

MISSION, EXPAN- SION, AND QUALITY 1995-2000 REPORT

W

e thank our wonderful heavenly Father and the efforts of our teachers and administrators for the notable progress that has occurred in this past quinquennium in the South American Division (SAD).

During the past five years, a broad and detailed plan was carefully elaborated for the division. Important elements included the following:

Ten-Year Education Plan—1996-2005

In 1995, the education department prepared a 311-page master plan for all levels of teaching, including an assessment of the educational situation in all cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants, in order to expand the church's educational system in an orderly way.

In the three years before 1997-1998, the division acquired 186 pieces of land in addition to three farms for additional boarding schools, and added 315 school buildings with a total value of US\$80 million.

Involvement in Mission

Education in our division involves churches, teachers, and students directly in Global Mission activities. Here are some of the activities that occurred during the past quinquennium.

- The Rio Grande do Sul Conference

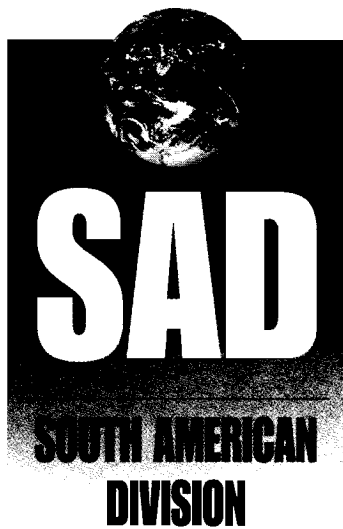
Education Department (South Brazil Union), together with the SAD's Global Mission Department, sent Professor Paulo Wit to establish a congregation in the only division territory without an established Adventist group. It is called the Falkland Malvinas Project.

Reducing Illiteracy

- In 1995, approximately six percent of church members in our division could not read or write. Between 1995 and 1999, our schools offered 858 adult literacy courses to both church members and the community. As a result, today only 1.5 percent of our members are illiterate. On Friday nights, the courses were taught directly from the Bible. Many students were baptized at the end of the



Roberto César de Azevedo is Director of Education for the South American Division in Brasilia, Brazil.



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Theology graduates at Northeast Brazil College in the city of Cachoeira.

São Paulo Conference where there were no Seventh-day Adventists, a congregation of approximately 100 members was established in conjunction with Brazil College, São Paulo Campus.

- As a direct result of our educational work, at least 24,760 students were baptized, plus an equal number of parents and relatives, as well as many other people who were brought to Christ through the action of our educational institutions.

Great Expansion at the University Level

Through the grace of God, we now have university-level education in every country in our division, with close to 7,500 students enrolled.

- Since the beginning of this quinquennium, Ecuador Adventist Superior Technological Institute has offered tertiary courses in the areas of theology and computer science. The school has also added a new library and classrooms.

- Between 1998 and 1999, the enrollment in university courses in Brazil increased by 72 percent from 1,449 to 2,495.

Northeast Brazil College began two new courses, and São Paulo Adventist Academy began to offer college-level work. In 1999, we received authorization to open Adventist University Center for Brazil.

- River Plate Adventist University commemorated its centennial with 5,000 guests, among them the presidents of the Republic of Argentina, the General Conference, and the South American Division. With a current enrollment of 1,408 students, RPAU offers 33 degrees, including medicine, and enrolls students from 20 countries.

- Latin-American Adventist Theological Seminary in Brasilia, Brazil, prepared the first group of Doctors in Pastoral Theology, fulfilling the goal of giving our pastors a broader and more complete education.

Doubling the Number of Secondary Schools

- Two new boarding academies were built during this period: Minas Gerais Adventist Academy (East Brazil Union) and Agro-Industrial Adventist Trans-Amazon Academy (North Brazil Union) with the support of ADRA-Sweden.

In addition, construction is proceeding at an accelerated rate on two

literacy course.

- A total of 5,999,035 books and missionary pamphlets were distributed by our students, including 35,496 copies of *Steps to Christ* and *The Great Controversy*.

- As the result of work by educators and students, more than 120 new congregations were established, 34 in locations where there had been no Seventh-day Adventists.

- The educational area donated more than US\$1 million to the Portuguese *It Is Written* program, thereby promoting outreach and Adventist education through the medium of television.

- Northeast Brazil College and São Paulo Adventist Academy sent teams of students to work in the Ukraine and Angola.

- In Marsilac, the only municipality in the South

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Antofagasta Adventist Academy in Chile holds a parents' school, when students' families come to see what their children are learning in Bible classes.

Glauceite Santos do Nascimento, a student of the Alphabetism Program, is baptized by Pastor Valdrael Carlos de Melo of the North Brazil Union.

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Students at Punta Arenas Adventist School (Chile), the southernmost Adventist school in the world.

other boarding schools: Mato Grosso Adventist Academy in the Central Brazil Union, and Santa Catarina Adventist Academy in the South Brazil Union. Each of these projects has an approximate investment of US\$5 million.

A 400-hectare farm in a pleasant location was just acquired in the state of Tocantins (Central Brazil Union). It has eight springs of water and a natural forest.

In 1992, there were 101 secondary schools in our division. This year, we will reach 220! En-

rollment increased from 18,649 students to 32,232 students between 1992 and 1999—a total growth of 72 percent.

During the same period in Brazil, we went from 30 academies to 99, and the total will reach 115 this year!

Improving the Quality of Christian Education

Our schools are improving the spiritual quality of Christian education through new textbooks

and in-service education for teachers. Thousands of teachers have participated in 312 courses in Integrating Faith and Teaching, offered in almost all the conferences and missions.

This year, we are completing publication on all the religious education books for the elementary and secondary level (K-12) in both Spanish and Portuguese. In Spanish, the “First Reader” will be published along with Adventist textbooks. By the end of this year, we will have all textbooks for the elementary level in Portuguese (a total of 70 different titles), in addition to didactic reading books. The South Brazil Union is completing support material for all the elementary-level books on CD-ROM.

Libraries and Computer Laboratories

Our libraries have improved dramatically in both facilities and numbers of books. Dozens of computer laboratories have been installed in order to make computers available to every student. All computers are connected to the Internet and have E-mail capability.

Other Highlights

In closing, we would like to mention some other education highlights of the quinquennium.

New Logo

This past year, we updated the Adventist education logo, which identifies all our schools and

is used on our elementary and secondary students' school uniforms. This logo and the flag of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be widely used beginning this year.

Media Presence

In Brazil, because of the 1996 Centennial of Adventist Education, more than 100 million people became acquainted with our institutions through newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards, and other forms of promotion.

As a result, a number of authorities, including the president of Brazil and Edson Arantes do Nascimento (Pelé), the Athlete of the 20th Century, made videotaped statements regarding the importance and value of Adventist education, which appeared in the media. Pelé stated: "Today, I want to congratulate my Adventist brothers and

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Patriotic holiday festivities in September 1999 at Antofagasta Adventist Academy in Chile.

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More than a thousand posters were delivered to different parts of the country to honor the Century of Adventist Education in Brazil, 1996.

Students from Yuagayo Adventist School in Peru parade against the use of tobacco.

Dignitaries who attended the River Plate University Centenary in 1998 included (left to right): the local mayor, Rubén Ordóñez; Entre Ríos Province Governor Jorge Busti; Argentinian President Carlos S. Menem; and River Plate University President Luis Schulz.

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sisters for the magnificent work that they have carried out in the educational area throughout the entire country of Brazil."

These testimonies received such positive responses that in a solemn session on March 17, 1998, the Brazilian National Congress offered a

tribute to Adventist education.

We thank God for what has been accomplished through Adventist education in the South American Division, and look forward to advancing under His guidance while we help prepare students for His soon coming. ✍

Building construction at Maceió Adventist School in the Northeast Brazil Union.

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New building at Villarrica School in Chile.

**Fourth-grade recorder
band, Hualpencillo
Adventist School, Chile.**

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**The Centenario
Adventist School
in Brazil, which
currently enrolls
about 800 stu-
dents, and will
begin offering
the secondary
level in 2001.**

**Baptismal ceremony
at Villarrica School
in Chile.**