



## Update Report 2010

### Brief Overview of the Impact of FEISA in 2009

- In 2009, **31 students** graduated from FEISA bringing the total number of FEISA graduates to **108** since it began in the year 2000.
- Approximately **1180 children** were reached with high quality education in 2009 through the teaching of our graduates.
- Since FEISA began we estimate that some **4480 children** have benefitted from the teaching of our graduates and this number will increase each year as more students graduate.
- Though all student fees are subsidised, **16 students** received scholarships in 2009. None would have been able to study without this support.
- The mobile play scheme (Toy Library), set up in 2005 with the benefit of external funding, ran **20 play sessions** during 2009 giving some **1000 children** from poor and disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to learn through play.
- The pioneering contextualised preschool programme for schools in indigenous areas, produced by FEISA in Spanish and in Enxet the indigenous language, was distributed to **14 schools** benefitting **160 indigenous children** in 2009. A total of **270 workbooks** were given to Spanish speaking indigenous schools and **284 workbooks** to Enxet speaking communities. These resources were also uploaded onto an internet site, [www.scribd.com](http://www.scribd.com), to make them available for download world wide. To date they have received **191,000 views** and been downloaded by **8,800 people**, many of whom are working with Latin America's poorest children.



### Our Students

We give thanks to the Lord and to each of you because through your generous support FEISA is able to continue the ministry of training teachers, transforming our student's lives and, most importantly, the lives of the children that they teach.

Currently, we have 12 students who are receiving scholarships. One of these Miriam Mendoza, who is finishing her final year, writes:

*"My name is Miriam, I am 24 years old, and I live with my mother and brother. My father passed away five years ago. My brother and I help with the expenses of the house because my mum does not work. Since I was in first grade my dream was to be a teacher but I thought that was an unreachable goal. I worked in my church as a volunteer giving lunch to children who couldn't afford it. Thanks to FEISA I had the opportunity to study and therefore my dream came true. Now I am working in a nursery and with the money I earn there I can help my mother to improve her quality of life. Thank you so much for blessing my life."*



## Teaching Practice Department

**74 students** from the 3 year groups were able to complete their teaching practices during 2009 reaching approximately **2320 children** with innovative ideas and new teaching methodologies. In the majority of Paraguayan schools the emphasis is upon rote learning and generally there are few innovative and interactive teaching methods. The teachers who received FEISA students commented on their creativity, reliability and their beautifully prepared lesson plans and resources. Many schools visited during teaching practice use the student teachers' ideas after they have left.



In the yearly evaluation completed by FEISA students, one commented regarding her training in FEISA:

*“Our teaching practices prepare us very thoroughly for our teaching profession. FEISA gives us great support in our planning and the time to prepare well. The teachers are always available to answer any questions and the individual attention we get in the correction of our plans helps us to reach the goals we hope to achieve with our pupils. The very well resourced library and teaching practice department enables us to do all the research we need and provide us with a wide selection of creative resources to use in our teaching practices. The lesson observation I received from FEISA was objective and constructive and was extremely helpful for my professional development. Such care, support and individual attention cannot be found in any other teacher training college in Paraguay.”*



FEISA students take much needed teaching materials to these very poorly resourced schools and introduce interactive games and activities to the children and teachers.

## Degree Course

Our two- year degree course which opened in 2008 is an extension to the diploma course and is designed to prepare students to take up positions of leadership in educational institutions. During 2009, 11 students received their degrees. With God's help we continue to serve the 21 students enrolled this year.

## Our Graduates

Andrea, one of our graduates writes:

*“The years I have been a student at FEISA have really impacted upon my life. Firstly, I really appreciate that all of our tutors are Christians who are dedicated to us becoming good nursery and reception teachers. They also have a relationship with God and that is visible because they share their faith and testimony with us. They are not only tutors, they are also friends. Secondly, the training I receive at FEISA is very good. I have had some great lectures and also very good teaching practices in different nurseries and schools. Thanks to all these experiences, I had the opportunity to learn more about Paraguayan education. My teaching practices gave me the opportunity of working with really poor children and abandoned babies and gaining experience in setting up and running toy-library sessions. Apart from receiving good training as a teacher, I have also learned most of my English at FEISA (I only had very basic English when I started). Thank for all your hard work and enthusiasm. May God bless you.”*



*FEISA Training Teachers, Transforming Lives*

## Ludoteca (Toy Library)

The toy-library at FEISA is an important ministry which is helping us each year to reach many poor children who have few toys of their own and provide them with the opportunity to play, - enjoy what they most like to do. Through this work we have seen how much joy and satisfaction that children with scant resources can experience when they are able to spend their time playing. During 2010 we continue to regularly take the toy-library to many churches, schools, orphanages, and to organizations for children affected with AIDS and for those with disabilities. We are very grateful to our donors for their generosity in assisting us to provide so much joy and the opportunity to learn through play for so many children



## Library and iT Lab

The Ministry of Education recently commented that FEISA has the best Early Years library in Paraguay. In her yearly evaluation of FEISA, one student wrote:

*“FEISA has a very well resourced and organized library enabling us to access information and resources quickly and easily for our lessons and teaching practices.”*

37% of students in FEISA do not have a computer at home. For this reason the IT lab and individualized teaching are of vital importance for their professional training. The evidence of their improved IT skills can be seen in their planning and course work, all of which have to be produced on the computer. In her evaluation of the IT lab one student wrote:

*“FEISA provides us with computers, access to internet and help and support in using them. For me this is a great help as I do not have a computer at home.”*

In 2010 we have been able to install Microsoft Word and Excel on our computers because the students expressed difficulty in using OpenOffice, the free download which we had been using, because it is not known here in Paraguay.



***We would like thank you all for your very generous donations to FEISA. The lives of many young people and children in Paraguay have been, and continue to be, transformed though your help and support.***

