



Adventist Education: An Inspiring Journey

Adventist education in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID) has faced numerous challenges but also received numerous blessings during the past quinquennium (2010-2015). Despite the many difficulties and problems, our institutions have continued to grow and succeed in creating new programs, developing new projects, and taking advantage of new opportunities.

The SID Education Department has the following *vision*: “To See Every Teacher Become a Minister and Every Child Become a Candidate for Heaven” and this *mission*: “To Provide Adventist Education That Prepares Learners Spiritually, Mentally, Physically, and Socially for Productive Service in This World and Prepares for the World to Come.”

The motivation for this vision and

mission comes from Isaiah 54:13: “All your children shall be taught of the Lord” (NKJV)* and Deuteronomy 6:7: “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (NKJV).

To remain true to this vision and mission, the SID Education Department operates 410 schools, with 6,134 teachers and 148,177 students, an increase of 65 schools from 345 in 2009.

Education Planning and Advisory

In June 2011, all SID union education directors and college/university presidents attended an education advisory that set the pace for the quinquennium. Facilitators included General Conference Associate Director of Education and SID liaison Hudson E. Kibuuka. Other facilitators came from within the division and represented entities such as Adventist Risk Management and Treasury.

New Schools

Church membership in the SID continues to increase. The growing number of children and young adults who desire Adventist education has stimulated a need for new church buildings and schools. Maranatha Volunteers International, a non-profit organization that constructs buildings with assistance from volunteers, responded to this need by building schools throughout the division. For example, during 30 years of civil war, our Portuguese-speaking unions (Mozambique and Angola) had no system of Adventist education. In 2012, Nova Esperanza and Liberdade in Mozambique were the first schools to be accredited, both of which were built by Maranatha.

The Botswana Union built its second Adventist secondary school—Mogoditshane Secondary School, and second primary school—Emmanuel Adventist Academy. Both schools are

B Y E L L A H K A M W E N D O

within the South Botswana Conference.

In 2011, the Zimbabwe government, impressed by what our schools have been able to accomplish, handed over 10 schools to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

New Developments—Major Building Projects

Adventist University Zurcher in Madagascar completed the construc-

tion of a library and computer science building, while Solusi University in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, completed the Faculty of Business Complex. Rusangu University in Monze, Zambia, added new, modern buildings. Mozambique Adventist Seminary in Beira, Mozambique, had been condemned by both the church and the Mozambique government due to its dilapidated wooden buildings. Maranatha Volunteers International responded and built class-

rooms, dormitories, offices, and a cafeteria with equipment for cooking.

New Programs

In 2013, the Huambo English Language School was opened in Huambo, Angola, by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Sit-hole. Solusi University has upgraded its undergraduate programs to honors level to fulfill government requirements, established several teaching centers in Zimbabwe, and plans to expand to neighboring countries.

Successful Outreach/Evangelism Projects

The *Luanda Para Cristo* (“Luanda for Christ”) evangelistic meeting was held in Luanda, Angola, in September 2013, and attended by SID personnel. The SID director of education preached at the Antonov Church in Luanda, and 37 people were baptized.

Scholarships

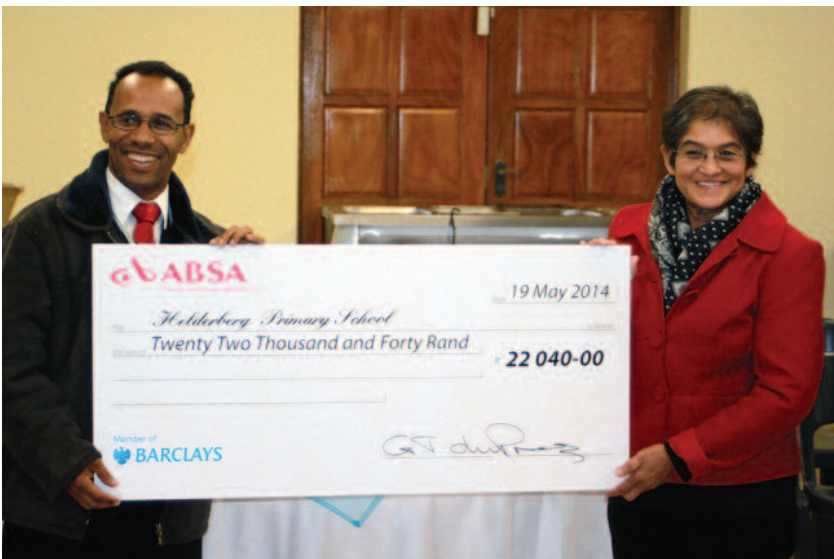
SID and its unions and institutions continue to provide bursaries to teachers and administrators studying for advanced degrees. Each year, SID sponsors about 200 workers to attend Adventist University of Africa (Kenya), Helderberg College (South Africa), and other institutions within the division. The GC has also provided scholarships for students to study at Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (Philippines) for advanced degrees.

Renewed Accreditation of Institutions

Five SID tertiary institutions were evaluated by the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (AAA) with the following outcomes: Candidacy status was extended for Rusangu University in Zambia, while the following institutions received continued regular accreditations until the indicated dates: Solusi University in Zimbabwe (2016), Adventist University Zurcher in Madagascar (2016), and Helderberg College in South Africa (2018). Mozambique



Plastic plates and toys made by students in their practical classes at Eastern Gate Academy, Botswana.



Southern Africa Union and Cape Conference officers holding a check awarded to Helderberg Primary School for maintaining a high accreditation term.

Adventist University will receive an on-site visit in the upcoming quinquennium.

Four schools are pursuing accreditation with the intent to upgrade to degree-granting institutions: Malawi Adventist University in Ntcheu, Malawi; Angola Adventist University in Mbongo, Angola; Maluti Nursing School in Mapoteng, Lesotho; and Kanye Nursing School in Kanye, Botswana. The process will continue into the upcoming quinquennium.

Special Incentives

Among the countries of Central Africa, SID has some of the oldest schools, where the church's early missionary work started. These buildings have deteriorated and require remodeling or replacement. Because AAA requires quality infrastructure, some of

these buildings have been refurbished, resulting in the schools being awarded longer terms of accreditation. To continue motivation for improvement, the SID Administrative Committee (ADCOM) voted in 2005 that effective January 2006, a financial incentive of U.S. \$1,000 would be paid to each school granted accreditation of at least four years.

Unfortunately, this was not implemented. However, some schools and colleges continued to excel in their accreditation. This challenged the SID Education Department to revisit and subsequently implement the action. A total of 19 schools were each paid U.S.\$1,000 to pursue ongoing improvement.

International Special Events

From July 27 to August 4, 2012, the SID hosted the Biblical Foundations Conference in Bloemfontein, South

Africa. Four hundred participants and 15 presenters attended. Presentations focused on how to accomplish the aims of Adventist education, and presenters charged attendees to anchor their work in God's Word and model their lives after Jesus Christ.

Twelve SID college and university presidents attended the International Conference for College and University Presidents in Silver Spring, Maryland, U.S.A., in March 2014. From July 9 to August 1, 2014, the SID organized an education tour to Israel for all office personnel and their spouses; after which the elected staff participated in a Great Controversy tour of Italy, Switzerland, France, and Germany. Seventeen participants from SID attended the International Conference on the Bible and Science in St. George, Utah, U.S.A., August 2014. And approximately 600



Heritage Day Celebration on September 24, 2014, at Helderberg College, South Africa.

teachers from Zimbabwe attended a nationwide teachers convention at Tshipise, Musina, South Africa, in April 2014.

Specials Events at Schools

- **Heritage Day, South Africa.** Helderberg College celebrates its diversity every year on September 24, Heritage Day. Students, lecturers, and guests attend and participate in a colorful celebration filled with music, poetry, and stories that represent different cultural backgrounds; this celebration is followed by a food fair where dishes prepared by each cultural group are showcased.

- **Southern Africa Union Conference—Helderberg College 120-year Celebration.** The year 2013 marked 120 years since Helderberg College's establishment under the leadership of E. B. Miller from Battle Creek College. Alumni came from across the globe to participate in the activities connected to this milestone, which were held in conjunction with graduation weekend in early December.

Stories of Answers to Prayer

- **A Teacher's Testimony.** In Zimbabwe, non-Adventist teachers were hired to keep our church's schools open because of the nationwide brain drain that occurred a few years ago. During this period, many teachers and other professionals seeking economic opportunities migrated to neighboring countries and overseas. A teacher from the Apostolic Faith Church was converted to Adventism after she joined our school. She testified that at first, she embraced the Adventist lifestyle because it was part of the school's culture. However, fellow teachers and students were so friendly that it penetrated her heart and helped to reshape her life.

As the result of the church's Revival and Reformation initiatives, the spiritual life of our campuses continues to grow. Through campus evangelism and teachers' personal witnessing, about 4,000 students are baptized in schools yearly.

- **Adventist College.** Adventist College in Mauritius has achieved a level of excellence in all its programs. The "Fruits of the Spirit," listed in Galatians 5:22 and 23, are painted on the walls of buildings and the brick fence for the students to internalize and apply in their lives. The staff and students created a prayer garden beside the stream that runs past the school, where they go to pray and to enjoy the cool breezes.

- **Safeliz Textbook Project.** The division is thankful to the Safeliz Publishing House in Spain for producing Bible textbooks for SID schools. Through answered prayer, this dream has finally become a reality. With the guidance from Mario Martinelli and Mirta Citera, Bible textbooks have already been delivered to the Southern Africa and Zimbabwe unions. SID anticipates further collaboration to ensure delivery of the textbooks to additional unions in the near future.

Challenges of Adventist Education in SID

- **Increased Enrollment.** The church is growing rapidly; and as many people seek to better themselves through education, classrooms have become overcrowded. This is both a blessing and a challenge. SID continues to address the need for adequate facilities and qualified Adventist staff.

- **Scarcity of Qualified Adventist Teachers.** The majority of the students and teachers on our campuses are not members of the Adventist faith. As a result, it requires constant effort to create a wholesome campus environment and to ensure that behaviors reflect Adventist values.

- **Effects of HIV/AIDS.** Although the HIV/AIDS infection rate has decreased, the disease continues to kill children and young adults, leaving orphans to fend for themselves. Many of our schools feed and educate these orphans, which further strains the limited resources of the institutions.

- **Language Barriers.** SID continues to face challenges in reaching its constituency in three major languages—English, French, and Portuguese—making it difficult and expensive to share important information and curricula among the unions.

Plans for the Coming Quinquennium (2015-2020)

- To accredit more schools, in order to assure high-quality personnel, infrastructure, and academic programs. It is the goal of the SID Education Department to only allow fully accredited schools to identify themselves as Adventist schools.

- To encourage institutions to subscribe to THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION so that every teacher and school library receives a copy, and to encourage teachers to read the publication.

- To urge educators to integrate Bible lessons with life experiences.

- To require school administrators to develop and implement Spiritual Master Plans for their schools.

- To urge institutions to establish viable industries and work-study programs to enable students and schools to become self-financing, and to sell commodities to their communities. ✍

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