



SPREAD MARCH 2009

News for Friends of SEAN International

From the Chairman—Tony Thompson

In November 2008, our Director, Terry Barratt made trips to South America and China for SEAN International. In these pages you will find extracts from his encouraging reports.

SEAN has been a key feature of the World Church scene now for well over 30 years. Some early-established SEAN programmes are now large and thriving. Some have only recently been set up. Others are just at the enquiry stage.

In this edition of SPREAD we have articles that reflect this: Colombia, where SEAN Courses have been in use for over 25 years; Uganda, where a TEE*/SEAN programme is just getting under-way; and, Toronto, Canada, from where we have just received an initial enquiry from the pastor of a multi-racial and multi-cultural group of churches.

Before you read on, I'd like to assure of our deep thankfulness for your ongoing support. We appreciate this very much especially in these difficult economic times. In the following news stories you will see how your prayers and gifts are bearing fruit.

Tony Thompson

(* TEE = Theological Education by Extension)



UGANDA

The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Uganda, Henri Orombi, has a vision to establish Theological Education by Extension in 31 Dioceses throughout his province.

Last November, in response to an invitation from the Anglican church of Uganda, a small team flew out from the UK to Uganda with the task of training and equipping the Church Clergy in TEE, and establishing an office and staff to enable the work to go forward.

By kind permission, we share with you extracts from their very moving report.....

The team consisted of:-

Robert Brown, Administrator of Matheteuo/Director TEE Uganda,
Peter Bisset, Director ITEEN Nepal, and
Jacqui Brown, Director, SEAN UK.

The Archbishop received the team with genuine appreciation and blessing.

The TEE programme was granted official status as a sub-division of the Education Department within the Provincial diocese of Uganda.

Over 4 days, training was provided for two groups of 25 people, including:- Church Education Department Heads; Further Education Heads of Schools; Bishops, and Clergy from different Dioceses. The training included these and other topics:-

History of TEE

Teaching Methodology of TEE

Principles of Tutoring

Practical Workshop - 'Leading a group'

Setting up an effective TEE programme

Each delegate received a training manual and a set of the first two courses in the Foundation series.

continued overleaf.....



Some of the delegates

Countries where SEAN Courses are in use: (some are not named for security reasons)

AFRICA
Angola
Botswana
Dem Rep of Congo
Eq. Guinea—by radio
Ethiopia
Ghana
Malawi
Mali
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
South Africa
Sudan
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia by radio

ASIA
Afghanistan by radio
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
India
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan + others in Central Asia
Mongolia
Nepal
Pakistan
Russia
Sri Lanka

AUSTRALASIA
Australia
New Zealand
Papua New Guinea
Tonga

CENTRAL AMERICA
Belize
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
Mexico
Netherlands Antilles
Nicaragua
Panama

SOUTH AMERICA
Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Guyana
Paraguay
Peru
Surinam
Venezuela

NORTH AMERICA
Canada
USA (including videos for the deaf)

EUROPE
Albania
Bulgaria
France
Germany
Hungary
Italy
Latvia by radio
Netherlands by radio
Portugal
Romania
Spain
Sweden
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

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MIDDLE EAST
Several countries

FAR EAST
Cambodia
China
Hong Kong
Indonesia
Japan
Laos
Macau
Malaysia
Myanmar
Philippines
Singapore
South Korea
Taiwan
Thailand
Vietnam

SEE OUR WEBSITE

www.seaninternational.com

CONTACT US:-

General enquiries to our Registered Office:-

SEAN International, Allen Gardiner Cottage, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3QU, UK

Tel: 01892 538 647;
Fax 01892 525 797;

email: finsec@sams.gb.org

Registered Charity,
No. 286965

Enquiries about SEAN courses around the world to:

Gloria Dean,
SEAN International,
Missionary Mart
1st Floor,
105 Stafford Road,
Wallington, Surrey
SM6 9AP, UK

Tel: 020 8773 3948.

email:
SEAN_International@compuserve.com

For SEAN courses in English contact:

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

Tel: 01297 630 104;
Fax 01297 630 105;

email: admin@sean.uk.net

WEBSITE:-

www.sean.uk.net

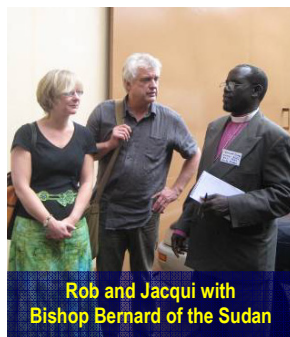
UGANDA—continued

A University Graduate, Daniel Muwanguzi, has accepted the post of Administrator/Field Worker for the furtherance of TEE Uganda. This is a voluntary position at the moment but, long-term, will need to be a salaried position.

The Diocesan Education Secretary, Canon John Basingwire, will work alongside Daniel initially and introduce him to the relevant people dealing with the Education Department of the Church of Uganda. After that he will retire from his position as Education Secretary and commit himself to supporting the project full time!

Samuel Trick, a German missionary, will head up the training base in Luwero.

While the team was there funds came through for 2000 of the first print run of **Life to the Full** and **Pure Gold**, a total of 4000 students' books and 400 group leaders' manuals!



Rob and Jacqui with Bishop Bernard of the Sudan

The Bishop of Torit, in the Sudan, was so determined to attend the training, that he made a 24hr bus journey from Juba in Southern Sudan so that he could be at the four day seminar in Kampala, Uganda. He has now returned to the Sudan with sufficient books to begin training 12 tutors. His vision and passion for the Sudan is to re-establish the people with God's Word through the TEE discipleship programme. For the programme to go ahead he needs funding for books and a building. He has no meeting house at present.

The TEE programme in Uganda is desperately needed and has been welcomed warmly.

All staff involved are currently working on a voluntary basis but in order for the project to grow, adequate funding for staff will be needed.

If, as a result of reading about this 'Matheteuo' TEE Uganda Project, you wish to offer your support in prayer and/or giving, please contact:

Robert Brown, Matheteuo, Weycroft Hall, Axminster, Devon EX13 7LL
Tel: 01297 630106 email: matheteuo@task-centre.org.uk

In a letter of thanks the Archbishop said:

"We are beginning with a target group expected to be about 3 million people, who are in the central region, plus others in other districts, the majority of whom can speak and understand Luganda, the language into which we are hoping to translate the SEAN study materials in future."

TORONTO (An enquiry received recently)

"I am a pastor of a growing church (Christian and Missionary Alliance) in Toronto, Canada. Our community has all but ensured that our ministry be multi-lingual and multi-cultural; we are blessed with immigrants and refugees from many countries. I am currently involved in four church plants - and more to come. Some of our workers are immigrants without previous theological education. It is vital that I train and mentor them.

I have heard very good things about SEAN courses, though I have not taken any of them myself. Rather than attempt the proverbial "reinvention of the wheel," I would much prefer to use some course material that has a proven track record.

I am writing to ask whether it is possible for me to order and lead my workers through SEAN materials? Thank you in advance for your attention to my inquiry.

God bless you, all who are on the SEAN team." Rev. Jim Christie

COLOMBIA—SOUTH AMERICA

Recently Nick Woodbury of the Latin American Mission, Miami, wrote to us:-

What a privilege it was to travel in Colombia with Terry Barratt last November!

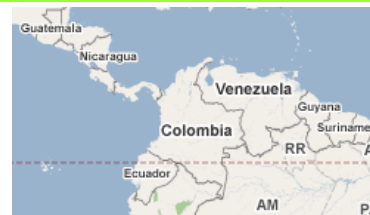
In 1981, I was a missionary with the Latin American Mission in Colombia.

We were struggling to find a way to train the national pastors since the national Bible Institute had closed in 1980. When Terry visited us, he introduced us to the SEAN courses as a basis for training all pastors and leaders. In 1982, the Colombian Pastoral Institute (CIPEP) was launched with 40 students, mostly pastors from the Caribbean Association of Evangelical Churches (AIEC).

Over these 25 years, CIPEP has helped leaders from 40 different denominations to receive training through the SEAN Courses. The AIEC has grown from 250 churches to 750! A requirement of the pastoral level is that each student must plant a new church. We visited a few of these churches last November. Some have grown to several hundred believers. Along with the Colombian Pastoral Institute, we praise the Lord for SEAN, a ministry led by the Holy Spirit to provide materials to help train pastors and leaders all over Latin America and around the world. To God be the Glory!

In His Service

Nick Woodbury



Now here is Terry's report on that trip.....

To fully understand what has happened in Colombia, one must know of the horrendous civil war fought in that country between the Government army, the Marxist guerrillas, the Paramilitary private armies and the Drug Barons. As always, the innocent victims were the civilians who were trapped between the warring factions. Let me tell the story of a small town called El Carmen.....

Up to February 2000, El Carmen and its surrounding hills had been overrun by left wing guerrillas. However it was soon to become the epicentre of the escalation of the civil war that blighted Colombia until up to three years ago. Allegedly aided by army officers, a private army, funded by rich landlords, ringed the area and stormed the town by night. The next morning they made the entire population gather in the town square, and guided by a tortured guerrilla, they identified the Marxist fighters. Then, in front of the women and children and in a drunken frenzy, they dismembered them alive with machetes and chain saws. Over 170 people were murdered that day.



However in November 2008, I was blessed to be worshipping the Lord in one of the 13 packed Christian churches of this same small town. Peace and revival have at long last arrived. I was moved to tears to hear the public witness of one of the combatants who had come to know Jesus and how the churches had been havens of refuge through those difficult years.

El Carmen is just 70 kilometres from Sincelejo, the centre of CIPEP that uses SEAN as the basic level of its pastoral training programme. The wonder of CIPEP and its denomination AIEC (The Association of Evangelical Churches of the Caribbean) is that it thrived throughout the civil war. Five pastors and one missionary were murdered, but the TEE programme continued and the churches grew, faithfully proclaiming the Gospel to all, left and right.

With CIPEP I did six full days of visitation, morning, noon and night to churches, study groups and pastors and it was non-stop blessing from place to place. From sophisticated city pastors to their simple peasant counterparts the story was the same, serious training, evangelism and discipleship, and what is more they had all done the same courses!

CIPEP, in my opinion, embodies SEAN's wildest dream!

Supporting SEAN International Financially

If you would like to give a donation please make your cheque payable to 'SEAN International and post it to our Registered Office: SEAN International, Allen Gardiner Cottage, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3QU. 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 use the Gift Aid form overleaf.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

UGANDA—Give thanks for Archbishop Orombi's vision for a TEE/SEAN programme in his province, and pray for those entrusted with the task of bringing that vision to reality.

COLOMBIA—praise God for what has been achieved, and pray for the next steps to take.

CHILE—pray for Felipe Saravia heading up the Pehuenche leadership training.

CHINA— give thanks for the dedication of the graduates and pray for their ongoing ministry.

SPAIN—give thanks for that church in Ibiza seeking to build on foundations laid by Pablo Rois.

TORONTO, CANADA —pray for Jim Christie exploring ways of training workers in his multi-cultural and multi-lingual situation.

SPAIN

Last November we reported the death of our friend and colleague Pastor Dr Pablo Rois. As well as being a tragic loss to his family, this was also a major blow to the SEAN programme in Spain as he was its prime mover.

We are pleased to report that we have a potential new Partner in Spain to take over this work. It is an active church in Ibiza of the same denomination as Pablo Rois.

CHINA

These testimonies were recorded at the first ever SEAN 'Life of Christ' Course graduation in mainland China. The graduates are all handpicked leaders who were trained to take the programme to their own churches and ministries. They studied for almost two years. The programme was very strict - they could not miss a single group meeting or fail a test or exam, but they made it! They are speaking to their teachers.

A Church Elder: We never knew before such a good tool. Through this we know God loves the Chinese Church and chooses us. We know we are not worthy, but the Life of Christ course has built up our life - it is no longer theory it has become a life application to trust God in everything and to be like Christ and love people. Though my education level is low, you have always encouraged me so I could finish. I am very grateful.

A Student: Through this learning process I have felt your love for the Chinese people. Almost 2 years of studying - often it was difficult. But every time we see you come from afar we get encouraged. And finally we were able to finish the six books and now I have my concepts clear. The courses teach us how to study the Bible and how to discern. It must be given to the Chinese Church.

STOP PRESS! Our Director's UK office is now operational and located in a rented garage in Seaton, Devon. We are most grateful to Derek and Judy Birmingham (Friends of SEAN) for their invaluable help in setting this up.

gift aid it

SEAN International GIFT AID DECLARATION

I want SEAN International to treat the enclosed donation of £.....as a Gift Aid donation; and all future donations from me until I notify you otherwise (*delete the statement about future donations if you wish*).

I pay income and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax SEAN International reclaims on my donation in the tax year. I will inform you if my circumstances change.

Signature..... Date...../...../..... See space overleaf in which to provide your details. Thank you.

CHILE More from Terry's November 2008 trip.....

From Colombia I flew to Chile to visit our Pehuenche students. They have taken a huge step forward even in the six months we have been away. There is a new confidence! They proudly displayed their first 200 kilogram's of honey. They had faithfully continued their studies.

The four students who took the final exam of Book 2, all passed - one with 100%, another with 95% and the others over 80%. The ones who did not take the written exam will later take an oral one. But the best thing was the way they opened up in conversations and sharing of ideas, something they had found very hard to do before!



The study was conducted in the brand new Chapel and Study Centre in Cauñicu, and the inauguration was a very joyous occasion.

Felipe Saravia, the young Chilean university graduate who has taken over this ministry full time, has done a remarkable job. In one of the chapels where we had failed to enthruse them to study, 15 male adults turned up on the study day!

Added to the training programme, a big company in Chile (like B&Q or Homebase) has agreed to donate over a £1000 in carpentry tools and will send up a professional carpenter to train 14 of our leaders. Then, once their produce is of industrial quality, they will buy the furniture for their stores.