

Jesus' Great Commission exhorted his disciples to make disciples of all nations "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded". It is SEUT's privilege and responsibility to teach and we do so in ways that are critically aware, spiritually profound, faithfully engaged and readily accessible. This Annual Report describes highlights of 2009, and we would like to thank all the individuals, churches and mission agencies that have supported the seminary this year.

ENGAGING IDEAS

One of SEUT's core ministries is to reflect upon issues from a Christian perspective, and we have been particularly active in writing and giving conferences during 2009.

A flagship event is our annual day conference for church leaders. This year's conference, *Seeing is Believing*, focused on the book of Revelation. Four of our lecturers examined how this ancient text can inspire and inform believers today. Their talks are available (in Spanish) in our online journal *Encuentro* (Encounter).



Ver para creer

Lo real y las apariencias
en el libro de Apocalipsis

IV Jornada de
Reflexión Teológica
14 de noviembre, 2009

«La Chimenea»
c/ San Lorenzo, 7
El Escorial

The seminary has continued to produce a steady stream of articles for Spanish speaking churches, again all available on our website. In addition, several staff have published articles in academic journals. Although this type of publication can be quite technical, one has subsequently been used by a number of church agencies as they consider issues of "accountability" in mission.

MANAGEMENT

The seminary is part of the Fundación Federico Fliedner, an educational foundation with formal links to the Reformed and Anglican churches, although serving a much wider constituency. The Board of the foundation decided to create a sub-committee to oversee and support the seminary. We expect this development to bear much fruit in the future.

SCIENCE AND FAITH

The Centre for Science and Faith is led by Dr Pablo de Felipe. In 2009 it established a termly lecture series examining the relationship between science and faith. The first lecture looked at Genesis 1-3 and the next will examine the nature of the 'soul'.

At a more technical level, a number of working groups involving both scientists and theologians have been created.

There is relatively little literature in Spanish covering important issues in science in a way that is both theologically and scientifically informed. For this reason we have translated Professor Malcolm Jeeves' book *Neuroscience, Psychology and Religion*. It will be published by Verbo Divino during 2010. Prof. Jeeves will travel to Spain to speak about his work and to promote the Centre for Science and Faith.

In 2009 one of the most famous Spanish cinema producers, Alejandro Amenábar, brought his film *Agora* to the silver screen. Although it purports to be a historical version of the life of the neo-platonic philosopher Hypatia it is much more like fictitious polemic against "anti-scientific" Christians. Dr de Felipe's sparkling series of six articles carefully presents the true story of Hypatia in her cultural context.

Finally, several important text books were donated to the library by Dr de Felipe (in the centre of the photo).



NEW CHAPEL

After many years of building work the restored *La Chimenea* (The Chimney) was opened at the end of September. The ground floor now serves as the seminary's chapel. Each morning students and staff gather for a short period of Bible reading and prayer. And every Wednesday we celebrate our weekly services at which both students and staff preach and lead.



Upstairs is a very pleasant room available for seminars, quiet prayer and meetings with our recently appointed chaplain, Rev. Ian Hutchinson-Cervantes.

The opening of *La Chimenea* was conducted by the president of the Fliedner Foundation, Mr Joel Cortés (photo). Afterwards Foundation staff and SEUT's supporters enjoyed a barbecue in the seminary's gardens.

LIBRARY

During 2009 a further 367 books were added to SEUT's library, which now boasts 15,660 volumes. We are especially grateful to the supporters who donated a total of 169 books.

Other news is that the *Biblioteca Protestante* allowing searches of all the Protestant libraries in Madrid via a single portal is nearly fully functional.

THEOLOGICAL WORKSHOP

The Theological Workshop was created to provide high quality training for church based groups at pre-university level. More than 220 students in 25 church based groups have studied the courses.

In 2009 two new modules were added: Sergio Rosell's *The Art of Proclaiming the Good News* and Juan Sanchez's *Believing and Living in Communion*. And five more

are almost ready for publication, covering subjects as diverse as "Who is Jesus?", "Christian Worship" and "What we can learn about mission from the Bible".

During 2009 the Theological Workshop offered 12 half-day conferences in several cities. Topics covered included the "Origins of the Bible" and "Suffering and Hope".

STAFF NEWS

Perhaps the highlight of the year for SEUT's personnel was Sergio Rosell's (photo) successful defence of his PhD thesis in the University of Pretoria, South Africa, the culmination of years of hard work and intense research.

On the other hand Dr Nathan Moser had to return to the USA to raise funds for a whole year—we are delighted to report that he returned to Spain and teaching in September. Other lecturers who had to raise support outside Spain

were Dr Eddy Delameillieure (June—Dec.) and Rainer Sörgel (Sept—Dec.). Yet other staff have had to convince their missions to continue seconding them to the seminary. On an even sadder note, Dr Antonio González was made redundant, although he continues as a visiting lecturer. All these developments remind us of the financial precariousness of SEUT's important ministry.

Finally, Judith Buchanan continues to battle with cancer.



SEUT is a ministry of the



Fundación
**FEDERICO
FLIEDNER**

SEUT – Fundación F. Fliedner
Apdo 7, 28280 El Escorial, Madrid
Tel 91 890 11 01 / 91 896 21 33
Fax 91 896 20 88
seut@centroseut.org
www.centroseut.org

DEGREE IN THEOLOGY

SEUT's main academic course continues to be the Degree in Theology, with 113 students from the whole range of Christian churches represented in Spain. The vast majority study at a distance, although 5 students enjoy classes in El Escorial.

The importance of personal contact with tutors was recognized by a group in Chile who have organized weekly

sessions for over 20 students to support their study with SEUT.

During 2009 our course offerings were extended with new modules on pastoral care and biblical exegesis.

Obtaining the degree's official recognition by the Spanish government continues to occupy us. We are currently collaborating with other seminaries on this issue.