

Inter-American Division

Graduate Education Leads the Way

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L. Herbert Fletcher

Inter-American educators are grateful to God for the blessings that SDA education has received during this quinquennium.

Our union directors of education have achieved the following goals:

1. Most of our 600 elementary schools and 100 of our 174 secondary schools have been accredited.
2. New buildings or totally new campuses have been established in each union.
3. Baptisms in our secondary and primary schools resulting from evangelistic campaigns totaled 3,185.

Enrollment

Elementary enrollment stands at 65,717. However, because of political situations, some countries do not report. Secondary enrollment is 26,349;

tertiary enrollment is 7,210.

Nine of our 10 tertiary institutions have been accredited by the Adventist Accrediting Association. Six have national accreditation or national degree-granting charters, and one has several of its programs accredited by the government's accrediting body, while another's programs are accredited through Andrews University.

Between 1990 and 1995, extension education from Andrews and Loma Linda universities (in the U.S.A.), as well as our own programs at Montemorelos University (Mexico) and the Central American Adventist University (Costa Rica) have blossomed. Graduate enrollment stands at 589 in the areas of religion, education, administration and leadership, marriage and family relations, business administration, and educational counseling.

Montemorelos University has recently been authorized to offer a doctor of education degree. The first class will graduate in 1995.

Physical plant additions and improvements at tertiary institutions include the following:

- Montemorelos University (Mexico) completed a new block of graduate classrooms.
- West Indies College (Jamaica) inaugurated a new three-story library and a research science laboratory.
- Central American Adventist University (Costa Rica) has added a new library.
- Colombia Adventist University has built a three-story classroom building and faculty apartment towers.
- The Venezuelan Adventist Ecclesiastical University has added a new administration-library-computer lab block.
- Antillian Adventist University (Puerto Rico) has refurbished all its buildings.
- Dominican Adventist University is building a university church.
- Haitian Adventist University is completing two classroom blocks in addition to having built a new bakery.
- Caribbean Union College (Trinidad) built a new three-story science complex and a new school for sec-

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Students at elementary school in Merida, Mexico, kneel for prayer.

ondary students.

Work-Study Programs

Work-study programs are still popular in Inter-America. Our outstanding colporteur ministry has clubs ranging from 50 to 500 students on a few elementary school campuses, in most of the secondary schools, and at all the tertiary institutions.

Our largest employer is the Inter-American Health Food Company, which presently employs 500 students on 17 campuses.

Students being baptized at Haitian Adventist University, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Adventist schools offer practical work experience.

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Tribute

We pause to mourn the deaths of several teachers, school administrators, and educational workers in Inter-America during this five-year period. To the loved ones remaining, we say, "Teaching touches lives forever."

The Future

Our challenges for the next quinquennium include the following:

- Establishing one church/elementary school for each pastoral district.
- Enrolling Sabbath school children in our elementary schools.
- Increasing the number of baptisms.
- Reviving our theological seminary, and with it, our graduate school closed in the 1980s.

To these ends, we work and pray as we prepare workers for service here and for a life in the world to come.—

L. Herbert Fletcher, Director of Education, Inter-American Division.

Choir and band of the Venezuelan Adventist Ecclesiastical University, Nirgua, Yaracuy, Cordigo, Venezuela.

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In Central America, an SDA school band participates in a civic event.

Teacher in Potarica, Mexico, offers individual attention to each student.