

2011 INDIANA STATE FAIR REPORT

Once again the 2011 Indiana State Fair has been a source of many blessings. The CBS brethren opened an opportunity of service to a wide blend of brethren from various areas interested in making personal sacrifices to participate in this witness. This has been a witness to vendors and fair visitors to see brethren from different backgrounds and areas coming to work together...friendships which reach across the country. Thank you all for your participation. It is amazing to see the cooperation, enthusiasm, and loving spirit from so many on one project.

This being the third year, I have come to know many of the vendors a little better. They are relaxed with us in their circle of friendship. They see the demeanor of the brethren and trust us with talking openly about anything. Next to us were two Muslim women that felt a little resistance from the fair visitors, but they were very comfortable with the brethren. Farah was especially interested and asked questions. She didn't understand our vocabulary at times, so she read through a booklet "Hope for a Fear-filled World," reading aloud one paragraph at a time to me. We'd discuss it to make sure she knew what was being said. She picked up that we were certainly different, because unlike other religions...Muslim and other Christians...we do not condemn if someone doesn't convert to our way of thinking.

Across the aisle were Seventh Day Adventists. Randy was a dentist who injured his wrist in a serious fall. His future as a dentist was in jeopardy without the full use of his hand. We had a number of conversations. The lesson of "vocation" and "avocation" seemed a good fit. I told Randy that if you place your relationship to the Lord above all else...your "vocation"...it doesn't matter what your "avocation" is. It isn't confined to being a dentist. The next day he told me he prayed to the Lord to change his "vocation." He came over to the booth, picked up a number of pieces of literature plus a set of Volumes. He also asked for prayers as he was traveling to Kentucky for another opinion on his injury. (Later, I was told the news was not good.)

Across from us were George and Pat with their jewelry displays. They opened up about their family. They were connected with the Masons. Harold and Snobie stopped by to share their experiences...they lost their daughter of 34 yrs of age. Kenny and Sandy shared their experiences with caring for their elderly parent. And so, the vendors started to open up knowing there were listening, sympathetic ears in their midst. When we parted, they all said they looked forward to meeting us next year. All of them took literature. All of them need the Kingdom and maybe we can share more of that hope and comfort.

Fair workers stopped by to say how they remembered us and enjoyed what they picked up last year. Many picked up more. There are so many good lessons brought out in Volumes; this year it seemed good to use the chapter on "The Three Ways." The lesson of Isaiah 35 is filled with so much hope for the sinner, the world, the wayfaring men...ALL. Many have never considered it and it is just great to point out... "And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

We distributed booklet packets, Volumes, DVDs, newsletters from New Brunswick and ABSCO, magazines from Ft. Worth, Herald magazines, highlighter pens with the CBS website, a Chart of the Ages prepared by the NW Indiana Brethren (the Chart on one side and an explanation on the other), plus tracts and items made during the fair to cover the tragedy of the fallen stage on Saturday night. The Christian Questions radio program was advertised in each handout as well as on the banner.

What a joy to see Brethren at the fair free to innovate with witness ideas! Brethren have so much creativity and the fair is a good area to experiment and nurture it. This allows each person to witness in as comfortable a situation as possible and become even more effective. When tragedies came on the fair grounds, what better place for Brethren to be than right there to offer comfort! I thought how the Apostle Paul was allowed to be on a shipwreck and used the opportunity to present the Truth and bring comfort to his companions and strangers.

The truth had good exposure through the fair. Even a Spanish couple bought the Spanish DVDs and DPA volume...and WAIT, there's more! They bought a Chinese volume, too! Their daughter was in China! (We asked if they had any Polish friends to complete the multi-language offer we had!) They didn't know any Polish... yet!

Two of my most memorable experiences occurred on the last day while working with Br. Dan Monette. "Bob" was a vendor a few aisles away. After a long discussion he walked away, only to return after reading the material he had taken with him. Even though he still held a different view of the Scriptures, he appreciated the spirit of discussion and walked away. Bro. Dan thought we provided some Scriptures that Bob couldn't explain, but seemed to cause him food for thinking. We know he read what he had taken. Bob even quoted a poem called "Read On." It goes, "Read on, read on, read on..." This continued for about 3 minutes! Those were the only words in the poem. So, maybe Bob will "read on."

The other discussion came from Anna, a Seventh Day Adventist from across the way. She had taken literature from our table and read it. She came back for more discussion. She asked why we were there. I don't think she expected the answer, "We're looking for wheat." And we went on to explain the parable of the wheat and tares. In our discussion she said, "The Lord is number one in my life." She often repeated, "I want to know the truth." It was a good discussion to end the fair.

The Fair was good from the first day setting up the booth with Br. Russ and Sr. Camille Marten until the end when the last box was squeezed into the car and we parted with Br. Dan Monette. It's a routine you never tire of doing.

Br. Mark Kandel

Russ and Camille help—Packing to Go



All Lined Up



It Will Fit Here



Our best conversation of the day, I think, was with a lady named Jan Miller. She spent a long time asking about our connections to the Jehovah Witnesses. She has met with them off and on for over 30 years but never committed to the organization. Presently she attends a Baptist church and does discuss religion with many of her JW relatives. She was very knowledgeable and asked really good questions. We felt very confident that she would listen to Christian Questions and go to some of the websites. Jan lives near Hope, Indiana. Her husband was very quiet, said he didn't care much for the JW's and that his wife was more of the student of the two of them. Mark did a great job going over the history of the Bible Student movement.

Across the aisle from our booth, next to the jewelry, is a Seventh Day Adventist booth. This year they have a Tabernacle theme with a full, but not actual, size Tabernacle model and a full size high priest model. Their message is basically that the Tabernacle pointed to Jesus. They only have a one page flier with a picture of the Tabernacle on it and the name of their group. We did tell a few people about the Tabernacle Shadows included in the set of volumes.

Br. Russ and Sr. Camille Marten



Dear Bro. Mark~

Greetings in the Lord! I wished to express my sincere gratitude to the heavenly Father to grant me such a wonderful witness effort to be able to attend the 2011 Indiana State Fair. I would also like to thank you for all of your efforts and “fruitful sacrifices” that you have made towards this effort.

This is my second time being at the fair. This year I attended on the first Sunday of the fair, August 7th. Being I have about a 3 and a half hour drive from where I live to the fair, I decided to come up on Saturday evening. I spent the night in the hotel, leaving a tract, of course, when I checked out. I came down to meet Br. Mark in the hotel lobby for breakfast and we then headed out to the fair together. Being there early, we had a chance to set up and go over some of the materials and books. We had the Volumes set out, the 7-in-1 books, and the individual books, numerous CDs were set out, (mind you, some First Volumes and CDs were in other languages), FREE tracts of course in a nice information packet with web sites and addresses, and last, a rack of free print-outs on various topics all from different ecclesias.

I had a most blessed experience of spending my day with Tom and Nancy Machacek. They came in right after Mark and I arrived. After Mark left, we all three were there from about 10, when the fair opened, to about 4:30 or 5 when we left for the day.

Throughout the day, we had many people going back and forth past our booth. We had slow times and some so busy you couldn't see an end in sight!

We had sold a few CDs and even some Volumes to some very interested people. I had a few come back and call us “Dispensationalists” due to the Chart of the Ages, which hung behind us. So some had an idea of what we believed and what our literature was on. We know that we are living in the end times and everyone is going through very hard experiences. Our message seems to give hope and to brighten peoples' outlook on life. I know I myself never feel tired or look at my watch when I'm there. It's so exciting seeing all the faces and knowing you may make a difference in maybe just one life. A few people came back a second time. One man said he spoke to a gentleman the previous day, on Saturday. He forgot who it was. He wanted to let the person know who he talked to, that he was able to find the bible verse they were questioning and admitted that he had an incorrect view on it and saw it a little differently. I just thought that was nice that he made the effort to come back.

All together it was a wonderful learning and motivational experience. It motivates me to speak up about my faith more, and I always learn something new. It's thrilling to see people interested in Bible study in this day and age, and I think we will see more of it closer to the Kingdom. We also had some great gals next to our booth. I believe they were of Muslim faith. Their names were Farah, and “Spring” American for Bahar, I believe. They were very nice, Spring even made both Nancy and I some tea because we were a little chilly in there. Very sweet!

At the end of the day, Tom and Nancy drove me back to the hotel to my car, while Br. Mark came back to finish up a few more hours. We went to have a quick bite to eat and enjoyed a most refreshing evening of fellowship and nice heartfelt discussions. I really appreciated it. I hope this to be of encouragement to friends reading this. The Harvest work is a blessed time for His children and a privilege to be a part of it.

**In His service,
Sr. Lynn Reeland**

I so enjoyed working at the fair, it helped me work on my confidence in approaching people. Some people were sincere in searching for the truth, but a lot of people were looking for comfort from their troubles. It was so wonderful to share God's plans for mankind. Some people seem to ask a lot of questions to feel us out for our beliefs. A lot of people asked about the Tabernacle because of the 7th Day Adventists' booth. It led to some interesting conversations about God's plans and mankind's future. I am so looking forward to next year.

Bro Roger Smith

Dear Bro. Mark,

Here is the "Br. Harry report" from the Fair booth, Thursday, Aug. 11. Sr. Karen and I arrived a few minutes after 10 AM. The crowd was fairly constant throughout the day. We met the Titanium cookware vendor "Behar" and began talking and sharing with passersby about the Truth. There were a few who wanted to come tell us about their view of the Bible, which is fine, and the Seventh Day Adventist who simply wanted to know which day we think is the Sabbath.

BUT, there was one man who stopped and had some real questions. He was raised a Baptist and knew the Scriptures very well, but didn't like the idea of hell. We had the privilege to talk with him about God's plan, beginning with Adam. We spent about 15 minutes talking about Abraham offering up Isaac, and the things this pictured. Then the Law, Exo. 21, and a life for life; then down to Jesus who laid his life down to then take it up again-for Adam. We covered 1Cor. 15 and much, much more. We talked for 3 hours. We read many scriptures together. I held my Bible as he read Isa. 35:5-10 and Rev 21:1-5, and many others passages. We shed tears together as the scriptures leaped off the page with deep meaning. It really seemed as though the Fair stood still for that three hours. About 2 hours into the discussion, his old minister, whom he hadn't seen in 10 years, said hello to him. I thought this would be the end of our discussion, but after a 5 minute "Hello, how ya doin'?" he wanted to continue. He asked dozens of questions, that the Lord directed to satisfying answers. He didn't have any money, so I gave him the 1st Volume magazine with my name and cell phone.

The day continued with others coming by with passing interest and light conversation. We later talked with the folks at the 7th Day Adventist's Tabernacle display and some other folks. But, the other events of that day paled in comparison to that one, 3-hour exchange.

Today, Aug. 24, I went to work a little later than usual because I was waiting for some laundry to dry, when the phone rang. It was this man from the Indy Fair with the hearing ear. He had read the first 270 pages of Volume 1 and asked for more reading material. We talked for another 20 minutes. What a thrill!!!! Later today, through a strange sequence of events, I find that my work will take me BACK to Indianapolis next week, where this man lives. The Lord is so gracious! The bottom line is, I didn't sell any volumes. (Sr. Karen sold seven sets!!) I guess the Lord was using Isa. 55:1-3 with me that day. It was a wonderful experience to be there to answer questions for those who are searching. I, for one, want to be there to answer and give a reason for the hope that is in us-placed there by our returned Lord!!

Br. Harry Wildblood
Rom. 12:2, Jer. 9:23-24



Seventh Day Adventist Booth
Across the Aisle and One Booth Over

Sr. Merrily Wesolowski —

It was again by the Lord's Providences and the love and care of Sharron Lalik in handling my responsibilities, that I was enabled to serve at the Fair. This year I served with both Mark and Alys and was again reminded of our colporteur days.

To my shame, I inadvertently left my Bible and Concordance at home. A harried experience for a soldier to the warfare! I bought a Bible and tried to be calm. Twice I called Sr. Alys and Sr. Joy, and they were my concordances—thank God for available Brethren!

My discussions with Fair attendants were minimal—though able to place the Sets and Seven-in-Ones. Two different individuals queried me on the length of time man was on earth and both (separate discussions) disagreed with the millions of years' theory. One felt it was about 4,000 years; the other about 6,000 years. There ARE thinking Christians that have not yet associated with Bible Students.

I also was VERY impressed with the young people. They said they DID study the Bible and on three separate occasions purchased the Seven-in-One. By the way, they were approximately 11-14 years old. I was again reminded and SO thankful for my being raised in Chicago where years ago we went through Volume One and Tabernacle Shadows in my early teens. Of course, I've read, studied and gone over their truths since then. But one point brought to our minds, not in so many words, was to be exact and be critical (the right kind) of what you see and read.



The Seventh Day Adventist booth across the way had the Holy, Most Holy, and a full size dressed Aaron. I saw many differences from the studies we've had. I discussed it with the woman at the booth—just some points—and she had no answers. She called the minister to talk with me, and he had no answers. The reason I felt compelled to bring out these errors is because they were presenting these points as their witness.

How very thankful I am for truth and trust it does a cleansing and mellowing in my heart and mind, and I thank God continually for my background, for Bro. Russell, and for the education through High School to read and comprehend. Yes, even for Shakespeare (who I truly didn't like to study in school), for it helped me comprehend the King James Bible and Bro. Russell.

Thanks for the privilege of serving. I have precious few at this time.

P.S. The highlight to me was the Brethren's reaction and witness to the tragedy that occurred in death and wounding. I am thankful for the example of prompt action and leave the telling to them.

Br. John & Sr. Karen Baker —

First we want to thank the Chicago Ecclesia for sponsoring the Indiana State Fair, supplying the literature, setting up and taking down the booth and arranging the schedule for the volunteers. We appreciate the brethren who are the anchors for the booth and fill in when others aren't there. It's been our pleasure now for the three years to have a small part in this witness.

We were scheduled to serve at the Indiana State Fair Saturday and Sunday August 13 and 14th. When we arrived on Saturday there was a brisk steady crowd all Saturday afternoon and evening. We had pleasant short conversations with many people who freely took the literature packet and browsed the carousel of 8-1/2 x 11 literature on various subjects.

A few experiences stand out. One middle aged gentleman appeared at the booth announcing he had bought the 7-in-1 previously, but it was just too big. We asked him if he wanted to return it. He said, "Oh no, I like what I'm reading, but I want to buy the individual set." We gave him a box of previously boxed Volumes, and he was as happy as could be. No questions asked or further discussion. He just wanted another set.

A middle aged woman came by and asked if we were Jehovah's Witnesses. I mentioned to her we were not and she said, "My father is an ex-communicated Jehovah's Witness." We replied, "They do have the right concept about hell." She wanted to know more about that and took "What Say the Scriptures Concerning Hell." She said in her own spiritual journey she was with the Apostolic Pentecostal group while she was in her twenties and how she looked like an old lady—much older than she does now. We talked about how man often makes up outwards rules to go by to show you are acceptable to God and the important quality before God is what is going on in your heart. That brought us back to her father who is in his late seventies, and it still bothers him about being ex-communicated and he is afraid to die. We assured her of God's love and kindness in reading the heart. She said he's unable to read much anymore. We encouraged her to look at our DVDs, especially "For This Cause." She took one and also purchased "Can These Bones Live?" and "Creation vs Evolution." We probably would have continued our conversation, but she received a cell phone call and had to leave to meet her family. We were thankful the Lord allowed us enough time to get comforting literature in her hands.

Another couple came by who also asked if we were Jehovah's Witnesses. When we replied that we weren't, he said he was an ex-communicated Jehovah's Witness. Since it worked before to mention that they have the correct thought on hell, we thought we would try it again. They listened and we continued to explain about the promise to Abraham and the two salvations. The husband said they disagreed with that and they walked away.

During the evening we had a chance to talk with our two lovely young Iranian women in the booth next to us. Both fled the country because of a desire to be in a free country where you could express your opinions and criticize the government. Both wanted opportunities for an education. They strongly disliked the current leadership of Iran. One even said if there was a hell, he deserves to go there. We explained about the Kingdom and how the proud and lofty will be brought down and the downtrodden will be lifted up and man won't have the power to oppress another man. The one replied, "I hope this is true."

As we left the fair grounds on Saturday night at 9 pm it was starting to rain. We noticed fire trucks and ambulances coming towards the fairgrounds. Someone said, "Oh, there's been a fire." Little did we know that this would prove to be untrue and a greater disaster had happened just a few blocks away from our building. It wasn't until we returned to the hotel and saw on the television in the lobby that the stage had collapsed and four people had already died.

By the next morning at breakfast with Sr. Alys, we knew that the fair had been cancelled for Sunday. We knew that any of the public coming to the fair for the remaining days would have this tragedy on their mind. They wouldn't attend with the same carefree fun seeking attitude. What could we say that would draw their attention to the wonderful hope that we have? What could we say that would show our sympathy and how we too feel grieved by what happened? The three of us "brain stormed" and came up with a little flyer. Sr. Alys, who brought her laptop and a printer, was able to get copies for the booth.

We also wanted to obtain as many "Comfort & Consolation" and comforting tracts as possible. Providentially, Sr. Marge Hagensick, Sr. Carol Tennant and Sr. Shirley Mlodozeniec were at the Central OH convention and were already scheduled for the fair on Monday, so they brought the booklets and tracts with them. Later in the day we heard that the Fair was reopening on Monday an hour early at 9 AM with a special memorial service. Sr. Alys was planning on attending and bringing the flyers. At each step of our experiences we took these matters to the Lord in prayer as we wanted to be His willing instrument to "comfort all that mourn." It all worked out just beautifully.

Dear Bro. Mark,

I enjoyed serving at the Indiana State Fair booth. Friday and Monday were somewhat slow, but with a few opportunities to talk with people, and they did take some literature. But there were more people there on Tuesday, and some of them bought Sets of the Volumes (with Tabernacle Shadows). Each of the days some showed interest in the 7-in-One's, but understandably balked at the idea of carrying one around the fair for hours. They spoke of coming back to buy one before going home, but mostly they didn't get around to doing it. But a few did take them in the first place in spite of their size and weight. Some had gotten some of our literature at previous fairs and had taken it home and read it, and seemed to like it. Some of these were looking for more of our literature and appeared to be happy to get it. It was nice having a model of the Tabernacle across the aisle and down a booth or two. The Seventh Day Adventists had it in connection with their booth. I believe they had rented it from the group who had made it. It provided opportunity for bringing up subjects like the Abrahamic promise, etc., and a little friendly discussion with the Adventists at their booth.

The collapse of the grandstand on Sunday in a strong gust of wind provided further witness opportunity Monday and Tuesday, and I am glad you and Sr. Alys and the Bakers got together and produced a very well-worded flyer (2-sided page) concerning the tragedy and God's promises of the Resurrection and the explanation of why He permits evil. Of course, its greatest impact was at the memorial service held Monday morning for the victims who died from the collapse; but several people took the flyers at the booth on Monday and Tuesday also. There were comments on the timeliness of the flyers, as people were impressed with how quickly they were gotten out.

May our loving Heavenly Father ever continue blessing and guiding your efforts to bring honor and praise to His Name!

**Christian love,
Sr. Marge (Hagensick)**

It was a joy to serve again at the booth this year. Even though there were not as many people as last year, I had some nice opportunities to witness to others of God's Great Plan.

Several people were interested in the various topics displayed on newsletters published by the brethren as well as the magazine *First Volume*. One man came to the booth saying that he is interested in prophecy; so we had a good discussion from what is happening in the world today to the future when everyone will be given an opportunity to know of the Lord. He believed that those who do not believe now will have an opportunity in the future.

Another discussion was with a man who believed that those not believing now will go to a burning hell, so we brought out about the Hebrew and Greek words of hell meaning the grave and the reasonableness of God not wanting any to be tormented, etc.

We thank the Lord for the privilege of showing forth His Truth to others!

Love in Christ,
Sr. Rachel Bushlus

It was a different type of experience this year compared to 2010 in that our service times were during the evening and then the next morning compared to a single middle of the day position in 2010. Additionally, we were at the fair just a few days after the weather related tragedy occurred where people died or were injured at a live outdoor concert. The number of people inside the exposition hall seemed to be measurably fewer which may have been due to a number of the remaining live entertainment programs being cancelled.

A number of people stopped by the booth to look at material on display, and most of them took home a number of booklets and magazine first volumes and selected subjects from various newsletters published by the brethren. On the Tuesday evening segment, I had an interesting conversation with a young woman and her mother who attended a Protestant Church where they said they appreciated their Pastor because his Sunday lessons were from the Bible and not just current events or social issues. They were interested in knowing more about God's Plan, The Pyramid, and Israel. They were familiar with the Ezekiel account of the valley of dry bones, and wanted to know how it was related to Israel. After we discussed some of the features of the dry bones account, and the plan of God and chronology also found in the Great Pyramid, they purchased several DVD's including "Will These Bones Live," "Gods Plan" and "The Great Pyramid."

On Wednesday morning I had two other interesting experiences. The first was a lengthy discussion with an African American minister and his wife. They both were somewhat acquainted with the Scriptures, and the minister's wife told me that her husband had a Bachelor of Science degree in Theology. He was quick to ask who we were and who the author of Studies in The Scriptures, and what were our doctrines. After informing him that we were a non-denominational group of independent Bible Students with no central governing body, that study the Bible along with the Studies in The Scriptures, and that many of our doctrines are plainly shown on the chapter titles of the Volumes, he took a moment to look at the graphic chart we had on display that lists all the subjects in the Volumes. He then commented, "You really should have some kind of a governing body."

Then he asked me about salvation and our belief in the resurrection. I briefly said, "You remember God's promise, mentioned several times in Genesis, to father Abraham that his seed would be as the sands of the seashore and the stars of heaven, picturing two salvations, one in heaven and another on earth," and I referred him to Isa. 2:3, and Rev. 14:1 showing the interaction between the earthly Jerusalem and the new Jerusalem which would be comprised of the 12 foundation stones, the Apostles, and the 12 symbolic tribes of the Church in glory totaling 144,000 members with Christ.

And I told him that those who would be part of the heavenly salvation would be taken from such who had responded to God's invitation of Psa. 50:5 to make a solemn covenant with Him by sacrifice, and Paul's admonitions in Rom. 12:1,2 to present their bodies a living sacrifice acceptable unto God. He then stated, "I never heard of such a concept!" He then asked me, "Are there only going to be 144,000 people in heaven from this earth?" I told him yes. He said, "Then where are the rest of the people going to be?" I told him they are waiting in the grave for the "Voice of the Son of Man" to call them forth to life here on the earth as those pictured as the sands on the seashore who would have the opportunity mentioned in Isa. 35 of entering upon the highway of holiness towards everlasting life which Jesus will give them as a result of His Ransom sacrifice.

I then gave him the illustration of Lazarus who was dead and whose sister Martha replied to the Lord, "I know he will arise again in the resurrection." When he heard this, he said then, "I take it you don't believe in hell." I replied, "Oh, but I do, the Bible hell, which in English is translated from Hebrew and Greek words that have a real meaning of the grave from which Jesus would call them forth to walk again on the earth." After this extended dialogue, he thanked me for taking time to discuss these things with him, took a few pieces of free literature, and left on a cordial note, probably wondering why he never heard these things in his theology classes.

My last experience came from a man who was at a booth just on the other side of the backdrop curtain that divided the exhibits by aisle. He came over and said, "I'm Arthur from the Gideon booth behind yours, and I heard much of what you told that minister, and I wanted to meet the person who told him these things." I introduced myself, and told him I was familiar with the Gideon work of placing Bibles for public use in many countries. He looked at the Seven-in-One book and said, "That book has a lot of material in it, and it must cost you more than you sell it for, so what's your object in doing that?" Knowing something of the Gideon perspective, I answered that we were interested in sharing the Gospel message with all who would receive it, and desired to have people gain more understanding of what was in the Bible and appreciate that it contains God's Plan for the blessing of all mankind. He said, "That's wonderful!"

He then asked me what I thought of the Tabernacle exhibit the Adventists had just across our aisle to the right. I told him that the Tabernacle was a typical arrangement God had for Israel as His chosen people, but that the Adventists told us that they believed all the symbols of the Tabernacle were various pictures of Jesus. I told him that we saw more in its lessons that show the experiences of those who follow after Christ as His footstep followers, and the experiences they share with Him as joint sacrificers. I just gave him a thumbnail sketch of each article of furniture in the Court, Holy, and Most Holy, and their general picture of the progressive walk of the followers of Christ. He said that sounded very good, but he didn't want to take a booklet on the Tabernacle we had on display. He shook my hand and said, "Keep up the good work, and God bless you!"

I told him I was pleased to find many people who were acquainted with the Scriptures, as he was, to which he replied, "Well, you're in the Bible belt here." So we parted company and I encouraged him to do what he could to share the Bible with all who would read it.

Overall, we had a blessed experience, although we didn't sell as many items as we did last year, but many still selected multiple subject materials from the free displays, and most assured us they wanted to read them right away.

Br. Ed Bushlus

Although most were not interested in specific conversations, a number expressed appreciation that Christians had made the effort to be available to talk about the Bible and God's plan. A few commented upon receiving literature in previous years and picked up additional pieces. And a few more were intrigued with the concept of "paradise restored" as outlined on the Chart and took time to chat a bit and pick up various pieces of literature. Overall, the opportunity to have some limited opportunity to plant seeds of hope came more often than I had expected.

One extended conversation with a young man who is engaged in assisting young men to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency was especially inspiring. We wished him well after an animated conversation about God's goodness and sharing our hope for the Kingdom that will bring permanent solutions. He mentioned he was getting the opportunity to have an internship with a pastor that he respects and was trusting this would be an opportunity for him to improve his ability to counsel the young people in his charge. He left with the First Volume and other booklets. Within a few hours, he returned having read the first few pages of Volume One. He excitedly asked for additional copies, presumably to be used in his work, but was in a big hurry so that no phone number or name was exchanged. He is especially in my prayers as I sensed in him a great sincerity and desire to serve God. It is in God's hands.

Hopefully the young person manning a booth next to us will follow up on his desire to meet with Brethren. He is associated with a non-denominational Church, but has enjoyed learning a bit about the "Divine Plan" over the last few years he's been a "neighbor" to the Bible Student Booth. He was given a contact name of a brother who lives somewhat near his home and seemed genuinely interested in following up on the invitation.

Sr. Debbie Moss

The Machaceks' Report about Serving at the 2011 Indiana State Fair

It was our privilege to serve the Lord and to join with many others who occupied the booth over the course of 17 days. We sincerely appreciate those who did the detailed "behind the scene" work. And we are immensely thankful for the prayers that sustained the brethren who were physically "on duty" at the Fair.

Three facts affected our opportunities at the Indiana State Fair booth.

1) The NWI class asked for permission and was privileged to provide a Chart of the Ages that was basically one of Br. Todd Alexander's. The Chart was reduced to fit on 8.5x14-inch card stock. We looked up every scripture that was cited, changed some, added some, added "Close your eyes for a moment..." from Volume 1, included the Class' web site, reformatted and printed. It was an extremely helpful tool to use in explaining the large Chart which hangs at the back of the booth. Because only Scriptures were used for references, many were very pleased to receive it.

2) Across the aisle from our booth and about 20 feet away, the Seventh Day Adventists set up a model Tabernacle. The High Priest was dressed in the garments of glory and beauty. None of the furniture was to correct scale, but it was a representation of the Holy and the Most Holy. As people approached the Bible Student booth, I showed them the study of the Tabernacle and tried to engage them in the topic. Some were interested, some not. To me it is an exciting subject. We spoke to those at the Tabernacle exhibit about many common views of the Tabernacle and some of the differences.

The Collapse of the Stage

3) In the middle of the Fair, tragedy struck. The accident, the deaths and the injured seemed to hang heavily over the activities during the remainder of the fair. There were many opportunities to discuss God's promises, some in more depth than others.

The day following the accident, Sr. Karen and Br. John Baker and Sr. Alys prepared a flyer to hand out, offering comfort and hope from the Scriptures. The message was wonderful.

Sr. Alys and I attended the Memorial Service on Monday, August 15. She asked permission to pass out the flyers, but was offered a table upon which to place them. Classical music was played as people assembled. Many media personnel were present as well as lots of Indiana State Police. The seats began to fill but it was not a boisterous group. The first two rows were reserved for the bereaved. Alys had a great seat toward the front and I joined her.

The service began with introductions of staff associated with the Fair. Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillings gave a "from-the-heart" prayer. She was followed by William Enright, a Presbyterian minister. I know that he intended to offer comfort. Mitch Daniels, the Governor of Indiana, acknowledged the amazing support that poured forth from the attendees of the show that night, stating, "There was a hero every 10 feet." He addressed other aspects of the event, especially seeking to avoid this anywhere else again. (Note: In Belgium on August 18 nearly the exact same kind accident occurred.) Throughout the service, there was a lot of emotional pain.

Afterward, Sr. Alys and I began to distribute flyers. Alys suggested that I walk in among the people who were sitting in the first few rows. Some people asked me for a flyer. I was able to give them directly to two of the bereaved and, hopefully, encourage and comfort them. It was an extremely draining experience, but we were SO thankful for the opportunity. We handed out maybe 50 flyers to the crowd.

The flyers that were on the table during the memorial were carried to the site near the accident which was set up as a memorial. The remainder was placed at the booth. Some people simply walked up and took a flyer to read, no words spoken but often a “thank you.”

On Saturday following the incident, Mark K and I went to an area backside of the stage. Many fair goers came to the same location to view the stage, take pictures, and pause for a moment. I used the experience to talk about the “Does God Care?” flyer, the one prepared by the Bakers and Alys, with those touched by the death and injury.

During the last Saturday of the Fair, two young fellows who worked for the amusement/stage company stopped by to look at the free material. They were from South Africa and the sign “Gratis” caught their attention. They explained that in South Africa word gratis is used instead of free. We talked about the accident and the chart. Several hours later they returned with a friend to talk more about the chart—resulting in the purchase of a Volume 1.

Summing Up Our Experiences

Brethren had witnessed to a young man in the booth next to ours. Apparently he asked if a Bible study group was in Fort Wayne. The nearest of brethren is Dennis Stansberry. I telephoned him, explained the situation, and asked if he would be willing to speak with the fellow. He graciously responded that it would be his privilege. Now the young man possesses a telephone number and an Internet contact.

We believe that we were a witness also to the other vendors, particularly to the two individuals selling pots and pans. Since we own that brand of cookware, Nancy was asked several times to talk about our experience with them. During quiet times we were able to individually and jointly talk about Truth with these two Muslim-raised women.

We served two weekend days of the Fair, the first Sunday and the last Saturday. Our interactions were varied: the Jewish Christians who stopped at the booth and quietly took literature; the Pentecostal woman whose sister had nothing to do with the family until recently when she called her to ask for help so that she could know Jesus; several were very interested in the Volumes. And many more.

If the people associated with the Indiana State Fair invite us back, and if our brethren in Chicago should sponsor the booth next year, we would sincerely appreciate the privilege to serve.

Prepared with Christian love,
Tom and Nancy Machacek

The Sky is Blue because God is Faithful!

Wednesday—August 10.

Br. Mark Kandel, at the Fair — “We ran out of Sets. See if someone can bring us more.”

Sr. Merrily Wesolowski — “Maybe if Br. Harry is still in the Chicago area on business, he could bring more Sets.”

Sr. Karen Wildblood — “Br. Harry’s on his way back to Mahomet. I’ll phone him right away and see where he’s at.”

Br. Harry Wildblood — “I’m at 88 and 294...” [Only 26 minutes from Des Plaines.]

Instead of turning South on 294 toward Mahomet, Br. Harry turned North toward O’Hare. While I waited in our open garage, I prayed, looking up at the clear blue sky with bright white fluffy clouds. On the 26th anniversary of his consecration, Br. Harry was courier for the Lord’s work, taking the remaining Sets of Volumes down to the Indiana State Fair. Br. Harry and Sr. Karen Wildblood just “happened” to be on the next day’s shifts and brought the Volume Sets with them. *The Sky Is Blue... Yes... God is Faithful!*

Saturday—August 13.

At 9:00 PM, the Bakers and I ended the day, closing the booth for the night. Br. John went to his car and drove to the hotel, while Sr. Karen went back with me. It began to rain hard and the sky was pitch black with constant bright lightning flashes. As we drove West on 38th St., we noticed fire engines and ambulances driving Eastward toward the fair. We didn’t have a clue what had happened until we sat in the hotel lobby, waiting for Br. John. On the huge TV screen on the wall we watched the tragedy which had happened just 11 minutes before we left.

For an hour the three of us watched the scenes of horror and heard the reports of the disaster. Tornado-like winds had blown down the grandstand stage at the Fair ... repeatedly shown in the pictures. We learned the Fair would be closed on Sunday. What could/should we do? We decided to meet for breakfast and create a flier with a special message of comfort to hand out at our booth.

Sunday—August 14.

The next morning over breakfast with an out-spread Bible, the three of us wrote ideas and appropriate Scriptures and messages. While working on it, I phoned Sr. Estelle and asked if she could arrange to have appropriate tracts or literature sent to the Fair with Sr. Marge Hagensick, who was then at the ABSCO Convention, but would be at the Fair the next morning. I felt it was a “miracle” we were even able to contact Sr. Estelle, who eagerly filled our request and also asked for the Brethren to pray for us. *Another “miracle” reminder... God is Faithful!*



After the Bakers left, I headed upstairs to my room and formatted and printed a flier on my computer. Then I drove to Staples and had 200 copies made, one sheet front and back. I had absolutely NO clue how to distribute the fliers...but they were ready to go.

Sr. Karen phoned that they had heard there was to be a Memorial Service on Monday morning before opening the Fair for the day. A perfect place to begin distribution of the fliers...if permitted. My brother Mark phoned Sr. Nancy Machacek, who the next minute phoned me, eager and enthusiastic to help. I emailed the flier to Br. Tom and Sr. Nancy, who (after making a correction-Gulp!!!), immediately went to their office and made 500 copies. Sr. Nancy arranged to arrive the next morning in time for the Memorial Service.

Monday—August 15.

When I arrived at the Fair, I asked at the entrance if we could put the fliers in the Fair booklets they passed out to arriving cars. The man said, ‘Why don’t you take them to the Memorial Service?’ He let me in, no ticket required. I went to the Free Stand where the Memorial Service was to take place. I asked another lady if we could pass the fliers out as people came in, and she said, ‘Why don’t you put them on the Memorial Table in the front for people to take?’ So that is what we did! On the table next to the front stage, with flowers and a donation basket for the bereaved families, went our stack of fliers! I sat on a bench directly across to watch...and people took them!



**Memorial Table with Fliers on it
To the left was the Free Stage where
Memorial speeches were given.**

During the religious service a wind lifted one sheet, so I jumped up and put my little Bible as a paperweight, standing upright on the stack. The Mayor and several other officials spoke. The front two rows were for the families of the five victims. We watched as they cried through the service, holding each other in their arms. It was so emotionally touching you could not keep the tears back. I prayed that somehow, some way, we would have an opportunity to give them all fliers.

At the end of the service the opportunity opened and Sr. Nancy and I went to the families and friends to give words of comfort and a flier. We were able to give the fliers also to many around us. We did not want to commercialize the event so refrained from going up and down every row.

I asked the lady in charge if they would be keeping the table there all day. She said it was being moved to the grandstand area and they would keep the fliers on it. Sr. Nancy got my Bible back and saw them put a rock paperweight on the stack. She commented, ‘‘Just like in Israel—they put stones on the graves!’’ As we walked back to our booth, Sr. Nancy recognized one of the ladies who had lost someone in the tragedy and she was able to comfort her and give her a flier.

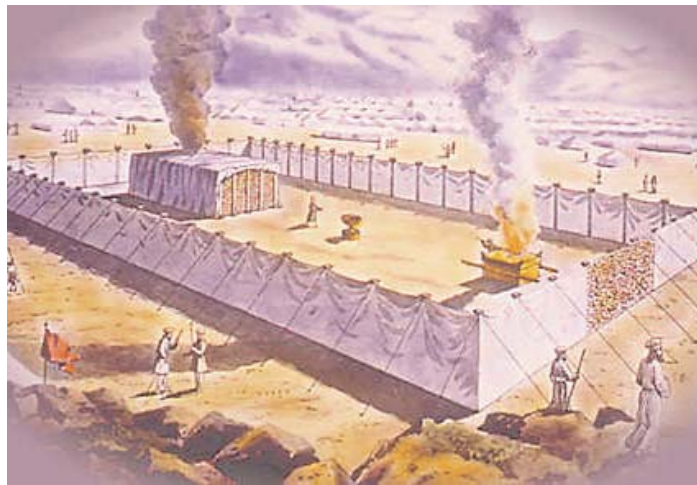
Back at the booth, Sr. Marge, Sr. Carol, and Sr. Shirley were already on duty! We put the extra fliers on the table and explained that at the bottom was an invitation for people to come to our booth for comfort. Then, it was time to leave. As I was eating lunch, I looked up to the sky and thanked the Lord for His overruling providences. The sky was clear, bright blue with white clouds. *Yes, the same sky...and the same faithful God! Amen!*

Tuesday—August 16.

After the Tuesday evening shift, Br. Ed and Sr. Rachel Bushlus met me in the hotel lobby where we reviewed the day and next morning's schedule. We were talking about the High Priest manikin in the "Holy" at the 7th Day Adventist booth...and how nice it would be to have a DVD on the Tabernacle. That night it occurred to me that I could print out the illustrated Tabernacle Shadows that I had prepared. So I somewhat reformatted the title page and first two chapters. Since our printer jammed midway, I had Staples finish it and gave it to Sr. Debbie Moss and Sr. Kim Place for our literature rack. Now we had something to hand out on the Tabernacle to people after they saw the "High Priest"!

Tabernacle Shadows of the "Better Sacrifices"

A Helping Hand
FOR
THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD



THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

Wednesday/Thursday—August 17-18.

Wednesday, Sr. Debbie and Sr. Kim had witnessed to the son of the "Window Man" in the booth to our left. "Josh" became SO interested that he wanted to meet with the closest class to Ft. Wayne, IN. I emailed Sr. Nancy Thursday morning to ask if she would mind if I gave her address and phone number to "Josh" and that I'd call her between 9-10:00 AM. At 9:15 I phoned Sr. Nancy. She had just gotten off the phone with Br. Dennis Stansberry, who lives about an hour away from Ft. Wayne. Br. Dennis said he would be very happy to discuss or meet with the young man and we could give "Josh" his phone number!

The Lord's timing is so incredible! And the willingness and enthusiasm of the Brethren truly demonstrates how the Body Members help each other wherever they can! There is no doubt in my mind, after living so many "miraculous" providences, that many Brethren have been fervently praying for the Fair witness effort and the Heavenly Father was truly answering their prayers. That is why I desire to share these experiences in the report.

As I finish my portion, I checked my room "window"... and, *Yes... The Sky is VERY blue at this moment ... and, Yes, God is VERY FAITHFUL! Thank you, Heavenly Father! AMEN!* —Sr. Alys

We were blessed again this year with the opportunity to work at the Fair Booth for one day. We enjoy this opportunity so much that the hours fly by very quickly! Everyone is very friendly and pleasant at this Fair; which makes it very easy to talk with anyone who pauses at the booth. Their eyes are usually drawn to the Chart of the Ages hanging prominently as a backdrop; which is a great talking point and way to introduce someone to the "Show Special" a 7-in-1 for \$5.00!!!

One of the lessons from the Fair was that you can never judge by outward appearance those who may be seeking after the Lord and His word. Just because someone has piercings, or tattoos and long hair or is young and dressed in ragged jeans and a T-shirt....that does not mean they are not seeking for Truth and the Lord. This lesson was illustrated when a young man and lady, dressed with some of the above adornments, came to the booth very casually. They were not the ones we would have guessed would eagerly want to buy one of every DVD and a 7-in-1; but they did! We should never be afraid to share the Truth with everyone; no matter what their age, what they are wearing or what they look like; we don't know who the Lord is drawing.

Mark was able to have a nice discussion with a soft-spoken man who said that our meetings seem similar in style to his Church meetings. He recognized that we had some differences, but they both agreed to disagree in a Christian manner. The Midwestern culture came thru when speaking with others that had a different Scriptural understanding than us; but they were still polite and usually ended the discussion with a smile.

We are thankful for the dedication of the brethren who are willing to spend their time, energy and vacation time to make this event such a blessing to us and the many that were able to receive Truth literature and a word "in season."

Yours by grace....
Bro. Mark and Sr. Roberta Tabac

Dear Brethren,

It was a great blessing to be at the fair booth and talk with so many people about our creator and his loving plan for all men. What a privilege it is to know the good news of God's plan and share it with others and have a part in the harvest work in this way.

One of my highlights was listening to the brother I was working with calmly but powerfully present the truth to a man who was quite studied and quite convinced of his own narrow understanding of salvation. The scriptures that were presented to him made him pause and think. Though he tried to argue his point that salvation was only gained by those who accepted Jesus now, he couldn't argue against the Apostle Paul's words that God will have all men to be saved [first], and [then] come unto the knowledge of the truth. This man took some literature, went away and read it and then returned. He said he came back because he was provoked by the presentation of the truth in the booklet and with the stand that this brother took and his willingness and ability to present the scriptures as he understood them. I thoroughly enjoyed hearing God's plan of salvation for all mankind presented in this way and his name vindicated.

Br. Dan Monette

Indiana State Fair Tragedy!

Does God Care?

YES!

Jesus wept at the death of his friend Lazarus, and our hearts weep at the Saturday night tragedy of the Indiana State Fair when lives were unexpectedly lost and many were injured. When the Grandstand Stage fell due to high winds, many in the crowd responded, rushing forward to lift the stage off the victims. Even as people desire to help and sympathize with others who are suffering, God also cares for us. **YES...God does care and He does notice our tragedies.**

Like the prayers that were cried to God when Israel was afflicted in Egypt, God did hear their prayers and sent them a deliverer. "And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians...." Exodus 3:7,8

Lives suddenly lost this weekend will not be forgotten by God, Who promised that "All that are in their graves shall come forth." John 5:28,29

In the Bible, Jesus was asked about a similar incident when the tower of Siloam fell and killed eighteen people. (Luke 13:4) He assured his disciples that those who died were not sinners more than others, and that sooner or later all men would die whether it be in tragic accidents, illnesses, or of old age.

GOD IS THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT.

When the Apostle Paul was tried above measure so that he even despaired of life, he realized that God was the God of all comfort.

Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. — 2 Cor. 1:3,4

In giving His own Son, the joy of His heart, to rescue mankind from death, sin and trouble, God showed that He truly does love mankind. God's comfort is shown now in His promises of Jesus' return to bring life to man and restore Earth as his paradise home. Most will realize the fullness of God's comfort when their loved ones return from the dead, as God promised and Jesus' gift of his own life guarantees.

Although we do not know personally any of those who died in this tragedy, we sympathize with the pain and loss of all. In God's due time their life will be restored and they will be filled with joy for Christ "must reign till he has put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." 1 Cor. 15:25,26

God Is Faithful to His Promises

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."
Psa. 30:5

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Rev. 21:4

For further comfort, please visit your friends at the Chicago Bible Students Booth in the Exhibition Hall, Booth # 116 or visit our websites at www.chicagobible.org and www.blessedbible.com .

2011 INDIANA STATE FAIR AUGUST 5-21 SCHEDULE UPDATED 8.25.11

DATE	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
DAY	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU
10-2	RCM MK	MK	LR TNM	RS MK	RS MK	RS MK	MK	MH MK	MW MK	JKB	MH CT SM	MH CT SM	ERB	DM KP	MRT	TNM	DM MK
2-6	RCM MK	JKM	LR TNM	RS LT	RS LT	MK	HKW	MW MK	JKB	JKB	MH CT SM	AS	DM PK	DM KP	MRT	TNM	DM MK
6-9	JKM	JKM	MK	LT MK	MK	MK	HKW	MW MK	JKB	AS	AS	ERB	DM KP	DM KP	MRT	TNM ** DM	DM MK
RM 1	R	J	LR	RS	LT	RS		MW	JKB			ERB	DMKP	DMKP		DM	
RM 2	MK	MK	MK	RS MK	MK	MK	MK	MK	AS	AS	AS	AS	AS	MRT	MRT	MK	

SET UP ON THURSDAY

LAST SUNDAY 10AM – 8PM

JKB	JOHN/KAREN BAKER		DM	DAN MONETTE		
ERB	ED/RACHEL BUSHLUS		DMKP	DEBBIE MOSS/KIM PLACE		
MH	MARGE HAGENSICK		LR	LYNN REELAND		
MK	MARK KANDEL		AS	ALYS SCHNEIDER		
			RS	ROGER SMITH		
JKM	JOE/KATHY MEGACZ		MRT	MARK/ROBERTA TABAC		
NM	NANCY MACHACEK		LT	LOIS TALLEY		
TNM	TOM/NANCY MACHACEK		CT	CAROL TENNANT		
RCM	RUSS/CAMILE MARTEN		MW	MERRILY WESOLOWSKI		
SM	SHIRLEY MLODOZENIEC		HKW	HARRY/KAREN WILDBLOOD		

2011 Indiana State Fair Literature

ITEM	2009	2010	2011
7-IN-1	104	65	70
SET	44	62	51
DPA	236	155	48
DPA _s	6	6	4
DPA _p	4	0	0
DPA _c	7	5	1
	0	0	0
PYRAMID	13	26	17
WGPE	27	0	0
FTCe	43	47	31
FTCs	13	9	8
911	81	65	50
CREATION	39	34	25
KINGDOM	28	48	28
HELL	22	31	24
ISRAEL	18	8	4
MISC	1	2	8
CAN BONES	28	27	20
MILLENIUM	15	0	0
B. GOODMAN	14	0	0
RADIO	100	0	0
TOTALS	843	590	389

If estimates were to be made, the literature rack has 4 sides. Each side held about 8 different items. These were replenished throughout the day as needed. One person might take 1 or 2 items. The next would take 10. On a busy wave of public the count would be very high. On slow shifts it might be very little.

An estimate of 30-50 magazines/newsletters per shift x 3 shifts x 17 days = 1530 to 2550. Or another estimate would be 1 magazine/newsletter for every Free-bie packet handed out... 2100. So the total free literature items were somewhere around 1530-2100. It would have been a tedious burden on the brethren to keep accurate records of these items... they were all FREE. Magazines were from past issues, mailings and witness efforts. Newsletters were from past issues. Some newsletters were downloaded and printed from the Internet... others were in mixed boxes. Additional fliers from the Fair tragedy were also made and passed out as well as a special Tabernacle handout of the first two chapters of the Tabernacle Shadows. That was good.

I checked the trash periodically and never found discarded items from the booth. I'm sure there were some... but very little. That was a good sign. Everyone liked the highlighters, especially the children!

ESTIMATED EXPENSES

Note: Aside from the booth rental and motel rooms, the other expenses were covered by personal donations of various brethren. Proceeds from literature sales were used to offset some expenses. Left over literature will be used in future witness efforts.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COST
BOOTH RENTAL	FEEES TO INDIANA STATE FAIR	1123.50
MOTELS	29 ROOM NIGHTS X \$74.04	2205.16
PARKING	22 X \$5	110.00
FREEBEES E	2100 X 1.08	2268.00
FREEBEES S	100 X .90	90.00
HIGHLIGHTERS	1000	539.69
7-IN-1	70 X \$5	350.00
NB SETS	51 X \$17.50	892.50
DPA's	48 E, 4 SP, 1 C	85.00
LIT POSTAGE	SHIPPING	123.08
FW MAG	250 X .50	125.00
PRINTING	INK & PAPER TO DUPLICATE NEWSLETTERS	210.00
DVDS	215 DVDS IN JEWELL CASES	279.50
MISC	BANNER, BOXES, BAGS, MISC MATERIALS	0.00
	SUB-TOTAL	8401.43
	LITERATURE SALES	-837.25
	CLASS BUDGET FUNDS	-3000.00
	PRIVATE DONATIONS	-4564.18
	BALANCE	0.00