

# DISCIPLING the DIASPORA

Interserve partner Tim shares about an effective and strategic discipleship tool that is readily available right here for local Christians to use in cross-cultural ministries.

Jesus' final command on earth was to make disciples of 'all nations'. Amazingly, many of those nations have come to Malaysia! An estimated 6.7 million migrants or refugees are right here in our country. We need not cross the seas to reach them; we just need to cross the street! Just click on the interactive map in this website to see where they come from: [www.iom.int/world-migration](http://www.iom.int/world-migration).

## Discipling migrant believers

These migrants have many religions. Some of them are already Christians and some others become Christ's followers while in Malaysia. How may these many thousands of believers grow strong in Christ and active in serving him? Deep level discipleship should best take place in their heart language, not in English Language. But how can we help this happen when we don't speak their languages?

Thankfully, help is at hand. 'Church-based TEE' is a proven discipleship method which each year is a blessing to hundreds of thousands of believers around the world. TEE means Theological Education by Extension, but the church-based version is a little different from seminary-based TEE, being focused at a grass-roots level.

## How does Church-based TEE work?

Learning takes place in local discipleship groups without needing a professor's lectures. It uses a weekly cycle of personal study, group discussion and practical application:



We can describe this kind of TEE as 'Tools to Equip and Empower' – tools for local churches to equip and empower every member for Christian growth and service.

## A breakthrough for discipling migrants

The breakthrough comes because church-based TEE courses are already available in more than 70 languages. For example, migrants from Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Cambodia, Indonesia – and more – can start the Abundant Life discipleship course right away in their mother tongue! With the group facilitator being from their own number, self-help TEE groups can spring up like mushrooms wherever believers of that language can gather. We don't need to learn their language, we just need to support them as they disciple each other themselves.

Is this just an imaginary idea? Not at all. Already more than 200 Nepali Christians are being equipped in over 20 TEE groups in West Malaysia. They study avidly despite their long hours as factory workers or security guards. Completing one course and gaining a certificate, they proceed to the next course. Through this systematic discipleship they are being equipped as active witnesses for Jesus, reaching out to fellow migrants here and later back in Nepal. For instance a security guard 'John'

came to faith in Malaysia, was equipped through TEE, and is now playing his part to fulfil the great Commission in Nepal! Other TEE groups are running for Pakistanis and Indonesians, and will start soon for Myanmar nationals.

## What is Interserve's contribution? And yours?

It's not often in Christian ministry that strategic global needs can be matched with present resources so easily. Interserve partners, placed with The Increase Association ([IncreaseAssociation.org](http://IncreaseAssociation.org)), are taking this work forward in partnership with Malaysian churches. Interserve Malaysia has a heart to reach and disciple migrants. We are looking to recruit you if you have a calling to serve migrants and disciple migrants.

Which migrants do you meet in the course of your daily life? What part is God calling you to play in this

extraordinary opportunity to disciple the nations on our doorstep? To pray, to welcome migrants into your home, to teach English to refugees, to volunteer with migrant ministries, to get involved in discipling through TEE, or some other way?

**If you are interested to serve the migrants, please contact our office to explore further.**

**Tim and other Interserve partners around the world are involved with The Increase Association, also known as "Increase", a ministry that is involved in connecting and strengthening TEE and other church-based training movements across Asia and beyond.**

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