



Diaspora TEE Booklet

DISCIPLING THE NATIONS IN THE DIASPORA

Using TEE Courses in Multiple Languages

“Make disciples of all nations”

Matthew 28:19

Foreword

‘For such a time as this’



Welcome to this Resource booklet! The Increase Diaspora Task Group have put it together. We hope it will be useful for you as you think about starting up TEE for the Diaspora in your country or in other places, or if you are doing it and need some more resources.

God has divinely orchestrated the nations as never before and now in most nations of the world there are diaspora believers who can be disciplined in their mother tongue through TEE courses, and who can be used to disciple their fellow diaspora. There are TEE courses already in 100 different languages, so they are ready to be used amongst the diasporas in the world! ‘For such a time as this’



How to Use This Resource?

Look at the Contents Page below and you will see the different resources in this booklet. The key areas are 2. Guidelines for starting TEE for Diaspora Communities; 3. Guidelines for obtaining TEE Resources for Diaspora; and 4. Guidelines for the Group Leaders' Training.

Just click 'control and click' on the headings and sub-headings in the Contents page and it will take you straight to the relevant section.

Please contact the Diaspora TEE Task Group (diasporaTEE@gmail.com) if you have any questions or if we can help you in any way. Thanks.

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PLEASE READ THIS FIRST:

Before we move into the practicalities of setting up Diaspora TEE, we need to understand the balance of relationships between the different stakeholders, and the key importance of building good relationships of trust between the three bodies:

Publisher of TEE courses:

who are committed to making TEE courses easily available in every country where needed and used properly, with appropriate Group Leader training.

(e.g., SEAN, publisher of many of the TEE courses)

Translator:

The people in a particular country (e.g., ITEEN) who have translated the course, who will provide the materials to people from their language groups who live in the Diaspora, as long as there is good training and it isn't happening without their knowledge.

People in the 'host' country:

who want to be able to get hold of the courses easily and at a reasonable price and run the diaspora TEE program with help from outside but not undue interference or control.



Which of these three stakeholders do you represent as you read this booklet? Recognize that the other stakeholders have a valid stake too, and together the three of you are trying to work out a good solution. So, we hope this booklet will help to make these relationships work well and then Diaspora TEE will be developed and run more smoothly!

Section 1

INTRODUCTION TO TEE FOR DIASPORA

The UN reports that right now there are at least 280 million migrants worldwide, a number that has been growing rapidly over the past ten years. This is equivalent to the size of the 5th largest country in the world! This includes 71 million refugees who have been forced to flee, half of which are under 18 years old, and also migrant workers (professional and manual), international students, and 2nd generation [the word 'diaspora' means 'dispersed' or 'scattered', referring to people who live in a different country from their original homeland].

God cares for each one of these 280 million people, living away from their homes, many forced to do so. God has a plan through all this. In Increase we believe this is a great God-ordained opportunity for the church to reach people who may not hear the good news otherwise and to build up diaspora believers in Christ. God cares so much for these dispersed peoples.

a) Biblical Foundation for Discipling the Nations

Written over thousands of years by many human authors in at least 3 languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), God's Word, the Bible, traces his relationship with his people from the creation of the world to its climactic conclusion. This is the story of how God chooses a people out of the nations to be a blessing to the nations and how he identifies with his people as they are called to live among the nations. Ultimately, of course, it is the story of God's love for humanity and his plan to rescue us from our rebellion against him and to draw us back into fellowship with him and each other through the cross. Integral to this whole story is the theme of scattering and gathering, of diaspora and remnant, of migration and homecoming.

From the moment humanity is expelled from the garden of Eden for disobedience, this theme of scattering begins. The nations are scattered at Babel (Gen 6) as they proudly seek to take the place of God. In response to God's call, Abraham too leaves his home and all that he is familiar with (Gen 12). This will ultimately lead to his descendants finding a home in the very land where Abraham is an alien and a stranger. Because of a famine, Jacob and his family travel to Egypt. Because of oppression and ill-treatment, God rescues them. Because of disobedience, they wander in the desert. However, it is in that desert wandering that God reveals himself and his covenant to them. It is in their migration that, under the leadership of Moses, God shapes them into his covenant people, ready finally to possess (or so it seems) the promised land.

Because of a famine, Elimelech leaves his home to live in Moab. So, we are introduced to Ruth, one of the foreigners who finds her place in the family tree of King David and ultimately of Jesus. The next centuries tell us of the rise and fall of the kingdom of Israel and then the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah. The prophets warn them that if they are not obedient to the covenant, they will be scattered once again. So it is that eventually the people are exiled under the empires of Assyria and Babylon. The people wonder whether it is possible to sing the Lord's song in a strange land (Psalm 137:4). Yet again God reveals himself to them in their exile. Jeremiah encourages them to seek the prosperity of the land where they live (29:7). Daniel and his friends flourish amidst persecution. Ultimately God gathers them back to the land (e.g., Isa 40:1,2), using exiles like Nehemiah and Ezra to rebuild his remnant people. But they are a conquered people. Although they briefly gained their freedom, they are never really independent again. Oppressed by the Greek and then the Roman Empire, they long for God to send a deliverer to set them free, to bring about another Exodus.

Here at the central point of the Christian Bible, God himself sends his only Son, leaving his home to 'pitch his tent' for a while among us (John 1:14). The very incarnation is depicted in terms of the dwelling of God among the displaced Israelites in the desert. It was in the desert, when God's people had no homeland that he revealed his glory to them on Sinai (Exodus 19). It was in the tabernacle which travelled with God's people that God continued to meet with them on their journey (Exodus 40:36-48). Likewise, the glory of God is revealed in Jesus, the new tabernacle, who journeys with his pilgrim people in the New Testament.

From the very first Pentecost, the new community of God's people is made up of people from the Jewish diaspora 'Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs" (Acts 2:9-11 - NIV). It is from these dispersed people that the first three thousand believers were added to the 120 disciples. From the very beginning of the church, the Holy Spirit was at work among diaspora people. As the church scattered, because of persecution, trade and other reasons, it continued to be a community of exiles and strangers (1 Peter 1:1) whose citizenship was not in this world (Philippians 3:20; see Hebrews 11:13-16). It is this same church that has been scattered throughout the world as part of God's plan that is ultimately drawn together as a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people and language to worship before the throne and the Lamb, who cry out in a loud voice:

'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb (Rev 7:10)

To conclude, then: A central theme of the Bible is the theme of diaspora; of scattering and gathering. Diaspora is not only a result of God's judgement (though it sometimes is).

It is sometimes because of famine and sometimes for reasons of trade. It is also sometimes a result of God's calling. In and through the diaspora of his people, God brings about his mission to make himself known and to draw people to himself. The Holy Spirit works in and through his church and Jesus is present with his diaspora people to reveal himself to us and to the world.

b) TEE Diaspora Ministry: The Story So Far

Diaspora TEE has been happening for many decades in the US through the C&MA (Christian & Missionary Alliance) amongst Hmong and Vietnamese peoples, and also amongst Chinese diaspora in many different countries around the world. Also, amongst Indians in the Gulf, and the diaspora in Korea.

Some examples from before 2015:

Appu Varghese, an Indian in Bahrain, was receiving materials from various TEE providers and using them to disciple Indian migrant workers in the Gulf.

Stephen Cho has been seeking to reach Koreans in diaspora across the world and diaspora communities within South Korea. In Korea there are 2 million foreigners living, who came to Korea for jobs or to study. TEE Korea is serving diaspora Christians from Nepal, Mongolia, China, Cambodia, Russia and Thailand. Also 7 million Koreans are scattered around over 150 countries. TEE Korea seeks to supply the materials to them from Korea. If they need training, they get training either when they visit back, or if there are enough applicants, we visit the country to give them training.

So, Diaspora TEE was happening on a small scale in a number of countries before 2015.



In recent years, it has grown exponentially, in particular amongst Chinese diaspora all around the world, and especially since the seminal 'Exploring New Horizons' conference in Malaysia in April 2015, Increase has become committed to Diaspora TEE.

Increase has seen God at work developing Diaspora TEE in countries like Australia, New Zealand, the UK and Malaysia, to name a few. (See Appendix for more details on the History of Increase and the Diaspora). In 2016 the Diaspora Task Group was set up to help give traction, ideas and resources to help develop Diaspora TEE across Asia and amongst the Asian diaspora in other parts of the world.

This culminated in this Diaspora Statement which was accepted by the 170 delegates at the Increase Conference in Chiang Mai in November 2017:



Empowering Churches and Equipping Disciples in the Asian Diaspora

Increase Conference Statement

Declared by the participants, 17 November 2017

We recognise that people groups are migrating across our region of Asia and around the world more than ever before.

We see that God is building his church in a new and exciting way through these diaspora communities.

We share a common vision for training resources to be made available across Asia and beyond to equip all Christian believers to grow in Christ and serve him actively in their local churches and communities.

We commit to work together over the next five years to:

- Actively support and encourage those with a vision to empower churches in discipling diaspora believers in Asia and beyond.
- Make discipleship and leadership resources available to those who wish to use them for group learning in local churches.
- Partner with like-minded churches, organisations, and networks in Asia and beyond to enable discipleship, ministry and mission training to take place among and through diaspora believers.

So, Increase is committed to this vision and to help national programs disciple the nations through the diaspora, both in their countries and wherever in the world their countrymen live. Now different National TEE programs are working together to reach their diaspora across the world. We look forward to seeing how God is going to develop and use this movement across the world, showing His care for displaced people.

For reflection/discussion:

What did you notice in this Section?
In what ways does this apply to your situation?

Section 2

GUIDELINES FOR STARTING A DIASPORA TEE PROGRAM

When we start a new TEE program, there is always an initial struggle. In particular when we want to start a Diaspora TEE program in a language which we're not so familiar with. Here are three different angles at looking at ways to start up a TEE program. The first (10 Basic Tips) was written by SEAN (you can read more detail if you click the links), the second by Rina Victor with examples from Malaysia, and the third is a summary of discussions at the Increase conference in Istanbul in Nov 2019.

We hope you can apply some of these guidelines to your situation.

a) 10 Basic Steps for Setting Up an Effective TEE Programme Using SEAN Courses



For the full article please click on the link: [Ten Basics Steps](#) to open the full document.

1. IDENTIFY POTENTIAL STUDENTS AND THEIR TRAINING NEEDS

SEAN courses are most effective when our partners identify the training needs of the local church in their context.

2. SELECT A COMPETENT DIRECTOR

Perhaps the most important aspect of an effective programme is choosing the correct person to organise and direct it.

3. ESTABLISH CLEAR ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES

Once the right person has been chosen to lead the programme, it is important to set up clear administrative structures.

4. ESTABLISH SOLID FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Any successful training programme needs to give attention to the issue of finance. This is particularly important if the programme crosses denominational or other boundaries where there working financial procedures are not in place.

5. ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR ENROLMENT THAT FOCUS ON DISCIPLESHIP

NEVER make the entrance to the programme too easy. Remember you are training people to be God's servants and this demands discipline and hard work.

6. ORGANISE A LEARNER-CENTRED PROGRAMME OF STUDY

When setting up a programme of study, it is easy to make the mistake of focusing on the content of the curriculum rather than the learning needs of the students.

7. ENSURE THAT STUDENT LEARNING IS RECOGNISED

It is important that people receive adequate and appropriate recognition for their learning.

8. ORGANISE THE PROGRAMME TO ENCOURAGE DISCIPLINE

One of the major advantages of TEE is its flexibility, which allows students to study without leaving their jobs, families and church. However, this flexibility should not be abused. Experience shows that programmes flourish when students are encouraged to learn in a clear, well-structured manner.

9. SELECT AND TRAIN COMPETENT TUTORS

Note: In some programs Tutors are called "Group Leaders".

Humanly speaking, good tutoring of study groups is the key to success; its lack is frequently the cause of failure in a TEE/SEAN programme. The whole approach of TEE tutorials is that they are based on open discussion and discovery-learning that involves each member of a Study Group, rather than being a one-way lecture by a teacher to a largely passive group of listeners.

10. DESIGN EFFECTIVE PUBLICITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS

To mount an effective programme, you will find it necessary to design and print forms and documents to suit your local situation.

b) Guidelines for Starting a Diaspora TEE Program: Model Taken from Nepali TEE in Malaysia

These guidelines may differ from country to country. In Malaysia Nepali TEE was started in partnership with ITEEN, Nepal in 2015. There are 700,000 – 800,000 Nepali migrants working in Malaysia. Churches have assumed their responsibility in reaching out to these migrant workers, providing place of worship and guidance for organizing Christian Fellowship groups. Most of the Nepali migrants come from low educational and economic backgrounds. To be able to disciple Nepali Migrants one needs a systematic program or Courses in their own language. TEE provides a simple, systematic, and in-depth discipleship program suitable for New believers as well as mature Christians. In the absence of a good Discipleship program in Nepali language. Thanks to ITEEN, Nepal which has developed the Nepali TEE so well. Most coordinators of Nepali Fellowships

have struggled in past and used their own Bible Studies to disciple Nepali believers. When TEE Nepali was discovered through 'Increase Association', it became a real resource for discipling Semi-literate factory workers and security guards in Malaysia.

Malaysian Model of TEE Nepali

In 2015 Nepali TEE was started in Malaysia. Now it has gone through several stages of development and during the process we have learnt several valuable lessons.

1. **Having a Vision:** Have a clear vision to disciple the people you have brought to the Lord. For "Without a Vision people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). Unless someone has the vision to fulfil the Great Commission, we will not know the importance of discipleship and using a rightful tool to carry out the task of discipleship. The search for a discipleship program in the language of migrants in systematic and effective manner began before 2015. Having found Courses in Nepali became such a valuable tool to empower Nepali Churches in Malaysia.
2. **Making Right Connections:** It is important to meet the right people who have developed the discipleship tool in their own language and have successfully used it in their own country. In this case meeting the Director of ITEEN from Nepal was a key to starting Nepali TEE in Malaysia. It was indeed timely to meet the Director of ITEEN and get his help and support for this new journey in discipling Nepali migrant workers.
3. **Begin by organizing Group Leader's Training:** We realized that TEE Courses cannot be used by anyone except the trained group leaders. Therefore, it was important to train Nepali speaking group leaders to start and facilitate the discipleship classes at the onset. The first Group Leader's Training was conducted in 2015 for about 30 Nepali believers. ITEEN Director, Pastor Tanka Subedi provided personalized training for group leaders during the two days when migrants were free to attend the training. Once the training was completed and the Abundant Life books were available, the discipleship classes sprang up like mushrooms. One of the benefits of TEE Courses are that it can be conducted wherever people are if there are trained group leaders to facilitate the classes.

Another advantage is that you do not need experts to come from outside, rather trained group leaders can disciple their own friends. This is one of the reasons for the success of TEE Nepali in Malaysia.



4. Have a local Coordinator or Director: To run a TEE Program effectively and progressively the right choice of a Program Director is important. Without a key local person who is willing and committed to move on with the discipleship program. You need to constantly provide the course books, keep the record of student's progress. This provides a continuous flow in the discipleship process and providing help to migrants who are foreigners in the country of work. In Malaysia, a couple initiated the process and continued the journey with the migrants in disciple making efforts. In a new country it is crucial to have a local person to facilitate administrative help, provide resources, connect to discipleship classes, connect to the National organization of the country of origin to maintain the continuity of the work. Having a Director and a Centre enables all migrants to have a point of reference, in the country where they are working. Once that point of reference and local support is lost, classes can easily stop halfway.

5. Availability and Printing of Books: In order to make the TEE books available to migrants easily and cheaply, we found printing of books locally is very important. For this you need to sign an agreement with SEAN or the National body of the country of origin. In this case it was MOU signed with ITEEN (Nepal) and the local mission organization called MMK in Malaysia. ITEEN provided the soft copies and the books were printed with the help of a local Christian Printer. At this point it is important to consider the copy rights of SEAN for printing the books and sending the due royalty in time. So, the books were printed, and royalty was paid to SEAN through ITEEN. The books were made available for Nepali believers at a very affordable cost and thus maintaining the continuity of classes and the courses.



6. Keeping Student Database and tracking their progress: For the TEE program to progress it is essential to keep record of students and their progress. Students are encouraged when their efforts are recognized with a Certificate of Completion. The end of the Course Exam also helps them to see their progress. Keeping in touch with ITEEN made it very simple to conduct exams in Nepali and get the papers corrected and Certificates given at the end of the course. For hard working migrants it is very rewarding to enrol in a program and complete it before going back to their country. In their busy schedule of work, TEE provides a meaningful spiritual growth. You can see their enthusiasm in continuing their weekly TEE classes.

7. A Life transforming experience: TEE has provided a life changing experience to TEE students and lays a good foundation which they can take with them wherever they go. Laying a good foundation helps the new believers to be strong spiritually and allow the life of Christ to shine in their lives. Without a good Christian foundation, they can easily slip back in their own ways. But having the right foundation keeps them grounded in the Word of God and gives them the ability to disciple others. So, in this way we are not only making strong disciples but

disciple makers as well. We can be confident that those undergoing discipleship courses through TEE are experiencing a change in their individual, family, and community life. One student named Moti, acknowledged that he is found new meaning in his life and has turned from Facebook to God's Book (The Bible). Others have found satisfaction in helping their friends in their discipleship process by being there for them weakly to facilitate their classes. A Nepali Pastor, Sher started six classes after doing his group leader's training. Tutors started new classes in Batu Pahat Malaysia.



8. Follow up and keeping connections: Follow up of group leaders and keeping connected with them gives stability to the running of TEE program. Having a WhatsApp group for tutors, visiting their classes, checking the progress of the group provides assurance and support for tutors to carry on their responsibility successfully by knowing that they are not alone in this journey. Secondly, a migrant's work contract lasts for two to three years in Malaysia, so one needs to keep track if it is time for leader to go back to their country and there is need to replace with another trained leader.
9. Repeated Group Leader's Training: In Diaspora situation Group Leader's Training must be repeated from time to time so that new leaders can replace the old ones, who may soon be returning to their county. At times, a refresher training course is also very helpful to remind them of TEE methods and principles. In this case Group Leader's trainings are conducted every year in different areas to raise up new leaders. After two years you will notice a gap in leadership, as migrant workers have a contract of 2-3 years only. To fill this gap repeated trainings in different areas are a great help. In 2017 there were 4-5 trainings for group leaders among Nepalese.
10. Financial Partnership: TEE in a new country must carry on in financial partnership with the TEE organization of the country of origin. In this case a financial understanding was worked out to share the registration fees, which is used to assist in covering the administrative cost in both countries. In this way both organizations can run well with financial partnership.
11. Diaspora TEE structure: To function smoothly some kind of structure will be needed as Diaspora TEE develops in a country. This will look different according to the context you are working in. If there is an existing TEE program, then how diaspora TEE relates to the national TEE program needs to be worked out. It will need to be structured in such a way that fits in well with the host TEE program,

for example each diaspora language group could have a separate working group (such as the Urdu working group in Malaysia) or there could be a diaspora sub-committee which reports to the national TEE program with diaspora coordinators, or there may be other ways to do it. This is a new venture so may the Lord lead each country and diaspora TEE group!

c) Feedback on starting up a TEE diaspora program (from Increase conference 2019)

The ideas below came from a session on the Diaspora at the Increase gathering in Istanbul in Nov 2019:

IDEAS ON A TIMEFRAME FOR STARTING UP A TEE PROGRAM (EMERGING FROM A CASE STUDY):

In the first 3 months:

- Convincing the pastors/decision-makers
- Lots of drinking tea and building relationships
- Start with 2 languages – start with a Taster
- Develop a committee of different people to begin the work amongst Filipinos
- Have a group meeting for leaders/pastors to actually understand what TEE is
- Identify suitable group leaders and train them up.

4 months – 2 years:

- Encourage and assist leaders to start a group
- Invite one of the Equippers to do the GL Training
- Invite Increase to run various language trainings in different languages
- Growing awareness of TEE, sharing success stories and vision-casting
- Identify where there is the most interest

Other ideas on starting up Diaspora TEE (comments written down on the posters):

- Become aware of the 'gaps' in diaspora communities with no active TEE program
- Encouragement to keep expanding in the Arab world
- We have an ambitious goal and vision to reach diaspora communities using diaspora as a tool

- Partnerships are needed.
- Increase is a powerful tool to help.
- The harvest is plentiful. Pray for more workers as there is huge opportunity for the Kingdom of God to grow.
- Much prayer is needed!
- Begin small in several places and grow and spread from there
- Need to identify key people in each local context
- Don't lose focus for indigenous groups but find more helpers to do both national and diaspora work.
- Must get good on-line Stage 1 Group Leader Training, well-known, easily accessible
- Remember God's promise, Psalm 2:8 and ask for the nations God will make it happen
- Building relationships with local pastors is very important
- The need to continue to listen to the Lord in His leading in diaspora areas
- Diaspora in Europe is key and ripe. Great need to address this need in the Netherlands, for example
- Macedonian vision, calling for help in North Africa. Great need in Israel
- Revive God's Word in Europe through Chinese Churches
- The importance of planning and anticipating difficulties in preparing for TEE in Diaspora and knowledge of who has answers or resources
- Failing to plan is planning to fail!
- Seeking the Lord to guide and listening to Him for direction for the Diaspora work is critical.
- Importance of good clear communication with and between all interested parties
- The importance of individuals meeting to start the work of God
- The importance of thinking of the diaspora believers who live around us.



Dots show where Diaspora TEE is taking place already, and where it may develop soon

d) Ways to Introduce Diaspora TEE to New Groups

To extend the ministry of discipleship among the diaspora groups, there must be constant effort to introduce TEE as a tool for discipleship. We must not be satisfied if we have started TEE class in one Church or fellowship. What about others?

In John 10:16 Jesus said,

"I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."

Keeping in mind others that need to be discipled, we need to be diligent in introducing TEE method and TEE courses to others. Here are three possible steps to use so that TEE can be started up amongst diaspora groups.

1. Making New Contacts

- Visit Churches / Fellowships
- Meet Church leaders or people of influence among diaspora
- Talk to people during Christian conferences
- Put up Book exhibition during Seminars & Conferences
- Note down the names and contacts of interested persons.



Whenever we put up book exhibition, we take down the contacts and needs of the people, which helps us to follow up on these contacts. An example of how we collect information is given below for one of the diaspora groups. In 2019 we attended one national symposium on diaspora and put up exhibition of TEE books. I was also given opportunity to share about our exhibits from the stage. This brought a lot of inquiries and contacts. After this conference, we could fix two appointments to introduce TEE to two new groups. Below is a sample of contact form which we give to people at some of our book table.

Contact us for your needs regarding Nepali Ministry

Please indicate your need below

1. I need Tracts _____
2. I need Nepali Song Books _____
3. I need Nepali New Testament _____
4. I need help to start a Nepali Fellowship in my Church _____
5. I want to start TEE discipleship course in my Nepali Fellowship _____
6. I want my Nepali TEE group leaders to be trained _____

Please leave your following details and we will contact you:

My Name: _____

My Contact: _____

My Church: _____

-
2. Keep sharing your vision and passion about TEE
 - Share among family and friends – family and friends are great people to share your vision with.
 - Share in your Church, as well as other Churches that open the opportunity for us to share about the ministry.

- Wherever you go to meet people, prepare yourself with your ministry brochure, business cards and newsletter which people can read after you have left the place.
- Carry with you at least first two course books: "Abundant Life" and Abundant Light" in the language you would like to introduce TEE. Seeing the printed books arouses curiosity and questions.



- Carry with you TEE Book of "Increase Association" to give to Pastors and leaders who can find more information on TEE courses and how it works at their leisure. Many of their questions will get answered in that book.
- Diaspora Pastors and leaders are important



Introducing TEE to Myanmar Pastor and leaders.

Meeting Church leaders and Pastors of diaspora group is an important strategy in convincing them to adopt TEE as a discipleship tool for their congregation. Here is a Myanmar Church in Malaysia which is ready to adopt TEE to disciple their members.

3. A Taster for interested people

A taster, as the name suggests gives the first bite to taste the apple, it is a quick way to give a taste TEE. Usually a lesson from "Abundant Life" book is taken to give the sample TEE lesson. Below is a sample lesson chosen for a taster (prepared by Dr Tim Green).

ABUNDANT LIFE Lesson 4: Obedience

A) STUDY BOOK (extract)

14. To obey Jesus in what we say, we must make sure that we only use good, clean words. Bad language should not come out of a Christian's mouth.

Sometimes a new Christian finds it very hard to break the habit of swearing or lying. But the Bible says:

"Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should NOT be." (James 3:10)

You are a follower of Jesus Christ so what kind of words ought to come out of your mouth?

- a. Only clean words.
- b. Bad language.
- c. A mixture of clean and foul language.

15. In what area of our lives should we obey Christ as Lord?

The _____ that come out of our mouths.

16. Following are six examples of the use of words. Some of them are good uses, some are wrong. Look at these examples carefully.

The illustrations are arranged in two rows. The top row contains three illustrations labeled A, B, and C. The bottom row contains three illustrations labeled D, E, and F.

- A:** A man is comforting another man who looks distressed. Speech bubble: "Don't lose heart brother, with the Lord's help we'll soon solve this problem."
- B:** A group of people are gathered around a woman who is holding a baby. Speech bubble: "Have you heard? Martha had a baby before she was married."
- C:** A man is talking to a young boy. Speech bubble: "What do you mean? I haven't seen your book."
- D:** A woman is praising God with her hands raised. Speech bubble: "Glory to GOD!"
- E:** Two women are talking. One is holding a book. Speech bubble: "I once had a terrible urge to steal, but the Lord has now freed me from this."
- F:** A man with a shocked expression is surrounded by symbols of temptation like a skull and crossbones, a gun, and a bomb. No speech bubble is present.

a) Match the words in the list below with these pictures. Put the letter of the picture in the space provided.

- 1) Words used to encourage others. Picture ____
- 2) Words used to praise God. Picture ____
- 3) Words used to gossip. Picture ____
- 4) Words used to talk about Jesus. Picture ____
- 5) Words used to lie. Picture ____
- 6) Words used to curse. Picture ____

b) In which three pictures are people using their words in the right way, and so obeying Jesus as their Lord? ____ ____

B) GROUP DISCUSSION

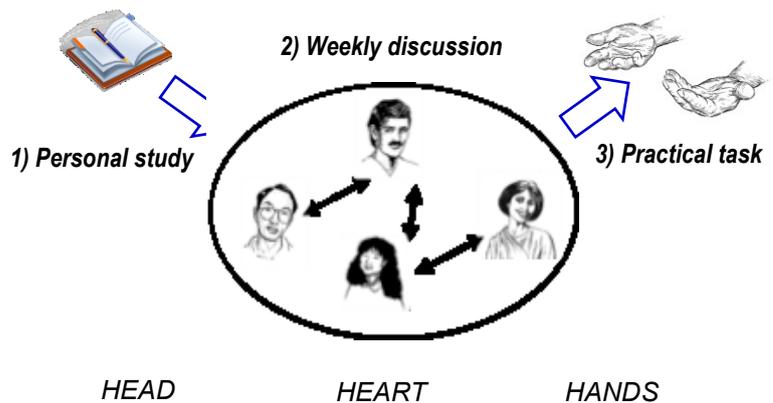
Can you think of examples of obedience or disobedience in our use of words? Share some examples. How can we learn to have more control on our tongues?

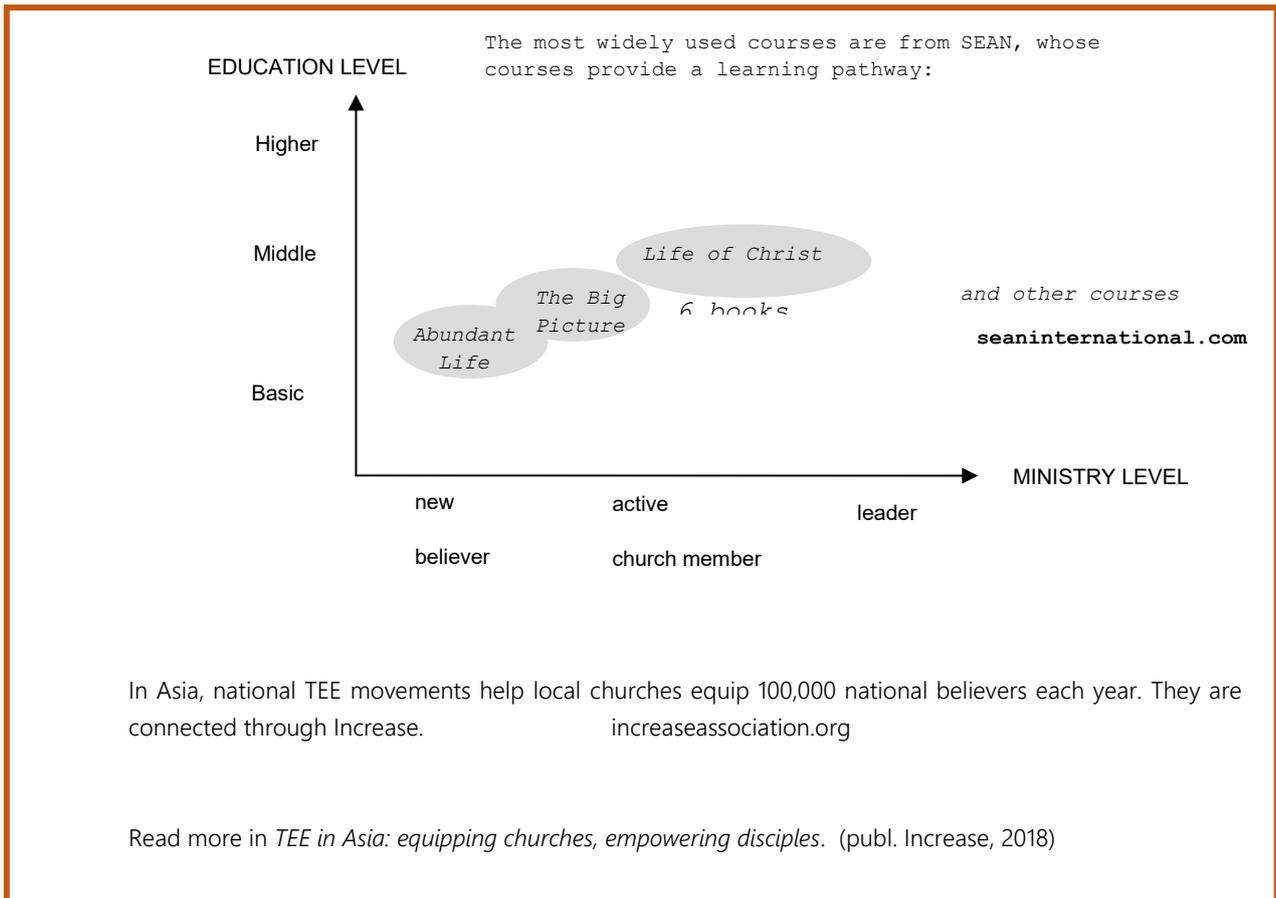
C) PRACTICAL TASK

Turn to the person next to you and share one area where you are weak but that you want to submit your words to Christ. Pray for each other. Next week share if there has been any difference in the way you have used your words in that area.

What is TEE?

Traditionally Theological Education by Extension, it is more easily understood as 'Tools to Equip and Empower' – tools for local churches to equip and empower all their members to grow in Christ and serve him actively. It equips all God's people, in and for their context, through local learning groups.





For reflection/discussion:

What did you notice in this Section?
In what ways does this apply to your situation?

Section 3

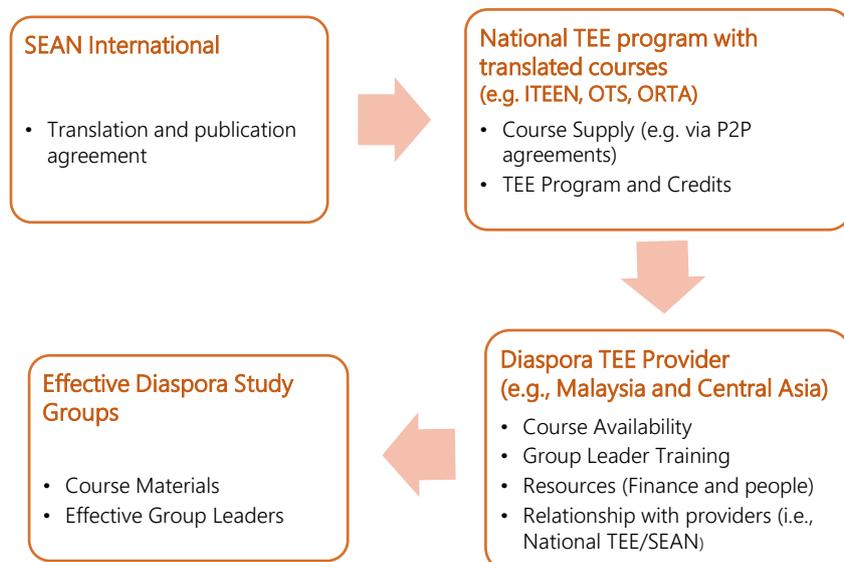
GUIDELINES FOR OBTAINING TEE COURSES FOR DIASPORA

SEAN International works with Partners around the world to offer some of the most popular TEE courses. SEAN has been working with the Increase Association to develop effective ways of making its courses available to diaspora TEE groups around the world. As we have been working together over the past few years, we have discovered that there are several different ways of doing this. Below we have outlined four different ways of obtaining SEAN courses for diaspora TEE groups (of course there are other TEE courses which are not from SEAN). Hopefully, one of these models will serve your situation. If not, maybe you can adapt one of these models below.

a) Model A: National TEE Program to national TEE program

Translated the courses supplies them to the TEE Program in the country where the diaspora groups are situated.

The emerging TEE program in Malaysia (now TEE Malaysia) wanted to use SEAN’s courses to disciple Urdu and Nepali believers in Malaysia. So, the organising committee in Malaysia created a link with the TEE organizations in Pakistan (OTS) and Nepal (ITEEN) that had translated SEAN’s courses. These programs already had an agreement with SEAN International that they could translate and publish the courses in these languages. Instead of posting the course materials to Malaysia, the National TEE programs entered into a Partner to Partner agreement (P2P) with the organising committee in Malaysia so that they could print the courses locally. A similar model was adopted in various countries in Central Asia. ORTA had translated SEAN courses into Russian that could be used by the Russian-speaking diaspora across Central Asia. So, the National Teams in the Central Asian countries entered into a Partner to Partner agreement with ORTA so that they can supply the courses to the Russian-speaking diaspora in their own countries. In both of these examples, the Diaspora TEE providers need to ensure that the courses and adequate Group Leader Training take place for effective Diaspora Study groups. In the first instance, this is often in close cooperation with the National TEE provider which translated the courses. In some cases, students were



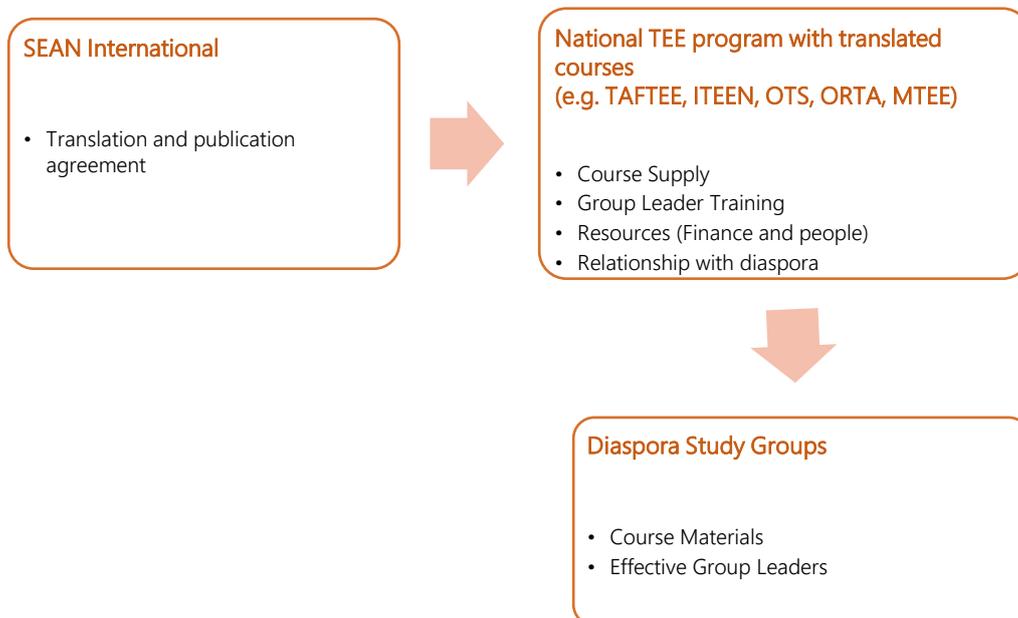
also able to enrol on the TEE program of the country where the courses were translated. This enables migrant workers to return to their home country and continue their studies.

b) Model B: National TEE Program direct to TEE group

Translated the course materials supplies courses directly to diaspora TEE groups.

In some diaspora settings, there is no TEE program which exists in the country where the diaspora believers are situated. This is the case for many groups in the Gulf Countries and also the situation in many places in Europe. So, in various Gulf countries, TAFTEE supplies course materials directly to the Indian diaspora, OTS supplies courses to the Pakistani diaspora and ITEEN supplies courses to the Nepali diaspora. In many of these cases, someone in the Gulf countries acts as a ‘coordinator’ linking the diaspora group to the national program in their home country. Likewise, Mongolian believers in Switzerland have a direct link to MTEE in Mongolia and Russian-speaking believers in Turkey have a direct link to ORTA.

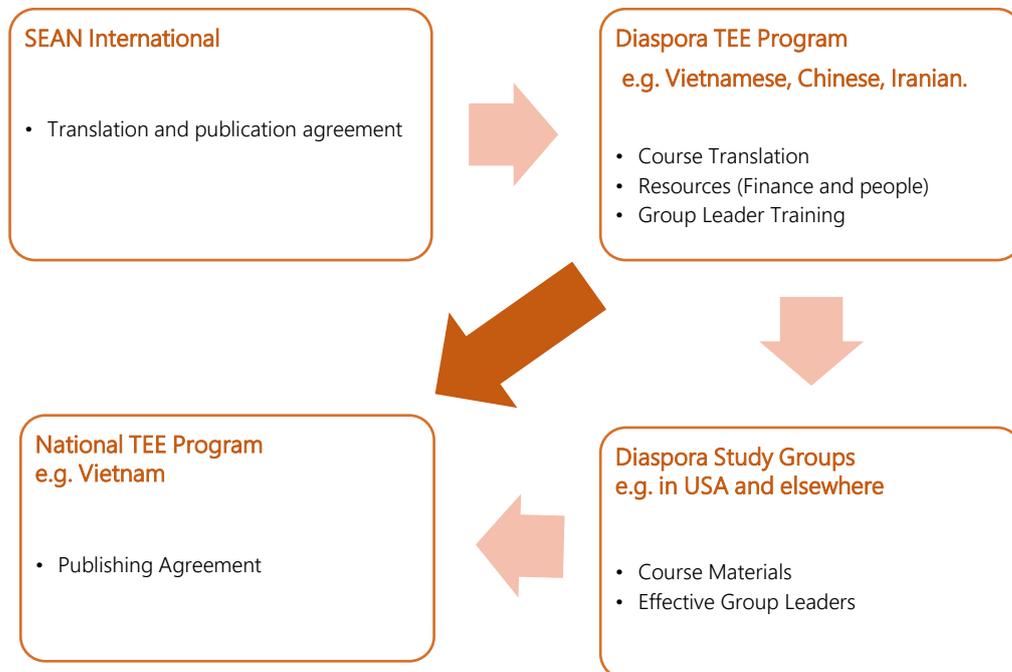
In this model, it is up to the National TEE program with translated courses to supply course materials and to provide the training for group leaders. Normally, they would also be responsible for providing the finance and people to enable the courses to take place.



c) Model C: SEAN

Gives a licence to a Diaspora TEE Program to translate courses for use among diaspora and other believers.

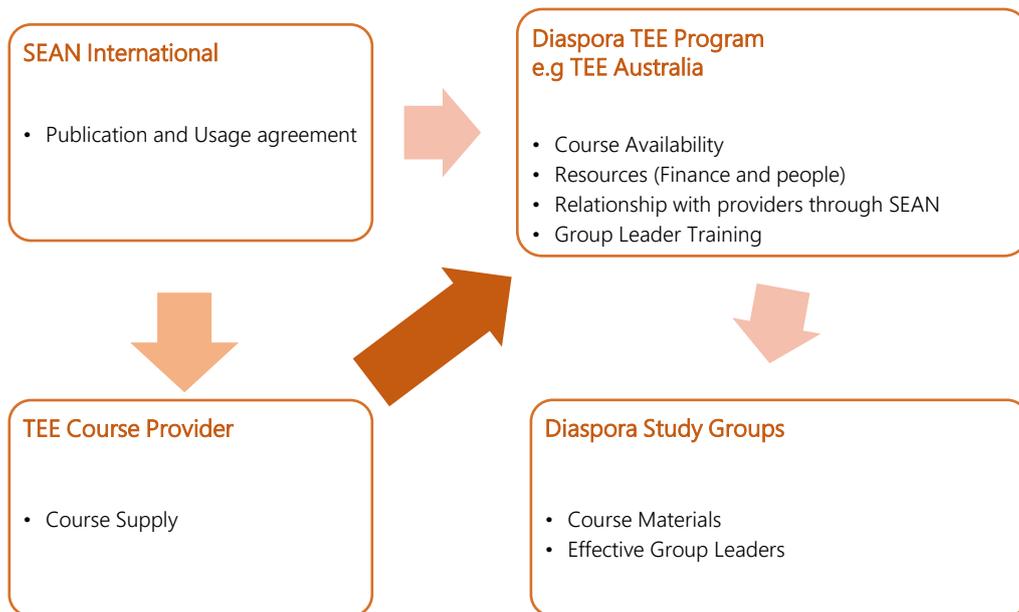
In certain circumstances, for example among Vietnamese in the USA, diaspora TEE work has started before the work in the country where the diaspora believers originated. The Vietnamese District of the Christian and Missionary Alliance made an agreement with SEAN to translate the Life of Christ into Vietnamese to train leaders for their churches in the USA. The wonderful thing is that through some of these leaders, TEE is now also flourishing in Vietnam, so that SEAN has recently made an agreement with churches in Vietnam to use the courses that were translated by diaspora believers in the USA. Likewise, SEAN's longest-standing Chinese partner is based in the USA, but through their ministry TEE is being used by Chinese believers around the world and also on the mainland. The recent growth of believers among Iranians outside Iran means that there are many groups wanting to disciple people from an Iranian background. So, SEAN has made an agreement with an program based in Turkey and we pray that one day, this will lead to TEE courses being used within Iran to build up the growing church there.



d) Model D: Printing TEE Materials Locally

with an agreement signed with SEAN, either through a local Christian publisher or through print on demand.

With the growing complexity of discipling believers among diaspora churches, SEAN has sometimes entered into an agreement with a newly formed diaspora TEE program to enable them to access courses in various languages. SEAN has then worked with its existing partners to create special agreements to supply courses to the diaspora believers. For example, TEE Australia wanted to service diaspora TEE for churches serving many languages. SEAN made an agreement that would allow TEE Australia to use courses in several languages. SEAN then also made agreements with the partners who had translated the courses so that these could be used in Australia. Because of the situation in Australia, the best way of supplying these courses was through a print on demand platform. Hopefully, a similar agreement will be made with the emerging TEE organization in New Zealand.



For reflection/discussion:

What did you notice in this Section?
In what ways does this apply to your situation?

Section 4

GUIDELINES FOR THE GROUP LEADERS' TRAINING

a) Suggestions for Group Leaders' Training Guidelines for Diaspora Groups

Duration – two Days

These guidelines are divided into work to be done in three stages:

- Before the Training
- During the Training
- After the Training

Preparation Before the Training

To conduct an effective training among diaspora you need to start working on it much in advance as you will not get responses immediately. Particularly if you are doing it for migrant workers or refugees. Work with local coordinator / migrant leaders, look for two possible dates for the training.

1. Decide on how many days you will need for the training. (For migrants and refugees, a two day's training is recommended).
2. Fix a place which is convenient as well as it has all the facilities needed for the training (a well ventilated or air-conditioned hall, chairs and tables for small group discussion, white Board & pens, LCD projector and a Laptop).
3. Prepare the timetable according to available time slot ([Open the Time table](#))
4. Fellowship leaders should be informed ahead of time so that they can collect the names of suitable persons, who are willing to be trained.
5. Get the name list of participants as in their Passport or I/D
(Caution! - You may not get this finalized until they come and register at the training spot)
 - Name list will give an idea as to how many participants will come so that you can prepare the training resources accordingly
 - Another reason we need to collect the name list early, so that their Certificates can be prepared and printed early.
 - Name list will also help in preparing the name tags for the participants to be used during the training.

- Divide all participants in equal number (if possible) for each table groups, assign one trained tutor to guide and help at each table group.
6. Get the training resources ready:
- Abundant Life (Student Books)
 - Abundant Life (Tutor Manual)
 - Training Manual
 - Relevant Forms: Tutor Registration Forms, Class Registration Forms, Attendance sheets, Training Evaluation & Personal reflection sheets
 - Single line notebook
 - Pens
7. Trainers & Helpers:
- Who will teach different topics? Usually there are two or three trainers.
 - Helpers are already trained and experienced tutors to help with the table group discussions. Those who can speak the language.
8. Teaching Aids:
- Each trainer will have their Power Points or other teaching aids
 - Some may want to use White Board.
 - White Mahjong Papers are handy to get the table groups to write their responses.
 - Sketch pen, colored markers, post it pad, Blue Tag, Cellophane tape, scissors, glue, stapler, paper clips are some of the stationary needed for the training.

During the Training:

1. Follow the Time – Table
2. There will be some teaching sessions and some practical sessions in which the participants will get practical training.
3. Practical Sessions during the training are very important as it helps to prepare the participants to start their own TEE classes.
 - The first lesson is led by some experienced tutors and seen as ‘model group’. The feedback for model group, should be given by one of the trainers.
 - From next lesson assign short sections to be led by each participant.
 - After each session there is feedback on the group leader’s leading, so that others may learn from it.

- For the second practice give half lesson to be led by each participant if there is time.
 - The leader of each group will evaluate the trainees for which you need to have the [Skill Evaluation Sheets](#) ready and printed.
 - Have these translated in the language of the group.
4. Important Topics to be included in the Schedule are suggested below:
- Introduction to TEE
 - TEE Method (Railway Track Puzzle to be included)
 - Use of Tutor Manual
 - Preparation to lead the Group Meeting
 - Introductory Class
 - Responsibilities of a Tutor.
 - How to fill registration form, attendance sheet etc.
 - Plan of a Group Meeting
 - Group Dynamics
 - Teaching Methods
5. Reflection on the Training & Evaluation of the Training: These Evaluation sheets are also available from Increase Association and should be translated in the language participants are familiar.
6. Finally, you can give out the Certificates of attendance and the certificate will have the Tutor Registration number (For Nepali group we follow this system which ITEEN has developed). Certificate may differ for each group.
7. During the training think of Including some games or fun activity to keep the training interesting for the winners you can give out some gifts, which can be shared in the groups.

After the Training

The job is not yet finished. After the training, few things need to be done:

1. Go through the participant's Training Evaluation and note down their suggestions.
2. Do the evaluation yourself along with the helpers, to improve the training next time.
3. Keep in touch with the leaders of each fellowship as follow up is a key factor in growing new groups.
4. Find out if anyone needs books or other resources to start the new class.
5. Make sure tutors send you the class registration form duly filled.

6. When one course is finished, and if the course is exam based, then conduct exam for them on requested date and time.
7. When you collect the answer sheets, you also need to collect registration for the next class and the attendance sheets from the leader.
8. Arrange to give them certificate of completion after each course.
9. Give out the books for the next course.

b) Additional Resources for Running a Group Leaders' Training Workshop

For those who want some help in running a Group Leader Training Workshop, SEAN and Increase have developed various resources to make this possible even if you have never run a workshop before.

1. Online Workshop Package:

The Workshop outlined above has been developed into an interactive online package with video and audio. This is available for a subscription fee from: <https://connect.crosswired.com/web/c2927223>

2. PowerPoint Package:

A similar Workshop Package is presently being created in PowerPoint and will be downloadable from the Increase Website and obtainable from SEAN.

3. Group Leader Training Videos:

These videos are designed to be part of a group leader training workshop. They give examples of leading an Abundant Life Study Group as well as showing the pitfalls that many group leaders encounter and ways to overcome them. These videos can be accessed via the SEAN International YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHNYXWBcwUecUnEQb6W_mag/videos

There you can find the individual videos that you can use during a workshop or use the playlists to watch the videos in order.

c) Training Resources:

1. Abundant Life" Lesson 1-4 Softcopy
Downloads: [Lesson 1 pdf](#) | [Lesson 2 pdf](#) | [Lesson 3 pdf](#) | [Lesson 4 pdf](#)
2. Preparatory Task (PPT)
[Open and download the Powerpoint](#)
3. Bible Verses on sharing vision and Passion
[Open and download the Word doc](#)
4. Understanding TEE Methodology
[Open and download the Word doc](#)
5. Key Skills
[Open and download the Word doc](#)
6. Evaluation of the Training
[Open and download the Word doc](#)
7. Attendance Form
[Open and download the Excel sheet](#)
8. Registration Form
[Open and download the Excel sheet](#)
9. Personal Reflection on the Training
[Open and download the Word doc](#)
10. Sample Plan of a Group Meeting for Abundant Life
[Open and download the Word doc](#)
11. Starting a new group
[Open and download the Word doc](#)
12. Sample Training Schedule for 1- and 2-day trainings
[One day Training Schedule](#)
[Two days Training Schedule doc](#)
13. Power Points Available
 - TEE as Tool for Discipleship
[Open the Powerpoint](#)
 - What is TEE (Nepali)
[Open the Powerpoint](#)

- TEE Methods (English)
[Open the Powerpoint](#)
- How to prepare for Meeting using Group Leader's Manual
[Open the Powerpoint](#)
- Benefits of TEE Discipleship Program
[Open the Powerpoint](#)
- Practical Application and Group Discussion.
[Open the Powerpoint](#)
- Vision for Discipleship
[Open the Powerpoint](#)
- Introductory Class
[Open the Powerpoint](#)

d) Group Leader Training Manuals in Different Languages

For some language groups Group Leader Training Manuals have been produced in their own languages and can be obtained from the National TEE Programs. For example, Nepali TEE Training Manual can be obtained from ITEEN, Nepal; Urdu TEE Training materials from OTS Pakistan (Find the contact details on Increase website: <https://www.increaseassociation.org/core-members>).

For reflection/discussion:

What did you notice in this Section?
In what ways does this apply to your situation?

Section 5

Overcoming Challenges in Doing TEE with Diaspora Groups

There are many complex challenges facing TEE with diaspora groups but with God's help we are gradually finding ways to overcome them. The biggest challenge is often to get the resources into the hands of the churches and TEE group leaders. Another big challenge is group leader training which is why we are seeking to move most of the components online to gather people for training in order to make training more frequent and less cost.

See below ways in which two countries have sought to overcome these different challenges.

a) Challenges faced and ways we sought to overcome them in Malaysia:

Challenges faced in doing Diaspora Ministry: Challenges are part and parcel of life. No ministry is free of challenges, but this document shows some ways we overcame these challenges. So, what were some of the challenges we faced in doing TEE ministry among the diaspora groups in Malaysia? Here are some of the difficulties we faced, but praise God no problem comes to stay.

1. Language Difficulty

Doing cross cultural ministry, language is a challenge. How did we respond to this challenge?

- Invited Nepali Trainers from Nepal to train the group leaders for the first 2-3 trainings
- Used interpreters from among the diaspora group.
- Use of Power Points with translation to be used during the training – install fonts in the languages of the diaspora group, to receive books, manuals and to give to the printer. Of course, pdf version is a great help
- In later stages used locally trained tutors to help during the practical training
- Use of books, tracts, and training manuals in the language of the group.

2. Availability of Course Books:

It was challenging to get books cheaply so that migrants and refugees can afford these books. How did we respond to this challenge?

- Initially we received by post from Nepal, which was quite expensive
- Then we discussed about signing MOU with ITEEN and our Malaysian organization then this was done with good understanding.

- Then we began to explore the idea of printing books locally.
- God blessed us with a Christian printing company and God blessed us with Churches and individuals to finance the printing.
- Thus, we were able to get books available easily and were able to distribute them at an affordable cost to diaspora groups.
- Of course, we paid the royalty to SEAN.
- Recently with TEE Malaysia (National TEE) and three other National TEE: ITEEN, TEE Myanmar & OTS Pakistan we signed MOU, so that we can continue to use their books to bless disciple their people in Malaysia.

3. End of the Course Exams:

Since ITEEN had introduced final exam at the end of each course, we followed their method with Nepalese in Malaysia. Most Nepalese who come to work in Malaysia are not very highly educated, rather you could call them semi-literate, except for smaller percentage who are High School pass or have gone for higher education. So, giving them exam caused much anxiety for them. But we could see they took their exams seriously. But one problem was there that they had left school long ago and doing exam we had to give them substantial amount of time. Many times, they did not understand questions, so they would ask each other. Slowly we are teaching them how to do their exam sincerely and honestly which also part of developing Christian character.

Question Papers & preparation of result & Certificate: For Nepalese ITEEN had already been functioning in Nepal for more than twenty years and all these administrative details were already worked out. So ITEEN sent us Question Papers in Nepali, we got them printed and took them to place of exams. After the exam we had to scan and send the answer sheet to ITEEN and they would prepare the results and Certificate. Many TEE classes had started in Malaysia and it was becoming very challenging to scan the papers and send to ITEEN. After two or three years we got a Nepali brother in Malaysia to join us, and he was helpful to scan and send all the answer sheets and keep the database of students.

However, on Myanmar side of TEE we faced difficulties as TEE in Myanmar was not developed so well at that time. So, we had to take help from our Myanmar TEE student who had gone through TEE classes with us. Now, Myanmar TEE also has grown, and they are able to provide Books and exam questions to us. However, we prepare the result and give them Certificates from TEE Malaysia, since TEE Malaysia is now registered as national body.

4. Stocking and Distribution of Course Books and collection of money:

- Stocking the books is a challenge, as we have many TEE books stocked up in our home instead of having proper warehouse to keep them. Hopefully in the days to come even this will be solved.
- In early stages sometimes leaders will not inform us exactly how many books to bring or they may not collect book money or registration fee from their friends. Since these classes were usually based in another town it was causing lot of difficulty. But slowly we taught our Nepali leaders to be more vigilant in doing these things. Now they are well trained and follow the method of Malaysia TEE Diaspora.
- Filling the Registration form was another problem, many students did not know how to fill in the details in their registration forms, so after we reach there, we had to wait long time after the exam to collect their registration forms, money, and attendance sheets. Now most of them have learnt to follow the system, and in each place, there are trained leaders with whom we keep close connections.

5. Financial Support:

For running the ministry, we needed financial support as the ministry was growing very fast. So, we and our organization raised supporters from Churches and individuals to raise financial support for printing of books, running the group leader's training, travelling all over Malaysia and many administrative needs. We had to raise awareness of this ministry among the Churches and God blessed us with support to carry on the ministry. Nepali ministry in many ways is becoming self-supportive.

6. Transportation and Travel:

Since our TEE classes for Nepalese are scattered in different parts of Malaysia, some time we need to travel couple of hours by car to conduct training or exam for students. Sometimes it is quite taxing and tiring. We are in the lookout for coworkers to help in this ministry. But still we have not been able to overcome this challenge. Most people in Malaysia like to do TEE work with local Churches, therefore it is not easy to find people who would extend helping hand in doing actual work.

7. Prayer Support:

One of the keys to success of any ministry is prayer. We realized the need for it after much struggle. So, we formed a prayer group comprising of few people who love to pray for this ministry. This gives us much spiritual backing in this ministry. We appreciate individuals who pray for us. Besides that, we get our Nepali tutors and students to pray for us and the ministry. Lately our Church and TEE Malaysia also lift diaspora ministry in prayer.

8. Lockdown Situation:

Reflections from the 2020 coronavirus pandemic lock down: It has been challenging for the ministry to go on during the lockdown situation in the country due to recent pandemic. So, we explored new ways of doing TEE classes by using various social media. Some of the diaspora TEE groups are able to have online classes, but exams and distribution of books remains a challenge. Will this pandemic affect the way we do diaspora TEE in the future?

The fact that we could put together this booklet on diaspora because of lock down situation reminds us of Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to his purpose."

Other challenges include: working in each other's countries, accepting each other's training, who grants the certificates and distributes the courses. We are learning as God leads us step by step.

b) Challenges faced and ways we sought to overcome them in Australia: 

Challenge #1: how to convince church leaders to adopt TEE as their discipleship method?

Challenges migrants face:

- There are many discipleship programs and courses in Australia, particularly in English. However, often these materials are designed for mid-class well educated ones, or assuming that the students already have some basically bible knowledges.
- Some materials in their mother tongue being developed in their home countries might not be suitable in a migrant setting, esp. the applications.

Comparing with their own people back home, migrants have to deal with very different issues as they grow their faith in a culturally unfamiliar environment.

- Majority of the migrant churches depend on pastors/elders' input in their spiritual growth. Lay leaders usually lack confidence leading Bible studies on their own. They might have lots of bible knowledge but don't know how to teach others. In general, there is a lack of the culture of discipleship.
- Most of the churches do not have a clear pathway of developing new leaders.
- Some churches have migrants from different countries. They have limited English and they usually only talk to others from their own background.

Opportunities by using TEE method:

- TEE courses have been translated into many languages and were written according to their own cultural needs.
- Leaders guides can be adapted to suit the groups and is especially important in a mixed ethnic group
- TEE training provides great opportunities to develop group leaders because it can be replicated easily
- TEE small groups are a great way to grow future leaders from the early stages.
- A good leader's guide, such as the latest Abundant Life leader's guide, really gives group leaders great confidence as they lead.
- The good leader learns to be a good listener and creates a culture where all can participate. This is very often counter cultural.
- Therefore, TEE will slowly change the current church culture and encourage more lay leaders to be involved in disciple others.
- The regular group time provides a space to discuss issues they are facing in everyday life and keeps them accountable with each other.
- It is possible to run regular group in ESL and personal study in their own mother tongues. In this way, TEE is fostering rich fellowship across different people groups.

Challenge #2: how to make so many different TEE courses available in Australia?

Challenges:

- Printing costs are high in Australia
- Lack of financial resource and space to stock all the course books.

The ways to overcome:

- We discovered that printing-on-demand is a way to overcome this challenge.
- TEE AU work group developed a website (tee.org.au) where we now have nearly 70 course books in 17 different languages that churches can purchase them directly online. Only the ones who are trained can access to the online shop.

Challenge #3: how to provide training in order to start new groups?

Challenges:

- TEE is still very new to Australian churches. Most of the people don't know what TEE is.
- Not many experienced trainers at the moment. Even harder to find trainers from different language groups.
- COVID-19 really slows down the progress of starting new groups.

The ways to overcome:

- We are still in the beginning stage of growing TEE ministry in Australia. In 2019, there were two training sessions that prepared about 55 people who now can lead Abundant Life and Come Follow me.
- We provide trainings for local churches, and coach them how to start new groups, to make sure the leaders have the confidence to lead and enough resources for group study. On-site coaching can be provided until these groups are well established.
- We are considering to provide online training.

For reflection/discussion:

What did you notice in this Section?
In what ways does this apply to your situation?

Section 6

Diaspora TEE Testimonies

a) Testimonies of TEE Tutors and Students:

Testimonies from Malaysia

1. Moti Subba

I was born in a poor family of Hindu tradition. I studied until XII class in Nepal. But could not continue my higher studies due to poor financial situation of my family. Being the eldest in the family it was my responsibility to support my family financially. So, I decided to come to Malaysia to earn money.



Moti Subba on the right

After coming to Malaysia, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal savior. I started attending Kajang FGA Nepali fellowship. Here I was introduced to ITEEN Courses. I joined the TEE classes and found them very easy and systematic to understand the Word of God. I completed my TEE studies till "Life of Christ 1-6". After this now I have such desire to study God's word further, so I have now started studying "Life of Paul -Part1". TEE studies have changed my attention from Face Book, and You Tube to studying God's Word. Since I found it so helpful in my spiritual life, I have also started helping to facilitate TEE classes for other Nepali friends. I praise God for this opportunity which He gave me in Malaysia.

2. Bikram Chaudhary

I came to Malaysia in 2014 to earn money. Prior to this I was leading an ordinary Christian life. In Malaysia I started attending Melaka Nepali Fellowship. For three years I was just attending the fellowship without taking any leadership in the Church. Then in 2017 our Pastor Danny Chew and Coordinator, Sis Felicia introduced us to TEE Courses, and organized a Group Leader's Training for twelve of us. After the training we started tutoring new classes on "Abundant Life".



Bikram on the right

In the beginning I tried to lead the TEE class but found it very difficult, as my knowledge of Bible was very poor. But slowly as I continued to study and lead TEE class, I grew spiritually and in the knowledge of God's Word. I am

still doing higher level of TEE Courses. I have completed "Life of Christ" - Part 1-6. I was eager to study God's Word further, so now am studying "Life of Paul "-Part 1 along with my other friends.

Through TEE God has changed me from a backbencher to a leader in the fellowship. Now I can preach and teach God's Word by His grace. In this way I am fulfilling the Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28: 19& 20. I want to serve not only in my fellowship but continue to fulfill God's command when I go back to Nepal.

(TEE in Melaka is thriving under the leadership of Bikram. He also is willing to help during the training.

3. Abhishek Gole

Abhishek was leading two classes in KL TEE. When his contract finished in Malaysia he went back to Nepal. In Nepal he did not lose his vision to start TEE classes in his village. Today he is leading four TEE classes in his village.



4. Batjargal

"My name is Batjargal. I live and study in Salzburg (Austria). I was not a Christian believer in Mongolia, but in Austria I met a Mongolian pastor and I heard about Jesus from him.

I received Jesus as my Saviour. Then I studied Abundant Life (one of the popular TEE courses) in my own language! I found out more about Jesus, about being born again, about faith, obedience and forgiveness from sin.

It was a real blessing and I grew in faith. I learnt a lot of Bible verses. Using the verses, I memorized, I shared the Good News with friends at school, and two of them have now come to church."



Testimonies from Russian-speaking diaspora in South Korea

1. Video testimony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jC84bgT10yE>

Russian-speaking diaspora TEE students in South Korea (diaspora coordinator Victoria and her assistant). It is in Russian below please see translation

“Peace be with you dear brothers and sisters. We send you our big greetings from South Korea. We want to share with you how we study using TEE, how Tee groups work. We are very thankful to God and His workers. We can see how the program is moving on in times of quarantine when the doors of the churches are closed. We still continue to study. Our groups continue study in accordance with the plan. And we see how the lives of the people change. We see how people get rooted in the Word of God and the Holy Spirit moves powerfully in all the groups. After the last group leaders’ seminar, we have more groups – 4 new groups. We thank God for it. We can see the group leaders empowered and we also see how people get hungry for the Word of God, and we hear testimonies of how people’s lives change!

And we see at this time as it also written in Roman 8:28 that everything works for good for those who love the Lord. And we can see that this special time is turned for good. The doors of the churches are closed but now everyone open their houses for the groups. We can see the Holy Spirit working powerfully because we can see how people are strengthened and empowered. How the unity is growing even more. And it is very encouraging, and we want to encourage you as well, so that you do not feel upset because God is in control, He holds everything in His loving hands and all this situation will work for good. We bless you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be blessed!

Other testimonies from Russian speaking diaspora in South Korea:

1. Pastor Dimitri:

Pastor Dimitri, national coordinator of TEE program for Russian speaking diaspora in Korea ". It is so inspiring for me as a pastor to see how people are growing. I learn myself a lot in the process. I see the brothers who are in a very difficult situation as migrants,



how step by step they overcome the difficulties, how they change, how they grow spiritually and are empowered. We are so busy in Korea, there is not enough time for studies. We tried different good programs before, but we were losing people because they had difficulties with having not enough time. TEE program is very mobile, and you do not need to be very well educated or very clever to be a student. Our goal is to help people to grow spiritually, to love God, love His Word. When I was invited by Increase Association to their conference and I saw the courses they offer, I thought these courses are like gold for the believers in the church. I like that the group leaders can learn themselves in the process. I did not plan to lead a group myself, but I decided I will do it. I lead a group of brothers and some experienced a spiritual crisis when we started a group and I could see how they changed as we studied together.

2. Pastor of another church:

"We started using TEE in our church. I liked the method. In Abundant Life there are 18 lessons with 18 key verses from the Bible. I liked how the course is built. The lessons are short and easy to study. It was something new for me. I never thought that we can teach the Bible in such a simple way. It is very convenient, easy to understand and is for everyone".

3. A TEE student from his church:

"In the past I did not read the Bible myself. I just thought that I did not need to do it. I thought that it is enough just to attend the church services in order to show to God that I came to the church and to be forgiven the sins that I committed during the week. But when I became a student, I realized that without the Bible I cannot grow spiritually, I will just stay in the same place without any progress. Praise God, I have now completed 2 courses and I am very happy".

4. A TEE group leader:

"We can see many changes in the people as they study. One sister was at a seminar where one of activities was nailing their sins to the cross. They had to write down a list of their sins and nail that list to the cross. After that seminar she realized that she forgot to write down some sins. She feared since then that those sins were not forgiven. But when she became a TEE student and we had group discussion she realized that God forgives not just the sins that she wrote down but all her sins. She was so happy and relieved by understanding the truth".

5. A TEE group leader:

"Our church is big, and I did not know many people. What I like about TEE groups is that it provides opportunity to meet new people whom I did not know before and build new relationships. TEE and group discussions give us more unity. I lead the group and I also learn myself in the process. I see the fruit in the lives of the students, and it is very encouraging"

6. A TEE group leader:

"I feel that TEE group is a heart relationship. My heart now belongs to the group. When I was a student and could not come to the group discussion because I was unwell, I still thought about the group meeting, what they were doing now, how the discussion went on. I was not there but my heart was with them. I am now a group leader and I like seeing how the people learn trusting God, how they learn praying".

7. A TEE group leader:

"I like about this program both the simplicity and the fullness. You do not need to add or remove anything. Everything is in there. It is very easy for the group leader and the students to use it because everything is so well planned and presented".

8. A TEE student:

"Every time I go to the group meeting with joy because every time God reveals something new, every time some gaps are filled. Also every time I learn something new about my brothers (we have men's group) , we really become one family. We can help each other grow spiritually"



A Russian-speaking TEE course in Korea

b) Testimonies in Video clips:

David Zheng on Chinese diaspora TEE in Australia: [TEE in Sydney](#)

Tanka Subedi on Nepali diaspora TEE: <https://youtu.be/kLs9SJyiWzo>

For reflection/discussion:

What did you notice in this Section?
In what ways does this apply to your situation?

Conclusion

This booklet has been written to help TEE programs, Churches and individuals in Asia or who are discipling the Asian diaspora across the world. Five Diaspora Task Group members of Increase Association (Anneta, Lyn, Rachel, Rina, and David) have contributed to bring the resources together, along with the skillful editing and formatting of Michelle Simon (thanks, Michelle!). It was not possible to put all resources in this booklet, but you can easily find and use them as the links are provided. It is our prayer that people or Churches working with diaspora groups throughout the world will find this booklet helpful. We will appreciate if you have any feedback to improve this booklet (send to diasporaTEE@gmail.com). Thank you.

Appendix

1. Frequently Asked Questions
2. Report from "TEEM" on Diaspora TEE
3. Report from Russian / Korean TEE
4. Documents from past Increase conferences & other docs

Appendix 1

TEE for Diaspora Communities: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is TEE?

TEE is a disciple making tool. It stands for "Theological Education by Extension" and another description is – "Tools to Equip and Empower followers of Jesus Christ"

2. Is TEE suitable for believers of diaspora communities?

TEE courses are available in more than 80 languages and can cater to a wide range of language groups. Besides, it is simple, easy to understand, and contextualized, therefore it is suitable for diaspora communities.

3. Can less educated people benefit from TEE Courses?

Yes, especially the first two courses – Abundant Life and Abundant Light are simple enough for less educated people also. It is simple, easy, and repetitive design makes it easy to grasp.

4. Can anyone facilitate TEE courses?

No, only a trained Facilitator / Tutor can lead a group using TEE courses as it uses special TEE method.

5. Where can I get TEE course materials?

From SEAN International (www.seaninternational.com)

From TEXT Africa

From a national TEE program.

6. Who can provide Group Leader's Training?

Trainers and Equippers from Increase Association. (www.increaseassociation.org)

7. What makes TEE an effective tool for discipleship?

- TEE Method (Self-study + Group Study + Practical Application)
- An effective and trained facilitator

8. What makes TEE suitable discipleship tool for diaspora communities?

- It is simple
- It is systematic
- It is repetitive
- It is interesting
- It is in depth knowledge
- It is contextualized
- It is easily available
- It is cost effective
- It is Life changing

9. What makes the Group Meeting Dynamic?

- a) The Group Leader is the key person in making the Group meeting, lively, and dynamic through careful planning and preparation.
- b) A prayerful and supportive environment of the group members
- c) Application of teachings gives life changing experience.

10. Are TEE Courses affordable for migrants and refugees?

- Yes, they are
- In some cases, local Christians can help subsidize the cost of books.

12. What is the duration for Group Leader's Training?

- A two-day training is ideal as it give chance to members to practice their skills.
- However, alternative arrangements can be made to suit the availability of time of participants (for example: a weekend, a public holiday).

13. What should be the duration for group meeting as diaspora believers work long hours?

Generally weekly group meeting is recommended and planned for 60 minutes to 90 minutes.

14. Where should the group meeting be held?

Group meetings can be held:

- In a Church
- In the hostel of migrants
- In the home of a refugee believer
- In a mission house/ drop in center

15. Who will provide the Certificate after completion of the Course?

1. National TEE Body
2. TEE body in the country of origin

16. Can I conduct TEE classes in my home country when I return?

Yes, if you have been trained as group leader.

Appendix 2

A Report on TEE Diaspora from TEEM

A sample of work done among diaspora in Malaysia is given below.

Diaspora TEE in Malaysia

January – December 2019

Praise God for His work of discipleship among diaspora communities in 2019. Basically, three communities have adopted TEE as a tool for discipling their believers, namely Nepali, Myanmar and Pakistani. Following works were done in 2019.

1. Group Leader's Training: A total of six group leader's trainings were held for various ethnic groups.

- a. Nepali Group Leader's Training: May 19th & 20th group leader's training was held for Taman Asean Methodist Church Nepali Fellowship leaders. Twelve leaders were trained. Two New groups started in Melaka Nepali Fellowship.



- b. Nepali Group Leader's Training: On 31st August and 1st September group leader's training was held in Batu Pahat Nepali Fellowship for fourteen believers. Two new classes of Abundant life started in Batu Pahat and one class in Kluang.



- c. Nepali Group Leader's Training: On 15th and 16th September, a group leader's training was held in Pekan Nanas Holy Word Church, for 32 believers from Pekan Nanas, Pontian, Masai, Tampoi and other neighbouring fellowships. Four New classes started in Pekan Nanas, two groups in Tampoi.

- d. Myanmar Group Leader's Training: On 20th and 21st July group leader's training was held for Myanmar believers of St. Barnabas Church Klang. There were five leaders trained. Two new classes started in Klang Myanmar fellowship, and they have completed two books.





- e. Group Leader's Training: On November 28th and 29th group leader's training was held in Skudai with CNEC for multi-language groups, attended by Eleven people from Skudai and one from Singapore. The trainers were Raymond, Alice, Martin & Rina.
 - f. Pakistani Group Leader's Training: It was held on 2nd November 2019, at PJ EFC, attended by 8 persons. Trained by Tim Green.
2. Introducing TEE in New Places: One of the ways we expand the TEE work among diaspora is by introducing TEE to interested groups in new places. In 2019 God opened two new doors among Myanmarese and one door among Nepalese in Singapore.



- a. KL Myanmar Fellowship: October 21st, 2019, at the request of Mission's Chairperson, met
- b. Myanmar Pastor and leaders (3 persons) along with Mission's Chairperson in KL Wesley Canteen. KL group decided to carry on their training in 2020.
- c. Skudai, Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission (CNEC): Met with Pastor Ling along with four others to introduce TEE to them on 16th October 2019. Spent two hours with them Fixed group leader's training on November 28th and 29th 2019.
- d. In Singapore Presbyterian Church invited us to share about TEE to Nepalese. We introduced TEE Nepali to their Mission's chairman along with two Nepali leaders. However currently they are not ready to hold Group Leader's Training. But we are hoping that the desire to start a systematic discipleship program with arise in 2020.
- e. On 9th October we were also able to introduce TEE to persons working with Tamil migrants in Singapore. Negotiations are still going on, doors are still open, but waiting to get the Tamil resources.

3. New TEE Classes started in 2019

1. Melaka – 2 Nepali Classes (18 students)
2. Batu Pahat – 2 Nepali Classes (12 Students)
3. Pekan Nanas – 4 Nepali Classes (25 students)
4. Tampoi – 2 Nepali Classes (15 Students)
5. Rawang – 2 Nepali Classes (11 Students)
6. Klang – 2 Myanmar Classes (8 Students)
7. Klang – 1 Urdu Class



4. Current Diaspora TEE Students:

- Nepali – 233 Students, 41 Classes in 18 locations
- Myanmar – 8 Students, 2 Classes, in Klang
- Pakistani – 21 Students, 3 Classes, in Klang and KL

5. Three MOU signed with ITEEN, OTS, and Myanmar TEE:

It was with great delight that memorandum of understanding was signed between TEE Malaysia and leaders of 3 diaspora communities in Istanbul, Turkey in November 2019. This makes it easy and ethical to use the TEE resources of the three countries, Nepal, Pakistan & Myanmar.



6. National Diaspora Symposium: In the month of October Martin Rina, Rachel and Joshua Patras attended NDS organised by Elshaddai Centre BHD. It was good opportunity to connect with other people working with different diaspora groups. We were given few minutes to share about TEE resources. This brought lots of entries to our exhibition table.

TEE BOOKS ON DISPLAY AT NATIONAL DIASPORA SYMPOSIUM & OUR PARTNERS IN NEPALI MINISTRY AT NDS

Conclusion: In all this we give glory to our heavenly Father who enables us, to serve the diaspora communities with the Gospel of Christ and TEE as tool for discipleship. (Matthew 28:19) We look forward to 2020 with greater expectations.

Thank you for your support.

Martin & Rina
Coordinators, Diaspora TEE Ministry
TEEM Malaysia

Appendix 3

Report on TEE for Russian-speaking diaspora in Korea

There are about 80 thousand Russian-speaking migrants in South Korea. Majority of them are the Russian-speaking Koreans from post-Soviet countries of Central Asia and some are from Russia. Some of them come temporarily as labour migrants, others stay permanently. There are quite many Christians among them. When they come to Korea, they are normally invited to join by South Korean churches who run fellowships for different diaspora groups. There are now also some Russian diaspora churches, normally small ones with a few dozens of members but there are also bigger churches, where membership reaches 500 people. Their main language is Russian.



There were attempts to introduce TEE to Russian speaking Koreans made by TEE Korea and Korea TEE teams but without much interest from the diaspora churches. In 2017, the national coordinator of TEE team in Uzbekistan who is also a Russian speaking Korean shared about TEE with the pastor of the largest Russian-speaking diaspora church in Korea pastor Dmitri who got very interested in the program and decided to try it. He said they tried many programs but they did not work well in their context where people were busy with work. Pastor Dmitri was invited by Increase Association to participate in Empowering Churches, Equipping Disciples conference in Chiang Mai and met many TEE practitioners there. His desire to start a TEE program was so strong that he invited a group of trainers from Uzbekistan (UMIT) and Russia (ORTA) to run a group leaders' training after the conference.

In December 2017, two trainings were run simultaneously in Incheon, Korea, one for the leaders of Pastor Dmitiri's church and the other one for the pastors of other Russian-speaking diaspora churches. National director of TEE Korea Dr Stephen Cho was invited to visit the training and to pray for the work among migrants. First TEE groups started after the training and the church leaders saw how the lives of the people started to change and how TEE flexibly fits into the migrants, busy schedule. Pastor Dmitri's church signed a printing agreement with ORTA and printed study materials.



A year later, in 2018, UMIT and ORTA were invited again to run another training because there was a need for more group leaders. A special goal was not only to run a group leaders training but to train a group of trainers who could teach others how to lead the groups.



As a result, a Russian speaking diaspora TEE team started in Korea who provide training and study materials to the churches.

In January 2019, ORTA national coordinator on group leaders training Maria visited Korea and provided more training to the group of trainers and visited Russian diaspora TEE groups with program coordinator in Korea Victoria.



ORTA and Russian speaking diaspora team in Korea keep close contact. ORTA continues to encourage and care for the diaspora team. The Russian diaspora team participated in TEE Partnership conference in Vladivostok in October 2019.

There are over 200 TEE students in the Russian-speaking diaspora churches in Korea. They continue group meetings during COVID quarantine when the churches are closed. They say that TEE is a great blessing to them especially at that difficult time because they can continue growing spiritually together.



Appendix 4

Documents from past Increase conferences & other docs

1. 2015 Exploring New Horizons:
[In this Conference Reprt pdf read pages 67-80](#)
2. 2016 Moving Forward Together:
[Diaspora Task Group Report pdf](#)
3. 2017 Empowering Churches and Equipping Disciples:
[Conference Report pdf](#)
[Diaspora Statement pdf](#)
4. 2019 Reflect and Envision in Istanbul:
[Conference Report pdf](#)
5. Increase Newsletter on the Diaspora and other related docs:

[Newsletter \(read online\): TEE in Diaspora](#)

[Story on the website: Discipling the diaspora in New Zealand and Australia](#)

[Story on the website: Nepali Diaspora in India](#)

[Story: Discipling the Diaspora pdf](#)

[Story: Serving the Chinese Diaspora pdf](#)