



SPREAD

AUGUST 2011

Welcome to our
40th BIRTHDAY
EDITION

See centre pages.



Peru

Jesús es el Camino (Jesus is the Way)

Police Captain Oscar Ugarte lay in his prison cell, his life in tatters. One shot from his gun had led to his being divorced by his wife, abandoned by family and friends, sacked from his job and facing twenty five years in jail. He was alone and crushed.



Pastor Oscar Ugarte with his wife (front row centre) and family. Patricia (left) is now studying at the LIMA Seminary. Of the 5-year course she received 2 whole years credit for her SEAN studies!!

In success he had not been a religious man, but in despair - a bit like the thief on the cross - he turned in repentance to God. Although there was no human agent to present him the Gospel, things started to change in his life, the first sign being an element of hope and peace.

After a few months, some missionaries visited the prison and, on hearing his story, presented him the Gospel message which he joyfully embraced. They also gave him the SEAN course **Abundant Life** which he devoured and began to put into practice. Other prisoners, seeing the change in his life, began to open up to the Gospel and also to accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

After several years the prison church passed the hundred mark, and Oscar continued his SEAN studies course by course as he pastored the new flock. One day a Peruvian mission team entered the prison to support this effort, and to Oscar's astonishment one of the team was an attractive woman who had been one of his many lovers in his earlier life. After a long and emotional sharing of their new found faith she told Oscar how happy she was to see him now as a Christian and asked him, if he would like to meet his nine year old daughter Patricia, fruit of their past affair and whom Oscar did not even know existed!

Miracles continued to happen, when out of the blue, Oscar's case was reviewed. It was concluded that his shot had been in self-defence, and that his conviction had resulted from internal grudges against him. On leaving prison Oscar got a job as a security guard, married Patricia's mother and continued in active Christian service.

One day, he was asked to take over a small struggling congregation on the outskirts of Lima, the capital of Peru. When he arrived, the congregation of thirty halved, as many refused to accept him as Pastor. He persevered and remembering his SEAN training in prison, immediately set up his congregational Bible Institute to disciple new believers and train new workers.

Over the past decade, his congregation "Jesús es el Camino" (Jesus is the Way) has grown to over three hundred active and trained members.



'Jesús es el Camino' congregation (they have a morning congregation and an evening congregation).

Instead of making his church grow further, Oscar has preferred to reach out and share their blessings with other small struggling congregations and help them to grow. For this they have purchased a bus, and every Sunday afternoon they send out a team of fifty trained evangelists to work alongside the members of these other churches to visit people in their homes.



The bus and cars with team going out to support another congregation in door to door visitation. This ministry has recorded five thousand professions of faith.

In this way, the other congregations are also growing and adopting SEAN courses to disciple and train their members. Indeed - "Jesús es el Camino" (Jesus **IS** the way!!)

(Story by Terry Barratt, our Director, following his visit to Peru earlier this year.)

...IT'S SEAN'S 40TH BIRTHDAY!...

SEAN 1971 to 2011!!



Peggy and Tony Barratt enjoying time together in their garden.

Below, we look back to our beginnings.

Then we share news and a few of the many greetings and testimonies that we have received.

More will appear in our next edition.

We invite you to give thanks with us for all that God has achieved through SEAN so far, and to pray with us for all who are part of the SEAN family, as we seek, under God, to continue this work. (Philippians 1:6)

In the year that we celebrate SEAN's 40th birthday, we also have witnessed the passing into glory of Peggy Barratt (1923 – 2011) the wife of our Founder, the late Tony Barratt. Many of us were privileged to share in a beautiful service of 'Thanksgiving' for Peggy's life on Tuesday, 28th June in Axmouth Church, Devon, England.

Terry, their eldest son, recently found a highly significant entry in one of his dad's 5-year diaries. The entry was made in the city of Tucumán, Argentina, on 14th July 1971.

It says simply... **"I am to direct the Extension Ministry"**

During the 1950's and 1960's Tony Barratt's great passion for the churches served by the South American Mission Society was the training of their members for leadership. For the vast majority, training in Residential Colleges was not possible or practical. Tony realised that only locally-based training by Extension would serve the purpose, and that the training had to be accessible to all, not just to those with a good education.

He prepared a paper, in which he set out his vision, for presentation at a Consultation on 'Education by Extension' convened by Bishops and other Mission Leaders of the South American Mission Society in Tucumán in 1971. The Consultation concluded that Tony should be asked to direct the 'Training by Extension' Ministry – hence that entry in his diary on 14th July 1971. **We believe that was the day that SEAN was born!**

"It gradually became apparent that this new ministry was destined by God to circle the world. I suppose at the time of writing his book, at almost any moment of day or night, students somewhere are opening their SEAN Study Books with eager anticipation of learning more about their faith."

How true today, must this statement be, as student numbers have continued to grow! Finally, that important Consultation in 1971, was also the occasion of the ordination as presbyter of our Director, Terry Barratt. So this year is also his 40th anniversary as an ordained minister in God's church.

'Congratulations, Terry! The Lord be with you!'

Tony Thompson (Chairman: SEAN International)



Now, forty years on and as we remember Peggy Barratt with thanksgiving we gain further insight into those very early days through several quotations from her book **"The Humming Bird Nest"**...

"Now that Tony was officially recognised as the leader for this new project, he could begin to seek much

needed reinforcements to speed things up. He wanted colleagues who shared his passion to make top-quality theological training available to the simplest of our national leaders."

"We discovered that an intellectual battle was being waged between two conflicting systems of educational technology; all the pundits at that time considered them to be mutually exclusive. The first of these was "programmed" instruction, the second was "open-ended" group discussion. As we prayed over the approach we should take, Tony felt God prompting him to experiment by marrying these two methods in a single course.

Firstly, each student would be given his or her copy of a "programmed" self-instructional text. From this text they would be asked to cover several lessons a week at home, each student proceeding at his or her own pace.



Tony at work in the early days of SEAN.

"This grass-roots educational programme was named "Seminario por Extensión Anglicano", or "SEAN" for short. When SEAN spread far beyond the boundaries of the Anglican Church and became an interdenominational and international body, we changed its name to "Study by Extension for All Nations".

Secondly, the programme would include weekly open-ended group discussion of all the points the students had learned in their home studies. Each group would have roughly five to eight students directed by a group leader. The leader would be supplied with a special Group Leader's Manual with aids to stimulate lively group discussion etc

....IT'S SEAN'S 40TH BIRTHDAY...



Liberia

On Sunday, 17th July, just three days after SEAN became 40 years old, SEAN Liberia held their first ever 'Life of Christ' Graduation Ceremony.



Their Director, the Revd Philip Boimah, kindly sent us this

and other photos of the event. **"Brothers and sisters of SEAN Liberia – many congratulations on your achievement!"**



Korea

We are very grateful to Stephen Cho for this lovely greeting...

"Congratulations for 40th anniversary of SEAN from all TEE Korea staff, pastors and students! I believe our Lord is very pleased with what SEAN has been doing and blessed its ministry up to the present time!"

I would like to give you a few FACTS of SEAN in TEE Korea. I hope they will encourage others. In 2010, 5,879 students studied 'Abundant Life'. At this moment, SEAN courses are being used in 421 small and big churches in Korea. About 150 of those churches have taken TEE/SEAN courses as their church's main Disciple training courses. Over 1,000 students completed Compendium book 1 thru 6.

All blessings, (Stephen) SR Cho Director/TEE Korea"

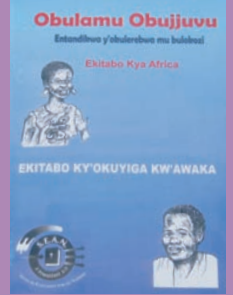


Uganda

Recently, Jacqui and Rob Brown (SEAN UK) wrote to us... "We thought you would be encouraged to see pictures of the Luganda translation of **'Life to the Full'** (Abundant Life) just hot off the press. This will have a huge impact on the Luganda-speaking population as it is one of the largest in Uganda. We praise the Lord for all that has been accomplished and continue to look for His provision to sustain what has been established so far."



The massive task of translating, proof reading, typing and printing **'Life to the Full'** in the Luganda language was completed by Joyce, Rita and Peter (see photo). What a great achievement!



ORTA – Russia

We were delighted to receive this greeting from Anneta Vyssotskaia. She lives in New Zealand, yet continues to travel extensively in her native Russia and across Central Asia leading SEAN seminars and encouraging TEE/SEAN programmes wherever she goes.

"Congratulations on SEAN's 40th Anniversary.

40 is a good age - wise and experienced and still full of strength and energy. May God bless all of you and fill you with much strength and energy to continue the good work that started 40 years ago. Long live SEAN!

Anneta



Kyrgyzstan

This testimony followed attendance at a SEAN seminar led by Anneta Vyssotskaia...

"Before the seminar I was looking for study materials which I could use with my students. But I could not find the proper ones. I thought I came to this seminar by chance but God had a plan. On the first day I thought: 'Yes, this is exactly what I need! Because I have a big desire for every believer to be and know that he is the happiest person. Life with Jesus is a great joy. 'Abundant Life' is what we need!"

Through the seminar God has affirmed me in the understanding that a person changes through meditating on the Word. I was especially inspired that every church member can get a theological education without leaving his church, ministry and work.

I pray that our pastor will bless us to start studies in our church."



Nepal

Here is one of the testimonies sent to us by Tanka Subedi of ITEEN (Institute for Theological Education by Extension Nepal). The ITEEN Courses referred to are SEAN Courses used within the ITEEN Programme.

ITEEN courses have been a blessing to me. It has changed the way of my thinking and my life. ITEEN courses have encouraged me to get involved in ministry and be regular in fellowship. It has taught me how to help others and I am thankful that now I can give. I have learnt to apply the teachings of the Bible. I am able to give openheartedly to the poor, orphans and the church.

I had a very short temper. The course has helped me to overcome my anger. I am now in control of my anger. Praise the Lord. It has helped me to go to youth fellowship regularly.

Raju Kunwar, Kalimati.



Mongolia

Graham Aylett (MSTEE Mongolia) wrote to Terry recently...

“Congratulations on 40 years of ministry as a presbyter, and 40 years of SEAN!

Here is the testimony of the Senior pastor of the ‘Salvation of Jesus’ church given at our last ‘Users’ Forum’ in Ulaanbaatar. I hope that this may be an encouragement to you, and others in the SEAN movement. This is grass roots, and leadership training - not in the capital of Mongolia - but in one of the southern (Gobi) provinces of Mongolia.

With praise to the Lord for what he has done, is doing and will do with SEAN, Graham



Later I saw the potential of this material for training.

Although we started off meeting in a ger now we have a church building that can seat 200 people. Praise the Lord!

It is clear that TEE’s structured training results in the growth of churches, and the growth in maturity of believers.

The churches in the provincial centre are using this training effectively, and in the future, we look forward to training at all levels throughout the province. There are so many advantages to using TEE!

I love and support MSTEE. In South Gobi we have a great Coordinator, whose name is Haisandai. I don’t lead groups now myself, but I support them as a pastor.

How do we overcome problems that arise? We pray with fasting. There’s early-morning prayer, and there’s night prayer. We overcome by prayer.

Natsagdorj pastor



(Editor’s note – We are sorry that we were only able to include here an edited version of this testimony. We believe, however, that all users of SEAN Courses could benefit from studying the full version. We will make this available on our website from early August and can also supply it on request via our contact email address).

Late news: As we go to press, we have just heard that Pastor Natsagdorj, sadly and suddenly died, on 21st July, following a relatively simple operation after a car accident.



We heard the Good News in 1998 in South Gobi province, and I became a believer.

I first came across the TEE course with the title, ‘Abundant Life’. The title spoke to me. I was the son of a family of shamans. I had Buddhist/shamanist leanings myself. But this book was not ‘religious’. I wanted to know more about this ‘Abundant Life’, so I studied with great interest.

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)

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