



# SEAN International SPREAD Newsletter November 2020

Dear friends of SEAN,

30 years ago, Germany experienced a miracle. Two countries became one. Triggered by peaceful demonstrations (and much prayer), a separation was overcome which fascism and communism had left behind. Although much good has happened in the last 30 years, there are still barriers between East and West. Why? People do not change easily. Only by turning to God and his word, a person and society can really change. That is why we need strong churches which help believers to better understand God's word and to apply what they have learnt.

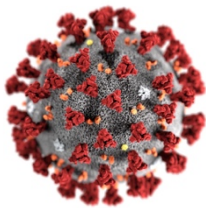
In this edition of SPREAD, we invite you to read more about SEAN's ministry around the world. Like many of you, SEAN faced challenges over the last months. We are thankful that we could conduct European and American gatherings, a Day of Prayer and our yearly Trustees meeting all via Zoom. GOD is faithful. Thank you for your cooperation and support for our worldwide ministry. With best regards,  
Markus Völker  
SEAN International Director



## SEAN AND COVID19

I'm sure that we all agree that this has been an extraordinary year in which Covid19 has shaken us all up in one way or another and, of course, has deeply affected SEAN's ministry worldwide.

Just to give an example, we have 29 associated ministries that use our courses in South, Central and North America. Many of them, up to now, have well established programmes that counted their students in the thousands and are producing wonderful fruit in Kingdom terms. We have been able to contact most of them, and by the grace of God, all of them are still active, but most have had a severe reduction in the number of their students. Some report on losing up to 70% of their students. This has been caused by the severe quarantine regional lockdowns in each country and the fact that many students have lost their jobs and income.



All the programmes have suffered a major financial crisis. In several of the larger programmes the staff salaries have been slashed and many are living on half salaries or none at all! This of courses has impacted SEAN's royalty income. Another major problem that needed to be resolved, was the fact that the Group Meetings (which are essential to the study methodology) had to be cut because of government prohibitions to social gatherings. However, this problem has been largely resolved by adopting Zoom to run the group Studies.

A plea made by many of our partners is for SEAN to enter a new phase of technology and develop its courses for use "online". This is a massive challenge to our ministry, as we need to think carefully about how SEAN courses can effectively be transferred to an 'online' format without undermining the SEAN method of personal study, group meeting and practical application in the context of the local church. Besides, we already have so much to do with managing the updates of our courses in Study Book form.



### Prayer points:

Thanksgiving:

- We thank the Lord, that despite adverse circumstances, the programs continue in action.
- We also thank the Lord for the good fruit the programs are bearing.

Petition:

- That programmes can recover and return to the level of before the pandemic.
- May the Lord provide resources to the programmes so they can grow
- May the Lord guide the directors of SEAN, to see if the courses can be developed for us 'online', which will help programmes a lot in these difficult times

Pr. Terrick J. Barratt, SEAN Coordinator in the Americas



## Czech Republic

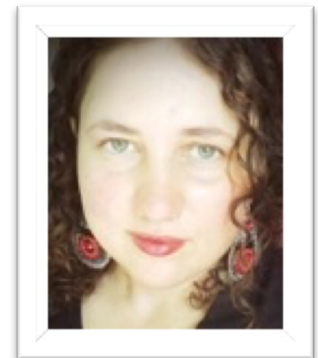
*The Spirit World in the Czech Republic (from Martina – SEAN Czech partner)*

### God's timing:

I was born in Czechoslovakia (Central Europe) and my dear friend and Christian mentor Cecilia Brassett was born in China - Hong Kong. Cecilia always had a dream to do ministry in Eastern Europe, and while she was pursuing this dream, I was crawling as a toddler around our living room in former Czechoslovakia - still quite blissfully unaware of the communist regime surrounding me and the sealed borders. Communist ideology permeated citizens' lives and dominated all aspects of society. Russia would not allow any Eastern European country to reject communism so Czechoslovakia at that time was invaded by troops. Our leaders who rejected this were arrested. When I was 14 years old I witnessed the Velvet Revolution, which saw the fall of communism in the country and brought back democracy to Czechs after fifty years of lack of freedom. The fall of the Berlin Wall marked the falling of the Iron Curtain and the start of the fall of communism in Eastern and Central Europe. Fast forward a few decades - God's timing is perfect, just as all of God's ways are perfect. God's timing is never early, and it's never been late. Cecilia didn't manage to make it to Eastern Europe during communism. Cecilia and I met in Cambridge decades later. At that time, I was a new born Christian and looking for an early morning Bible study, which I found in St. Andrew the Great church. Every Friday I used to meet with all these amazing ladies in central Cambridge.

It has helped me growing in my understanding of who I am in Christ, and I'm so grateful that Cecilia is helping me on that journey. There's a different level of respect and trust than those of family or friends. Mentors encourage you to grow into the person God is calling you to be. Wisdom and experience in life and faith can help shape your journey as a follower of Christ. They encourage you and walk alongside you as you develop spiritual disciplines such as prayer, reading the Bible, and spending time with God.

I think God answered our prayers and we are currently finishing Czech translation of SEAN's course the 'Spirit World', which is a book very much needed in the Czech Republic. We both are praying for God's will to be done and trusting our amazing God with the next steps.



**Important Note:** SEAN leadership is thankful for people like Martina who want to see people in Czechoslovakia to be set free from evil powers. If YOU would like to support these efforts financially, please donate to SEAN international. See: <https://seaninternational.com/support-us.html>.



Thank you for your generosity to support this translation work.



## Zambia

**“The living materials are making a difference in individuals and families.”**

So wrote the Revd Dr Lackson Chipeta recently, in connection with the SEAN 'Abundant Life' course, now used by the college of which he is Director and Founder - Riblar

Christian Bible College in Zambia.

The College operates in more than ten districts in that vast country, and has recently broadened its training programme for church leaders there. This has been done through the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the use of SEAN materials. An encouraging start has been made using the 'Abundant Life' course. Earlier this year Dr Lackson learned about SEAN courses via our website and our Facebook page. In July, the College entered into partnership with SEAN International. Course materials were printed and Group

Leaders identified, and trained. Study groups are now established in several districts including: Lundazi, Lumezi, Chasefu, Chipata, Chama, Lusaka, Chongwe and Mwase-lundazi. Across this area, 85 Group Leaders have been trained and 350 students enrolled! The work serves local churches and Christian organisations, and involves working hand in hand with traditional and civic leaders.

The basic SEAN model combines personal home study and group meetings. Riblar College, however, also makes use of: - 'Zoom'; WhatsApp; Facebook; emails; 'one on one' encounters; home visits; and local radio, in their TEE (Theological Education by Extension) ministry.



Revd Dr Lackson Chipeta with his wife Fainess Theo Chipeta

They face a number of challenges: the high cost of printing the course books; high cost of New International Version Bibles and difficulty obtaining them; transport costs; poor road network in rural areas, and: high levels of illiteracy. They need: printers; copiers; laptop; motorbikes; cycles; and access to cheaper Bibles. Income generation is a priority as is bible-based literacy work.

In the midst of the challenges, however, there are also encouragements and causes for thanksgiving. Dr Lackson writes of pastors and church leaders gaining theological knowledge and becoming more equipped to share with others what they have learned, and to do so confidently and without fear. He also expresses his appreciation that the 'Abundant Life' course is "easy and user-friendly to the group leaders and the learners"

We in, SEAN International, are most grateful to our new partners in Zambia for sharing their encouragements and challenges with us. We close with the full version of the quote from Dr Lackson with which we began this article:

**“Thanks for the living materials which are making a difference in individuals and families as well. To God be the glory for ever.”**

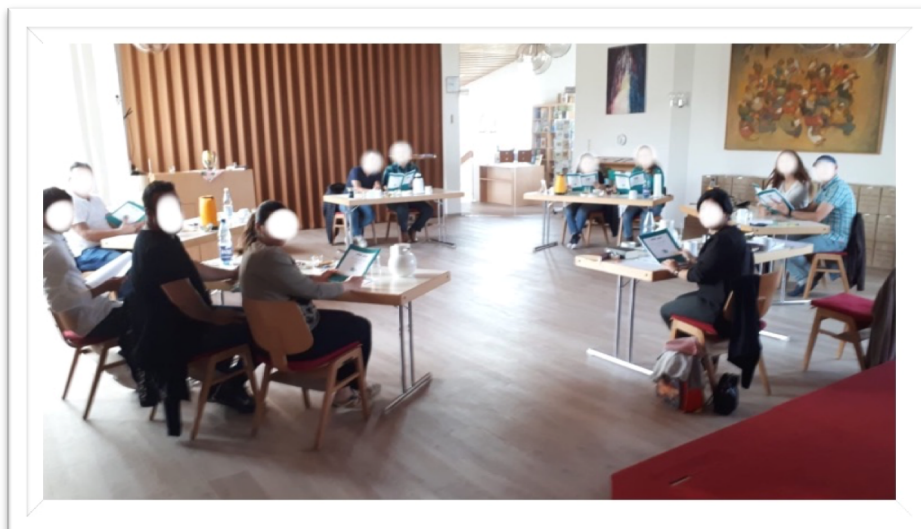
*This article was sent in by the Revd Tony Thompson - SEAN's Regional Coordinator for Africa.*



## Farsi in Germany

More than 5 years ago, many people from the Arab and Farsi speaking world had to leave their countries.

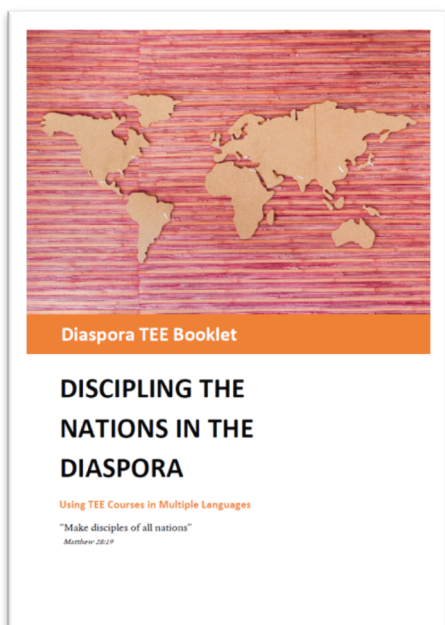
War, persecution and unspeakable suffering went along with it. Many found a new home in Europe. More than one million people have fled to Germany. Thanks to the willingness of Christian churches



throughout Europe, refugees have understood what it means to have a living relationship with Jesus. What an encouragement that in the last weeks the first Farsi speaking group of 11 people we know of, is studying the SEAN course Abundant Life in Farsi. What a blessing.

If you are interested in SEAN courses in Arabic, Farsi, Chinese, English, Spanish or another language, just send us an email ([markus.voelker@seaninternational.org](mailto:markus.voelker@seaninternational.org)). We look forward to hearing from you or your church. (Dr. Markus Völker – SEAN Europe Co-ordinator)

## Discipling the Nations in the Diaspora



SEAN works closely in Asia with the Increase Association which has recently launched the first ever '**Diaspora TEE Booklet**'!

Increase and SEAN have been working since 2015 to help TEE develop among 'Diaspora' people living in other countries from their homeland. As an expression of our commitment to the Diaspora, the new booklet is a tool to help those involved in Diaspora ministries.

The booklet brings together materials on:

- starting up a Diaspora TEE Programme;
- obtaining TEE courses for Diaspora;
- Group Leaders' Training with Diaspora groups;
- Overcoming challenges with Diaspora groups
- Diaspora TEE Testimonies

The booklet is available to download from the Increase website [here](#):

## Supporting SEAN International Financially

We are so grateful to all those who choose to give financially to support SEAN International. Your gifts help us to work towards our vision of seeing 'Local churches worldwide empowering all their members for whole life discipleship, mission and ministry in their context.'

Information about how to give can be found on our website at: <http://www.seaninternational.com/support-us.html>



- Donations can be made via Paypal by using the 'Donate' button
- By post, please make your cheque payable to 'SEAN International' and send it to: **SEAN International, Ferndale, Cranston Road, East Grinstead, W Sussex RH19 3HL**
- Online you can use our secure online giving facility at [give.net](https://my.give.net/seandonationgen). (<https://my.give.net/seandonationgen>)
- If you would like to give regularly to SEAN International, please complete the [bankers' standing order form](#) and post it back to us at the address above.
- If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to 'Gift Aid' your donation, please use the [Gift Aid declaration form](#).

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