

annual report 2023

increaseassociation.org
connecting & strengthening church-based training across Asia & beyond

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FOREWORD



DAVID BURKE SPEAKING AT A CMS AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE IN TIMOR LESTE

Dear friend

As you will read, this is a time of opportunities for Increase.

Our core opportunity is to support national TEE* bodies as they serve the church as it serves the mission of the Lord. That includes activities which reach into the heart of church-based training through course development and revision, along with training of local group leaders. Forthcoming strategic regional workshops give an opportunity to link member bodies facing similar regional issues. Increase also has enlarged opportunities to participate in regional and global ministry training alliances. None of these opportunities can be taken up unless the Lord wills and provides for our needs.

The 'golden thread'** of listening to the Lord's word and being prayerful are so central to all we do. We must keep close to Him and within His will.

Under God, Increase depends on a small group of employed staff as well as many volunteers. Volunteers serve on the Executive Team, as Equippers and task force members, and as committee members. The Increase Committee thanks the Lord for them. They enable us to do a lot with limited resources.

As you read this report, please pause often to give thanks, and ask the Lord to lead, guide and provide.

'Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and faithfulness.'

Psalm 115:1

David Burke, Increase Chair

* Theological Education by Extension, also known as 'Tools to Equip & Empower'.

** Our 'golden thread' of love, unity, respect, prayerfulness & focus on & faithfulness to God's Word, connecting 7 'pearls' or focus areas: building good relationships; sharing fruitful practice; providing resources & training; supporting new initiatives; serving the diaspora; digital delivery & next generation; building partnership & connection in theological education.

LEADERSHIP



RITA SUBEDI OF ITEEN IN NEPAL - RITA JOINED THE INCREASE EXECUTIVE TEAM IN 2023 ALONG WITH LEWIS VARLEY OF TEE AOTEAROA IN NEW ZEALAND

COMMITTEE The members of the Increase Committee - which provides oversight and governance for Increase - were chosen at the 2022 Increase Conference, and subsequently the Committee co-opted Wailes Rangsa:

Graham Aylett (co-opted; General Secretary, in the UK; formerly in TEE in Mongolia)

David Burke (Chair; Adjunct Lecturer of Christ College Sydney in Australia)

Ronald Laldinsuah (Director of Theological Education for Everyone in Myanmar)

Allan Mao (Director of TEE Australia)

Wailes Rangsa (Principal of the College of Christian Theology Bangladesh)

Anneta Vysotskaya (in New Zealand; General and International Director of ORTA in Russia)

Young Saeng Cho (from South Korea; leading TEE Myanmar)

EXECUTIVE TEAM During 2023 the members of the Increase Executive Team were:

Graham Aylett (General Secretary)

Rosana Longgat (Equippers Coordinator, Director of ITEEP in the Philippines)

Aaron Tham (Operations Manager, in Malaysia)

Lewis Varley (involved with TEE Aotearoa in New Zealand)

Rita Subedi (involved with ITEEN in Nepal)

MEMBERSHIP

CORE MEMBERS

AUSTRALIA TEE Australia; contact: Allan Mao; tee.org.au; info@tee.org.au **BANGLADESH** College of Christian Theology Bangladesh; Principal: Deacon Wailes Rangsa; PATC, Savar, Dhaka 1343; +880 172 5405096; cctbangladesh@gmail.com; facebook.com/CCTB-119784934708036

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA Christian Leaders Training College; cltc.ac.pg; PO Box 45 Banz, Jiwaka Province; +675 546 1001; cltc@cltc.ac.pg

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THAILAND Center for Leadership Development; Director: Lee Her; sspthai.org; 23 Ammart Road, Khonkaen 40000; +66 85 032 3040; office@sspthai.org

Some members omitted for security reasons.

FELLOWSHIP MEMBERS

APOLLOS TRAINING INTERNATIONAL Christopher Goree;

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INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

DAVID BURKE Ministry & Practice Lecturer, Christ College, Sydney, Australia VOLKER GLISSMANN Director, Malawi TEE TIM GREEN PATRICIA HARRISON RICHARD HART NICHOLAS IVINS Educational specialist REGINA MANLEY Orality Consultant, EduTech, Mission Aviation Fellowship LYNETTE PEARSON

FRIENDS OF INCREASE

NICOLA AYLETT
RACHEL GREEN
KENN ISKOV
DENISE PAVEY Charity consultant specialising in strategy, governance & change
WOO JINHO

OBJECTIVES

BUILDING

a network of good relationships



THE INCREASE COMMITTEE & EXECUTIVE TEAM IN BANGKOK IN APRIL 2023

STRATEGIC REGIONAL WORKSHOPS In April 2023 the Increase Committee and the Increase Executive Team met in Bangkok, Thailand and agreed an Increase Ministry Plan for 2023-2025. At the heart of this new Increase Ministry Plan are five face-to-face Strategic Regional Workshops, which are scheduled to be held for the leaders of Increase member organisations and other significant regional contacts, as follows:

South Asia (Monday 22nd - Friday 26th April 2024, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand)

Middle East and Turkey (dates to be confirmed, to be held in Cairo, Egypt)

South-East Asia and Oceania (Monday 5th - Friday 9th August 2024, to be held in Malaysia)

Eurasia (Monday 16th - Friday 20th September 2024, to be held in Central Asia)

East Asia (the dates and the venue for this regional workshop are not yet confirmed)

MEETING MEMBERS & OTHERS During 2023 the Increase General Secretary and other members of the Increase leadership team met online or face-to-face with leaders from a wide range of different organisations, including the following:

Alliance Evangelical Divinity School; Asia Theological Association (ATA); Church Mission Society (CMS); Coworkers; Friends of Grace (FoG); Gereformeerde Zendingsbond (GZB); Hilfsaktion Märtyrerkirche (HMK); Increase Trust UK (ITUK); International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE); International Missionary Training Network; Interserve Great Britain and Ireland (ISGBI); Interserve Korea; Korea Theological Education by Extension (KTEE); Nonformal Training Network; Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF); Study by Extension for All Nations (SEAN); Tearfund; TEE Movers for the Chinese Church (TMCC); Theological Education by Extension Korea (TEE Korea); World Evangelical Alliance (WEA).

ENCOURAGING

collaborative projects & partnerships



TEARFUND, SEAN & INCREASE BEGAN A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT TO DEVELOP TEE MATERIALS ON 'CHURCH & COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION'

PARTNERSHIPS Building partnerships between Increase members, mission agencies, theological education networks, denominational networks, donor agencies and so on is shared between the members of the Increase Committee and the Increase Equippers. The Equippers are the 'hands and feet' of Increase, a group of about twenty people, experienced in different aspects of TEE or church-based training, who give time every year to serve Increase.

COURSE SHARING TASK GROUP This Increase task group has developed good processes and templates for sharing TEE courses among Increase member organisations, including a detailed flow chart outlining the process and issues to be considered when one Increase member wants to translate, contextualise, and use a course developed by another. Eleven presentations, documents and resources on translation and contextualisation were published on the Increase website in 2023, in English and Russian.

DIASPORA TASK GROUP This Increase task group has helped Increase members realise possibilities for using TEE courses to disciple diaspora believers and encourages the sharing of TEE courses in different languages. Twelve different videos, presentations, documents and other resources on discipling diaspora believers were published on the Increase website in 2023.

ICETE The Increase General Secretary is now a board member of ICETE, which emphasises quality and collaboration and aspires to be a global hub for theological education across different levels and using different methodologies.

CCT PROJECT In 2023 Increase personnel began collaboration with Tearfund and SEAN to launch new TEE materials on *'Church and Community Transformation'* in 2025. CCT is a process which has been developed by Tearfund and others to inspire churches to address community needs by using local resources, and it has brought remarkable transformation to churches and communities around the world. The combination of CCT with the TEE teaching model has great potential.

INITIATING & CATALYSING

innovative approaches



INCREASE EQUIPPER DAVID BALL HELPED DEVELOP AN E-LEARNING PLATFORM

DIGITALLY ENHANCED LEARNING A team of four Increase Equippers from Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Pakistan and two representatives of Horizon Education Network helped to produce eight resources on digitally enhanced learning, including videos, documents and presentations, which were all made available on the Increase website in 2023 (along with an Increase blog post on digitally enhanced learning). The three videos were also made available on the Increase YouTube channel and are entitled: 'Why and How to Develop Digital Courses' (duration: 44 minutes); 'Using Mobile Devices' (duration: 53 minutes); and 'Effective Use of Multimedia' (duration: 45 minutes). Going digital is considered essential nowadays but is often daunting for TEE organisations, particularly small organisations. There are many decisions to make and many skills to learn. It can feel as if lots of staff and resources are needed to make it work. In the videos and other resources, the Increase Equippers and Horizon experts show that going digital is possible when organisations make the right decisions.

GROWSPACE Increase Equippers have been involved with the development of *GrowSpace*, an e-learning platform for smartphones and other devices developed by SEAN and Word of Life. *GrowSpace* has been used to publish SEAN's TEE courses 'Abundant Life' and 'Big Picture' and Word of Life's TEE course 'Come Follow Me' in a digital, secure, multilingual, interactive format for group discipleship. Courses are available in various languages including Arabic, Chinese, Dari, English, Farsi, French, German, Kurdish, Norwegian, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Turkish, Urdu and Uzbek, after further language options were added in 2023. SEAN partners and Word of Life partners can sign up for a subscription to *GrowSpace*, enabling them to create group leader accounts. Group leaders can then invite learners to join their groups, and learners can choose the language in which they do their course.

SHARING

fruitful practice



SIX TEE GROUP LEADER TRAINING PARTICIPANTS IN OAMARU ON NEW ZEALAND'S SOUTH ISLAND IN MARCH 2023: THE COHORT OF NINETEEN ALSO INCLUDED PEOPLE FROM THE PHILIPPINES, THE UK & MAURITIUS

COURSE WRITER TRAINING A 44-minute video, presentation and document on TEE course writer training were published on the Increase website in 2023, together with an accompanying post on the Increase blog about course writer training.

Increase Equippers also adapted face-to-face workshops for TEE course writers as a series of online modules for course writers. These modules were then made available via the Increase website.

TRAINING GROUP LEADERS Seventeen documents, presentations and other resources which had been developed by Increase Equippers on training TEE group leaders were published on the Increase website in 2023, in both English and Russian, together with an accompanying post on the Increase blog about training TEE group leaders.

Group leaders play a vitally important role in the TEE teaching model, and good training for these leaders is essential.

LIFE-CHANGING LEARNING Eleven documents, presentations and other resources which had been developed by Increase Equippers on life-changing learning were published on the Increase website in 2023, in both English and Russian, together with an accompanying post on the Increase blog about life-changing learning.

EFFECTIVE LEARNING PATHWAYS Eight resources which had been developed by Increase Equippers on effective learning pathways were published on the Increase website in 2023, in both English and Russian, together with an accompanying post on the Increase blog about effective learning pathways.

COMMUNICATING

news & stories from members



AN IMAGE FROM THE 2-MINUTE INCREASE TEE ANIMATION LAUNCHED IN 2023

WEBSITE The Increase website increaseassociation.org had 2,141 visits in 2023, a rise of 7% compared to the number of visits during 2022. 1,308 people visited the Increase website in 2023 (a rise of 9% compared to 2022). Visitors to the Increase website in 2023 came from 89 countries (a rise of 7% compared to 2022).

FACEBOOK 402 people follow Increase at facebook.com/increaseassociation - a rise of 19% compared to 2022. Increase posted 154 news items and stories in 2023 (up 48%).

X / TWITTER 506 people follow Increase at twitter.com/IncreaseAssoc - a rise of 14% compared to 2022. Increase posted 138 news items and stories in 2023 (up 48%).

YOUTUBE There have been 62,800 views at youtube.com/IncreaseAssociation since Increase joined in 2013, a rise of 3% compared to 2022. There are 31 videos (up 3%). There are 328 subscribers (up 8%). In July Increase and SEAN launched a new 2-minute animation about TEE, produced with the assistance of the Christian studio Wonderstory. The animation has been viewed 1,192 times on YouTube and was shared with Increase member organisations to facilitate translation into different languages. Click here to watch the animation.

NEWSLETTER The quarterly Increase newsletter (scheduled for publication in January, April, July and October each year) has 383 subscribers, a rise of 3% compared to 2022. Subscriptions and back issues are available at increaseassociation.org/news-archive

PROVIDING

support, resources, advice & training



INCREASE EQUIPPER ANNETA VYSOTSKAYA IN CENTRAL ASIA IN APRIL 2023

CENTRAL ASIA Increase Equippers visited Central Asia in 2023 to provide resources and training, including a course writing workshop in May and June for members of the Russian-language TEE programme ORTA. Increase Equippers also provided support for leaders of Russian-speaking Central Asian churches in South Korea which are using TEE. Increase established a task group on Nonformal Theological Education for Central Asia.

GPRO CONGRESS II Increase Equippers from Australia, Nepal, New Zealand and the UK attended the second Global Proclamation Congress in Panama in November, which focused on training pastoral leader trainers. Increase helped with tracks about developing contextual courses, evaluation and certification, and formal theological education.

TEE ANIMATION In July Increase launched a 2-minute animation about TEE, which was shared with member organisations to facilitate translation into different languages.

WEBSITE RESOURCES During 2023 Increase made available on its website more than seventy resources, videos (total running time 270 minutes), presentations and documents in English and Russian developed for the Increase conference in 2022 on subjects including: course writer training; discipling the nations in diaspora; digitally enhanced learning; translation and contextualisation; training group leaders; life-changing learning; and effective learning pathways.

BLOG During 2023 seven posts were published on the Increase website blog on subjects including: course writer training; digitally enhanced learning; training group leaders; effective learning pathways; discipleship; life-changing learning; and TEE.

PRAYER SUPPORT Two prayer groups meet monthly online, one in Korean and one in English. Weekly English-language prayer updates are sent out by the Prayer Coordinator.

CONTRIBUTING

globally to theological education & adult learning



SIX INCREASE REPRESENTATIVES FROM JORDAN, MONGOLIA, THE UK, MALAYSIA & AUSTRALIA WERE AMONG 180 PARTICIPANTS AT THE WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE'S FIVE-DAY 'FUTURE OF THE GOSPEL FORUM' IN ISTANBUL IN OCTOBER

WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE Increase is a member of the World Evangelical Alliance's Global Theology Department, which leads the ongoing global discussion process between the WEA's wide range of members, churches, training institutions, theologians, and researchers. This is a great platform to build deeper connections, and for further contributions by Increase to theological education worldwide.

Six Increase representatives from Australia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mongolia, and the UK were among 180 people participating in the WEA's five-day Future of the Gospel Forum in Istanbul in October. Participants included regional and national evangelical leaders and representatives from donor agencies, missions, business, and para-church organisations.

Theresa Lua, Director of the WEA's Global Theology Department and Secretary of the Asia Theological Association, asked the Increase General Secretary to help facilitate the track on theological education. This track aimed to help meet needs for training for church leaders where the church is growing rapidly.

There were two outcomes:

A recommendation to the WEA to encourage support for the Galilean Movement, a global catalyst for raising Christ-like harvest workers for Biblical ministry.

A model process for developing a curriculum to train pastors who are oral learners.

CONNECTING

with church-based training associations & accrediting associations



ROSANA LONGGAT & RITA SUBEDI TOOK PART IN A RE-FORMA 'QA' INSTITUTE

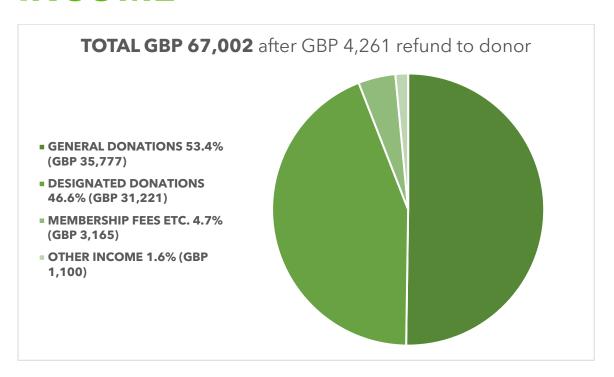
ASIA THEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Three Increase Equippers were in Pattaya, Thailand in February for a week of meetings with the Asia Theological Association, including the annual meeting of the ATA's Commission on Accreditation and Educational Development and ATA board meetings. Two Increase Equippers joined working groups on evaluation of competency-based programmes and development of detailed guidelines for evaluation of 'nested' programmes, and one Increase Equipper joined working groups for the revision of the ATA accreditation manual, the revision of the manual for Visiting Evaluation Teams (VETs) and the training of new VET members.

RE-FORMA Increase became an official partner of Re-Forma, which is linked to the WEA and ICETE and aims to provide global standards for pastoral training. Re-Forma has identified 35 outcomes that form a sound foundation for pastoral leadership, and it will certify individuals graduating from programmes that can demonstrate achievement of these outcomes. Re-Forma runs Quality Assurance Institutes to provide orientation and agreed that Increase representatives Rosana Longgat and Rita Subedi could participate in the Manila Institute in February and March, so that they could provide training for Increase member organisations.

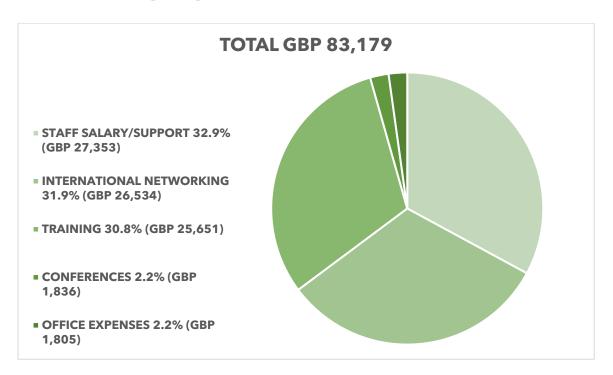
ICETE Increase Equippers were involved with others in developing a document describing an effective non-formal training programme which was published on the website of the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education. The Increase General Secretary was invited to become an ICETE board member, as a voice for non-formal theological education, and took part in his first board meetings in June. The Increase General Secretary also participated in an ICETE consultation in Rome in September, to draft standards for competency-based theological education and microcredentials. This consultation included representatives of ICETE regional accrediting agencies and others from North America with experience in competency-based education and competency-based theological education.

FINANCE

INCOME



EXPENSES



AFTERWORD



GRAHAM WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF INCREASE MEMBER KTEE IN SEOUL

Dear friend

There was a lot to thank God for in 2023! You have been able to read about some of the reasons for our gratitude in this report. Most of all, we are grateful for the ways God uses Increase members to serve the churches in their contexts, and for opportunities to serve and encourage them. I would like to look back over the year through the lens of Increase's 'golden thread', the things that we want to see in everything that we do.

UNITY, LOVE & RESPECT In the Increase Committee (our governance body) and Executive Team we have experienced the blessing of unity. The Increase Committee, elected in November 2022, began work in 2023, and I thank God for each member, particularly David Burke as Chair. The Increase Executive Team also changed. Lyn Pearson stepped down at our November 2022 conference – thank you again, Lyn! – and Lewis Varley and Rita Subedi joined in 2023. I appreciate each member of this team! The visits I made with leaders of our Chinese-language and Korean-language programmes were among the year's highlights for me, and so valuable in strengthening relationships.

PRAYERFULNESS We are hugely grateful for our two intercessor groups, English and Korean, and Jolyon Trickey, our prayer coordinator. Jolyon provides weekly prayer news updates: to receive them please email increaseassociationoffice@gmail.com. Prayer is a good measure of our dependence on God, and we desire to keep on looking to Him!

FOCUS ON & FAITHFULNESS TO GOD'S WORD In a world where authority is suspect and overarching stories that give meaning to life are being rejected, we rejoice in the gift of God's Word! Every course and programme rests on that firm foundation. We are glad to partner with Re-Forma, an organisation that issues a Certificate in Biblical Leadership to demonstrate that TEE courses provide a solid foundation for Biblical ministry.

We have begun the run-up to four strategic regional workshops in 2024, bringing together leaders from Increase members. Please pray that God will use these greatly!

Graham Aylett, Increase General Secretary