

Annual Report 2020



Dear Increase Friends,

Greetings to all of you! We thank God and give Him praise and glory for another year of His faithfulness to His people. 2020 was a special year because of many challenges: health issues, travel restrictions and lockdowns. Many TEE workers had COVID and suffered from low energy levels and other complications, many lost close friends and family members. Normal life and ministry were turned upside down.

At such times we realize how fragile and weak we are. However, at such times we also realize how strong and powerful is our God. *"When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs. The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings. They go from strength to strength..."* (Psalm 84:6-7, NLT). In the report presented below behind all the good achievements one can recognize the invisible God directing, protecting, inspiring and enabling His children as they do His work. Praise and glory to Him!

As you read the report you will meet our new Executive team and see how God directed Increase members to use innovative approaches and online activities to continue building relationships both inside and outside Increase and spreading and strengthening TEE in Asia and beyond during 2020. For Increase, the Valley of weeping indeed became a place of refreshing springs and going from strength to strength.

We thank God for your prayer and financial support and pray that you will be blessed by Him in the work you are doing for Him.

Annetta Vysotskaya
Chair of Increase Association Committee

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Increase Leadership

Over the last year Increase has undergone significant changes in the leadership team. The formation of the new Executive Team was completed in 2020:



Graham Aylett: In March, Graham was chosen to become General Secretary when Tim Green stepped down in March 2021, allowing for a year of transition.

Aaron Tham: In June, Aaron was appointed as our Operations Manager: running administration and finance (and line manager for Yoke Mee Chen, our Increase Administrator).

Lyn Pearson: In August, Lyn agreed to take on the role of Partnerships Coordinator. She took on oversight of

Increase's external partnerships, while transitioning out of a Regional Director role with Interserve International.

Rosana Longgat: In November, Rosana accepted the role of Equippers Coordinator. The Equippers are the 'hands and feet' of Increase, experienced in TEE, who give time each year to serve the Association.

Meeting our goals in 2020

The **purpose** of Increase is to connect and strengthen church-based training movements across Asia and beyond. Over the last year we worked towards our purpose in the following ways:

❖ build a network of good relationships

The South East Asia TEE Consultation planned for June was cancelled due to COVID-19, but the planning process helped to re-connect us with leader of TEE among the Hmong, and connected us with a number of mission and church leaders.

Equippers' travel became impossible from March 2020 onwards. Instead, we have sought to support members and strengthen relationships through Zoom. Graham and Aaron connected with directors of Increase Core member organisations. Tim introduced Graham and Aaron to main donor organisations to strengthen a personal connection.

Tim recorded a video greeting for Core Members in April for encouragement in the face of the pandemic. This led to a number of Zoom meetings with Core Member leaders including the Kingdom Leadership Training Center (Mongolia), Hasat (Turkey – 'Harvest'), and Donat & Çoğalt (Turkey – 'Equip & Multiply').

Our first Zoom Members Forum was held on June 15, with 14 participants from Core Member organisations and led by ND Lama, an Increase Equipper from Nepal and Hanna-Ruth van

Wingerden, Increase Communications Coordinator. It focused on online best practice for members. This Members Forum proved successful and more will be held in 2021.

❖ encourage collaborative projects and partnerships

The Diaspora Task Group encouraged members of the Association to hold a Diaspora Prayer Day on May 13. They have also produced *Discipling the Nations*, a 60-page resource for those wanting to start TEE among diaspora communities, or already engaged in it.

There have been good opportunities for conversations with existing and possible partners, especially with global leaders in theological education. Among these are Third Mill, iTIM, Chris Cooper, Crosswired, and SEAN International (especially concerning TEE in Europe).

Of especial significance, towards the close of 2020:

- The World Evangelical Alliance invited Increase to become a member of the WEA's Global Theology Department, to speak for TEE. We are particularly excited about this because someone we know well, the Asia Theological Association's General Secretary Dr Theresa Lua, has been asked to head up this department while also continuing in her ATA role.
- ICETE, the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education invited Increase to apply for Associate Membership.

❖ initiate and catalyze innovative approaches

Significant work was done with the line-up for joint SEAN/ Increase/ Word of Life participation at the Eurasia Media and Distribution Consultation (EMDC) in Thailand in March and April. Equippers ND and Tim were involved. Sadly, like so many events, the EMDC Conference in Thailand was cancelled, and the planned TEE training could not take place.

Increase has continued collaboration with SEAN International and Word of Life in the use of a web app that allows TEE courses to be used on smartphones. *Come Follow Me* and *Abundant Life* have been entered onto the app in Malaysia, and have both now been field tested.

❖ sharing fruitful practice

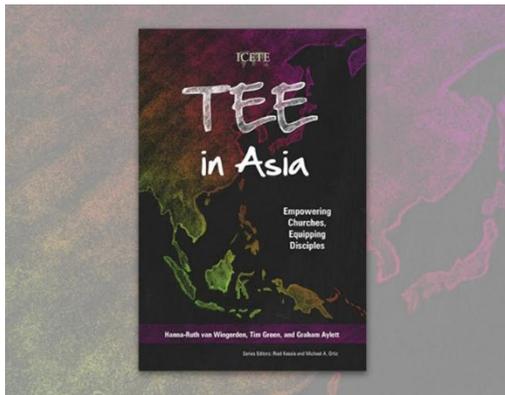
The *Sharing our Courses Task Group* is working to clarify and share good practice in the area of Course Sharing. They are developing guidelines on issues of copyright, translation, royalties etc., to formulate good practice to help Increase members share courses between themselves.

Zoom and other online applications have created new ways to do things. Increase is helping its members to share fruitful practice among themselves, with the first Members' Forum focussing on this area. Research among members showed that online fruitful practice was a priority area for members, and this fed directly into the planning process for the March 2021 Virtual Conference. TEE group meetings taking place virtually allows for groups with members in different countries: cross-border TEE. We are trying to ensure that good communication happens between Increase member bodies in such situations.

Aaron and TEE Malaysia have used SEAN's earlier online resource for group leader training to develop a zoom-based workshop, which has run successfully. This could be a good model for other countries.

The new digital app to run TEE on smartphones was launched by Word of Life in November. This is of great interest to Increase members as SEAN will upload courses to this app in different languages.

❖ communicate widely the news and stories from Increase members.



Distribution of the book, *TEE in Asia* continued. This book is reaching many people and raising a lot of interest. We have done necessary work to ensure the publication of *TEE in Asia* as part of the ICETE series of books. A three-way agreement between Increase, ICETE and Langham Publishing was signed and the book was republished in March 2021.

We started the preparations to launch a new website to reach different target audiences. We asked Madsquared, a design company in Malaysia, to help us.

Our Increase Communications Coordinator, Hanna-Ruth, produced four wonderful newsletters. Click on the links below to open them.

- January ([The November 2019 Teams' Gathering in Istanbul](#)),
- March ([The appointment of Graham as General Secretary elect](#)),
- May ([Challenges and Innovation with TEE in lockdown](#)) and
- October ([Increase Association and theological education](#)).

Currently 331 people worldwide receive the newsletter, that is 22% more than last year. If you don't receive the newsletter yet you can sign up by clicking the subscribe button (top left) in any one of the links.

❖ provide support, resources, advice and training

The Intercessors Team has continued to provide wonderful prayer support. The team has been very active in praying for Increase members under Covid-19 pressure. Our Intercessors' Coordinator, Jolyon Trickey faithfully sends a prayer update each week. The prayer letter currently reaches 164 people, that is 41% more than last year. If you would like to pray for Increase every week send a note to Jolyon: cjtrickey@gmail.com and he will put you on the list.

The Equippers are instrumental in providing support, resources, advice and training. Lyn and Graham connected with Equippers in four small groups in late February. There was an 'Open Zoom' for Equippers on April 20. In general, Equippers have not been able to travel. However,

because of cancelled travel they (and Task Group members) had more time to create resources and write for the new Increase book *TEE for the 21st Century* (see below).

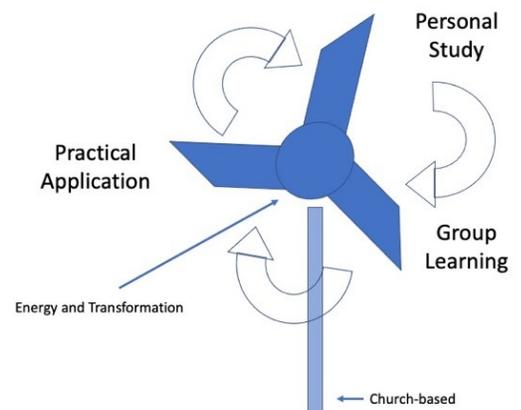
Nicholas Ivins is developing Course Writers Training modules with assistance from Hanna-Ruth. He is remodeling the existing Course Writers Training (structured around three workshops) into a set of modules that take Course Writers through the whole process from start to finish. The first users are the Russian TEE course writers who have already started their writing their courses. These modules should have a much wider reach because the new model is reproducible.

- Annetta participated in the Central Asia Consultation and visited the team in Azerbaijan.
- Tim participated with leaders from TEE Malaysia in a TEE Taster to a West Malaysia Diocesan (Anglican) Conference in March.
- Annetta was involved in a TEE Aotearoa New Zealand Group Leaders training.
- Course Writers and their mentors continue to work on courses.
- Graham went to Switzerland in January, and the Netherlands in March for TEE group leader training in relation to diaspora TEE.

❖ make a global contribution to theological education and adult learning

The new Increase book, *TEE for the 21st Century*, has been written this year. It has the potential to make a significant global contribution to wider understanding and use of TEE. It is a multi-disciplinary, multi-author academic book to be published jointly by Langham Publishing and the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE).

Equippers Richard Brown, Qaiser Julius, Tim, Graham, Lyn, Freda Carey, Nicholas, Miyung Do, Rick Weymouth, David Ball, Rina Robinson, Annetta and Tanka Subedi all contributed. Increase Individual Member David Burke is the General Editor, with Richard and Qaiser on the editorial team.



New way of visualising the TEE method

We believe the book will make a really important contribution because of the opportunity for reflective practitioners to make a well-argued case for TEE in helping the people of God serve the mission of God. The book is in two sections: first, explanation and assessment of TEE from Increase contributors, and second, reflection and comment from those outside Increase. We have been so encouraged by the chapters from leading theological educators outside Increase. Our connections and sense of partnership have been strengthened through this writing process.

❖ connect with other church-based training associations and accrediting associations

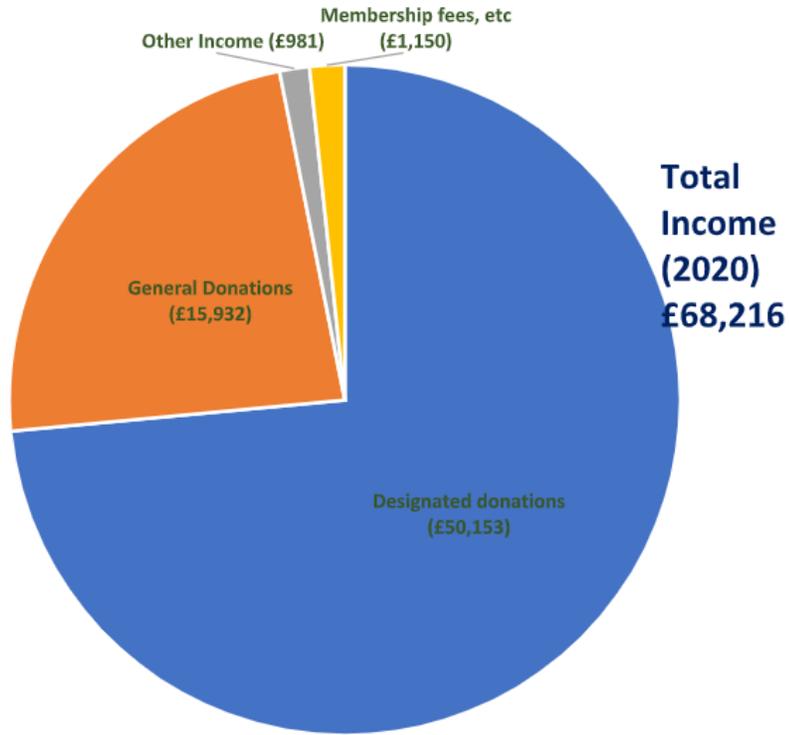
- Equippers Rick & Graham continued to work with a Committee on the revision of the Asia Theological Association Accreditation Manual. The long process was almost complete by the end of 2020, and the produce approved by the ATA Board early in 2021. The result is

a Manual that is inclusive of different training delivery methods, including TEE, and that places special emphasis on holistic integration around whole-life discipleship.

So we conclude this Annual Report acknowledging the difficulties of the year, but also with great gratitude to all those who have given so generously of their time, energy and prayers to serve the Lord and his church through the Increase Association, and to those who have supported the Association financially. We praise God for you all, and to Him be all the glory!

Financial Report

INCREASE INCOME 2020



INCREASE EXPENSES 2020

