

## Flea Markets

### Flea Market Report—1999

A literature booth was obtained at **9 flea markets**. Price was \$17 each, or a total of \$153. The results were as follows:

93 1 <sup>st</sup> Volumes	58 paperback, 9 cloth, 25 Spanish, and one 5 <sup>th</sup> Volume.
13 videos	2 <i>God's Kingdom</i> 1 <i>Messiah</i> 1 <i>For This Cause</i> English 8 <i>For This Cause</i> Spanish

### Flea Market Report—2000

From August-November during the year 2000, **10 Flea Markets** were attended at Swap-O-Rama in 2 different locations at an average cost of \$17.00 per day. The results were as follows:

101 Paperback Volume 1	(72-English, 28-Spanish, 1-Polish)
4 Bible Study Kits – Contents: 1 each...	Volume 1 <i>Why Does God Permit Evil?</i> (Video) CD-ROM <i>Studies in the Scriptures</i> <i>Hymns of Praise</i> (Cassette) <i>God's Kingdom/Truth about Hell</i> (Cassette) <i>How to Study the Bible</i> (Bklt) <i>Revelation</i> (Bklt) <i>Where Are the Dead?</i> (Bklt) <i>Time to Favor Zion</i> (Bklt) <i>I Will Come Again</i> (Bklt) <i>Doctrine of Christ</i> (Bklt) 2 Tracts <i>Who Are the Chicago Bible Students?</i> Letter of Introduction Reply envelope and reorder form
45 Videos	<i>For This Cause</i> – English 15 <i>For This Cause</i> – Spanish 15 <i>For This Cause</i> – Polish 2 Israel 1 Great Pyramid 11 Hell 1

Tracts and booklets in English and Spanish were also distributed, but not kept in any count. A Spanish version of *Who Are the Chicago Bible Students?* was made as a result of the unusually good Spanish response.

## Flea Market Report—2001

Between June 23, 2001, and December 1, 2001, **18 Flea Market days** were used in witnessing. Three different locations were tried: **Alsip, Lake Street and Manheim, and 4100 S. Ashland Avenue.** All three locations are run by Swap-O-Rama and are out doors, so weather is often a factor to consider.

**Alsip** is very large and has quite a mixed blend of ethnic groups. **Ashland Avenue** is heavily Spanish. **Lake Street** is small and a mixed blend similar to Alsip. The fee for setting up a booth varies from location to location...between \$17.00-21.00 per day. This was offset in most cases by the sale of household items. We found the household items also attracted people to the display of literature, so it seemed like a good arrangement to offer both secular items and religious literature at the space.

The Saturday witness effort began before sunrise. Getting up around 3:30 a.m., we loaded the van, leaving the house by 4:30 a.m. to get in line by 5:00-5:15...and then we wait. The line of cars waiting to get into the flea market forms quite rapidly from then on. Some at the beginning of the line have been there since 11:00 p.m. Friday night, but that is not necessary unless you want a specific space each time. It is the unusually early hours of preparation that deter many from considering this avenue of witnessing. There were times when we did not get in...either we were a little late or many regulars all came out to occupy their pre-paid spaces in nice weather.

Around 6:30 a.m. the operators of the flea market open the gates and let in the regulars who have paid a monthly fee in advance. At 7:30 a.m. our line of cars was allowed to enter. We paid the daily fee as we entered the gate. We could occupy any vacant space to set up our wares. The spaces have enough room for one vehicle and some tables to display our goods. Trying to occupy the same area was helpful, because many remember us and return. This was often expressed many times... “We didn’t see you last week...” or “Do you come every week?” The public walk through as we set up. We usually stayed until noon or 1:00 p.m.

Results varied from week to week. Many booklets and tracts were placed that were not recorded. Discussions took place that were not reflected in the recorded sales, but this was all part of the overall witness experience.

Hard facts.	18 Flea Market Days
Bible Study Kits	8
Paperback English Volumes	32
Paperback Spanish Volumes	25
FTC English	13
FTC Spanish	17
FTC Polish	1
King of Kings	1
Hell	8
Kingdom	4
Great Pyramid	4
Israel	7
Total	120

Average of 5 hours per day (7:30-12:30) 6.6 sales per day... a little over 1 per hour. 6.6 sales responses @ \$18 average cost per day... \$2.73 per response. (Since Household item sales usually covered the space and free literature given out...the cost per response was really \$0.00.)

Br. Mark Kandel