

The phrase *excellence in education* has been heard with increasing frequency throughout the territory of the Eastern Africa Division during the past quinquennium. Studies of our educational system at the beginning of the cycle indicated that changes needed to be made if our students were to be adequately prepared to participate in developing their own society and witnessing for God. Thus there has been a major drive to update teaching facilities, especially in the major secondary schools.

To achieve a balance in the educational system we have emphasized the integration of academic and vocational courses, with the result that subjects like agriculture, scientific vegetable gardening, woodwork, metalwork, sewing, cookery, and typing have been incorporated into the secondary curriculum. The division's development aid office has played a significant role in helping raise funds to purchase modern equipment.

The challenge of finding academically and professionally prepared personnel to achieve excellence in our educational system has been and continues to be a significant problem. In an effort to train personnel to meet this challenge the EAD established an institution of higher learning. Opened in 1980 with only 17 students, the University of Eastern Africa has since grown until 300 students are now pursuing degree programs ranging from agriculture and business to education and theology. At the close of 1984, 119 persons had graduated with various degrees, most of whom are now working in our senior secondary schools.

Because the EAD territory is too large for one small university to be able to train enough personnel to meet its needs, the division in 1980 worked to



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reopen Solusi College, which had been closed for three years as the result of war. Since reopening, Solusi has expanded its program. It now offers courses in agriculture and runs an Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)-sponsored scientific vegetable gardening program. Many secondary schools in the division have greatly benefited from these practically oriented programs. Some of those who graduated from this course are helping the schools raise their own vegetables and increase agricultural production. The secondary students involved in this work also acquire gardening skills.

In October, 1984, Solusi completed an affiliation agreement with Andrews University and is now able to offer degree programs in theology, business, and education. Serious consideration is also being given to offering a bachelor of science degree in agriculture.

As Seventh-day Adventists in the Eastern Africa Division, we believe that part of being created in the image of God is the ability to be creatively industrious. This idea has been inte-



*Industrial training,
University of Eastern Africa.*

grated into the curriculum and has mandated not only the teaching of basic skills, but also instruction in small-scale practical subjects.

The recent widespread drought has created economic problems for our members, since more than 90 percent of them live off the land. When crops failed due to a four-year drought, their financial resources were nearly exhausted and educational development plans slowed down.

Despite these difficulties, we are full of courage and trust that with the determination of our people we will, through the Lord's help, be able to develop and implement the type of curriculum that will teach the essential skills to enable our young people to function successfully in our technologically oriented society.

With its many needs, the Eastern Africa Division poses real challenges in education. Considerable progress has been made in the past five years, but we still have a long way to go. We are indeed thankful to God for His guiding and prospering hand in our efforts. With the assurance of His blessing, we press on to achieve true excellence in Christian education.

includes physical exercise.

Practical training at the University of Eastern Africa.