



Growth, Plans, and Publications

BY ROBERTO CÉSAR DE AZEVEDO

During the past five years, education in the South American Division has been consolidated. Many publications were produced that provide information and orientation, encourage unity, and foster plans for medium- and long-range planning. These include the biannual *South American Education Magazine* and two monthly electronic bulletins, *Educ@ção On Line* and *Plantando Escolas*.

From March 2000 to March 2004, the Education Department produced a weekly television program that reached the eight countries in the division via satellite.

To provide orientation and encourage unity, various manuals were produced, including a procedures manual, which was launched in 2000, and various evaluation manuals.

Throughout the division, people recognize Adventist education by our standardized logo and banner, and by the uniforms worn by the 190,000 students enrolled in our schools.

Our most important accomplishment was the production and sale of more than 10,000 copies of the book, *Seventh-day Adventist Pedagogy*, which was under development for five years. The union directors of education and educational counselors in local fields collaborated on this in-depth analysis and synthesis of the writings of Ellen G. White.

In the area of educational plan-

ning, three Ten Year Plans were produced. The Plan Brazil 2010 carefully assessed the previous decade and made projections about elementary and secondary education to 2015. This 320-page plan was developed after a careful evaluation in each of the 34 Portuguese-language conferences and missions, with the participation of administrators and education departments. Evaluations were also carried out in each of the 27 Spanish-speaking unions, conferences, and missions.

Finally, in March 2002, we held a convention of the union, conference, and mission departmental secretaries to

complete the planning. Attendees visited 30 educational institutions. At some of them, short seminars were held, focusing on educational themes of importance to the institution, and printed material and information were distributed on CD's.

The third plan was created especially for the superior/university level, as a result of a request made by the General Conference. The most important aspects of University Plan 2020 are its focus on the problem of secularization, and coordination of planning for the university level during the next 15 years.

The division director of education visited each of the universities and, together with the local administration, carried out a careful assessment of the previous decade and planning for the future.

Great Focus on Creationism

In recent years, the topic of creationism has gained national media attention, especially in Brazil. Widely circulated newspapers and magazines noted the church's emphasis in this area. For example, an article in *Revista Época (Epoc Magazine)* observed that "One of the main focuses of creationist teaching in Brazil is a private network of Seventh-day Adventist schools and universities" (May 24, 2004).

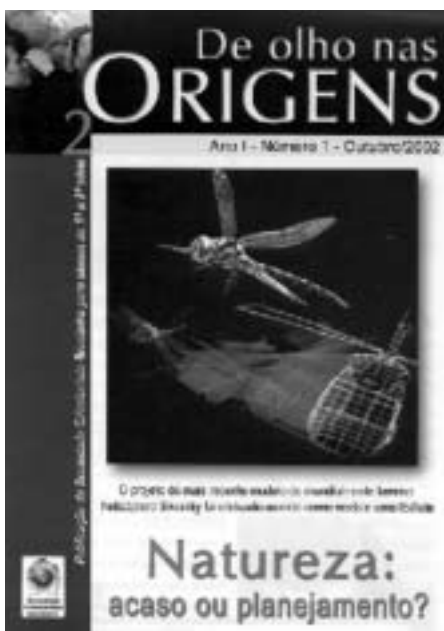
In the past five to six years, two dozen books, videos, and CD's have been produced on the subject, more than in the entire previous century. Centers of Creationist Studies were



established in the more than 200 SAD secondary schools.

The Brazilian Creationist Society contributed significantly to this achievement. On November 2, 2004, its headquarters in Brasília was officially inaugurated. This society produces a weekly half-hour television program—*De Olho Nas Origens* (*Looking at Origins*), broadcast via satellite to all eight countries in the division. Twice each year, the society also produces the *Revista Criacionista* (*Creationist Magazine*), and for elementary students, *De Olho Nas Origens* (*Looking at Origins*).

The division launched a large bill-



board campaign in Brazil during the 2003 school year, exalting the Creator and promoting Adventist education.

Global Mission

Throughout the entire division territory, our schools participate actively in evangelism. Most of the larger institutions establish one new congregation each year.

In fact, some schools and academies have opened before the establishment of churches. After they began to function, a company is established, and from there a church is organized! This began in the pioneer phase of the church's history in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile, and is still happening today.

The schools are participating in evangelizing of the 10/40 Window

through volunteer service by teachers and students.

Textbooks

Our publishing houses in Brazil and Argentina are producing textbooks. At the elementary and secondary levels, we now have religious education textbooks in both Spanish and Portuguese.

In Brazil, plans have begun to produce textbooks in religious education at the superior/university level.

The SAD has made great advances in the production of Portuguese textbooks for all elementary subject areas. This includes almost 100 titles. At the end of 2004, the four volumes of the textbook *Educación para la Vida* (*Education for Life*) were completed in Spanish.

One new project is the use of the magazine *Nosso Amiguinho* (*Our Little Friend*) at the elementary level and the Youth Bible with the Adventist education logo.

Doubling Enrollment at the University Level

Tertiary enrollment has grown from 8,476 students in 2000 to almost 17,000 students in 2004. During this period, our universities in Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile were recognized nationally and received complete autonomy. Brazil



Adventist University's credentials were renewed in 2004.

With the schools growing so rapidly, it has been a great challenge to consolidate the system, obtain qualified Seventh-day Adventist professors, prevent creeping secularization, and offer high-quality education based on Adventist ed-

ucational philosophy.

Projections suggest a smaller rate of growth the next few years, reaching approximately 20,000 university students by 2010.

Academies Increase Enrollments

The SAD academy enrollment grew to 34,060 students between 2000 and 2004, an increase of 12 percent. We expect that in the next five years, secondary enrollment will surpass 40,000 students, in some 250 academies.

Growth and Recovery at the Elementary Level

Between 2000 and 2003, due to economic factors and the standardizing of schools throughout the division territory, we experienced a loss of about 11,000 elementary students (139,000 versus 150,000 students). However, in 2004, enrollment recovered somewhat to approximately 139,600 students. This situation reinforced the need for a well-thought-out Ten Year Plan, and the one implemented in 2003 aided in the growth recovery.

In the next five years, with God's continued blessing, we expect to enroll as many as 150,000 elementary students.

We thank God and all of the dedicated people who have contributed to the growth and advance in the area of education in the South American Division throughout the years. /



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