



## ANNUAL REPORT

# 2007

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### 2007 HIGHLIGHTS

- Graduation of the first distance learning student.
- Recognition of the urgency of scholarships to stabilise and increase the registration of residential students.
- Enlargement of the library.
- Increase in the courses and support for courses offered online (CiberSEUT).
- Creation of two new programmes of study:
  - Master
  - Understanding Christianity
- Osmundo Ponce added to the teaching staff.
- Commencement of the Taller Teológico.

**[...] to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (Ephesians 4.12)**

The academic year 2006-7 has seen the birth of a new project: the Theological Workshop (Taller Teológico). The need for this has been felt for a long time, but only now has the dream become a reality.

Over a number of years churches have been asking for a more basic training programme that would be suitable for the majority of their members and not just for those preparing for the ministry. Of course SEUT's existing programme of studies is open to all regardless of vocation and there are a good number of lay students registered. Nevertheless it requires a considerable commitment in terms of study hours which many find too demanding. Thus the Theological Workshop has been designed to overcome this problem.

The new programme is designed to provide a practical training that is underpinned theoretically and is realised in close conjunction with the local churches. To this end SEUT is seeking to work in close partnership with the churches and so expects that the development of the Theological Workshop will be a joint enterprise. It is envisaged as an open project in which SEUT will respond to the needs of the churches and adapt the programme accordingly.

The motto of the Workshop, "tools for faith, community and study", follows Paul's thinking when he writes about gifts and/or ministries in the church that "prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up". Our hope is that through the Theological Workshop SEUT will become more integrated with the local churches. As we all submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit who directs the different gifts so together we will grow into the body of Christ.

Pedro Zamora  
Director of SEUT  
Board Member of the Fundación F. Fliedner

## RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME

In 2006 five degrees were awarded to the first graduates from the residential programme after its reopening in 2003. Three of these students were from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Portugal and two came from a church founded by OMS, a Wesleyan mission that supports SEUT.

In 2007 another three students have completed the course work for their degrees and so should graduate in 2008 after finishing their dissertations. Two are from the Spanish Evangelical Church (IEE) and the other is from a church founded by OMS.

The first students to graduate from this programme have been exemplary in their maturity, their dedication to their studies and in their community spirit. Their studies were certainly enriched by the relationships they made both with other students and with the staff of SEUT.

Having seen the benefits derived from studying within the community setting we are encouraged to actively promote this programme. However registrations for 2007-08 are slightly down which highlights the economic problem that exists for those wishing to study in this way.

## DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME

Once more we have to emphasise that this continues to provide the backbone for all of SEUT's activities.

The majority of distance learning students are studying Level 1 of the programme. Ten are involved in Level 2 studies and five in Level 3.

During 2006-07 our first distance learning student, a Roman Catholic, succeeded in fulfilling all the demands of this programme to graduate. Another three students from the Spanish Evangelical Church (IEE) will be completing the last requisite of the programme, the dissertation, during the current academic year (2007-8).

During 2006-07 there has been a slight decrease in registrations for the distance learning programme which appears to have been for economic reasons.

## DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

In 2005 we finished translating the *Open Theological College's* degree course. Since then we have been adapting this programme to our Spanish context and to the requisites of the Bologna Declaration. This has involved the following:

- Increasing the number of credits offered for the distance learning Licentiate Degree. To this end during 2006-07 three new courses have been written by our staff:
  - *Poimenics: (Care of souls)* by Ekkehard Heise.
  - *Biblical Exegesis of the Old Testament* by Pedro Zamora.
  - *Greek I and II* by Dionisio Byler.
- Developing postgraduate degrees at Masters and Doctorate levels. New modules are currently being written for a Master's degree.

There has also been the creation of a residential programme of studies in English (*Understanding Christianity*), for foreign students and for Spanish students wishing to improve their English.

### Official Accreditation

The Spanish government is now prepared to negotiate with FEREDÉ the conditions for granting Protestant theological degrees. (FEREDÉ is the legal representative of Protestant churches to the Spanish government). There is likely to be a considerable period of lengthy negotiations.

## CiberSEUT

This has become an indispensable tool of our Web page and has seen huge growth over this past year. It now offers:

- online support for twelve modules.
- two modules that are available exclusively online.
- a student forum
- a forum on science and faith
- an archive of sermons and devotional thoughts
- news for students

Work continues to provide yet more online courses and services to students.

## CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

Maintenance has become an overwhelming burden since the move of SEUT to its new, much larger, site at the end of 2002.

To tackle this problem there is a need to develop new initiatives in accord with SEUT's objectives. These would take better advantage of the facility and so provide an increased income both for ongoing expenses and an investment for the future.

## PONCE DE LA FUENTE (The Student Residence)

Over the past few years since its opening in 2003 the Residence has undergone a fundamental change. Initially it was occupied almost entirely by theological students, but now the majority of the residents are students of other disciplines.

Never-the-less the good community spirit that has always characterised Ponce de la Fuente continues. For this we are particularly grateful to the efforts of our longest standing residents (Mr and Mrs Franyuti-Hernández) and to the dedicated service of Puri Menino.

## THEOLOGICAL WORKSHOP (Taller Teológico)

As was indicated in the opening of this report, this programme has commenced during 2006-7 with the following initiatives:

- a management structure has been formed.
- teaching staff have been appointed.
- the programme of studies has been agreed.
- the first modules have been written.
- the web page has been created.
- visits have been made to form the first study groups of students.

## LIBRARY

The library is running out of space now that it has over 15,000 volumes. Although this is an adequate size for undergraduate studies, yet there is still a need to increase the books available for postgraduate studies. The library's particular strength, which needs to be maintained, is in the area of biblical studies. Now attention needs to be paid to increasing the titles available in theology, mission and ministry.

A real challenge to us is that of adapting to new online library technology which would include providing access to the data base and electronic journals etc. At the same time we would like to make this resource available to the population of El Escorial.

We are also conscious of the need to digitalise our books so that they might be made available to our distance learning students. Inevitably this would be a very costly project even though of incalculable value to students.

We are extremely grateful to individuals (generally retired ministers of the IEE) and to various institutions who have made very generous donations to our library. In the future we will continue to welcome gifts of this kind which we guarantee will be appreciated by our students.

## STAFF

2007 has seen the arrival of Osmundo Ponce to work directly in the administration and direction of the Theological Workshop.

The following teachers are now working with this project:

- David Casado;
- Ignacio Simal;
- Joana Ortega;
- Gerson Amat;
- Germán López.

Sadly we had to say goodbye to two lecturers who left for retirement and will be sorely missed:

- Donna Laubach-Moros;
- Edgar Moros-Ruano.

## PUBLICATIONS AND LECTURES

### *Colección Seminario*

This is an imprint that SEUT publishes jointly with *CLIE*. Unfortunately for reasons beyond SEUT's control only one title has been published during 2006-07.

### *Cristianismo Protestante*

The foldout of theological articles that is prepared by staff and students of SEUT for this magazine has continued to be published. It has also been made available on our web page. The number of 'visits' to our web is growing very fast.

### *Theological conferences*

There have now been two well attended day-long theological conferences that have been open to the general public. The lectures given on these occasions have been published in the online journal on SEUT's web page: ENCUESTRO.

### *In-service Training for the IEE*

SEUT organises this annual three day event. "Mission and liturgy" was the theme for 2007.

For the future we need to develop a coherent policy for publications and to improve our distribution networks whether traditional or electronic.

### **Publicity policy**

At present SEUT lacks a policy for its publicity which would include its publications and their distribution. The challenge for the future is to incorporate such a policy into the overall policy of The Federico Fliedner Foundation. This would include the formation of its own publishing house and distribution networks so as to compete successfully in today's market place and to be at the fore of public opinion.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ministry of SEUT would be impossible without the support of the F. Fliedner Foundation, its founding churches, and the missions and agencies that provide their collaboration. Then too we also wish to express our thanks to the many, be they voluntary or otherwise, who have given their best for the positive advance of SEUT.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As a conclusion we present the following challenges that face us and stimulate our faith and prayers:

- Growth in the content of our programme of studies that will involve new levels of study and new modules in both traditional and electronic formats.
- Growth in the registration of both residential and distance learning students.
- Greater involvement in local churches and in society.
- Official accreditation for our courses.
- Creation of a fund for scholarships.
- New initiatives to serve local churches and society which would take full advantage of our campus.

For these motives we covet the prayers of all who form the community of SEUT: staff, students and those who faithfully stand with us both morally and materially.



SEUT is a ministry of



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