

Jesus compared the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed for although it is the smallest seed it grows into the largest of all garden plants. During 2008 the *Seminario Evangélico Unido de Teología* has seen some of the small seeds sown over the last few years sprout and begin to grow. We trust they are harbingers of a fruitful harvest, and would like to thank all those individuals, churches and mission agencies that have enabled us to achieve so much.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

SEUT's main course continues to be the **Degree in Theology**, for which 115 students are currently registered. In July we celebrated students' studies at the annual Graduation ceremony (photo) in the seminary grounds.

Good progress towards offering all our courses online via *CiberSEUT* was made during 2008; we expect the project to be completed by the end of this academic year. Then there will be ongoing improvements so that the seminary becomes a model of good practice.

Regarding the struggle for official recognition by the Spanish state, some advance has been noticeable, but we await further news from the authorities.

A **Masters' Degree** has been planned, and further preliminary work is currently underway.



TRAINING FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

SEUT aims to provide high quality training not only for church leaders, but for all Christian people. The **Taller Teológico (Theological Workshop)** was started in 2007 specifically to meet this need. Under the direction of Osmundo Ponce, assisted by Marita Sörgel and several associate lecturers, the programme has grown significantly.



First, a number of workbooks have been published (e.g. Pedro Zamora's *Do you understand what you are reading?* and Dionisio Byler's *Speaking about God from the Bible*) and more are being prepared.

Second, 185 students in 23 church based groups are studying the courses; several groups have already progressed to the second module.

Finally, there have been 119 participants in the series of day conferences organized by the **Taller Teológico** (photo). More information about this exciting and strategic project is available (in Spanish) at www.tallerteologico.es

With the return of Dr Pablo de Felipe to Spain after a period of research in Scotland, 2008 also witnessed important developments at the seminary's **Centre for Science and Faith**. This project aims to help Christians relate two areas of life often thought to be in conflict. Again, more information (in Spanish) is available on the website www.centroseut.org/cienciayfe/index

RESIDENCE

The dynamics of life in the student residence continue to be a great source of encouragement to us all. It has become a mature, interdisciplinary community—just as originally envisaged and hoped—and a blessing to both residents and the whole seminary.

One of SEUT's priorities is the extension of the residence so we can serve more people.

RETREAT CENTRE



Part of the vision for SEUT is that it should become a centre for spiritual as well as academic formation. An important development during 2008 was the work to restore *La Chimenea* ('The Chimney') as the seminary's chapel.

Further work on the building and surrounding grounds is dependent upon funding.

LIBRARY

At the end of the year the library boasted 15,298 volumes, nearly 200 more than in January.

We are very grateful to those supporters who have donated books to the library holdings.

After a number of years in abeyance the *Biblioteca Protestante* has restarted, allowing searches of all the Protestant libraries in Madrid from a single website.

CONFERENCES AND PUBLICATIONS

SEUT's lecturers have continued to publish widely during the year.

Apart from articles in the *Separata to Cristianismo Protestante* and the seminary's journal, *Encuentro* ('Encounter'), more academic articles have been published in the fields of theology, philosophy, biblical studies and mission.

Dissemination of learning has not been restricted to the printed and electronic word, but has also occurred in many seminars and conferences, both here in Spain and internationally.

And, of course, all SEUT's lecturers have weekly teaching and preaching commitments in their churches.

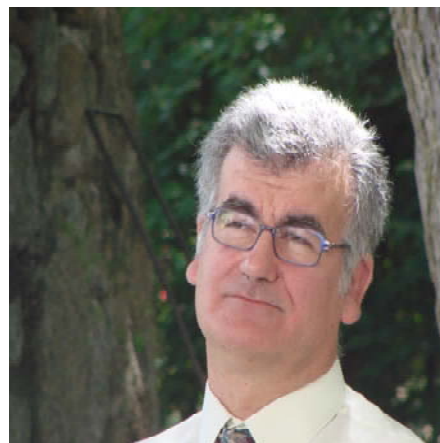
STAFF NEWS

A key member of the staff team during the years of translation work has been Judith Buchanan. We are sad to report that she has been battling cancer for much of 2008.

On a happier note Jonathan Rowe successfully defended his PhD thesis in the University of St Andrews, Scotland.

In addition, Sergio Rosell has now submitted a doctoral dissertation to the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Last, but not least, after 15 years the Rev. Dr Pedro Zamora (photo) decided to hand over the baton of SEUT's leadership. He will remain a key link to the *Iglesia Evangélica Española*, the seminary's main sponsor, since his current role focuses upon public relations. Since October 2008 Dr Jonathan Rowe has been Principal, courtesy of the South American Mission Society and the *Iglesia Española Reformada Episcopal*.



SEUT is a ministry of the



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CHALLENGES

We have been privileged to see God's provision for SEUT over many years, and 2008 was no exception. At the same time we are aware of several challenges currently facing us.

Apart from the work necessary to continue the development of all that it does it is now apparent that the seminary cannot rely upon support from mission

agencies indefinitely.

Similarly, although the *Iglesia Evangélica Española* supports SEUT, particularly via its educational foundation, the *Fundación Fliedner*, it will be necessary to adapt to changing times.

Please pray we would know the way forward in all aspects of our work and ministry.