



ANNUAL REPORT

2006

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2006 HIGHLIGHTS

- Consolidation of the residential programme with the first graduation ceremony.
- The launch of 'CiberSEUT' to support online learning.
- Two more books have been published with our imprint: *Colección SEMINARIO*.
- Three new lecturers have joined the team: Nathan Moser, Rainer Sörgel and Eddy Delameilleure.
- Preparation of the church theological workshop programme is now underway.
- Major steps towards signing an agreement with the Free University of Amsterdam.

Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1.4)

Three years on from our move to El Escorial we are being challenged with the numerous possibilities presented by our new location. But we are also very conscious we need patience to see our dreams come to fruition.

The residential programme, which closed at the beginning of the eighties, has now restarted. In July 2006 we celebrated the graduation of our first five full-time students (three were residential) some twenty years after the last student graduation! Despite this encouragement we are very aware that much needs to be done to ensure a good number of students are enrolled each year.

During 2005-06 we have worked on all our programmes. The creation of CiberSEUT is especially worth mentioning. CiberSEUT is a section of our web page designed to give online support to all our courses. It will be particularly useful for distance learning students. Naturally this undertaking will require many resources and much patience if we are going to offer the quality of service demanded in today's higher education sector.

Another area that we have identified as needing special attention is that of creating theological workshops for the training of believers in their local churches. We want to target lay people who, at least initially, have no intention of doing any formal theological training. This is still at an early stage of planning for we realise that it will need a very different approach to that used for other programmes. We also intend to make full use of recent technological advances.

We go forward steadily, patiently working towards the many possibilities before us, but at the same time aware we have to be realistic, accommodating our aspirations to our limited economic resources. We trust this is the essence of the truth that we read about in James.

Pedro Zamora
Director of SEUT
Board Member of the FFF

STUDENTS

At the end of 2005 we had 119 registered students. They were distributed over the 3 levels of the study programme in the following manner:

Level 1: 104, Level 2: 7, Level 3: 8

The denominational affiliation of our students was as follows:

IEE (The Evangelical Church of Spain):	28
Anglicans from Latin America:	12
IERE (Spanish Episcopal Reformed Church):	4
Brethren Assemblies:	19
Independent:	7
Churches related to OMS International:	8
FIEIDE (Spanish Federation of Independent Churches):	5
Interdenominational churches:	2
Independent Presbyterians:	4
Assemblies of God:	5
Pentecostals:	3
Mennonites:	4
Independent Baptists:	7
AEMC:	3
Roman Catholics:	3
UEBE (Baptist Union):	1
Christian and Missionary Alliance:	2
Seventh Day Adventist:	1
CIER:	1

Although we still do not have overall figures for the whole of 2006, we think that there has been a decline in the numbers registering with us, probably due to an increase in the number of centres offering theological training. The high cost of studying full-time and/or residentially also affects student numbers since we have no funds from which to offer scholarships.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME

The academic year 2005-06 represented the third year of the residential programme and culminated in the graduation of five students.

Although it is difficult adequately to summarise all that we would wish to say about this group, it was exemplary in many ways. These students, together with those that have yet to finish their studies, formed a true community, mature in both their behaviour and studies. During the three years that they lived with us there was hardly ever a hint of friction or disharmony and on the rare occasions when there was a slight problem it was solved with great maturity.

We face the academic year 2006-07 with a lower number of registered full-time students. This demonstrates a real difficulty in enrolling students for this programme, which is largely due to the high cost involved: €3,000 for tuition fees, €2,000 for a room in the student residence and about €3,500 for living expenses.

There is an urgent need to create a fund for scholarships to cover tuition fees and/or the cost of a room in the student residence in order to combat this problem. Other theological centres are able to offer much reduced fees as a result of the grants they receive from churches and other institutions.

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME

This programme continues to be the backbone of SEUT's ministry.

The great majority of the students are in the Level 1 of the programme with a minority in Level 2. Recently a small group of students has commenced studying Level 3.

To support these students online helps have been provided through CiberSEUT, which is accessed from our web page. It provides seven modules with extra bibliography, access to course readings, more extensive explanations of problems and self-evaluations, etc.

The greatest need that we have is to digitalise at least 2,000 books from our library so that they can be accessed by distance learning students via the internet. This requires a huge investment of funds which at present we lack, but is essential for the future of our distance learning programme.

DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

Now that we have finished the basic translation of the *Open Theological College's* degree course, we are working to further adapt the modules to a Spanish speaking context. We are also conscious of the need to apply the Bologna Declaration to our courses which implies the following:

1. Increasing the number of credits offered in the distance learning programme from 180 to 240 in order to comply with the requirements of a licentiate degree.

We are already offering this number in the full-time programme of studies. For the academic year 2006-07 we will see the production of three new modules written by our own staff:

- Poimenics: Care of Souls, by Ekkehard Heise
- Pastoral Care of the Family, by Raúl García
- Exegesis of Biblical Hebrew, by Pedro Zamora

2. Developing postgraduate degrees at Masters and Doctorate levels. We visited the Free University of Amsterdam in June 2006 and have a draft agreement which should be formalised by the end of the 2006-07 academic year.

THEOLOGICAL WORKSHOPS

Our team of lecturers has approved the creation of Theological Workshops for lay people.

This responds to a long-standing need in local churches. The director of this programme will be David Casado, a volunteer who fully understands the situation of Spanish evangelical churches.

In addition the PCUSA are sending Osmundo Ponce and Ana Ligia Sánchez to SEUT to work full-time developing this programme.

Work has already started on the writing of modules and we confidently expect that people will be able to start registering during the 2006-07 academic year.

STAFF

During 2006 the following lecturers joined the teaching team:

- Nathan Moser (Ecuador-USA), PhD in OT, Department of Biblical Studies.
- Rainer Sörgel (Germany), Licentiate degree in Systematic Theology, Department of Church History and Theology.
- Eddy Delameilleure (Belgium), PhD in Theology, Department of Church History and Theology (he arrives in December).

SEUT's staff team is now:

Biblical Studies:

Sergio Rosell
Mark Abbott
Denis Byler
Nathan Moser
Pedro Zamora

Church History and Theology:

Antonio González
Rainer Sörgel
Eddy Delameilleure
Juan Sánchez (part-time)

Mission and Ministry:

Jonathan Rowe
Raúl García (part-time)
Judith Buchanan
Ekkehard Heise (part-time)

Administration:

Puri Menino
Diane Abbott (part-time)

Library:

Kathy Murphy (part-time)

Other:

David Casado (voluntary)
Puri Rodríguez (part-time)

CiberSEUT

Our web page offers online support for seven modules:

- Level 1:** Introduction to the OT, Introduction to the NT, Greek;
- Level 2:** Luke & Acts, Psalms & Wisdom Literature;
- Level 3:** Christology, Deuteronomy & Ethics.

During the 2006-07 academic year further modules will be added to this list together with other basic materials (Academic Requisites & Guidelines, Guide to Writing Assignments, Student Handbook, etc.).

LIBRARY

The library has almost run out of space. It has around 15,000 books and in the near future it should incorporate the archives of the FFF.

During the 2005-06 academic year students indicated that there was a need for a greater number of computers in the reading room and SEUT was able to provide an additional terminal. Computer access is necessary because our modules require a considerable amount of bibliographic research, which in its turn means intensive use of research tools.

We are challenged by the possibilities offered by modern technology for libraries (access to data bases and electronic magazines etc.).

We also dream of making our resources available to the town of El Escorial. And we have already mentioned the need to digitalise the core of our library. Our desire is properly to serve our students, churches and the society in which we live.

PONCE DE LA FUENTE (The Student Residence)

The student residence has just celebrated its first three years of service by witnessing the graduation of three of its residents.

The maturity of the students living in the residence has already been noted. We should also mention that the residence's success has been the result of everybody's active participation. In particular we wish to recognise the commitment of Sergio Rosell, pastor of Ponce de la Fuente, and Puri Menino, administrator. The latter was especially singled out for praise by the students.

The Residence, in addition to being a key element of SEUT's training, is a source of regular income.

In spite of its benefits, we recognise that the residence's small size, and lack of facilities to provide full board for residents, mean it is necessary to consider its further development and to take practical steps towards this end.

In this area, as with personnel, we need the support of the FFF, and especially its business management experience.

PUBLICATIONS AND LECTURES

Colección Seminario

This imprint is the result of SEUT's collaboration with the publishing house: *CLIE*. Two new titles are shortly to be published.

Cristianismo Protestante

We continue to produce 'Separata', a section in the magazine, *Cristianismo Protestante*. The articles, written by lecturers and students of SEUT, are also made available on SEUT's web page.

Day Conferences for Theological Reflection

Our previous Student Encounters have now been replaced by Day Conferences for Theological Reflection that are open to the wider public. The lectures are subsequently published in the online journal: ENCUENTRO (<http://www.centroseut.org/pub-encuentro.htm>).

Pastoral Conference of the IEE

This is an annual retreat for the pastors of the IEE organised by SEUT. This year the theme was 'Conflict and mediation'.

The biggest challenges concerning publications are to improve our collaboration with *CLIE* and to meet the demands of new technology. Particular needs for future development are:

1. Modules need to be printed by their recipients (students), so that costs of postage and packing are minimized. This is particularly important for Latin America.
2. Materials should be available in an electronic format, with the possibility of selling them online.
3. A theological journal needs to be created and distributed.
4. We need to arrive at an agreement with *CLIE* which is more economically advantageous to SEUT.

We are aware that a number of these challenges could or should be met by working together with the *Librería Calatrava (the Calatrava Bookshop)* which is a member of the F. Fliedner Foundation and has done so much in the past, together with the *Librería Nacional y Extranjera*, to promote evangelical literature of a high standard.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ministry of SEUT would be impossible without the support of the whole of the F. Fliedner Foundation, its founding churches (CECI) and the following organisations:

Spanish Evangelical Church

Spanish Episcopal Reformed Church

OMS International

Diakonisches Werk (EKD) (Germany)

Mennonite Mission Network (USA)

Methodist Church (UK)

Presbyterian Church in the USA (USA)

Society of friends of SEUT (Spain)

South American Missionary Society (UK)

St John's College, Nottingham (UK)

United Methodist Church (USA)

Vereinigte Deutsche Missionshilfe e.V. (Germany)

World Partners USA Missionary (USA)

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

To summarise, these are the challenges for the future that stimulate us to faith and prayer:

- Consolidation of the distance learning programme by offering it online and so improving speed of service and reducing costs.
- Greater presence in Latin America through agreements with theological educational institutions in that continent.
- Creation of a scholarship fund to offer financial help to potential students from Latin America and Spain.
- Development of the ministries offered from SEUT's base in El Escorial so as to improve our service to churches and society and, at the same time, to make better use of the enormous possibilities which our site offers us.
- Attain official accreditation of our courses by the Spanish Government.

All of us that participate in SEUT's community of teaching and learning ask for your prayers that we might be able to meet these objectives. We are grateful to all those who support us both morally and materially.



SEUT is a ministry of



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