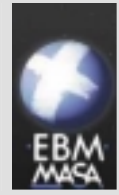


# EBM School and Education Report 2004

- long version -



## Mosambik THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Rev. Eduardo Melo

The Theological Education in Mozambique is going through a period of transition. Until the end of the war all efforts were concentrated in Maputo mainly under the First Baptist Church of that city which had all the resources (human, technical and material). In Beira there was several tries to establish a Bible Scholl but with no real success. I was under several Brazilian missionaries that effort was made. From them we have an old library of about 300 books and a much disorganized and not well cared for archives. In February 2000 two Canadians missionaries came to teach and help and Isabel and I in February 2002. Since then all of us have been working together to establish a better school that can offer to the local Baptist minimum services on three different levels:

1. **Intensive basic** courses that are given mainly in five different zones of Mozambique. Macia, Tete, Beira, Quelimane and Nampula.
2. **Basic level** given in three cities: Maputo, Beira and Nampula. Consists mainly in a three year studies program that includes Biblical Theology, Church Administration, Baptist History, Homiletics and Hermeneutics, Overviews of the Bible, Pastoral Ethics and Counselling, Religious Education, Leadership Principles for the Local Church, Cults, Traditional Religions and African Costumes, Baptist Identity and Personal Life, Discipleship, Evangelism and Missions, Portuguese and New and Old Testaments Theology. We are now trying to unify the programmatic contents of all curricula in Mozambique.
3. **Medium level** is a new program that we hope to start in 2005 mainly to upgrade and help the senior's pastors and to reach the students that have studied in the last 4 or 5 years in our three Bible Schools.

We issue a Certificate for the courses in 1. and 2. and intent to issue a Diploma for 3.

Other comments:

There is another type of studies being done in Mozambique. The American Agency "Missão Baptista em Moçambique" has an extensive program done in rural areas that pretend to reach the leaders that have low scholar level and that prefer to use the local dialect. Some of it is done in Portuguese. We, from EBM, have little participation in these programs.

At present we are trying to unify the curricula/syllabi in all Mozambique and to have it according to the pattern established for all southern Africa. We are waiting for the next all – Africa congress for Theological Education to finalise this matter.

The numbers of students varies so much during the courses that is quite difficult to have a final figure. Still in the Intensive program in all five areas we had from 110 to 130 students during the last two years. In Beira we have 25 students (15 in Beira and 10 in Mafarinha), 6 in Maputo and in Nampula. We have to take in consideration that two of the schools (Maputo and Nampula), started only two years ago and Beira about three years in the new reality. We do not have any possibility in boarding students which is deterrent in having more young people in our schools. The main reason is lack of funds and lack of space for that.

The situation of the students must be understood in two realities: urban and rural areas. In the three schools we reach mainly the urban and suburban students with more scholar capacities and better educated and with more church experiences. The rural students are reached mainly by the extensive and intensive programs. These are leaders of rural churches some of them from the deep interior and ignorant of a full church life and ministerial possibilities. They do things by tradition and by repeating the model they observed in the nearest “big” leader that they consider as a “father” figure in the African worldview. Socially they represent well the rural needs and reality, they are well accepted and some have important roles in the local society. Very few of them interact with the political forces. In a way it is too strong among them the separation church – state.

One of the big needs is of printed materials and books in Portuguese. We have a small library in Beira, mainly composed of 20 years books and needing an urgent upgrade mainly in Reference books and other technical tools for the investigation and learning of our students.

Structures, logistics and networking:

Our structures are:

1. Institutionally we depend on the Theological Education Board that meets formally once a year. This Board is composed by several members from all over Mozambique and meet only when and if they are present at our annual Assembly. There has been no evaluation or guidelines from them, reason why they appointed me, Eduardo, as an Advisor since last April and they hope I can do the work for the time being.
2. Locally we have a Director in each school, in Maputo Pr Elias, a Brazilian missionary, in Nampula Pr Girlan, another Brazilian missionary and in Beira, I as an Interim Director. We do not have any regional representation of the TE Board. The local Director is responsible for all the administrative work, accountancy, accountability and also functions as an academic Dean and Counsellor. We do not have human resources yet to delegate in others.

Logistics:

1. In Maputo the Bible Schools has their classes in the 3 de Fevereiro Mission installations that is situated in the outskirts of Maputo. They have two rooms and no Library.
2. In Nampula the Bible School is under construction through the help of some American volunteer's teams. They have already their own space for the classes. They will have in the future space and conditions for boarding.
3. In Beira we have three rooms in the installations of the First Baptist Church of Beira. We have established an agreement with them to use that space until we can afford to construct our own rooms in the back portion of the same plot. This plot is in the middle of downtown Beira. The old building where we meet is in very bad conditions and some portions almost in ruins. When it rains, for example, in my class, we can not use half of the room as it rains inside. We can not have any valuable material inside the house as there are no doors, grids or locks. Everything of a certain value is robbed. Even the electrical cables and wires were robbed more then once. We need urgently funds to restore and rehabilitate this house before is too late.

## Challenges and prospects:

The challenges we face is:

1. The construction of the three classrooms and the Library. Equip and furnish these rooms.
2. The rehabilitation of the old house in two or three phases.
3. Books and printed material for the Library.

Prospective:

We look forward to the time we can receive students from all over Mozambique on a boarding regime and have three full developed programs:

1. A full time High and medium level programs.
2. An after work basic and medium level programs
3. Extension and Intensive programs for rural areas and for the strengthening of seniors pastors.

This with a well equipped Bible School with what is minimal to work and teach without too much stress and difficulties.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Continuing the project supported by EBM, we still have several Primary School classes at the following churches:

Churches	Number of students
<b>INCAIA</b>	36
<b>INCOLUANE</b>	75
<b>MESSANO</b>	40
<b>TRÊS DE FEVEREIRO</b>	65

## ALPHABETIZATION

Likewise, the alphabetisation of adults continues, in the following churches, in the South:

Churches	Number of students
<b>TRÊS DE FEVEREIRO</b>	6
<b>MESSANO</b>	92

*It would be interesting to notice that the search for support is never too much, for this type of project, especially for the rural areas and among the women, so that they can better participate in the family economy and also in bettering their self esteem.*

*This ministry should deserve more attention from our partners and also from the Missionary Agencies working in Mozambique.*

# Baptist Convention of Malawi

Rev. Fletcher Kaiya, General Secretary

## BAPTIST CONVENTION PROJECTS

The Baptist Convention has a membership of 160,000 Baptized believers nation wide. We have churches in all the districts. Politically the country is divided into three Regions – North, Centre and South. However, because of distance the Convention divided its Regions to five (we may soon have another sub-division in the Centre).

We have North North, North, Centre, South South and South East. In each of the regions we have what we call Regional Coordinators who comprise the Executive Committee of BA-COMA. We have 45 Associations (a cluster of churches close to each other). We have just over 500 Pastors most of whom are not trained.

## HOME MISSION PROJECT

This project was initiated with the aim of filling up the leadership gap in the rural areas' churches who cannot afford to support a trained Pastor. We have currently 10 of such Missionaries in the country. Three are being supported by EBM, AfNet of USA supports Six and Blantyre Baptist Church (a local congregation) is supporting one. The Missionaries are placed in strategic areas of our Ministry like Rumphu, Ntcheu, Machinga, Mangochi and Nsanje. However, there are more areas where we need support on like Likoma Island, Chitipa, Salima, Mchinji, Dowa, Karonga and Mulanje (so a total of seven). The Missionaries undergo not only theological training but also behavioural scrutiny. We choose the best and they are doing a great job in their field of ministry. It costs just over USD100 to support a Missionary in a rural area. The Missionaries must have at least a certificate in theology from a well-recognized institution.

## THE BAPTIST CLINIC - SALIMA

It is the only Clinic in Senga Bay area catering for over 20,000 people including tourists who visit Livingstonia Beach Hotel three kilometers away. Two years ago we opened a Maternity Clinic which was very much in great demand and long overdue.

Because of the Clinic, we are members of the Christian Hospital Association of Malawi (CHAM) which affords us government intervention in staff salaries. The AIDS epidemic has forced the Clinic to open a feeding centre for orphans. The Director of the clinic is Margaret Nyika a retired Senior Matron at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital the biggest referral hospital in Malawi. She did some training in Germany and she speaks a bit of German. Volunteer Medical personnel do come to help with dental, eye, or general duties. We pray for more volunteers to come.

## THE BAPTIST FARM

This can be described as a potential booster for the Convention projects. Currently we are using 30 acres of 62 total acreage of land belonging to the Baptist Convention. We are very thankful to EBM for assisting us with funds to buy farm inputs last year. This year we have grown cotton and the yield is very good. We anticipate to sell about 10,000kg at K25 per kg. We also grew maize and groundnuts which have done very well despite erratic rains. Our plans are to add 5 to 10 more acres this year when funds become available.

Farm inputs like fertilizers, seeds and equipment are what we are praying for this year. The farm will need to be supported a little bit longer before it becomes self-sustaining because it used to depend on one type of crop like maize.

The Farm Manager is quite capable and knows his job very well. We are proud of him. This year we would need not less than USD3,000 for farm inputs seeds and some chemicals to treat the crops.

## THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

This is the hub of our Ministry in Malawi. As it has been noted earlier the majority of our Church leaders are either not trained or are ill trained. We are trying to standardize the basic qualification of a Pastor to be at least a minimum of Certificate in Theology. There are many in this category. These would be those who finished Primary School but did not finish High School. The Baptist Mission of the SBC is willing to support many in this category because it's cheaper. The second group is that of diploma in theology. These would have finished High School and they enter a three-year program with different theological institutions including the Baptist Seminary in Lilongwe. Currently, we have about 10. If the student does very well on diploma he or she enters into a BA degree program for two years (I happen to fall into this category). There are students who are pursuing Masters degree. Three in South Africa, two in U.S.A. and two are on PhD program. The Baptist Mission are not willing to support us on this level because according to them it is too expensive for single person. However, there are more advantages to benefit people when one has maximum educational capacity. Students may not reach this stage unless they find a private sponsor. The best program for postgraduate studies for us in South Africa. You don't have to be there all the time but you go at least twice a year. Relatively the charges are not too exorbitant when compared with those who study abroad. The future of the Convention I believe will have to do with well equipped leadership in theology. Currently there about three students who lack sponsorship to do their Masters in Theology.

On the lower level there is a program which is offered to those leaders who are literate. This is a very simple leadership training program like the one Thomas Klammt and Volker Bohle witnessed in Ntcheu with Hauke Kuzalo teaching. This is fully encouraged and supported by the European Baptist Mission.

## THE BAPTIST PUBLICATIONS

This is an organization which has supported the Secretariat in many times of need including helping pay the General Secretary's salary. They used to have an Offset Printing Machine but

the Mission sold it before handing over the Institution to the Convention. They stopped printing what they hitherto did and settle for smaller jobs instead. However because of the availability of market they still manage to keep the organization going and support us.

Their biggest challenge is to acquire even an old working Offset Printer to start printing materials that are so much on demand. The Director of Publication is on Masters Program with the Baptist Theological Seminary in Cape Town. His name is Rev. Maurice Mpeta Phiri whose e-mail address is [bapul@globemw.net](mailto:bapul@globemw.net). He is a great asset to the Convention. Volunteers with a printing bias are most welcome to help us.

## AIDS AND YOUTH

This is an area of great concern. There are several programs of different organizations that are addressing this issue. As Baptist we have just started with the assistance we got from an organization called Global Aids Interfaith Alliance (GAIA). We conducted training for trainers in the month of March this year. It is amazing how these have been instrumental to reaching their counterparts in their congregations. The areas of concern are stigma against the infected, voluntary counseling and testing and dangerous tradition beliefs. On prevention, we are encouraging abstinence among the Youth through a True Love Waits program( This program is in many other churches also). However, we are also leaving no stone unturned with the Youth even advising them to use a Condom when they fail to abstain.

The war against Aids has poverty as one of its greatest enemies. That is probably the reason why the scourge has more prevalence in Sub – Saharan Africa than the North. Pray for government's sound economic policies to boost the welfare of the poor who are many, in Malawi.

As a result of the epidemic the increasing number of orphans leaves many families with no choice but care for them. Many of these can't afford good schooling and hence poverty continues to haunt even our future.

Many Churches have feeding programs for orphans and at least these are helping out in many ways. However, a human being needs more than just food. We are praying for God to raise compassionate individuals to play the father or mother figure to the orphans so that even the stigma of being called 'orphans' all the time should be removed. The Baptist Convention would like to appeal for assistance to empower Churches that are already doing this in a very small scale.

## **POLITICAL OUTLOOK**

Malawi became independent in 1964 under the leadership of Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda. He ruled for 31 years with the last 15 years as a dictator. Malawians were not free to express themselves in matters of governance etc, they had to adhere to a particular dress code. The Jehovah Witnesses had been banned from worshipping for refusing to buy party cards. In short there was gross abuse of human rights. There were no other parties to offer an alternative.

In 1992 the Catholic Bishops issued a Pastoral letter which was read in all Catholic Churches. The letter was very critical of government's abuse of power and for a while there was a plot to assassinate all the bishops but God intervened and the authorities saw the writing on the wall.

This was a catalyst for the current democracy in Malawi. The President called for a referendum to determine whether or not Malawians preferred a Multiparty System of government to a single party. Malawians voted a resounding “Yes” for Multipartism.

That’s when Mr. Bakili Muluzi of the United Democratic Front was elected as the first President in a democratic Malawi. He was very tolerant to his critics. The Print Media especially wrote nasty things about him but in contrast to his predecessor he did not arrest anybody saying he was the Champion of Press Freedom. In 1999 he was re-elected as president of the republic. However, as the end of his term of office drew nearer some of his supporters began to campaign for a change of the Constitution to allow him to go for another term of office. The Churches again smelt a dead rat and de-campaigned strongly the third term bid and it was narrowly shot down by Parliament.

From that time the president became a different person. He dwelt on castigation of his political opponents including church leaders. The Church leaders wanted him to desist from such behaviour but he agreed only by his lips. He did not change until the end of his term of office. One year before the election he surprised his executive members by introducing somebody who was not even a member of the party – Dr. Bingu wa Muntharika to replace him. This led to the resignation from the party and government of key Cabinet Ministers some of whom joined other parties. Then the campaign for the unknown Muntharika began. In 1999, Muntharika was a contestant in the presidential race with Muluzi. Muluzi managed to thoroughly cut him to size. He only got less than half of 1% and his party was buried with no hope of resurrection.

However, in a World of political surprises like ours, Bingu wa Muntharika is now the new President of Malawi. He has a PhD in Economics and has promised Malawians many things. It is yet to be seen what he will offer.

Malawians belong to different camps of politics and sometimes nasty incidences occur because of war of words. However, when all is said and done Malawians embrace one another. We support each other in times of loss in death, we support each other in environmental disasters and we love visitors to our country. It is one of the most beautiful countries around this region. We are proud to call ourselves the Warm Heart of Africa.

## CHURCH ROOFING

There are about a thousand churches in Malawi with not less than 160,000 baptized members. When a Church is established the members look forward to having a plot to build their own church building. A Chief freely gives some of it although people collect something to thank him for. Then everybody becomes activated to work. They build a temporary shelter and begin to worship. Before long they mould bricks with the help of volunteers within the Church or outside. They collect firewood to burn them. Then they build the structure and put rafters on top. Then they write our office for assistance. In many cases we have disappointed them with our reply “No Money.” A few churches have had assistance from individual Baptists or churches from other countries. They have been looked at as lucky ones.

As I am writing I have eighty-three letters asking for assistance for iron sheets – some of them have been sitting in the office for 5 years and still nothing has been done. Our plea is to ask for assistance for Churches beginning with even one. It costs about US\$500 to roof a Church.

## CONCLUSION

This is a general overview of the work in Malawi. It is not our expectation that all these needs which are overwhelming will be met at once. It will have to start with one. Any areas where individuals or organizations are interested to assist us may write for more details. It is wonderful to have been acquainted with you and it is my hope and that of the Baptist Convention as the whole that our bond of fellowship will continue until He returns.

Fletcher Kaiya, General Secretary - BACOMA

# **The Evangelical College of Theology (TECT) Jui/Sierra Leone**

## **Principal's Report Academic Year 2003/04:**

Dear partners, proprietors, and friends of TECT,

It gives me profound pleasure as we approach the end of the 2003/04 academic year to update you on the activities of the college. I want to thank you all for your support, cooperation and counsel, which enabled this college to function effectively during the past year. The Lord met our needs in various forms, thereby enabling the administration to perform the task entrusted to them.

### **Cooperation of staff and students.**

At the beginning of the year I succeeded Rev. Sylvanus J. Valcarcel as Principal of TECT. The Academic Year started on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2003 with our traditional convocation service. The signing of the College statement of faith was done under the supervision of the Board Chairman, Rev. J.Y. Conteh. The guest speaker was Rev. Leslie A.W. Shyllon of the Department of Theology of FBC.

There is a total of 22 staff members, including 3 female teachers sponsored by TECT during their studies. They are Agnes Lamin, Juliana Walker and Elizabeth Sowa. Another lady employed was Grace Bangurah, who is lecturing in Development Studies. I am glad to report the return to the college from the USA of Dr. and Mrs. Jack Chalk after prolonged illness.

Mr. Joseph Koroma, the Business Administrator, has enrolled at the Njala University College and is now pursuing a Master's Degree in Development.

The staff continued to demonstrate commitment to the college as manifested by their outstanding cooperation and participation in the varied activities of the college. The administration appreciates the moral and academic performance of our students. Their participation in chapel and other activities was good. They were also involved in the weekly campus cleaning exercise, which was supervised by the Registrar and the Dean of Students.

### **Graduation 2003.**

The 2003 graduation exercise was held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Jui campus. The guest speaker was Mrs. Blanche Macauley. The College theme for the year was "The Role of Theology in Sustainable Development." The total number of 43 students, including 7 women, graduated in the various programmes. The three female students who were trained to serve the college on the teaching staff graduated and are now employed.

### **Ministry to amputees.**

The college continues to minister to the amputees at their various locations at Aberdeen Road, Hastings, and Jui Cashew Farm. In February 2004 we organised a three-day HIV/AIDS sensitisation seminar for amputees here at the college campus. Thirty-five of them attended. The Amputee ministry programme was supported this year by Samaritan Purse through Overseas Council International (OIC).

### **Community Development Studies.**

I am pleased to inform you that the Community Development study programme will start classes in the 2004/05 academic year. The application and selection of students is currently going on. Applications for other programmes are also in progress and interviews would be called soon to do the final selections.

### **Public Relations Week.**

This was a week-long programme organised every year to create public awareness of the existence of the Evangelical College of Theology through Radio/TV panel discussions, handbills, and public lectures. Students and staff were given time to talk about TECT in their churches. This year's programme was held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of March, and was climaxed by our annual sports meeting. Sister theological and other higher institutions of learning were invited to participate.

### **Students/Academic Work.**

A total of 45 students were admitted for the 2003/04 Academic Year: Degree course 20, Diploma of Theology 8, Diploma in Christian Ministries 11, Diploma in Computer Studies 6. The number of returning students is 74. Total student population is 119.

The admission process for 2004/05 is in progress. The academic performance of our students is very satisfactory. We continue to maintain standards set by ACTEA and the University of Sierra Leone in order to keep our accreditation status. It is now ten years since ACTEA accredited TECT. In the near future ACTEA would be sending people for re-evaluation of the college.

### **Finance.**

Let me use this opportunity to thank the proprietor bodies – the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, the Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone, the Countess of Huntingdon Connexion, and the United Brethren in Christ – as well as other donor partners, such as Overseas Council International, Back to the Bible Organisation, Council of Churches in Sierra Leone, and individual churches and friends who supported the college financially and provided scholarship assistance to students. However, not all proprietors were able to pay their full grants and fulfil their commitment to TECT. Payments vouchers and notification were sent to the proprietors by the Business Administrator to pay in their fees. If such a trend will continue the administration will find it difficult to operate successfully.

Since we rely on our generator for electricity supply, we have spent much more than we had budgeted, due to the fact that the 20-year old machine needs frequent maintenance. There will be a need to replace the machine very soon.

### **Facilities.**

There are lots of problems with our campus facilities. I regret to report that termites are seriously attacking the old inherited buildings, which has resulted in broken doors, windows and locks in students dorms and staff houses. The greater part of our water running pipes are old and leaking. Salt water has affected our screens and the zinc on the roofs. Bullets from gunfire during the war made lots of holes in our roofs, which has caused damage to the ceilings.

The administration plans to undertake maintenance work in the course of the long vacation to avoid further deterioration of our facilities.

## **Theft.**

I regret to inform you that the college store behind the Principal's Residence was broken into, and materials valued in the millions were stolen, including a new generator belonging to the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. The matter was quickly reported to the Police. Suspects were detained for questioning but were later released on bail because according to the police they did not find any proof that they were involved in the matter. Thieving has been going on in the campus since last year when government began to lease state land to people in this community.

I have taken the necessary steps to reinforce the windows with iron bars and all open areas cemented with blocks. One watchman has been dismissed and the services of an armed OSD Personnel have been contracted.

Let me once again take this time to thank all members of the Board of Governors for their participation at meetings and other programmes. I thank you for your counsel which helped me greatly in my administration. Special thanks to the members of the Finance and General Purpose Committee for their valuable contributions and guidance.

My thanks and appreciation goes to the Administrative Council and the entire staff for their cooperation that enhanced my leadership. God bless you all.

Rev. Abu M. Conteh; Principal

# Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone

## EBM EDUCATION REPORT 2004

Hans-Willem Oostserloo

### DESCRIPTION

Sierra Leone has 80% illiteracy rate (88.7% female, 69.3% male). Enrolment rates in education as presented below, continue to decline with 35% for primary schools, 11% for secondary schools. According to the UNDP's Human Resources Development Index, the country ranks almost last in the world:

#### DATA ON EDUCATION – SIERRA LEONE

##### PUPILS AND TEACHER NUMBERS

Sex	Primary			Secondary		
	Pupils	Teachers		Pupils	Teachers	
		Qualified	Unqualified		Qualified	Unqualified
Male	284,880	3,502	3,534	45,093	1,926	2,070
Female	230,266	1,919	1,268	28,523	631	496
Total	515,146	5,421	4,802	73,616	2,557	2,566

BCSL is sponsoring schools both primary, secondary and even technical vocational institutes in the country these schools are operated mostly in the Northern Region in areas that were affected by the war.

#### DATA ON EDUCATION – BCSL (PUPILS & TEACHER NUMBERS)

No.	Schools	Pupils	Teachers
20	Primary	5,400	130
4	Secondary	1,578	93
1	Technical-Vocational Institutes	300	30
2	Vocational Centres	45	5
	Totals	7,323	258

Ministerial Students (Proprietor Sponsored) .....

All Baptist schools operate on single shift except one primary school in Freetown (on double shift system).

The BCSL Social Ministries Department, Principal and Staff and the Community Teachers' Association (CTA) manage all BCSL schools. Each school of the Convention has a Board for policy making subject.

The General Certificates offered in our schools are:

1. NPSE (National Primary School Examinations) Certificate from classes 1 to 6 enables pupils to enter
2. Basic Certificate of Education from JSS I to III that enables pupils to enter into the Senior Secondary School system.
3. WASCE: West African Senior Certificate of Education. From SSS I to III that enables pupils to enter into colleges/universities.
4. City and Guilds Certificate Technical/Vocational Schools leading to university level.

It could be recalled that one of our secondary schools was ranked first place for the BECE 2001 among the government and government assisted schools.

## SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND INDIVIDUAL SITUATION OF THE PUPILS/STUDENTS

Government cannot afford salaries for teachers since resources have gone towards prosecuting and ending the war. Most of the teachers have gone for months without salaries.

Most parents and children are still displaced and most of them could no longer secure gainful employment. This as a result, has hampered the learning process of most children, as parents could not fulfil their obligations in terms of enrolment of kids.

Illiteracy is bound to further increased except an immediate foreign assistance is sought.

Government has a restrictive policy with regards to recruitment of new teachers in the teaching profession. Teachers could only be replaced. Therefore possibility of absorbing new recruitment was practically impossible.

Investing in girl education makes more socio-economic sense. Many studies indicate that mothers channel more of their own incomes to expenditures on children than do fathers and in virtually all societies, women are much more involved in the immediate care of children and in the critical decisions about food, sanitation and general nurturing, all of which affect children's health and development.

Government policy on education continues to be directed towards the achievement of universal basic education at the reduction of adult illiteracy.

One disturbing feature of the educational situation today is that access to real secondary schools (SSS) and hence to tertiary institutions is becoming increasingly correlated with the urban and socio-economic background of pupils.

To bring this point home, let's see the results and implications of the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). Most times about 60% ostensibly passed. The question asked is "What provision is there for the 40% who do not qualify to continue with their education and are therefore forced to dropout of school at the age of 15, 16 or 17. Of the 60% passed, not more than 20% (aggregates 8 – 10) would enter any meaningful, purposeful and decent senior secondary, vocational or technical schools. The issue here is not availability of secondary schools but accessibility to good quality schools.

Our educational systems are badly balanced. The distribution of urban and rural educational infrastructures is dangerously uneven. To some schools in the typical interior region, one teacher mans one whole school, teaching 11 subjects. The present situation creates inequalities in the provision of education. Such inequities undermine efforts to achieve equality and political stability.

## PRINCIPLE

The guiding principles underlying the new educational system could be summarized as follows: -

- Every child should have between 1 – 3 years of preparation at Nursery and Kindergarten school;
- Formal education should start at the age of 6 years;
- Basic education should last for 9 years, which should ultimately be free and compulsory;
- Formal education should be broad based with practice programmes that lead to skills acquisition and
- At the pre-University level, emphasis should be placed on
  - i. Acquisition of normal skills and development of practical activities.
  - ii. Development and study of indigenous Languages, Science and mathematics.
  - iii. Relevant teacher education and
  - iv. Full economic use of education facilities.

## STRUCTURE

In order to foster the above an improved educational structure is conceived as follows: -

- Optional pre-school for 3 – 6 years age group;
- 9 years basic education comprising 6 years Primary Schooling, 3 years Junior Secondary Schooling, 3 years of Senior Secondary or Technical Vocational Education and 4 years of higher Education;
- Priority for Adult and Non-formal education; and
- Universities to meet high level manpower needs

**Fourah Bay College** – Pure, Applied Sciences and Technologies  
**Njala University College** – Science, Agriculture, Home Economics,  
Environmental Sciences and Education.

**College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences**

**Milton Margai Teacher College, Institute of Education**

**Training Colleges** – Teachers Training and

**Institute of Public Administration and Management** – Administration and  
Management Training

## SERVICES

Educational Services are to be provided by the Ministry of Education. The following are established:

- Curriculum Research and Development;
- Guidance and Counseling;
- School Broadcasting;
- Special Needs Education (Disable Children)
- National Languages
- Examination System – national primary School Exams (NPSE), Basic Education Exams (BECE) and Senior Secondary School Exams (SSSCE) and
- Women and Girls Education Programmes.

## FINANCING

To enhance to quality and relevance, the educational system requires increased levels of funding domestic as well as External Donors and NGO's. This will be achieved by: -

- Increase in Central Government founding to education with support to basic education;
- Government budget will be re-allocated in support of basic education;
- User charges for use of text books, technical and vocational equipment and materials;
- Community participation in education;
- Local Government support towards education;
- Development of self-help schemes;
- External assistance to education through investment and re-current expenditures;
- Non-Governmental Agencies and Inter-Government Organizations contribution to education and
- Development of work study programmes and loan schemes.

## TEACHERS/QUALIFICATION

No person shall be employed as a permanent full-time teacher in any school unless he/she holds a professional certificate/degree. About 85% of Baptist teachers are

trained and qualified. Certificates T. C. and H. T. C. (Primary) for primary schools. Certificates H. T. C. (Secondary), HND, Degrees, NCTVA etc. for secondary and technical schools. The appointment of teachers in any assisted school like ours lies with the proprietor acting on behalf of the Board of Governors.

## ACCOMMODATION AND BOARD

All Baptist schools are day-running schools (non-accommodated).

## EQUIPMENT

Lack of educational facilities, material, equipment has been a cause of serious concern. The war has made the situation worse, as few schools could meet with materials, equipment for the prosecution of the educational task. Most school equipment were vandalized and looted during the war.

## SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

The mission of BCSL is to draw together all school going pupils through Area Associations and to seek in all its endeavours to fulfill the will of Christ through education so that the lives of the pupils will be in harmony with the word of God and that people will see Christ through them.

## CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

The background picture presented so far indicates a situation of urgency. The state of education as an instrument of development has been a cause of serious concern. Despite the well-planned educational system pursued by government, education in the country is in 'shambles'. The decade rebel war has over stretched the limited educational facilities in the country.

The startling revelation is that 60% of pupils in our primary schools are unable to read and write. Only a percentage of pupils in primary (class six) can exhibit adequate knowledge of English and mathematics. This situation is a "daunting problem" for the country's education system. Several schools in several localities scored zero percent at the BECE examinations.

A thorough re-examination of Sierra Leone's educational system is socially, politically and economically necessary. Intellectually everyone agrees, but the sense of urgency that it cannot wait is what is missing. This is our challenges.

With the publication of The Education Act, 2004, being an Act to reform the education system, including provision for pre-primary education, technical and vocational training, adult and non-formal education and the role of universities and to provide for other related matters, there are clear prospects ahead for our educational system.

## **EUROPEAN BAPTIST MISSION**

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### Education Report 2004

This report covers the Baptist Convention College (BCC) in Soweto, which is the institution of formal theological training for pastors of the Baptist Convention of South Africa. BCC was founded in 1995 and is going to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. Already this year 2004 the country of South Africa is celebrating 10 years of freedom and democracy and BCC is joining by holding its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter School with the topic “10 Years On – Celebration and Challenge” (June 29 – July 2).

BCC has come a long way from the humble beginnings with 9 students in one classroom and a “library” of 20 books. Since 1997 we are located in Orlando East / Soweto and have experienced tremendous growth. We are currently occupying a campus with three classrooms, administrative buildings, a library with about 15000 volumes and accommodation for 20 students.

In 2004 BCC has 59 registered students:

- ❑ 21 full-time and 38 part-time;
- ❑ 45 for a Diploma, 1 for Certificate, 13 for specific courses only;
- ❑ 14 female, 45 male students
- ❑ 18 living on campus

In March we celebrated the graduation of 8 students (7 with Diploma, 1 Certificate), which brings the total number of Graduates since the beginning of the College to 38.

The students come from all over South Africa, as BCC is the only theological seminary for the BCSA. We have even trained one minister from Botswana and one who originates from Sudan. The influx of immigrants from many African countries challenges us to do even more for the rest of the continent. This year BCC has received several applications from francophone Africans, who could not be accepted to BCC mainly on the grounds of language proficiency and financial viability. One of our new students 2004 is a pastor from DR Congo. The part-time student programme is continuously growing and challenging our administration very much. These students have commitments to jobs, family or churches, that keep them from studying full-time and staying on campus. So they do their studies mainly by correspondence and by monthly contact sessions on a Saturday.

BCC mainly offers a Diploma in Theology and a Diploma in Ministry. Most students take both Diplomas concurrently and need three years to complete them. The Diploma in Theology is accredited by the “Joint Board” which is a substructure of the South African Council for Theological Education (SACTE). This Diploma is highly accredited and valued by Universities and has opened our graduates many doors into degree studies. The private higher education sector in South Africa is currently under special scrutiny by the Department of Education and some major changes are to be expected in the near future. BCC is therefore working hard to fulfil the requirements of the government institutions, so that it can continue to offer theological education of high standards and accreditation. In that regard we value the cooperation with SACTE and the Joint Board very highly. In the Joint Board we are also united with our sister institution, the Baptist Seminary in Gweru/Zimbabwe.

BCC has a decidedly contextual approach to theology and works towards an Outcomes-Based understanding of education. We expect staff and students to

- ❑ seek to bring Scripture and context to bear upon each other,
- ❑ critique their own theology and practice in a creative and prophetic way,
- ❑ avoid the privatisation of the Gospel and instead pursue a holistic, biblical spirituality,
- ❑ critically affirm the Baptist heritage and remain in dialogue with other believers
- ❑ remain in close contact with the local churches and adhere to the Christian faith.

In order to meet specific demands of our times and context, BCC has started to offer training in Children's and Youth Ministry and has installed a specific course for a Christian response to the HIV/AIDS crisis. The Annual Winter Schools are open for any participant and deal with the pressing theological and social issues of the time.

Over a period of several years, BCSA and BCC have entertained talks with the theological seminaries of the Baptist Union of South Africa and the Afrikaanse Baptiste Kerk. They have led to a concept proposal for a Federated College to bring the three existing colleges together into close cooperation on one campus. Unfortunately this proposal could not be pursued further after the Baptist Union withdrew from the plans and talks. At this point in time the BCSA is looking for a new campus for BCC to find better and more suitable facilities for the theological training. The campus in Orlando is too limited in space and facilities and does not offer room for major improvements. A committee is tasked to find a suitable campus for a reasonable price in the Gauteng province.

The staff of BCC consists of the following:

- ❑ 4 full-time lecturers (1 German, 3 South African)
- ❑ 9 part-time lecturers (1 German, 8 South African; 3 female, 6 male)
- ❑ 4 administrative and technical staff (1 German, 3 South African; 3 female, 1 male)

Full-time lecturers have by now all finished their Master's degrees, and so have most part-time lecturers. Several of them have benefited from the partnership programme, BCC has with the Northern Baptist Seminary in Manchester/UK, where every year one BCSA member receives a scholarship for studies at Master's level.

BCC is led by a Governing Board consisting of the full-time lecturers, two student representatives and six experts from the BCSA. The Governing Board has recently been restructured and is taking responsibility for the overall running of BCC. It reports to the National Executive and Assembly of BCSA. Financially BCC is stable and receives approval of public auditors. At the same time, the budget of BCC is depending on donations from overseas organisations, especially the Baptist Missionary Society in the UK. BCSA and BCC are working towards reducing this dependency and growing the support for the College locally and nationally. Fund-raising initiatives and BCC deputations are helping to improve the local support base.

The challenges for BCC are

- ❑ to maintain its high standard of theological education,
- ❑ to find a more suitable campus,
- ❑ to employ more national staff, esp. full-time lecturers (female!),
- ❑ to extend its programmes to offer more training for lay people as well as theological training on degree levels,
- ❑ to stabilise its budget by increasing the support from local donors,
- ❑ and to keep equipping women and men for ministry in the churches and wider society.

# South Africa - Report on the Social projects

Compiled by N P Msiza, General Secretary of the BCSA.

## 1. Introduction

The BCSA social ministry was established in 1995 under the Vision Jubilee 2010. The social ministry is divided into three components, the vocational (education) training, social care and kindergarden.

## 2. Vocational training

The BCSA runs a vocational training center called Thusong (a place to find help). The center offers education or training in the following skills:

- Dress Making
- Catering
- Motor mechanic
- Auto-electrician
- Penal Beating and spray painting

The students who are trained come from Soweto and the surrounding areas. We do have students that come from other parts of South Africa. In 2002 the center has enrolled 96 students for different skills training. All 96 students received certificates that were accredited by an institution that is authorized by the South African government to award qualification. In 2003 and 2004 the Thusong Center enrolled students for dress making only and these were the women who are living with AIDS. The center could not offer training in other skills because there were no funds to subsidize the training. The money that is paid by the students is very little to keep the operation going. At present the BCSA is engaged in talks to the Government department to solicit funding for training.

## 3. Social Care

In 2001 the BCSA established the HIV/AIDS Desk with the aim to contribute in the fight against the spread of HIV and AIDS. At present there are 10 projects that were established by various churches and individual members of the BCSA. The projects respond to the AIDS pandemic by providing the following services:

1. Home Based Care: Projects have trained volunteers who visit patients at their homes and give the needed care. There are 104 volunteers that are linked to our projects. For this year our projects take care of 601 patients.
2. Care for AIDS Orphans: We have 241 orphans that are taken care of in our various projects.
3. Education about HIV/AIDS in schools: so far we have one project that works with two schools to educate children and provide care for affected children.
4. Feeding Scheme: there is also one project that works with the local government office to provide food for the needy families. The project distributes food parcels to more than 100 families per year.

## 4. Kindergarden

The BCSA ministry also coordinates 9 kindergardens that are run by churches and individual members. These kindergardens are supported financially and by means of toys that we receive from partners like EBM and American Baptist Churches. Some kindergardens have received funds to build and purchase equipment for the project. We are very thankful for the support that we receive from all our partners.

## **5. Conclusion**

The social ministry of the BCSA is a very important component of missions. In Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus Christ, our Lord, teaches us that mission is not only the preaching of the gospel but the demonstration of the gospel through the acts of love and mercy. We are called to take care of those who are in need. We want to say thank you to those who have come along side us by giving support for the ministry.