

Report of the
Russian Seminars
On
Theological Education by
Extension

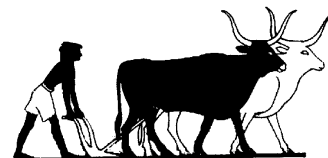
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PROLOGUE

“What winter?” was the bemused Russian response when during the minibus drive though the countryside to Devon from London we apologised to our Russian and Azerbaijani friends for bringing them over to England during the middle of our winter.

We had expected the nine Russian delegates to travel 3500 miles from Magadan and Vladivostok to Moscow without any guarantee of receiving a visa there to proceed to England. Then, from Moscow, to travel another 1500 miles or more to London - all in the depths of their Russian winter where temperatures can drop to below -40C. Nearly all of those who came had never been outside the former Soviet Union.

Looking back, we had to be either irresponsible, mad – or listening to God.

Their willingness to come represented an act of immense courage, compassion and faith. This Report seeks not only to record why, but to help us prayerfully take the next tough steps of faith and obedience together.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks:

- To our prayer partners and donors who have stood with us in faith and generosity through the planning and running of these seminars.
- To Michael Languish, Bishop of Exeter and Colin Bazley, former Bishop of Chile and former Presiding Bishop of the Southern Cone of South America, for their letters of support to the embassy concerned.
- To Sir Roderic Lyne, KBE, CMG, British Ambassador in Moscow, and Peter Smith, British Consul, for the kind and helpful way their staff dealt with the visas.
- To Margrit Pfister, fellow worker for Jesus in Siberia and the Russian Far East, for coming over from Switzerland to help the Russian teams settle in.
- To Ray and Jacci Hunter and all the staff at Weycroft Hall for the warmth, good food and wonderful family atmosphere they provided throughout the seminars.
- To Alison Martin, Rachel Ley, Pauline Huggins, Tony Baker and Steve Masters for their practical generosity regarding transport needs.
- To Adrian & June Redfern of Crediton Methodist Church, Derek & Evelyn Coren of Westdown Chapel, Cheriton Bishop, and John & Sue Longridge of Beacon Hill Chapel, Exeter, for their generous weekend hospitality to the delegates and the tremendous welcome and interest their fellowships gave to them.
- To Major John McCombe, Rector of the Salvation Army Training College in London for arranging accommodation for all the delegates on their last night in England so that they could see London before their return.

We thank God for all of this and His amazing enabling power over everything in which we were involved.

Zafar Ismail
Rob Brown
Peter Bisset
Michael Huggins

FORWARD

**This talk was given by Anneta Vyssotskava on the 20th January, 2004
during the Open day**

A VISION FOR RUSSIAN CHURCH TRAINING Anneta Vyssotskaya, D.D.

Dear brothers and sisters!

I greet you in the name of the Lord on behalf of the church in Russia. I am a church pastor and a member of the board of directors of a Christian University in Vladivostok and the Chairman of the Board of a Christian school for children in my home city. I teach church History and church persecution in a Christian University. I am involved in church training in my country, Russia. But I am not someone special in this group of people because they are all involved in church training and there are also thousands of other church leaders in Russia who could not come to this seminar but they are all involved in church training. The only reason why I speak to you now is that I can speak better English!

I was born in the Soviet Union. My parents were people who received very good University education. My mother has a PhD in Ancient Russian literature. My father knows many foreign languages and has several University degrees. I was taught from my childhood that it is very important to study well and get a good education. I graduated from University and I am glad that I was able to do it because it gave me a good professional foundation. I was very successful in my professional career and very soon got a good reputation in the Institute where I worked.

My husband's parents both were and his father still is a highly respected university professor of Chemistry. My husband has a PhD in Organic Chemistry. He also has had a very successful professional career.

Education is very important. I believe in it. But without God any best education is meaningless. You may become a most educated person in the world but if you do not know God, the Bible says you are a fool.

I was such a fool who did not believe in God. But God loves us even when we are fools. And His mercy was enough to save me despite my excellent mark on scientific atheism. And I became a Christian 12 years ago. And my husband became a Christian at the same time. We met Christian missionaries and they gave us a Bible and told us about God. I believe in miracles because my own salvation was a miracle.

And I believe that only after I became a Christian my real education started. God's Word is the best textbook in the world, the Holy Spirit is the best Teacher and Church is the best school. I am so grateful to God that he has placed an enormous desire into my heart to eat and to drink His Word and it helped me to grow as a Christian.

Russia is a huge country. There are hundreds of nationalities living in this country. Most of these people do not know God. Do not believe those lies that there are 95 per cent Russian orthodox Christians in our country. 90 per cent of these 95 do not

believe in God, they do not go to church, they do not know Jesus' teaching, they practice astrology, occult, eastern religions, they fight with each other, they steal, they go into prostitution, Mafia, drug addiction, abortion, alcoholism etc. Russia is a place of deep spiritual darkness and poverty. There are about 1 million homeless children there. It may seem terrible and disgusting. But God loves this sinful country and he sent His only Son to die for the people in Russia. It is written in the Word of God and I believe in it.

I look back at 12 years of my Christian walk and work (because both started almost at the same time) and I am tremendously sorry that I have had such a little impact on the spiritual situation in my country. Only one 1 per cent of the population is protestant Christian. There are many ethnic people groups who do not have even one saved person. There are thousands of villages where there is no church. There is a huge, huge need of trained Christian workers who would go to every village, to every ethnic people group, to every house to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As I was working on this report yesterday I had a vision of a huge wave that started to go down but I also saw a new, much more huge wave that is going to come soon. I believe this wave is spiritual revival in Russia. 10-12 years ago there was a great revival and hundreds of thousands of people were saved. Thousands of new churches started. But it is not enough for God. His passion is to save everyone. His desire is to see His Church glorified in Russia. I believe that a new wave of spiritual revival is coming very soon. We must be prepared. God's church must be prepared to care for many new lambs of God that will be born and will need lots and lots of milk of God's Word.

We must be prepared. We cannot just study the Bible in church or home groups. We need to study it in such a way that it will mobilize the whole church for the work of the ministry. We need something that has proved to be very effective. I believe that SEAN TEE is this tool that will help Russian churches to train, equip and mobilize the whole church for the work of ministry. Before coming to this seminar, I received several letters from my missionary friends in different countries saying that this TEE programme is used very effectively in their countries.

In Russia it is very important for every Christian to get a good theological training because we were never taught the Word of God before. People did not go to Sunday schools in their childhood, they never read the Bible, they do not have true understanding of God. Even when they become Christians they still may have all sorts of wrong ideas and it can produce heresies. They believe in God but their mind must be changed as well. They must become Christ-like and it will happen only if they know Christ and His teaching in all its fullness and start applying it in their life.

Good education is important but much more important is good theological education of every church member. Because this is what changes our thinking and gives us a most successful career in our Christian life. We are all called to serve the Lord and the need around is huge. There are so many spiritually hungry people now. There are multitudes that are unsaved. There are multitudes who need the Word of God to be taught to them.

SEAN materials are already used in the Russian Far East and other places of Russia. They are used in churches and even in prisons to provide theological training for those who have become Christians. You do not need special education to start studying SEAN and it is very good because it is available to every church member. SEAN already brings good results in Russia. But this is not enough. We need something on a much larger scale to be done than we have now.

Coming to the SEAN TEE seminars is a tremendous blessing for all our group. We are all very inspired and encouraged. We have excellent teachers from different countries who share their SEAN experience with us. We have got a new vision from God which we now take to Russia to share with many churches in the Far East of Russia. We are thankful to all the Christians in your country who have prayed and given for us to come here. May God bless and give you in much more abundance that you may continue to give even more for the work of the Kingdom. And we also know that prayer is even more important. We usually say: we start with nothing or almost nothing and God provides for the Christian work to be done. But this is not true. We start with prayer. And prayer is not nothing. It is a weapon against the enemy. It is asking our main Donor to provide us with everything that we need for God's work to be done. We need your prayers and your support to continue to do God's work. And one of the main tasks now is to train God's people in Russian churches for the work of the ministry.

I return to my country and my church greatly encouraged by what I have learnt here. I have taken a decision to study SEAN TEE myself. I take SEAN to my own church. I plan to share SEAN with many Russian pastors and bishops who are my good friends. Because not only me but all my country needs a good training programme that is available to every church member from grass-root level. To achieve this task of bringing SEAN to many Russian churches we formed two regional committees – Vladivostok and Magadan; and also a National Committee. And our task now is to start sharing SEAN with church leaders in our region, to start tutor training and start printing the materials. There is also a great need of re-editing the translation that we have already. To fulfil this task we will need human staff, equipment and finances. Actually we have nothing of it yet, but we pray and prayer is not nothing and God will provide and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

THE DELEGATES

FROM BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

Valeriy Vladimirovich Krasickov

Valeriy came at the expressed request and recommendations of Focus Radio, World Radio and "Light for the Peoples" He is acknowledged as a responsible and imaginative worker in both Radio TEE and the initiation of SEAN groups in Azerbaijan, especially among the minority people groups there.

FROM MAGADAN, FAR EAST RUSSIA

Olga Borisovna Rybakova

Olga is the Founder/Director of the St James' Bible College, Magadan, and pastor of the Revival Church of Magadan. She is a lady of outstanding initiative and wisdom with a remarkable ability to inspire others of different backgrounds to work together. She has already instigated TEE training in St James' College

Alla Mikhailovna Vysokova

Alla is a graduate of the St James' Bible College, Magadan, and an extension student of the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in St.-Petersburg. She is the leader of St. Marks Evangelical Lutheran Church, Magadan. She also represents the TEE training development of the Lutheran churches in Siberia and the Russian Far East, serving under the authority of Manfred Brockman, the Lutheran Dean of these provinces.

Irina Alexandrovna Krizanovskay

Irina, as well as being a University lecturer in English, is both the founder and editor of the Christian women's magazine, "Мир Женщины", which is inter-denominational and now in its third year. Irina has continually given the St James Bible College TEE development team her interest, support and practical encouragement.

Liubov Evgenevna Fedorova

Liubov serves the team at St James, Magadan, as an experienced accountant and administrator. She also acts as a professional advisor on labour laws and accounting to a number of related Christian organizations in Magadan. She is involved in local Christian broadcasting.

Galina Aleksandrovna Gerkina

Galina, as part of the St James' team, serves as the social worker in the St James Centre for helping families. She has valuable experience in using TEE material, especially for mission and as a field worker.

Igor Anatolievich Nichkasov

Igor Nichkasov has been serving for five years as a senior Pentecostal pastor to the churches in the Magadan region. He has a good reputation for co-operating closely with other Christian denominations in the region, as well as the St James' Bible College, where he has now accepted an invitation to join the TEE team there as a tutor.

FROM VLADIVOSTOK, FAR EAST RUSSIA

Anneta Vladimirovna Vyssotskaia

Anneta, pastor of the Vladivostok Evangelical Christian Church, is a church leader who is immensely respected both across the Christian denominations within the Primor'ye Krai region and beyond, especially for her initiative and ability to get different churches to work together in mission and help ministries. She is both a director and lecturer (Church History and Church Persecution) at the Christian University and serves on the board of an inter-denominational Christian school that she helped initiate.

Vera Vladimirovna Sapojnikova

Vera is a graduate of the Calvary International Bible Institute and has been serving since 1999 as Administrator of the North Union of Evangelical Christian Churches, some 40 churches and four schools, covering the Russian Far East regions of Yakutia, Amur, Khabaraosk and Primorye regions. This year she was appointed Chief Education Officer of the Union's Department of Christian Education. She has already had experience in the use of TEE.

Vladimir Mikhailivich Vysotskiy

Vladimir is a graduate of the Faith Bible College in New Zealand. He is an accomplished Christian translator, having had many contacts with church workers from various different nations. He is also very skilled in informational technology programmes and their use.

FROM SWEDEN

Bengt Samuel Forsberg

Samuel, who speaks fluent Russian, represented the Swedish mission "Light for the Peoples" which is very involved with the isolated peoples' groups across the former Soviet Union.

FROM KOREA

Puk Young Kim

Kim was the former pastor of the Korean Church of London and now serves in Korea as President of the Ezra Bible Institute for Graduate Studies.

SUMMARY

A THE REASON FOR THESE SEMINARS

1. A conviction that “Grass Root” TEE, especially that represented by the South American - born SEAN material, has a vital important role to play in equipping the people of God for effective ministry and service within the vast harvest field of the Former Soviet Union.
2. Realization that, although much of the course material in the SEAN TEE curriculum has been translated into Russian, it is not being used to anything like its true potential within the churches. The reasons are twofold:
 - Lack of proper introduction to the educational methodology leading to confusion and misunderstanding regarding its goals and use.
 - Absence of a proper tutor training programme in Russia.
3. The need for a regional and/or national umbrella TEE organisation that is Russian owned, Russian financed and Russian led that can take over the responsibility for this work.

B THE GOALS OF THE SEMINARS

That having undertaken these two weeks in England,

1. the delegates, as a team, would be competent to set up the necessary TEE organisation required to facilitate the running of TEE programmes on a local, regional and even national basis.
2. The delegates, as a team, will also be competent to train other people in the specific skills needed in the areas education methodology, editing, administration and financial policies that are associated with a well run TEE programme.

C THE SEMINARS

The seminars are discussed in detail on pages 10-18. The Russian and Azerbaijani delegates were joined by Puk Kyoung Kim, President of the Ezra Bible College for Graduate Studies in Korea and Bengt Samuel Forsberg of the Swedish Mission “Light for the Peoples”. The presence and sensitive input of both men was immensely appreciated by everybody.

Much of the vibrancy of these seminars was due to the on-going TEE involvement and experience of the seminar leaders, coupled with the immense commitment of each of the delegates. Above all, we were very conscious that many people were standing with us in prayer.

SUMMARY OF THE SEMINAR & WORKSHOP CONTENTS

- Vision, mission, responsibility for training
- The theological basis for TEE
- Models of ministry training
- Educational principles and learning theory of TEE
- Educational principles – programmed instruction

- Educational principles – group dynamics
- Educational principles – practical ministry assignments.
- Educational principles – curriculum development
- Administrative structure and goals – national organization
- Administrative structure and goals – regional organizations
- Administration structures – local TEE centers
- Administration – financial policies
- Administration – production and distribution of courses.
- Administration – accountability
- Administration - accounting principles and systems
- Accreditation
- Tutor training – principles, content and practicalities
- Course development
- TEE and help ministries
- International examples of “Grass root” TEE

D THE RESULTS OF THE SEMINARS

We trust that this report will demonstrate how the goals of the seminars and workshops were met. In fact what was achieved went far beyond the original hopes and expectations of the organisers.

All the delegates, representing some five Christian traditions, a Christian University and two Bible Colleges, were united in purpose and worked closely together throughout their stay. By the close of the first week they had already decided to form a national TEE body, ORTA (The Open Russian Theological Academy). Initially ORTA will have two regional sub-committees based in Magadan and Vladivostok to serve the Russian Far East and Siberia.

We believe too that the delegate from Azerbaijan has the vision, determination and know-how to draw in the right team to help him, having already initiated a great deal of pioneering TEE work.

E NEXT STAGES

ORTA will require sensitive financial support during its formative stages, though, like ITEEN, it plans to make the important yet difficult steps towards financial independence. Their immediate and long-term plans are detailed in Annetta Vyssotskayaia's report on page 16.

The experiences and successes of these seminars have, we believe, confirmed the feasibility of three important developments:

- The establishment of TEE Training Teams drawn from a network of experienced TEE practitioners worldwide.
- An International “Grass Root” TEE Convention to be held within the next two years
- The formation of a specialised, though independent, TEE funding agency

These are presented and discussed on pages 18-20.

THE SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

The Seminar Leaders:

- **Jacqui Brown, Field Director, SEAN UK.**
- **Zafar Ismail, former Director of the Open Theological Seminary, Lahore, Pakistan and currently serving as Director of Al K'hair Ministries.**
- **Tanka Subedi, National Coordinator, ITEEN, Nepal.**
- **Rita Subedi, Programme Coordinator and Translator, ITEEN**
- **Peter Bisset, Director, ITEEN.**
- **Richard Collins FCA. Partner of Collins Davies Chartered Accountants.**
- **Bernard Cocker, Founder/Director of the International Aid Trust**

Zarish Zaman, Zafar Ismail's OTS colleague, was refused a visa so was unable to come.

Michael Huggins, because of his seminar administration responsibilities, chose to assist and support the other seminar leaders when called upon to do so rather than lead a seminar.

The Translators – Irina Krizhanovskay, Anneta Vyssotskaia and Vladimir Vysotskiy

The seminar organizers wish to record how indebted they are to these three Russian delegates who volunteered to serve as translators. The quality of their work, including their brilliant glossaries, was not just of the highest professional standard, but an example of joyful Christian service. They were always positive and willing to go the extra mile. Their contribution was a major factor in the successful outworking of the seminars and workshops.

THE SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

1 Seminars led by Jacqui Brown,

Jacqui took the delegates step by step through the educational principles behind TEE, covering in thorough and practical detail the principles behind programmed learning, group tutoring and the value of practical ministry assignments. Jacqui used a special Power Point presentation that had been skillfully adapted into Russian prior to each seminar by the dedication of Vladimir Vysotskiy, who often worked into the small hours of the morning.

Drawing on ten years of experience in the use of SEAN TEE in the Axminster Christian Fellowship, which Rob and Jacqui Brown founded, and on her experience of presenting training seminars that she and her team have been giving to a growing number of UK church leaders, Jacqui's seminars were clearly presented, sincere focused, practical and helpful.

Jacqui is currently Field Director of SEAN UK. This is a new independent Charity formed in 2003 with a license from SEAN International to publish and distribute SEAN material in the English language, but the main focus of the ministry of SEAN UK is primarily to provide the type of training witnessed in Jacqui's seminars. SEAN

UK is providing a ministry that challenges the churches on their need for a long term vision for discipleship and mission, a ministry aimed at church leaders who are facing up to their responsibility for the discipleship of ALL their church membership (however humble), and a ministry that should not be confined to the shores of the United Kingdom. SEAN UK's role as distributors of TEE books is better understood in the light of this vision, as a service and follow-up resource to such a vision. .

. The response of the delegates to these seminars was very positive

2 Seminars led by Zafar Ismail,

Zafar provided the delegates with both a scholarly and Biblical background to grass-root level TEE within the context of the church as the local witnessing community. During the seminars we looked at how Christianity starts with the local church – person to family to community – and that, like the cells of a body, our identity within the church is functional within family and community.

We also looked at how the maturing of men and women of God is an area that needs to be pursued and carefully guarded. We looked at how the very word Seminary is derived from the Latin *seminarium*, meaning a garden, a seed plot, where seed has to grow and take roots. The natural seedbed for growth in Christian character is the local church. The equipping of God's people, therefore, should happen where they are – in the local church.

Although God gives both gifts and calling to each one of us, we looked at how the church has the responsibility before God to equip all its members for service. We examined together how this local focus for theological education and mission can be served effectively through a relevant TEE programme, and how and why, therefore, the training of local church-based TEE tutors is essential for this.

Using the Pakistani OTS TEE programme as a springboard, Zafar explored the historical development of mission strategy within the Indian sub-continent. He showed how traditionally Western money has dictated mission strategy, but argued that effective mission strategy needs to be local rather than global. He gave the example of Pakistan, where the challenge to the witnessing community of the church, representing 2% of the population, is to be envisioned and equipped to reach the other 98%. The delegates then had an opportunity to examine the challenges that lay ahead in their own local, regional and national situation.

Zafar introduced the seminars to the problems and opportunities facing Christians within an Islamic culture, and the principles under which the administration and curriculum development of OTS was formulated within this environment. We were encouraged to explore the importance of cultural adaptations of the material when translating in order to reach the lesson objectives most effectively.

Zafar explained the principles behind the OTS TEE administrative structure and its approach to tutor training and cross cultural training. The need for curriculum development to be relevant to the cultural requirements within the churches was also studied, leading to discussion on the practicalities of outside accreditation and whether such could be pertinent or not at grass-root level. Whatever the accreditation available, it was argued that a country's TEE curriculum had to be developed first and foremost to meet the needs of its local churches.

Zafar's seminars proved consistently to be thought provoking and always led to productive discussions.

3 Seminars led by Tanka Subedi, Rita Subedi and Peter Bisset

The Nepalese team explained why and how ITEEN was established, working all the time with and through the churches. They worked through the practicalities of ITEEN's legal and administrative structure in detail, laying out some important principles that the Russian and Azerbaijani delegates were able to discuss and formulate in the light of Russia's religious and taxation laws.

The ITEEN management programme was presented and discussed in terms of establishing short, medium and long-term goals, goals that must be realistic and obtainable. The importance of teamwork and the ultra-careful selection of staff, including those at trustee and management level was also discussed in detail.

ITEEN's policy towards financial priorities and correspondingly careful budgetary controls and transparent reporting was also discussed. The delegates were provided with actual examples of ITEEN's annual budget proposals and monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly budget-actual reports.

The Nepalese team represents a country which has a low level subsistence economy, yet, even from such a background, the team nonetheless emphasized the practical steps that ITEEN is taking with the churches towards a level of financial sustainability that will take them away from having to constantly rely on Western grant money to function.

The importance of establishing clear and acceptable educational discipline within the programme was emphasised. A sound tutor-training programme linked to this should be the priority of any serious TEE system. These points were addressed through practical and entertaining workshops during which the team drew in aspects of ITEEN's own Tutor Training programme which the delegates were able to experience for themselves. The TEE tutor-training workshops are a very serious foundation to the ITEEN programme. No one can tutor a group until they have undergone this training. Because of this rule, in Nepal applicants have been known to travel for up to 5 days on foot before a three day bus journey to attend a three day seminar; all this with the continual hazard of being attacked or even killed in the some of the remote areas.

As an on-going practical extension to this tutor-training, throughout the two weeks all the delegates worked their way through a SEAN TEE course, "Abundant Light" (the Light of the Bible). The delegates were divided into two tutorial groups. Each group member would do the home studies daily in his or her "spare" time, then attend the group tutorial every morning from 9.00 to 10.30. The purpose of the exercise was to provide the delegates with a daily opportunity to improve their group leadership skills. Everyone had to have a turn at tutoring the group as the days progressed, though no-one would know before each group meeting who the tutor was to be for that day, so all had to be prepared. Tanka, Rita, Peter and Michael took turns to observe and comment.

The delegates found the Nepalese seminars immensely practical and relevant

Summary

The Pakistani and Nepali-led seminars and workshops proved to be very dynamic. Both represented strong and effective TEE programmes, both serving in countries where Christians represent a religious minority often facing persecution. The seal,

the accreditation, of these inter-denominational TEE programmes lies not just in the number of students currently enrolled (3000 in Pakistan and 1800 in Nepal) but especially the value the churches are placing on the ministry, outreach and even leadership of students trained through these programmes

4 Seminars led by Richard Collins, FCA, on Financial Administration and Stewardship.

Richard has kindly provided the report below. Vladimir Vysotskiy adapted the associated PowerPoint presentation into Russian.

a) Morning Session - Financial Management – The Basics

Richard Collins presented an adapted MANGO PowerPoint presentation on “Developing a National TEE Programme – Accountability Procedures”.

1. Purpose of the workshop sessions was stated as:

- *To build the capacity of your NTPs to manage financial resources more effectively*
- *To build the confidence and financial skills of individuals to:*
 - *operate a finance system(s), which enable accountability, transparency & integrity;*
 - *manage programmes more efficiently and effectively.*

2. The participants will be responsible for appointing accounts staff and overseeing their work. They are the first members of the national/regional committees and this session therefore concentrated upon general principles of financial management:

- What financial management is
- Why it is important, especially for the National TEE Programmes
- Structure and Governance – ultimate responsibility with the Board (Committee); delegation of authority – but not responsibility- to the CEO and staff; CEO accountability and reporting to the Board
- Financial Planning Process (Plan, Do Review Cycle)
- Guiding Principles – with special emphasis on accountability, transparency and integrity. A discussion on the meaning of these terms and also on the concept of “custodianship”.
- Designing a good system

3. Good Practice and effective financial management was summarised as displaying the following attributes:

- Appropriately skilled and trained staff and board members
(Raises profile and increases integration of financial management)
- Strong financial systems
(Proper and appropriate records and procedures)
- Open and accountable systems
(Including audited accounts)

b) Afternoon Session - The MANGO Accounting System

This accounting system was introduced to the participants, at the same time highlighting the features of a good basic accounting system including authorising and recording of transactions with separate cash books for each cash and bank account; filing supporting documents; converting foreign currencies to the main reporting currency; accounting principles; basic management reports taking into account receipts, payments and committed expenditure;

The system is based upon the use of spreadsheets and is available on the MANGO web site at

www.mango.org.uk

c) Summary

The participants entered into good discussion on the underlying concepts and principles of financial stewardship.

The MANGO Accounting System illustrated one method by which NTPs might keep their accounting records.

In future workshops it would be useful to set aside time to work on a case study covering financial planning and budgets.

The presenter acknowledges with thanks the contribution of MANGO, 97A St Aldates, Oxford OX1 1BT who gave permission for the use of their materials provided that they are used only within the Programmes and not for commercial use. We recommend that the participants visit the MANGO site where they will find further resources on this subject.

Richard Collins
6 February 2004

5 Seminar led by Bernard Cocker on the Practical Responsibilities of the local church to the needs of the poor.

Bernard joined the seminars on Sunday 18th January, speaking during that evening and also as Guest Speaker on the Open Day of the 20th January

Before introducing the ministry of the International Aid Trust, Bernard focused on the Biblical teaching regarding the church's sacred responsibility before God to demonstrate the love of Christ through the gospel going hand-in-hand with a determination to care for and meet the needs of the poor, the homeless and dispossessed, the fatherless, the widows. His presentation was both challenging and dramatic. He used modern examples of the contrast between the wealth of some churches and their expensive building projects with the poverty in the surrounding neighbourhood.

Bernard then gave a presentation of his churches' involvement, along with generous donations by Rotary International and a number of companies, in the astonishing practical help ministry of the International Aid Trust, founded in 1990. Operating from a 32,000 square foot warehouse, regular large container shipments of both medical and other humanitarian aid are sent to areas of real need and suffering in countries like Albania, Afghanistan, Belarus, Georgia, Romania, Russia, the Ukraine. In fact practical aid is given to urgent needs in over 30 countries. The International Aid Trust projects include the building of children's camps, (in 2003 over 3200 recuperative holidays were provided for children in need by the International Aid Trust at the IAT centres near the Black Sea and elsewhere in Eastern Europe), the purchasing of property to house street children, the opening of drug rehabilitation centres, the renovation of hospitals and orphanages, help in creating cottage industries ranging from bakeries to a dentistry, and the "Shoe box ministries" – and more. Many people have become Christians and new churches have been started as a consequence of this ministry

The resulting seminar discussions included the relevance of TEE within such an area of responsibility for the churches. It was noted that this is very much part of the three part educational ethos of TEE, "knowing", "being", "doing", and able to teach others also. Students doing the SEAN "Life of Christ", "Mission, Mercy and Me?" and "Work for All" courses were expected to undertake assignments linked to the teaching, then, later in the courses, establish with the advice and support of the church pastor, a project. Many such projects would be connected to community concern and help.

National and regional programmes such as ITEEN and URBACAD provide some excellent examples of help ministries being created as a result of such TEE. An example of a church based programme could be seen in the Axminster Christian Fellowship whose on-going help projects include that of the church's free furniture store on the Millway Rise Estate, their food project for impoverished families in the area, the prison visiting ministry and the availability of Weycroft for CPS projects, and the help ministries for the lonely and those coming out of hospital. All these projects grew out of the church membership's application of SEAN TEE training.

Bernard saw the need for TEE to go hand in hand with the help ministries in the Ukraine. Before he departed, he invited the Task and ORTA teams to bring their training to a Ukrainian Bible college that is part of the ministry of the International Aid Trust.

(The work of the International Aid Trust, especially that of their "Shoebox Ministries" had already been warmly endorsed by Anneta Vyssotskaia when she addressed the Crediton Methodist Church on the morning of the 18th)

DELEGATE REPORTS FOLLOWING THE SEMINARS

1 Report from Anneta Vyssotskayaia representing the Russian Far East

What Has Been Achieved During Our Two Week Seminar at Weycroft Hall.

We had two teams from Russia at the seminar: one from Magadan (6 people), and another from Vladivostok (3 people). One more participant was from Azerbaijan.

In the process of practical studies with SEAN TEE material, lectures and discussion we concluded to organise the following structure for future work:

1. Two regional committees were formed for Vladivostok and for Magadan because both are big cities in Far East Russia connected with many smaller towns and villages.
2. Also a national committee was formed consisting of 5 people (2 from Vladivostok and 2 from Magadan and we also invited Michael Huggins to be a member of our national committee because he has been doing such a lot for introducing SEAN TEE in our country). Olga Rybakova was elected Chairman for this year.
3. The regional committees are still being formed because we want to invite more people onto them. However almost all the participants were included in the regional committees and plan to be actively involved in developing SEAN in Russia.
4. We also discussed the possible name for the SEAN TEE organization in Russia. We all agreed on the following name Open Russian Theological Academy (Obshedostupnaya Rossiyskaya Teologicheskaya Akademiya) -ORTA.

NEXT STEPS

We have been discussing short-term (1 year), intermediate (5 years) and long-term (10 years) plans.

The two regional committees are supposed to communicate regularly. The National committee will meet probably once a year because of big distances in Russia and high travel expenses.

The Vladivostok committee is comprised of two people: Vera Sapozhnikova and Anneta Vysotskaya. We also have made a list of people whom we would like to invite to the committee. We also would like to have an advisory board consisting of local pastors and bishops.

a) Short term plans

1. For the nearest future the tasks are: to introduce ORTA to Vladivostok pastors (which I am planning to do on February 3rd during the pastors' monthly meeting).
2. We will ask about the prices for printing ORTA materials at local publishing houses.
3. We plan to make a leaflet on ORTA for Magadan and Vladivostok.

4. We will print some copies of the first lesson of Abundant Life to be distributed together with the leaflet on ORTA among Russian churches.
5. We plan to have a publication on ORTA and SEAN in local Christian newspapers.
6. And of course we are starting ORTA groups in our own churches.
7. We plan to organise a seminar for training group leaders as soon as the churches needs have been determined.

For this particular stage we will need approximately 300 USD (150 for leaflet and 150 for copying first lessons of Abundant Life).

b) Medium Term needs

1. For the future we will need the equipment of a computer with scanner and printer, a binding machine and a big copy machine.
2. There will be need of an office and staff of two people: the Executive Director and secretary-administrator.
3. For editing the existing translations and for translating more courses a qualified translator will be needed. (We cannot determine the financial side for all this yet)

2 Report from Valera Krasickov for Azerbaijan

1. Jacqui has good explanation. I want to have manual and power to paint files in digital format to do same work in Azerbaijan.
2. I expect to receive CD with materials in Russian (which available) and all materials as full course.
3. I want to have instruction and small booklets which help spread SEAN in our country.
4. Need manual to train trainers.
5. Help us to explain and give credits, diploma to people. Explain how it works in practical ways.
6. Sponsorship for development projects.
7. We want to have approximately 5000 groups of SEAN. In each of them not less than 8, 10, 15 people.
8. We have some method (SEAN), but without structure.

3 From Irina Krizanovskay, Magadan

My faith and personal vision for life have been renewed before I came home. I think we all gained a lot of useful and practical information. Before the seminars we did not consider many of the issues raised. Although we all were challenged to deeper thinking and new ideas, we feel more prepared practically and morally to continue.

NEXT STAGES – RECOMMENDATIONS - UK & INTERNATIONAL

1 TEE Training Teams

Throughout the world there is a massive potential harvest for Jesus, that needs ordinary, busy working people, like the ones Jesus called, who can be trained and equipped through TEE to bring in this harvest.

On the one hand, we have a major resource, i.e. the experience and success of the indigenous grass-root TEE programmes within areas like Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Latin America, India, the Philippines, Nepal and Pakistan. On the other hand we have to face up to the disturbing fact that there have been disappointments elsewhere, not just within in the wealthier yet shrinking churches of the West, due to.....

- **Failure** in the understanding of TEE, the vision, the methodology and the practical application involved.
- **Failure** through lack of proper foundational training, including tutor training programmes.
- **Failure** to recognise realistic levels of pump-priming funding needed to establish national programmes as a service arm to mission.
- **Failure** to work effectively towards indigenous ownership of the programmes.

We passionately believe all these areas need to be addressed.

Some important factors that have emerged from the running of this Russian training fortnight are that:

1. it is possible to bring together a team of experienced TEE practitioners representing several national programmes to prepare and lead seminars that are clearly focussed on reaching important training objectives.
2. the two weeks have demonstrated how effectively the Weycroft Hall staff and facilities serve the training resource centre and the open “laboratory” of TEE group experience within the Axminster Christian Fellowship.
3. the experience and understanding of the practicalities of running these seminars will be able to be used as a further resource for preparation of future TEE training seminars.
4. Training resources are being built up, including
 - the effective UK and Russian PowerPoint adaptations
 - the financial experience in the level of costing involved in facilitating such training..

We are convinced of the need for this type of service to be available around the world. The SEAN UK office, for example, has received many enquiries from around the globe regarding tutor training [training up tutor-trainers to train up others] but to date has been unable to help. We believe now that these seminars can be repeated both here in Britain and abroad – a next generation development of the Guatemalan principle

We are building up a Task-linked resource of seminar leaders: - the potential is exciting

We can draw from a pool of potential trainers, experienced practitioners, that could be linked to Task: -

1. As a training support for laying the foundation for a new national TEE programme,
2. As a means of bringing a practical understanding of TEE training into the curriculum of missionary and theological training colleges around the world.
3. As a means of strengthening regional training programmes of established churches that are struggling through shortage of manpower.

As well as the leaders of these recent seminars, we would also seek to draw on experience of people like:

- Tim Green (OTS, PTEE Jordan)
- David Rowsome (CLTC Papua New Guinea)
- Graham Aylett (MSTEE Mongolia)
- Terry Barratt (SEAN, Chile)
- Dick Hart (PTEE Jordan)
- Carol Freeman (Bethel USA)
- Gil Kim and others. (Korea)
- Darryl Davis [Ethnic Urban Ministries & URBACAD USA]
- Norberto Saracco [FIET, Latin America]
- for the former Soviet Union countries, we could draw in people from ORTA as their experience grows

The major restriction to this development is finance.

2 International TEE Convention

Many TEE practitioners from around the world have expressed a desire for an international TEE Convention specifically for those who are responsible for national or regional TEE programmes at a “Grass-root” level. This should also include others who have a serious interest in other aspects of TEE, including resourcing.

1. *To sharpening the TEE Vision*
2. *To bring Grass-root TEE back on to the international agenda of mission for the first decade of the 21st century*
3. *To examine carefully the tools available for the task.*
4. *“To bring in existing TEE streams to form a mighty ocean” (Zafar Ismail)*

It is suggested that the Convention offers workshops on all disciplines as with the Russian workshop

Preliminary discussions have already suggested that the delegates contribute by submitting:

1. A profile of each TEE programme
2. The aims and objectives of each programme
3. Country profile - People groups

Plus:

- Number of students
- Impact on churches
- Languages in which programmes are written
- Range of material available
- Problems faced - financial – national – educational

- Problems overcome and how
- Problems not yet overcome
- Material still needed

The delegates should also consider future scenarios

1. Nationally - work out a scenario for own nation
2. Globally - Accreditation Agency
3. An "All-Nations Open Seminary"
4. Resources needed at International Training Centre
5. Development of relevant post graduate level study programmes

The general consensus seems to be that a convention of this level should be held in a country like Nepal rather than in the West.

Again, the main problem will be that of financing such an event.

It has been agreed to make positive steps to now establish a steering committee for this, sometime before the end of May, 2004.

1. to liaise with potential delegates,
2. to establish a venue, an agenda, a time factor, a budget and set a definite date.

3 Funding Needs and Proposal

The birth of ORTA is an exciting step of faith in a continent of veritable need for the Gospel, but they will require help very soon over core funding.

Most donor agencies we know have had to focus on specific areas of need written within their own policy statements. However, those of us involved with the Russian and Central Asian TEE development have much to thank God for in the generosity of certain funding agencies who have given grants that have enabled the translation and printing of much of this Russian SEAN material.

One major problem the TEE movement has experienced around the world is that of securing realistic core funding for administration and development costs. Apart from the immediate investment needs of ORTA, the Task centre itself needs to seek funds to build up the following resources:

1. Resource Centre Internet
2. Additional Staff – Administrator, secretariat
3. Additional building space for:
 - Office
 - Library
 - Additional accommodation

We perceive that we must take further steps to persuade funding agencies that both the overseas and UK requirements represent serious investment in building up solid TEE foundations. Alternatively, it may be necessary to establish an independent holding body which will be able to draw in funds from a variety of sources.

We have therefore decided to explore the possibility of establishing a central independent TEE funding agency to focus on and serve global TEE development.

APPENDIX A

A Summary of Theological Education By Extension at a Popular or “Grass-roots” Level

T.E.E. at the popular or Grass-Roots level grew out of the Latin American church explosion of the 1960/70s. In 1971, for example, only 20% of the 100,000 South American Protestant pastors had received any formal theological training. The vast majority had had less than secondary education, yet these men were spiritually alive and planting churches. Recognizing therefore:

1. *that the purposes of God go beyond evangelism*
2. *that application and obedience to Christ’s teachings has to be the hallmark (proof) of discipleship,*
3. *and that the church functions best when all its members’ gifts are recognized and developed,*

priority theological education started to focus on the whole people of God and actively involve them in the ministry of the church. Churches across the denominations, therefore, wanted access to tools to enable them to envision, train, mobilize and equip all their people for ministry and service. It was also perceived that such training programmes needed to be disciplined, affordable, non-academically exclusive, relevant and locally sustainable, and furthermore, be incorporated as a natural part of church life.

Popular Level TEE emerged to meet this grass-root need. It is agreed that adults learn best when

- *their past experience is recognised, taken seriously and build upon,*
- *when they are active participants,*
- *when they are doing effective ministry, and*
- *when they can see prompt and effective results from good models with the use of the learnt material.*

Therefore, encapsulating the educational principles of knowing, being and doing, TEE was established as a three-pronged educational system of:

(1) HOME STUDY,

through carefully programmed material based on a simple (though not simplistic) method of progression and carefully graded reinforcement. This enables the student to study at home at his or her own pace and to prepare thoroughly before coming to the weekly group meeting. Each lesson has its own objectives by which the student can test himself.

(2) GROUP DYNAMICS

Under the guidance of a local church based, pastorally orientated tutor/group leader (NOT a teacher) and a prepared leader's manual; the student meets with others in a small group of not more than 8 or 10. The work is then checked and

problems and questions are dealt with in a mutually supportive way. The group becomes:

- An arena for discussion
- A community for fellowship and prayer
- A springboard for action
- An opportunity for everyone to share in the joy of learning from God and from each other

The group reflects on both the biblical truth taught in the home study and on their ministry experience.

(3) MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS and PROJECTS

With the collaboration of the church and tutor, the principles learned are immediately applied through field experience within the student's daily life, home, work, church or wider community as a natural extension of the learning process.

True Theological Education by Extension requires that the TEE students do the work of ministry whilst studying.

This sharp tool has been developed on a 2 Tim.2:2 principle that those trained would be able to train others also. The principles are to:

- envision,
- train,
- prove
- and multiply national workers and leaders.

Students are therefore able to remain in their local situation, continue to earn their living as before and attend, and even pastor, their local churches.

Successful TEE programmes can be identified as those that have clear objectives, efficient and disciplined organisation, good courses and well prepared group leaders. They are recognised as serious training that can be easily assimilated by the churches.

APPENDIX B

Advantages of TEE for the Nepalese Churches - Peter Bisset, ITEEN, Nepal

In places where growth and mission are the norm (as at present in Nepal), the benefits of TEE over traditional/ seminary training (not that seminary training has no place at all), soon become evident.

- a) The student is left in his local situation, and is not transferred to an alien environment, which can easily either leave him disorientated and ill at ease, or else change him so that he no longer fits back into his previous background culture, and indeed no longer wishes to.
- b) The student can continue to earn his living as before, staying within his family and other local support structures, and continue to work in his church.
- c) The student has time to work through his studies at his own pace, and be able to apply it to his local situation, so make it more real, and enabling him to spread immediately the blessings that he is learning.
- d) At the end of the process, the student is much more ready to continue working in the church and culture where he has been all this time, and also, takes much more readily to the idea of continuing to study, learn and grow as a natural part of his Christian life and service, just as he has been doing during the previous years (i.e. there is less temptation to sit back, gaze at one's Diploma, and think "now I've arrived!")
- e) All of the above means that training can be made available to far more church members than would be the case with residential training, so that the involvement of every believer in active Christian services is much more feasible.
- f) The financial cost of this practically applied training is much less than the traditional residential method, which requires financial support to be found for the student (and often his family as well) during his time there, as well as all the costs of lecture facilities, staff etc. of the seminary.

Appendix C

THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE DELEGATES

During the first week all the delegates were invited by Tanka Subedi to write down their own expectations from these seminars:

Olga - Magadan

1. Programmes for tutor training on various levels (on Pakistan example).
2. To learn of opportunities of using SEAN programmes in distance and correspondence studying.
3. Administration and organising of study process

Luba - Magadan

1. To learn how to teach SEAN.
2. To learn about methods of organising: administration, planning, management.
3. To learn to make management decisions from Christian position.
4. To learn to solve organisational problems (administrative, legal, financial) as a Christian.
5. To learn various administrative, planning, management techniques.

Galina - Magadan

1. To learn methods of disciple training
2. To learn about organisational aspects: administration, management.
3. To have a clear understanding of myself as a "Timothy"

Igor - Magadan

1. To be able to give Bible knowledge to new believers, and an opportunity to come to church for non-believers.
2. I see a great need in spiritual unity for the Church and to have unified material for Bible-study groups.

Alla - Magadan

1. Various techniques of teaching and training
2. Study materials (more books)

Vera - Vladivostok

1. To receive practical keys for reaching believers in churches of small far-away villages in Far East.
2. To learn as much as possible about organizational aspects in the area of management, administration, finances in Christian education.
3. To acquire the skills for quick training and consulting of those who will use SEAN programme in churches.
4. To make new contacts with people who use the SEAN programmes.

5. To continue active co-working with the developers of SEAN programmes. To become one of the active coordinators of SEAN programmes in Russian Far East.
6. To find many new friends in England, Nepal, Pakistan and other countries, where there is SEAN.

I thank the Lord for you, your work and that I am among you! May God greatly bless your life and your ministry.

Anneta - Vladivostok

1. I want to acquire a better understanding of what SEAN and TEE are, of how they can be used in churches of different countries, what results does it have in churches. Also I would like to learn how to advertise it in churches, how to attract people to using it. How to make this programme self-supporting.
2. I want to accept the vision from the Lord, how to use these materials better in my church, and to support creation of SEAN centre for churches of Primorskiy Region and other regions of Russia.
3. I expect to receive materials to bring back to Russia.

Valera - Azerbaijan

I would like to know:

1. How to promote SEAN more effectively.
2. How to organise and manage groups, and to maintain the continuity of the groups more effectively.
3. How to train leaders and trainers of leaders.
4. How to be financially independent.
5. How to produce more materials.

APPENDIX D

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Weekend Out Saturday 17th to Sunday 18th January

This weekend out gave everybody an opportunity to rest and see something of Devon, including Exeter, especially the Cathedral, and Dartmoor.

The delegates stayed with three families, Igor, Valeriy and Vladimir stayed with Derek and Evelyn Coren at Shortacombe Farm, Yeoford, and were, along with Peter, Tanka and Rita, (who stayed with Pauline and Michael Huggins) to attend and speak at West Down Chapel on the Sunday

Annetta, Olga and Galena stayed with Adrian and June Redfern at Middle Davidsland, Crockernwell, and were invited to speak at the Crediton Methodist Church on the Sunday. They featured in the church's subsequent newsletter.

Irina, Luba, Vera and Alla stayed with John and Sue Longridge at Rewe, especially so that John, who is very involved in printing and publishing through "Profile" was able to spend time with Irina discussing the presentation of "Мир Женщины". All three of the delegates were invited to speak at the Beaconhill Chapel, Exeter.

OPEN DAY January 20th

On Tuesday 20th January the seminars became the focus for a Weycroft Open Day.

Invitations were sent to some 100 people, including church leaders, Bible Colleges, the Christian media, grant-giving trusts and fellow missionary societies.

The objectives were threefold:

1. To introduce the local, national and international ministries of Task
2. To provide a forum for the guests to meet the Russian and Azerbaijani delegates and hear of their commitment to the advancement of TEE
3. To strengthen support for these ministries.

Some 60 guests attended the Open Day. The feedback since has been amazing. People were immensely moved and challenged not only by the presentations, but also by the informal discussions they were able to have with the delegates between sessions.

SPEAKERS

1. Rob Brown, Director of the Axminster Task Centre welcomed all visitors and explained the threefold ministry of Task
2. Short presentations were made by:
3. Jacqui Brown, Field Director of SEAN UK
4. Zafar Ismail, representing both the Open Theological Seminary of Pakistan and Al K'hair Ministries, which serves Asian communities in the UK
5. Dr Annetta Vyssotskysyaia, on a Vision for Russian Church training (Reproduced in the Forward)
6. David Couchman, Director of Focus Radio, on the opportunities and developments of multimedia TEE.
7. Bernard Cocker, Director of the International Aid Trust, on ministering to the needs of the poor and the Gospel in the Former Soviet Union

8. Olga Rybakova, Director of the St James' Bible College and National Director of ORTA, on the history of the former Magadan gulag and the opportunities facing the churches there today.
9. Tanka & Rita Subedi and Peter Bisset, on the remarkable growth of the gospel in Nepal and the development of ITEEN.
10. Valeriy Krasickov, on TEE and radio ministry opportunities in Azerbaijan, especially among the lesser known people groups there.
11. Irina Krizanovskaya, University lecturer and founder/editor of "Мир Женщины", on ministry needs and opportunities to Russian women, and the vision and mission of her magazine.

LONDON

Two very generous donations were given with the expressed purpose of giving the Russian delegates a day in London before catching their night flight to Moscow. We were able to hire a 17-seat minibus, stay at the Salvation Army Training College in London and do a sightseeing tour of the city from the top of a double-decker tour bus. The weather was perfect and the bus provided automatic Russian translation facilities. It was a most enjoyable day for all of us.