

2014 Sandwich Fair Report

It was a test to see if the Sandwich Fair was worth a second try. The Sandwich Fair has been around since 1888 and is the 2nd largest fair in Illinois. Only the State Fair in Springfield is larger. To boost interest in our booth, a special card was sent to 5,000 names in the Oswego and Yorkville, IL communities. It's hard to know how many visitors to our booth received a card, but some mentioned receiving the card in the mail and I thought there was more traffic and interest than last year. People remembered us from last year and mentioned having picked up items from our booth. In spite of the rain and extreme heat, each shift of the fair had opportunities for witnessing and blessings.

We used the basic approach that was used at the Indiana State Fair with the APP card and How to Study the Bible booklet as the main FREE offer to visitors. We also had a small cargo trailer parked nearby so we could keep supplies to a useful, uncluttered number and replenish as needed. New faces in the staff included Br. Roland Osipov (Canada), Sr. Lyn York (Michigan), Br. Dan Larson (Chicago), Br. Jack and Sr. Donna Whittaker (Chicago), and Br. Seth Kopak (new in Chicago). We certainly don't want to forget little Julia Hosu and Marcus. It brings back memories of when my mom would bring Alys and me to service meetings and tracting. Thank you Sr. Patricia.

I appreciated that Srs. Alina and Veronica (both also new in Chicago) served on Sunday. It would have been a long day without their help. It was good to get to know Seth better and have his help in the teardown stage.

There were a variety of challenges. Some included the rain, heat, and humidity. Other challenges came from witnessing experiences or even the lack thereof. Everyday ended with the question, "How did you handle today's challenge?" Brethren were motivated to find better answers or study the subject for better understanding. That is good. There are just so many subjects to remember how to explain them. Witnessing helps dust off the grey cells of the brain.

Seth and Alina met Howard. He had questions on the 70 years prophecy. (You **never** know what subject is coming up next!) It was interesting. We had just discussed this before Howard came up. I wasn't there for the discussion with Howard and I'm glad. Everyone needs these experiences to struggle through on their own. It's a great motivation to study a subject. I'm sure they were motivated after Howard left! Later in the day, Howard came back. He jumped around spouting various dates... 1844, 1914, 1972, etc. He wasn't looking for answers as much as testing to see what we knew. These discussions don't *seem* to produce much fruitage, unless we think of it as *our* training ground.

The Lord blesses us even on our worst day of the fair (whether from weather or conversation). It's a personal gift from Him.

"No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the fruit of peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:11

The brethren did well.
I enjoyed working with them all.
Br. Mark Kandel

It was a great pleasure this year to be at the Sandwich Fair. The people were either very willing to talk or they just said no. We had no one who was hostile. It was a blessing to work with Sr. Lyn York. We made a good team and placed about 25 volumes and many "How to Study the Bible" packets. A number of people remembered the booth from last year, which is always great. Witnessing for the Lord is a true blessing!

Bro. Dan Larson

Sr. Lyn York asked me to phone a lady who was interested in attending a study with others on the phone. I phoned, left message and my phone #. Shortly after, the lady returned my call.

We had a very nice discussion. However, I learned that the lady wants to attend a study in person with other women...not on the phone. And that she wants a study in her town (where there are no Brethren for quite a distance...we're about 1-2 hrs north of her).

I encouraged her to study with her friends, even if only one (which she does have who wants to study with her). I described to her how some of the "sisters' studies" I've attended were done. I also told her I would be more than happy to help them however I can, for example, with research to any questions that come up.

After we hung up...she emailed me twice thanking me for encouraging and inspiring her. I don't know where it will go from here, but I'll contact her next week to see if anything happened. We developed a good relationship, which I think will become valuable as the church she attends (for 11 years and does not plan to leave) will very likely tell her not to study on her own. I think that may cause a rift between the community church and her.

I will keep up with her to support her private study and perhaps it will become a study between the two of us on the phone or Internet. We did not get into any doctrinal discussion...just how to study. She has e-Sword and uses it...so next time I will try to approach "topical" study and the chart.

I am grateful for the opportunity....

Sr. Alys

Jack and I had the privilege of serving for a four hour time slot at the Sandwich Fair this year. Much appreciation goes to Bro. Mark in that we actually feel like we take advantage of his hard work. The booth is arranged and stocked very conveniently to allow us to meet the public with a truth message and proper literature for support. Even though the first three hours of our assigned time was met with torrential rain and the turn out was slight, we still found a blessing in the final hour of our assignment. The majority of people seemed to "dodge" the booth, but those who approached seemed to be genuine in their curiosity. Bro. Jack found a blessing in spending a considerable amount of time with a young father who took his spiritual responsibilities very seriously. His questions and sincerity were very refreshing. My particular blessing was the opportunity to walk a gentleman through the Abrahamic promise and bring it up-to-date in that it is yet to be fulfilled. As he listened, he seemed to be very intrigued and actually thinking about what he was hearing. He found it a valid application of scripture that he had never considered. When the rain finally ended, that last hour flew by and we kept busy with individuals "checking us out." We had the opportunity to sell a few first volumes, CD's, and one of the new children's story books. We leave all in the overruling of our Heavenly Father as He does the calling.

Br. Jack and Sr. Donna Whittaker

We arrived at the fairgrounds during a heavy rain that lasted for about a half hour before moving out of the area. It was senior discount day, and there were a few older people in the building when we arrived about 1:00 PM. We had a number of people that viewed the free literature rack and the DVD display, and a woman whom we spoke with regarding Israel's future in the kingdom said she is watching the events in Gaza and the US involvement with Israel. She believed that Israel has a favored place in God's arrangement and purchased two of the Israel DVD's.

Another couple was interested in finding a commentary that would give them an understanding of Scriptures, and after viewing the Chart of the Ages with explanatory comments on the back, and the columnar reference card to the topics in the volumes and Tabernacle, were glad to see that each of the volumes had a Scripture Index that indicates which page in the volume contained explanatory comment for a specific verse. They purchased a 7 in 1 copy and also took some free literature.

Our last experience was with a young mother who said she and her husband were making a regular study of the Bible and needed something to assist their understanding. She was very pleased to see the topical approach of the volumes and purchased a set of the Scripture Studies. She also was very interested in the new spiral bound children's book for her son, "God's Plan for Everybody," but only had \$1 left in her wallet. We offered to pay for the book if she promised to read it, and she said, "I really will!" She also said she lived nearby to the fairgrounds in Plano, and gave us her name and phone and we in turn gave her ours and offered to help answer any questions she may have when reading to her son, or studying the volumes with her husband. This was our highlight experience of the day.

By the end of our day, the sun had been out after the rain, and a good number of people had stopped at the booth and discussed things like how near we thought the kingdom was, and what terrorism is doing to our society. It was a joy to leave them the hope of the blessings in God's plan soon to unfold in His kingdom.

Br. Ed & Sr. Rachel Bushlus

"I appreciated the opportunity to serve at the Sandwich Fair again this year. Unfortunately Friday evening was a wet one at the Fair, which cut down on the attendance. The building where our booth was located did not have too much foot traffic at our end of the building; but the occasional downpours would boost traffic; so they were literally "showers of blessings."

The highlight for me was having Sr. Lynn Reeland and Sr. Patricia Hosu, along with little Julia and Marcus, serving with me. Julia did a wonderful job of attracting people to the booth to hand them a free booklet or highlighter. Who could resist such an adorable little girl trying to hand you something free, right?

Although we did not sell anything that evening, or have any deep conversations, we were thankful to be available to be used in the Lord's service and expose the children to sharing the Truth with hearing ears.

*In His Service,
Sr. Roberta Tabac*

I was there on Friday night with Julia and Marcus, sister Lynn and sister Roberta. As you know, we had a big downpour right as we arrived, and traffic was very slow mainly because of the rain.

However, the few people we had a chance to talk to were very sweet, and Julia played a big part in attracting customers as she was offering them booklets and free pens! The ones that stopped did get some of our free literature, as Julia was handing out bags for them to get more :) One gentleman started a nice conversation with her about school, and then asked a few questions about our group, but wasn't really interested in buying the volumes.... However, he did donate 5\$ for our church funds.

Overall it was a great experience, and as we inquired with the other sellers around us, everyone thought that traffic was slow because of the weather.

The table was very nicely organized, and everything was set up at the entry gate for us to be able to walk right in!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and for your hard work, diligence and efforts in spreading the truth!

In Him,
Sister Patricia Hosu

It was a blessing to be able to participate. Thanks to you and the Chicago brethren for the support.

A (60- or 70-year old) man from Streator, IL, recognized the Chart of the Ages from Br. George Wilmott's Sunday morning program. His grandmother had one or more of the volumes. Although he took no materials, we were able to talk with him about God's Word.

Three ladies stopped at the booth to review the DVDs. One of them said that she had a particular DVD, so if the other ladies wanted to buy one, she suggested that they choose a different one. The threesome began to move on to the "Free" rack, but the third lady told me that she has all the volumes in Romanian. I was literally speechless! How did she get the volumes in Romanian?!? She finished reading Volume 1 and looks forward to completing all the volumes. Some of her family told her that the volumes are Jehovah Witness' work, but her response was that as long as it is God's Word, that is the most important thing and she will continue to read them. Viorica, who lives in Yorkville, found a web site sponsored by the brethren. She said that she is not very good on the computer and prefers snail mail. She was very appreciative of what she has learned... She was delighted that the Bible Students had a booth at the fair. I encouraged her to meet Br. John at 4:00 PM, but she had to leave.

A Christian family with four children was thrilled to receive the Chart of the Ages. The three older children love to study the Bible. (One was a baby.) One of the sons really wanted God's Plan for Everybody, but the parents chose not to purchase it. We supported the parents by recognizing that his mom and dad are doing the best that they can for their family -- influenced by our Volume 6 study of Parental Obligations. It was a pleasant experience.

A woman stopped by to talk with us. We talked about the Chart, gave her one, and suggested that she look at the "Free" rack. She told us that she had an experience that "shook" her "to the core". When she realized what she was doing, she decided to redirect her life, get to know God and about His plan.

A family is learning English and appreciates the reinforcement of the Scriptures as they progress from Portuguese.

There was more traffic at the booth this year than last. As a result, we had more interaction with the public. It could have been due to the day, Saturday, or the beautiful weather. However it was worked out, the Lord makes the opportunity available to a sincere heart seeking Truth.

Thank you again.

Your brethren

Br. Tom and Sr. Nancy Machacek

Yes, the fair was a real blessing for me. I enjoyed it very much. Thank you again for giving me this great and privileged opportunity in the field of harvest.

(1) A Jewish couple just took some free pamphlets, but we had a small discussion about how everybody presents Israel as "occupants," while how Israel treats Arab refugees better compared to the different treatment from other Arab countries.

(2) One man said, "I am not the one to give this literature to! Why? Because I believe in Aliens." We replied, "But you know the Bible also speaks about other beings besides humans -- it calls them angels." He said, "Yes, yes." Then we had a chance to suggest in either case -- aliens which would be angels or us -- we are all created by the same Creator. He replied, "Yes, yes," and continued his visit.

(3) Another Spanish family got a 1st volume and "For This Cause" in Spanish.

(5) One lady got few DVDs and 1 children's book.

Br. Roland Osipov

It was truly a blessing to be able to serve at the fair this year even for just one day on the last day. It was a blessing to be able to talk to people who seemed interested in our message. One experience I had was with a Spanish-speaking woman who could not understand English very well at all. Communication was difficult, but because of her patience and genuine interest I was able to give her a Spanish version of How to Study the Bible and Have It Make Sense and open up a Spanish version of the 1st Volume and show her some of the contents. She was interested and purchased a copy for \$1.

Another experience that I had, that I will call a blessing in disguise, was a man who was well versed in the Bible and had gone to a Bible school took interest in the Chart of the Ages. He caught me off guard when he started asking chronology questions about the 70 weeks. He seemed to just be trying to trip us up. But, it was good experience because I learned what I don't know much about so it gives incentive to study certain topics.

Overall, my time at the fair was a real blessing.

Br. Seth Kopak

Sandwich Fair Schedule 2014.14

SHIFT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	9-2	9-3	9-4	9-5	9-6	9-7
8:30 - 9:00	SET UP MARK K. + RICHARD D.	MARK K.				
9:00-1:00		DAN L. LYNN Y.	JACK + DONNA W.	MARK K.	TOM + NANCY M.	SETH K. ALINA D. VERONICA B.
1:00-4:00		DAN L. LYNN Y.	ED + RACHEL B.	MARGE H. MARK K.		SETH K. MARK K.
4:00-7:00		LYNN Y. MARK K.		4:00 -10:00 ROBERTA T. LYNN R. PATRICIA H. (Julia and Marcus)	JOHN B. + ROLAND O.	TEARDOWN 6 PM
7:00-10:00		MARK K.	MARK K.	MARK K.		

2014 Sandwich Fair Expenses

ITEM	EXPENSE	NOTE1	NOTE2
FAIR BOOTH SPACE	\$400.00	INCLUDING INSURANCE	
CLASS BUDGET	-400.00		
BALANCE	\$0.00		
MISC EXPENSES			
LITERATURE	\$620.75		
FAIR BOOTH SALES	-172.00		
EDDM MAILING	666.46	5000 APP CARDS \$275.00	POSTAGE \$391.46
DONATIONS	-1115.21		
BALANCE	\$0.00		

Literature Accounting

ITEM	COST	SOURCE	PLACED	EXPENSE	SALES
7-IN-1	\$10	FW	4	\$40.00	\$20.00
NB SET (6)	\$17.25	NB	2	34.50	10.00
DPA-E	\$1.00	NB	59	59.00	59.00
DPA-S	\$2.00	DAWN	4	8.00	4.00
DPA-P	\$2.75	LDS	-	0	0
DPA-C	\$5.00	TA	-	0	0
GGPFE	\$10.00	OAK	4	40.00	40.00
DVDs	\$1.00	BSP	37	37.00	37.00
JEWELL CASES	\$.30	OFFICE DEPOT	37	11.10	0
DVDs (ISRAEL)	\$6.00	NB	2	12.00	2.00
FW MAG	AVERAGE .50 EA	FW	23	11.50	0
HIGHLIGHTERS	\$.55 EA.	OFFICE DEPOT	267	146.85	0
HTSB	.25 EA	BSP	626	156.50	0
APP CARDS	.05 EA.	BSP	334	16.70	0
MISC. BKLTs	AVERAGE .40 EA.	LDS	14	5.60	0
NEWSLETTERS	AVERAGE .20 EA	MK	210	42.00	0
			TOTALS	\$620.75	\$172.00

2014 Sandwich Fair Accounting Comparison

LITERATURE	2013	2014
7-IN-1 w/CARDS (PLUS 1-DISPLAY)	2	4
6 VOLUME SET (PLUS 1-DISPLAY)	4	2
DPA ENGLISH (PLUS 2- DISPLAY)	36	59
DPA SPANISH / PACKETS (1 - DISPLAY)	5/4	4
DPA POLISH / PACKETS	1/2	0
DPA CHINESE (PLUS 1 DISPLAY)	0	0
HTSB BOOKLETS - ENG	260	626
APP CARDS	-	334
GOD'S PLAN FOR EVERYBODY (PLUS 1 DISPLAY)	-	4
CHART OF THE AGES (NWIBS)	26	102
HIGHLIGHTERS	700	267
FTC-DVD-E	9	3
CREATION VS EVOLUTION-DVD	3	4
CAN THESE BONES LIVE-DVD	6	3
911-DVD	4	3
AFTER ARMAGEDDON-DVD	7	6
BEREAN BIBLE STUDIES-CD	0	0
GOD'S KINGDOM-DVD	9	2
GREAT PYRAMID-DVD	5	3
TRUTH ABOUT HELL-DVD	4	1
BLINDNESS IN PART... TO ISRAEL-DVD	2	6
SABBATH	3	0
FTC-DVD-SP	0	0
FTC/HTSB-DVD-SP	2	3
DAY OF JUDGEMENT-DVD-SP	1	0
FTC-DVD-POLISH	0	1
ISRAEL APOINTMENT WITH DESTINY-NB -DVD	0	1
ISRAEL FULFILLING BIBLE PROPHECY - NB - DVD	0	1
FW - DPA	17	7
FW - CHART	25	6
FW - OLR	12	3
FW - WHERE ARE THE DEAD	0	5
FW - SPIRITISM	4	2
HERALD MAG PAST ISSUES	0	5
NEWSLETTERS MADE	222	210

Fair Booklets Comparison

TITLE	START	2013	2014
After Armageddon, God's Kingdom	20	6	0
And God Cried	10	2	0
Can We Identify Antichrist?	10	1	0
Church Union and the Antichrist	10	0	0
Comfort and Consolation	10	0	2
Creation Triumphs over Evolution	10	2	3
Do We Worship the Same God?	10	0	0
Early Christian View of War	6	3	0
God's Grand Plan of the Ages	50	24	1
Grace of Jehovah	10	1	0
HERALD - BS History Issue	10	0	0
How to Study Revelation	20	2	1
I Will Come Again	10	3	1
Israel, Nation of Miracles	20	6	0
Pastor Russell Founded the Bible Students	12	0	0
Speaking in Tongues	10	2	0
The Doctrine of Christ	10	4	0
The Great Pyramid	15	2	1
Time to Favor Zion	10	3	0
What Everyone Should Know About Being Saved	10	1	0
What's This World Coming to?	10	0	0
When Pastor Russell Died	10	0	0
Where Are the Dead?	10	0	0
Why God Permits Evil	10	4	1
Will Israel Survive the End Times?	20	0	1
Israel's Tabernacle	20	75	3

The EDDM (Every Door Direct Mail) card sent to 5,000 addresses in Oswego and Yorkville, IL. The other side had the APP card pointing to various Bible Student aids on the Internet.



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WHO ARE THE BIBLE STUDENTS?

The Bible Students are an autonomous, non-denominational Christian fellowship.


This fellowship has no central head, office or central publishing house. It maintains an association through conventions and enjoys a fellowship that is worldwide. We own no buildings. We rent meeting facilities or meet in homes. Our ministers are not paid. We never pass a collection plate.

We welcome all to share with us in the study of God's Word. There is no organization to join and no creed to affirm. Our services are as simple as those of the early church. Our congregation benefits from the prayer support of one another and our fellowship is warm and friendly.

We accept Christ as our personal Savior, and that he died not only for the Christian, but for all the world. We accept the Bible as the Inspired Word of God, and study it in its entirety – both the Old and New Testaments – seeking the harmony of the complete Scriptural testimony.















We believe that each individual is responsible to personally study and prove the interpretation of the Bible for themselves. (2 Timothy 2:15) We strongly recommend topical Bible study as the best means of arriving at God's meaning on each subject, and we provide study aids to that end. We support continual Bible reading on a personal basis.

Chicago Bible Students
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 <p>Newsletters/Current Events Subscribe to publications which discuss fascinating highlights of timely prophetic Bible subjects.</p>	 <p>Bible Topic DVDs Review our extensive video library on topics which will enlighten and strengthen your faith.</p>
 <p>The Chart of the Ages Times, events and people of the Bible can be more clearly identified as they progress in God's plan.</p>	 <p>Bible Student Web Access Link to the many informative web sites of Bible Student groups throughout the world.</p>
 <p>One-On-One Phone Study Receive personal studies via the phone, or join one of our conference-line Bible study meetings.</p>	 <p>Television Programs Access important Bible topics which have been broadcast worldwide for over four decades.</p>
 <p>Internet Sermon Archives Select from hundreds of fascinating sermons given by our knowledgeable study leaders.</p>	 <p>Foreign Language Study Topical Bible study tools are available on our web site in twenty-eight different languages.</p>
 <p>Interactive Bible FAQ Ask your Bible questions and receive personalized, expert answers from our most qualified teachers.</p>	 <p>Online Bible Search Tools Many Bible Student web sites provide a digital Bible with search tool and Bible commentary.</p>

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