



**T**his past quinquennium (2000-2005) has been an important and challenging one in the Euro-Africa Division (EUD). The division has concentrated its efforts on improving its quality of services. Despite many problems, the majority of our colleges and seminaries have succeeded in upgrading their programs, creating new ones, and receiving accreditation.

### New Programs

We rejoice at the creation of a new seminary in Sofia, Bulgaria. In November 2004, the EUD Board of Ministerial and Theological Education (BMTE) voted to approve this important school to train our Bulgarian workers.

In June 2003, the Romanian Adventist Theological Institute in Cernica began to offer an M.A. in religion (through Andrews University) to upgrade pastoral education. In June 2004, Sagunto College (Spain) initiated a Master of Public Health program in partnership with Montemorelos University (Mexico).

The so-called "Bologna agreement" on university-level education reached by the European Community is forcing our institutions to reorganize their college and graduate studies according to the new paradigm (based on a 3 years of college level + 2 years of graduate level = 5 years of study) leading to a new Master's diploma. This has extended the required education for our pastors from four years to five.

# Reorganizing, Upgrading, and Innovating

BY ROBERTO BADENAS

Our seminaries in Spain and Italy are poised to receive state recognition for their full five-year programs. On April 23, 2003, Italian Theological Seminary (Villa Aurora) obtained from the Italian government the first step toward recognition of its theology programs, with a major in Religion, Rights, and Society.

In September 2003, a new M.A. in youth ministry was launched by the Jose Figols Center at Saleve Adventist University (Collonges, France). The new program, taught in English and offered as intensive sessions, is the result of cooperation among Saleve Adventist Uni-

versity, Friedensau Adventist University, and Newbold College. The first cohort includes 26 students from three divisions. This M.A. degree is approved by both the Adventist Accrediting Association and the University of Wales, Lampeter College, U.K.

### New Projects

Saleve Adventist University is working on a distance-learning (DL) program in religion in cooperation with Griggs University in Silver Spring, Maryland (U.S.A.). Currently, it offers only non-degree DL programs.



The 31st Integration of Faith and Learning Seminar was held for European Adventist college teachers July 13-25, 2003, at Friedensau Adventist University, Germany.



Zaragoza, Spain, Adventist elementary school choir presents its 2004 Christmas concert.

In September 2004, Maurice Tieche Adventist Academy in Collonges (France) opened a new high school program with emphasis on mountain activities. "This innovative program has been so well received in this alpine region that two friends of Collonges have graciously financed the two school vans needed for the transportation of the students to and from the sky resorts and other training places," reports Jean-Philippe Lehmann, the academy principal. The dynamic team of specialists working on this project includes some volunteers, such as Didier Oppliger, a member of the Swiss national snowboard team. "The aim of the program is not to train young athletes for high-level competition, but to prepare them for the mountain jobs, learning at the same time to appreciate and protect the alpine environment, putting into practice the very Adventist concept of wholistic education," says Youri Gilg, five-time French freestyle skiing champion and one of the new teachers.

In October 2004, the ILF (Institut de Langue Française) at Collonges received accreditation from the Chamber of Commerce of Paris as an official examination location for the Test d'Evaluation du Français, the French equivalent of the TOEFL or the Michigan Test for

English. The ILF has also received permission to utilize the fle.fr label, which indicates that it has met the high requirements of the European Common Frame of References for the Teaching of Languages, developed by the Council of Europe.

The secondary-level Marienhoehe College (Germany) continues to have a strong outreach program. Once a year, a group of students, together with a dormitory dean, provide aid in cooperation with Adventist Development and Relief Agency International in a developing country. Participants sacrifice at least six weeks of their school holidays and pay their own travel expenses. So far, they have been to Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos, and have helped to construct a medical ward, a well, and a primary school.

#### Awards

The city of Oliveira do Douro (near Oporto, Portugal) gave the highest Award of Merit to the local Adventist academy (CAOD) on April 24, 2004. The medal recognizes "the benefits received by the local community from our institution in the areas of education, culture, and community services." The ceremony, which took place at the city hall, commemorated the school's 30-year an-

niversary.

In 2003, the Department of Social Work at Friedensau University (Germany) received an important recognition from the state educational authorities for the program they offer in the public schools, which promotes the acceptance and tolerance of all races and nationalities.

Twice, in 2003 and 2004, the Waldfriede Adventist Nursing School (Berlin) won a special prize from the Robert Borch Foundation at a national contest for German nursing schools. The contest theme in 2004 was "Innovative Concepts in Nursing Education," and the winning project was a practical program of "Students Teaching Students."

#### Construction

The long-awaited dedication of new facilities for Braila Nursing School (Romania), in November 2002, was made possible thanks to the Italian Union, among other sponsors. In the 10 years since the school opened, more than 700 nurses have graduated. A new elementary school was dedicated in Targu Mures (Romania) in September 2002, as a result of the commitment and creativity of faithful lay members, under the initiative of Leonard Azamfirei.

In 2003, Bogenhofen Seminary (Austria) completed a beautiful new church, with large elementary classrooms. Italian Theological Seminary has had several important building projects, including a large new Tuscan-style church complex that was consecrated in spring 2005. Colegio Timon, an elementary school in Madrid (Spain), is about to finish construction on a large school and a social center on a piece of land donated by the city council.

In 2004, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of "AbisZ Privatschule" (Zurich), the only Seventh-day Adventist school in German-speaking Switzerland. This elementary school has purchased a beautiful piece of land outside the city to build a new school.

Colegio Rigel, the Adventist primary school in Saragossa (Spain), celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2004. It is the only Spanish Adventist school (out of four) that does not receive any government subsidy. Land owned by the school



Administration building, Saleve Adventist University, France.



Students from Marienhoehe College, the Adventist secondary school in Germany, work on a mission project.



A Marienhoehe dormitory student is baptized by the school's youth pastor.

in a protected sector suddenly received authorization to sell and build, multiplying its worth by 100.

### Student Associations

The division's student associations, having adopted the AMiCUS philosophy (Adventist Mission to College and University Students) are consolidating their influence. On November 1-3, 2002, students from all over Europe par-



Oliveira do Douro Adventist Secondary School in Vila Nova Gaia, Portugal, celebrates 30 years of education ministry.

ticipated in the second European Convention of College and University Students in Eisenberg, Germany. There, not far from where Luther fought for his faith, the students produced their own "70 theses" to reform the church in Europe. Their third convention is scheduled to meet October 28-November 1, 2005, in Rimini (Italy).

On May 2-6, 2003, during a convention in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria, the student association of the Bulgarian Union was officially organized.

AEGUAE, the student association of Spain, deserves special mention. This dynamic group of students and professionals is now putting online a large number of Adventist resources in Spanish (<http://www.aula7activa.org>). "We want to share this wealth with the students who cannot afford to pay for expensive books," says Ramon-Carles Gelabert, a young physician and one of the leaders of the project.

Adventist education in the EUD faces important challenges. But under God's guidance, committed leaders, consecrated teachers, and creative stu-

dents are doing their best to achieve the gospel mission in old Europe. ✍



**Roberto Badenas** is Director of Education for the Euro-Africa Division in Berne, Switzerland.