Chairman

Warm Christian greetings to all in the SEAN world-wide family and welcome to our latest newsletter which, this time, has been produced 'in house'.

I hope that the stories we are able to tell will not only be of interest to you, but will encourage you in your own life and ministry. Thank you for your fellowship and support.

With every good wish in Christ,
Tony Thompson (Chairman)

SEAN in Africa

We are delighted to report that during the last five years we have seen a significant increase in the number of languages into which SEAN Courses have been translated for use in Africa.

Here is the very moving story of the development of just one TEE/SEAN Project in that continent. *(This article is based on information kindly supplied by the Revd Mike Clark—Vicar of St Margaret's Church, Edgware, London.)*

Angola

The Anglican Church in Angola was started in the early 1920's by a layman from Liverpool, Archibald Patterson.

Over the next 40 years or so it grew to 70,000 members. The church then lived through the 30 years of war (1960—1990), a major split, persecution, and many having to flee into exile. These took their toll and membership fell to around 7,000.

By 2003 membership stood at 33,000 members and was growing at a phenomenal rate! But the years of war had left most of the leaders virtually untrained.

In remoter parts of Angola, the war never really stopped. This made the lives of such leaders even more precarious. The two deacons shown here, had to take care of their congregations in bush hide-outs from 1998 to 2002 during UNITA occupation. The churches were burned and the pages of Bibles used for cigarette paper.



On 3rd August 2002, on the eve of inaugurating the Diocese of Angola, the clergy were asked the question ‘*What quality do you want in a new Bishop?*’ The answer came back; *leadership training*. In time Bishop Andre Soares was appointed.

In Angola the Anglican churches are grouped around the main centres of population, themselves hundreds of miles part. The map shows these main clusters.

Years of war had left the country with a very poor infrastructure of roads. Travel is a nightmare. Leaders are often isolated, and can easily become discouraged.



A scheme was desperately needed that would offer a sustainable and affordable way of training leaders on a large scale without removing them from their families, their jobs or their churches. This would provide pastoral support to isolated leaders, aid the church’s future development and growth, and prepare soil from which future leaders could emerge.

Under God, people and circumstances wonderfully came together.....!

Mike Clark (now involved with the Angola London Mozambique Association of the Diocese of London—ALMA) had previously used SEAN materials in Bolivia.

Terry Barratt, SEAN’s Director had travelled to Brazil in 2003 and discovered that a Portuguese version of the SEAN ‘Life of Christ’ Course (*Seja um Obreiro Aprovado*) had gone to Africa with a Baptist missionary—**Jim Thorp**.

An electronic version of this course was obtained and Mike, working with a team of Angolans in his own church in Edgware, set about adapting it for use in Angola. Meanwhile, **Michael Huggins**, made available his graphics that had already been prepared for use with SEAN materials in Africa.

Other key players were **Fabiano Fernandes** of the Portuguese Bible Institute and **Dr Adrian Chatfield** (who carried out the initial training of course leaders)

Much, much more could be told but space does not allow.

We thank God that now, five years on from those initial discussions a TEE/SEAN Training Programme is established in Angola. Pictured right, is the SEAN Director in Angola—**Revd Simao Adolfo**.



Botswana - Last year saw the publication of an English version of "Life to the Full" (formerly 'Abundant Life'). Work is now proceeding on translations into the local language *Setswana*. Our partner in this is 'The Flying Mission'.

Countries in Africa where SEAN Courses are in use.....

Angola, Botswana, Dem Rep of Congo, Equatorial Guinea—by radio, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia - by radio

NOW TO PANAMA—Central America— Terry Barratt writes....

Elvira (third from the right) is a professional Psychologist who works for the Panamanian Health Service. She was converted about eight years ago and within weeks of her conversion came to know Pastor Rafael Ugalde the Director of the SEAN TEE programme in Panama.



As a new Christian she avidly studied the Abundant Life course and then continued systematically through all existing SEAN courses in the three levels of Study.

Her testimony is that studying God's word using SEAN revolutionized her life and professional counselling. She developed a ministry that has led many people out of their problems and into a new life in Christ. She has become so successful in her counselling amongst the "incurables" that when she had to retire (personnel in Panama have to leave their posts by law after a certain number of years) the Health Centre where she worked opened a special office for her to continue to receive "Los casos Elvira" - "The Elvira cases", - the cases that other Doctors and Psychologists couldn't cure!!!

Elvira attributed her success directly to the SEAN courses that had allowed her to articulate and adapt her Psychology in the simple concepts of Biblical truth!

NEWS IN BRIEF

A new SEAN Course "The Epistle to the Hebrews" in Spanish is nearing completion.

The Chile Office is working on visual materials to be used by Tutors in the Group Meetings.

Terry Barratt writes about his and Pancha's ministry amongst the Pehuenche people high in the Andes mountains in Southern Chile. This is a work to which a number of 'friends of SEAN' and churches have given generously.

We are encouraged by our Pehuenche ministry, which started with the inauguration of the new Pitril Chapel in January 2007.



During the year we

were able to make nine four day visits and on the 8th of December we gave out certificates for two



key courses and saw the start of the honey project.

A couple of times we were snowed out, but situations such as these have enabled us to understand

the area better, and to learn to operate with very flexible plans! The year's experience has allowed us to present the Diocese with a plan that, hopefully, will soon result in key ordinations.

FINALLY....

John Underwood (SEAN USA) - a great friend and supporter of Terry's ministry is recovering from a stroke. Please pray.

In our November 2007 issue we requested prayer for a Pastor and his colleagues in Myanmar (Burma). We are pleased to report recent contact via a Korean missionary.

Who to contact for what:

Registered Office to which enquiries about Friends of SEAN, 'SPREAD' and donations to SEAN International should be sent:

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SEAN International web site is

www.seaninternational.com

Choose Spanish or English

Enquiries about existing and potential users of SEAN, and materials across the world to:

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See also the excellent and informative UK

web site www.sean.uk.net

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