

# 2012 Indiana State Fair Report

***“The Lord adopted a plan which taught them a lesson such as he often teaches his followers, viz.: that the success or failure of their efforts, in any direction, he can control if he please.” B 118***

*This was the 4th year at the Indiana State Fair. Brethren from 4 states and 6 different ecclesias volunteered to serve. We had a number of familiar faces that came and a few new additions in Br. Perry Robinson, Sr. Jacqueline Fowler, Br. Jim Moss, Br. Richard and Sr. Sue Doctor. It made for an interesting blend of brethren and witnessing techniques.*

*A new booklet was used, **Israel's Tabernacle**. Originally it was a powerpoint presentation by Br. Allen Springer given a few years ago in Columbus, OH. It was also transferred on to U-Tube. The main purpose of the booklet was to offer information on the Tabernacle, since a 7th Day Adventist church from Cicero, IN, had constructed a 2/3 model across the aisle from our booth. It led to a number of good conversations. Our booth became a source of information for the SDA, too. Most SDAs who served received the booklet and some discussions. I saw their minister, but never spoke with him. I couldn't help but wonder what he was thinking as he saw this unfolding. I did talk to his assistant pastor, Aaron. Our conversations were good. Aaron's children were excellent examples for their group. Aged 9-12, they worked with Mom and Dad at the fair handing out literature. The children were all well behaved and polite.*

*Last year the Indiana State Fair (ISF) had an unfortunate disaster when a strong wind came and blew down the stage where a concert was about to perform. A few died and a number were injured. As a result there were modifications to procedures that affected visitors and vendors alike. Some things changed during the fair, so it was routine to see change. Insurance requirements were affected and we almost cancelled at the last minute, but it was resolved. Announcements of changes in weather were announced over the loud speakers, reflecting the cautious attitude that resulted from last year. Some attribute the drop in attendance to the weather.*

*Just when you thought it was safe, there was another mishap in one of the buildings. No one was seriously injured, but it happened to fall on the anniversary of last year's disaster. None of the brethren were involved. It did lead to discussions about trouble and Why God Permits Evil. The brethren in NW Indiana had a newsletter prepared on the subject and it came in handy.*

*The brethren from NW Indiana also provided **Chart of the Ages** for handing out. On the flip side was a key to explain the various features. Many people were interested in the chart and took a copy. The literature rack had 48 slots... 12 to a side. The top and bottom had magazines (Divine Plan of the Ages, Explanation of the Chart, Where Are the Dead, Our Lord's Return, Spiritism and Evolution) Over 400 magazines were taken. The other 40 slots carried newsletters from Columbus, New Brunswick, NW Indiana and Chicago... approximately 1600 were distributed. I checked the trash cans often and I never saw **any** of our literature thrown away. 2100 literature packets and 1400 hundred highlighters with the CBS website imprint were also given away. A number of Chinese 1st volumes were placed (10). 55 sets and 84 1st volumes were also placed in English, Spanish, Polish and Chinese. 137 Israel's Tabernacle booklets and over 100 DVDs were placed.*

*I have thought of the phrase, "It takes a village to raise a child." "It takes a village to run a fair booth." The brethren back home in Chicago who voted for the fair, the brethren who stuffed packets, the brethren who contributed with donations, the brethren who worked on the Tabernacle booklet, the ones who prayed and the ones who served at the booth all shared in this service. For me, it was a routine with unforeseen challenges. There is a resource of brethren willing to do what needs to be done within small time frames. The Lord knows this and the results always rest in His hands. (See the above quote from **B 118**). It makes me appreciate the brethren who do a fair on their own.*

***"The skill to do comes from doing." ---Emerson***

*One of my favorite memories is working with brethren and watching them grow in their witness skills. Brethren that were timid were more confident this year in presenting the truth. Fear of questions was now willingness to explain the truth with all the questions it might bring. Those who were a bit rusty in their presentations finished as fearless for the truth. What a blessing to watch! Sitting down and waiting for the public to approach often changed. In the end they*

couldn't sit down, because they might miss talking to the next person coming by. If you didn't know how to start a conversation, it only took a few examples and some practice. Everyone did just fine and next time will be even better! No statistics will ever reflect this transition.

Then there was working with Sr. Jackie... she attracted a special niche of public! There were JW's she talked to... there were those that thought *we* were JW's and she talked to them... every race, every age, every size... there was Sr. Jackie with her enthusiasm and love for witnessing. If people stopped, she'd talk to them! If they didn't stop, she still talked to them! More than once black women would be drawn to Sr. Jackie like a magnet! I remember hearing the comment that they were pleased to see that our group has both black and white serving the Lord together. We don't even think about that, but the public sees it. It was a real joy to see her in action! Whew! The word "fearless" certainly fits Sr. Jackie well. And then she asked, "Do you have any other openings in the schedule I can work this week?" She was ready and came back for more! (It wears me out just reading this paragraph!)

Even though the crowds were less and it was slow at times, the brethren focused on better discussions... quality over quantity. In the eyes of other vendors, the friends were a good witness. Bahar, the Muslim neighbor, wanted Nancy Machacek for a mother-in-law! (Of course, Bahar was already married... but she sure liked Nancy!) I never heard one criticism of the brethren, but often the blessings vendors received from "the couple that was here yesterday." Those that found the brethren, also found sincere people that cared, could explain points well, showed a Christ-like character, had sympathy, listened and offered comfort and hope. Vendors didn't buy or take something every time they stopped by. They didn't have to. They were deeply enriched the same. The brethren really let their light shine!

Dorothy was married to a mafia hit man on death row! (There's a first for everything!) He accepted Jesus and then events turned well for him. He was released from prison. The mafia wanted him to come back to work, but he stood up for his new calling and refused. He died 6 years ago and now Dorothy continues to be involved in a prison ministry. She read everything she picked up from our booth. She pointed out a sentence that said **our Lord returned in 1874** and asked how we came up with that date. You know she was reading and comprehending... and she wasn't turning away! That was good. It's also a good example of how you never know what question will come up next! (This reminded me of sister Petrina at the Michigan State Fair years ago. She told a visitor, "Our Lord returned in 1874 and Mark can explain how we get to that date!" I never forgot that conversation. You have to love witnessing for moments like this! A quick "Help me, Lord!" always seems appropriate.)

It was a good fair. Thank you all for your interest and help. In reading the experiences of the brethren I noticed how often brethren used words "privilege to serve," opportunity, blessing, thank you, fun, wonderful time, blessed with the opportunity, thank the Lord for opportunities.

It certainly was an honor and privilege to serve. The Lord blessed in many ways.

Br. Mark Kandel

**It was nice to get some time to talk with you.**

**This was my first state fair; and my first time witnessing at a state fair. It was fun, notwithstanding my physical fatigue, due to health issues.**

**Since the Lord said: "Draw nigh unto me; and I will draw nigh unto you," I feel no weight on my shoulders to "get" a bunch of people. I believe a truth seeker will seek it whether our tongue be eloquent or stammering.**

**Something probably obvious to brethren who have done state fairs before; but trial and error for me was the following:**

**If you look them in the eye as they come down the aisle, most people are shy (or don't want to get got) so they look down and scurry past our booth. Much greater numbers of conversations seemed to come from just being caught in the act of being a Christian, i.e., sitting there, Bible**

open, discussing the Scriptures with you or Bro. John, hence interested people walked up to see the Chart of the Ages on the wall, and the Volumes, etc., on display.

Many pleasant conversations were started by simply asking: Do you have a Bible at home? Almost always they said yes. Many said: "Yes, I have 4 or 5 Bibles at home." I smiled. So did they. I handed them a tiny piece of paper with 2 dozen Scriptures (with citations) on it, all of which pertain to the Mediatorial phase of the Millennium; and all of which, therefore, would be entirely "outside the box" in which they would usually do their Scriptural thinking. This usually dissipated their uneasiness and started them looking at the literature. I pointed out "the best one" on the rack - the first volume. It had the Chart of the Ages on the front. The Chart seemed intimidating to most until I matter-of-factly said: "It's just a time line. I gave them a 30-second chart talk, starting with Adam, the flood, the Patriarchs (age), the cross (Jesus' time) the Christian/Gospel Age, and the shaded part was "a number of things, including Armageddon," and on the right-hand-side here is when everything is fixed. Almost everyone took one, i.e., no negative responses. Many of those talked to bought a First Volume, or the 7-in-1 volumes. Some wanted two. It was fun.

**Bro. Perry Robinson**

Thanks to the Lord, to you and to the Chicago brethren for making available the privilege to serve at the ISF.

Tom and I served the first Sunday of the Fair and the last Saturday. In comparing the two days, the interaction with the public was pretty much opposite.

Sunday was a very quiet day; even people who staffed a few of the nearby booths commented about the absence of people. Two ladies who visited the booth seemed to know exactly what they wanted; each purchasing either a set of volumes or other aids and taking free literature.

Saturday was relatively busy. Some lulls occurred, but for the most part, we were often engaged with the public. We had some very good conversations:

1) On her third trip to the Fair, Kim stopped at the booth. Previously she studied with the Witnesses, and perhaps is still affiliated with them. Members of her congregation are persecuting Kim because she does not "fit in," craving more information, "meat," than she is getting. Her statement was that she has no one else except the Lord and she asked him to remove any form of arrogance from her heart so that she could be at peace with him. Although she wanted to buy the 7-in-1, she did not want to carry it around the Fair. We waited at the booth until the building was closed, but Kim did not return.

2) A lady in a motorized wheelchair asked about materials for a Bible class that her congregation asked her to teach to 8-9 year olds. Since she could not browse through magazine rack, I read titles to her, and she accepted a couple of them. Before she left, I asked if she would be able to read *How to Study the Bible* (sitting still was a challenge for her), which she gladly received. We talked about the Freebies packet for a little while. As she began to drive away, she stopped, looked at me and said that she has Huntington's. I was thankful that she has a "can-do" attitude and people who know she can. Before she left, Tom gave her a copy of the newsletter "God's Healthcare Plan" (or some similar title).

3) A fellow, interested in the Chart, stopped for a conversation. Impressed by God's Plan of salvation for all, he told Tom that he would like to believe in the 2 salvations.

4) John, in from Ohio to work at the Seventh Day Adventist booth, came to talk with us. He ended up asking for one of the booklets on the Tabernacle.

5) A fellow, David, wanted to talk about Enoch's pyramid. He already has the 7-in-1, so I showed him that on page 266 was the beginning of the pyramid study. Although he accepted a Chart, he returned it. I was so thankful that Br. Richard and Sr. Suzanne Doctor arrived because I thought that they were more capable than I to converse with David!

6) A lady was looking for a book to explain various Hebrew and Greek words. As Tom talked with her about a topical study, he showed her the organization of the Volumes. She was very happy to buy a set!

7) Several people from years past stopped at the booth. Some knew what they wanted. Some wanted additional information or stopped out of curiosity.

I also wondered if our witness as Bible Students was intended for the ladies selling pots in the next booth who are Muslims. We had many conversations with them. Time will tell.

If the Chicago Bible Students sponsors the ISF next year, we would want to serve again. If another site is chosen, we would do our best to participate at a new location because the benefits to the public are far reaching, whether we observe the influence or not.

The blessing was ours to support the 2012 Fair, two of many who shared the booth.  
In the one hope -- Tom and Nancy Machacek

**It is such a blessing every year to serve at the fair, I wouldn't want to change a thing. It is a special privilege to be there. This year seemed to be different, some old faces, some new some interesting conversations, got to comfort some. This year didn't seem as much enthusiasm, but the ones that we talked to seemed to be sincere. Didn't see as much interest in the volumes as last year, more seemed to be interested in the Chart of the Ages.**

**Bro. Roger Smith**

As you said it was a quiet year at the fair. I did have an experience that has stayed with me. On Monday we had a woman come to the booth asking us to tell her where her father who had died when she was a child was, in heaven or in the grave like her husband said. This was difficult for me because I didn't want to crush her dream (illusion) but I went forward with the truth. I told her her father was in the grave awaiting the resurrection, Christ's call for those in the grave to come forward. I also told her about the earthly phase of the kingdom and how she would have the opportunity to know her father, who died when she was a child. I am thankful you had the Comfort and Consolation booklets there this year, she left with one and all the comforting words I could think of. Even though it was an off year I hope you decide to try again next year. Any opportunity to witness to our Heavenly Father's love and mercy is a blessing. Thank you Br. Mark for all the time and energy you put into this fair effort.

Sr. Lois Talley

*August 8<sup>th</sup> 2012, my first really public ministry as a now Baptized Christian. I am at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, Indiana. This is my report. Enjoy.*

*The Chicago Bible Student congregation paid for the overnight hotel stay including breakfast and dinner. I had a message to meet Br. Mark for 8am breakfast. I rode to the fair with him. He stopped to replenish printing paper from Staples Office Supply. (Important detail to remember later.) Br. Mark told us to dress casual, not in suits. His attitude was constantly of serving to help people understand and make their choice of what they wanted, instead of coercion. They stayed longer to browse and pick what they wanted.*

*We were in the first aisle close to the restroom, a strategic spot. The huge banner exclaimed "Providing Tools for Better Bible Understanding." Brothers and sisters had put together packages to give with various booklets and cards included. It was just loaded with great helpful information.*

*I tried to observe Br. Mark first to see how he presented himself, but no time for that. I had to jump into full public ministry mode like a Witness. Just with a twist, to gain the hearer, be more loving and listen intently to their expressions. Br. Mark had an Evangelical that was in full gear. I deserted him, but he held his own. We had a JW Brother (Elder) come by. He said he saw the booth last year and wondered if it was Br. Russell's material. Mark pointed to me, we switched. I told him I could lovingly assure him of that. These were the original Bible Students and all materials were unchanged. He left after mental notes, but would not accept anything. Later I noticed other Witnesses looking at him.*

*Two separate Ministers came by to get the printed sermons for some Sunday Sermons. With their wives they took many copies. Other ministers took loads of printed sermons. Now I know why Br. Mark had to buy more packs of paper. People turned that spindle. College students came by to get copies. One young man agreed with the sermon, "Not Good Enough for Heaven, but not Bad enough for Hell, so what about Purgatory?" He said he always wanted to know. There were so many persons coming over on their own. It took two or more people that day. The Target audience was reached. Those not interested in religion just walked by.*

*Br. Mark told me the booth behind us had the Gideons; they put Bibles in the hotel as one phrase of their ministry, over 73 million in 2011 alone and 1 plus billion since their inception. They asked me if I would speak at their convention and give my testimonial on how I used the Bibles that they put in their hotel rooms when I toured for years with entertainers. I wrote a testimony for them instead.*

*After college students with parents got their supply of Bible material from us (they were loading up) I sent them around the corner to get their special color coded Bibles from the Gideons. So I was able to bounce off the other two religious booths there. We had what they needed for their booths and they had what we needed. The free beautiful color coded bibles and the Tabernacle was right on time for our Tabernacle booklet. This was a blessed day for me.*

*Just too many experiences to tell, but Saturday was just very busy. Like Jesus the best way is to go where the people are and cast your bread on the waters, let the Spirit take it from there. There were so many repeat persons from past years. One Lady said she knew we would be there so she paid \$5 parking and \$8 admission fee just to get the single volumes as she bought the 7-in-1 the year before. One lady came back with her sisters. All four purchased the 6 volumes plus Israel's Tabernacle. 24 books in 15 minutes. Saturday had too many experiences to mention. The Gideons kept coming over to thank me for sending people to get a free Bible. I have learned to include, not to hate.*

*I have never seen people go through religious material from Br. Mark's spindle so fast. He was at the hotel making more while 2 of us worked the booth. The key it seems is not push these thinking adult individuals; let them choose what they want to know. They seem to trust the Bible Students for we are non-denominational and they saw how we sent them to get all their Bible supplies and see the temple with their Tabernacle booklet from us. Belief in God is not dead in those that are hungering. And the Pastors are spreading the truth found in those many sermons they took. Praise God.*

*The three days I spent at the fair were faith building. That spindle was twirling constantly. I actually accomplish more talking to people that come over rather than knocking on empty houses where people are hiding as we as Witnesses have made door-to-door a stench. Although much can be accomplished in door-to-door or any place where there are people. I plan to set up a booth in my area at a monthly fair where booth rental is only \$5. The Fair in Indianapolis provided adequate training. I received emails from one lady. She said they would tell their Witness relatives about the Bible Students. She and her friends used the spindle to select their topics.*

*This has been a blessing for me and I thank the brothers for providing rooming and all the other expenses that went into our ministry experience. Also Br. Mark for making me feel needed and comfortable. I feel blessed.*

*Sr. Jacqueline Fowler*

**I had the privilege of speaking to one of the individuals who visits the booth year after year. This particular lady said she had read through the Divine Plan of the Ages and enjoyed it, but it was hard to understand. As we talked, I could tell by her responses that she had picked up some understanding and was actually trying to apply it to a situation with her daughter that was distressing: her daughter had let slip an "interest in God" and it concerned her because, from her standpoint as a Mother, the daughter is making bad decisions that will have unhappy consequences. I was very pleased to be able to give her the "summary booklet" of Vol 1 which might help her understand better the overview of God's plan for all, along with some pieces of literature specific to address continued comfort and Faith that her daughter will be part of the coming blessings.**

**I hope Chicago decides to continue to support this effort. It is a wonderful opportunity for some of us!**

**Sr. Debbie Moss**

Thank you for all your efforts and asking my participation in this year's witness effort at the Indiana State Fair. I do feel privileged to server to the best of my ability. This is the Lord's work in this time of the Harvest and I feel like it is very beneficial for both me and the people that seek the Lord's truth.

I was serving on Saturday August 11th from 10-2. I came up on Friday evening after work. I got to the Hotel at 11 their time. I wanted to get a good night's sleep so I could be rested and ready. I went down to the lobby for breakfast and to meet Br. Mark. Originally I was to serve with Br. Mark due to no one being alone at the table. To my surprise, when I went down, not only was Br. Mark there, but Sr. Jacqueline Fowler from Gary, IN!! I was so overjoyed to see her and finding out she would be serving with me!

I have met Sr. Jacqueline before and spoken briefly, but never had a chance to really fellowship. This was the perfect opportunity and it was a wonderful experience to exchange thoughts and get to know each other.

We spoke to all the different vendors around us before the people came in. It's like a reunion! We all come to the same place every year and do have a lot in common.

Personally, I think we were steady for the four hours 10-2 that Saturday. We spoke to some people that looked very desperate for the truth and answers about life and God.

I had a very touching experience when an older gentleman came up in a wheelchair to get some information. He wanted to talk, and I actually came around the front of the booth to talk to him. I had to bend over so he could hear me. I think he appreciated the one-on-one and heart-felt conversation. I could tell after I gave him some booklets and information, he just smiled and knew that someone cared!

There was a woman who came up who had a relative in the family dying of some disease. She wanted something to help not only him but her understand why God permits these things and there is hope. I told her God has a plan for him. We all have a purpose. She bought many CD's. The Truth About Hell, For this Cause, and one on the Kingdom. She was starting to cry and so was !!!

I had a few stubborn ones come up. One gentleman suggested that I read a book by Thomas Payne called "The Age of Reason." He said it would debunk all religious theories and make you starting thinking for yourself instead of listening to others. I wrote it down politely and told him, "Thank you."

I had a wonderful time and it sure went by fast.

In His service, Sr. Lynn Reeland, Spring Valley, IL Class

**I was able to go to the fair this year through the goodness of my brother, Lee, now retired. The fair seemed slower this year than previously and the same people stopped and listened. I had no profound experiences, though some did come up and "buy" --- having heard a presentation previously.**

**My outstanding experiences were with the Seventh Day Adventist group across the way. I was impressed with their knowledge. Had a nice discussion with a young lady re the tabernacle arrangement and the temple. Also discussed women's work of cleansing the blood (from sacrificing) and the anointing oil (from the anointing of the high priest and under priests). But my best discussion was re the 2300 days beginning 457 BC to 1844 Br. Miller (their view is near to our Truth)... day for a year... Jesus born 4 to 5 BC, baptized 27 AD, died 30 AD, Stephen martyred 33 AD. It was thrilling to me to realize the detail some have of the Lord's Word and how close they come to the Truth.**

**I thanked the Lord for the privilege of trying to represent His Word and plan and so thankful for Apostle Peter's nutshell Gospel in 2 Peter 3.**

**It was a great blessing to work with Br. Mark --- a fellow from my youth and kin spirit in service.**

**Sr. Merrily Wesolowski**

**Jack and I served as a team at the Indiana State Fair. Though we each have our own technique in approaching visitors at the Fair, it seems to work for us and we manage to get a fairly good response. We are very grateful for the Lord's direction and overruling as we attempt to bring glory to His name.**

**Because we served on "Two Dollar Tuesday" we may have had more people at the booth than on some of the other days. We remained quite busy for most of the time and talked to many, many people. Every conversation was unique according to the background of the individual. Several attendees to the Fair were familiar with the booth and returned from previous years. Of course, many avoided the booth entirely.**

**Jack and I immediately took full advantage of the Tabernacle theme of the Seventh Day Adventists near by. We often caught people as they approached the CBS booth from already seeing the Tabernacle display. We offered the Tabernacle book, which was printed specially for this year's witness effort at the fair. This booklet gave us a wonderful tool for witnessing. People seemed fascinated as we walked them through the Tabernacle and explained the various furnishings. We always referred to the bullock on the brazen altar as a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice for all mankind and emphasized that the Tabernacle was a symbolic "walk" of the Christian. The booklet was reasonably priced at fifty cents and was fairly easy to sell to the patrons. We offer sincere thanks to Br. Mark and the Chicago class for providing this beautiful tool to aid us in our witness efforts.**

**The booth is very conveniently arranged to meet all the needs of the brethren to successfully introduce the public to God's plan. We observed that many considered themselves knowledgeable Christians. Often times when we presented information on the chart, many questioned where the rapture would appear on the timeline. Many expressed attendance at Bible studies, but when questioned about their study topics, they frequently referred to books written by popular Christian authors. We hope that we were able to encourage them to consider the scriptures as their basis of study and we placed many free charts of the Divine Plan of the Ages. They were greatly interested in the details displayed.**

**We are thankful for this opportunity and leave the results in the Lord's hands.**

**Bro. Jack and Sr. Donna Whittaker**

*Thank you for the privilege of serving a couple of sessions at the Bible Student booth in the Indiana State Fair. It seemed to me that there were about as many coming to the booth as when I had served two years ago. The number was down then, too. But there were still some opportunities for discussion, and some bought literature, and many more accepted the packet of booklets, some of whom also selected other free literature. Several people seemed really appreciative. One couple who bought literature and DVD's insisted on adding a donation, although not encouraged to do so.*

*Neighboring vendors were friendly. I enjoyed the opportunity to discuss a bit with the Seventh Day Adventists, who had the large Tabernacle model across the aisle and down a booth. When I commended one of the Adventists on the accuracy of the Brazen Altar having the grating half-way down, rather than at the top as sometimes depicted, I appreciated learning that the Mercy Seat on the Ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy is the same height as the grating of the Brazen Altar, showing God's mercy in justification through Jesus' sacrifice.*

*May our loving Heavenly Father bless and guide you in your efforts to serve Him and bring honor and praise to Him and to His wonderful Son!*

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



Dear Brethren,

Once again, we'd like to thank the Chicago Ecclesia for providing this opportunity to share in the privilege of witnessing to the public at the Indiana State Fair. We are always encouraged by the responses we receive at the booth, and this year was no exception. The attendance was less on the days we were there, especially the second day when it rained continuously and the exhibit hall was closed early. But, even so, the exchanges with those who would stop, provided many opportunities for presenting the beautiful truth that we all love so much.

We were thankful for the Tabernacle booklets that you printed up, because the booth across from us was displaying a large Tabernacle model, and when people would stop there and head our way, we could smile at them and say, "The Tabernacle is amazing, isn't it? Would you like to learn about the message it illustrates for us as Christians?" Most of the people would smile back and stop to chat for a few minutes, and then gather materials of interest to them. Not everyone purchased a Tabernacle booklet, but it provided a good tool to get them exposed to several key points of truth.

Br. Bill had an excellent witness with a man and his wife who was looking over the videos and spotted "The Truth About Hell." He said to his wife, "I wonder if they know the REAL truth about hell?" Bill responded, "Well, why don't you tell me what your thought would be about the subject, and I'll tell you if we agree?" The man replied, "First of all, there is NO hell, I mean, I place of burning torment. Hell is the grave." And then he proceeded to give all of the Scriptural support for his view -- the same Scriptures we would typically use. He then proceeded to say that he agreed that there is no immortality of the soul, and he agreed with many other Harvest truth doctrines that we were presenting. He and his wife were not affiliated with any church, nor the Jehovah's Witnesses. They took many of the free materials that were offered.

Sr. Estelle had two experiences which stood out. One young woman with children stopped to explain that she was trying to figure out which was the best church to attend - Catholic or Jehovah's Witness. One of her parents was Catholic and the other Jehovah's Witness, and she had learned well the teachings of both. She said that she could not agree with the Catholics on purgatory, the trinity and hell. But, she did not like the organization of the Witnesses. Estelle went through many materials that explained various truths, and the young woman was especially interested in the End Times newsletter article on "What is the One True Church." The young woman came back several times to the booth throughout the day, and brought her friend to review the literature. Her friend also took many free items.

Sr. Estelle's second especially encouraging experience was piggy-backed off of one of Br. Mark Kandel's experiences with a woman named Dorothy - a vendor just a few booths down from ours. Br. Mark had mentioned to us that he had an excellent witness with her, and she took many items from the booth. Since traffic was really slow on the last Thursday of the fair because of rain and wind, Estelle decided to go visit Dorothy's booth. Not letting on that she knew about Dorothy's previous contact, Estelle stopped at her display and inquired about the pretty stained glass windows that Dorothy was selling. Estelle explained that she was also at a vendor's booth, and Dorothy asked which one. When Estelle said the Bible study booth, Dorothy lit up and said, "Oh, I've had very good conversations with Mark." She then began to state how she couldn't believe in a God of torment, and that she wanted to learn more about many different subjects that we were presenting. She said that she just couldn't believe that God's people would just be in one particular church and that everyone else would not be saved. Estelle said, "Did you see the free newsletter on "What is the One

**True Church?" Dorothy said, "No! I need to get that one." Estelle offered to go get it, but Dorothy insisted on coming back to the booth, because, she said, "There may be other good items that I've missed." In fact, she saw a lot of other new subjects that she wanted to investigate. We are sure that the remaining brethren who served at the booth, including Mark, would have had more contact with Dorothy.**

**These were just a few of the highlights. The drenching rain didn't dampen our enthusiasm for serving at the fair. We are glad to have had many opportunities for personal witness and for sharing the beauties of the truth.**

**By God's Grace, Br. Bill and Sr. Estelle Gill**

**1 Samuel 12:24 "Serve the Lord in truth with all your heart, for consider what great things He hath done for you."**

“Once again this year we were blessed with the opportunity to share God’s Word and Plan with any hearing ears at the IN State Fair. This year the traffic was less than in past years, but we had some nice little conversations on a number of topics with those who did stop by. Our conversations covered topics such as the Gifts of the Spirit, the Rapture, the Trinity (of course), eternal torment and whether we were JW’s. One of our longer conversations was with a couple that stopped by toward the end of the day. The woman worked at a Chick-Fil-A and we discussed how the recent comments by the President of the Company affected business at the store where she works. This led to a discussion about her two gay brothers and how her family has tried to have them leave that lifestyle. It was a different conversation than usual, and you could see how personal it was to someone who has family members involved in a lifestyle that God condemns. Another lengthy conversation was with a man who teaches adult Sunday school, at a Baptist church. While our differences on the trinity and hell were divulged early on, our discussion was reasonable. We decided to disagree without being disagreeable. He demonstrated a nice spirit, so hopefully we gave him some things to consider further.

The biggest blessing of the Fair was becoming fast friends with Jodi in the Windows and Doors Booth next to us. Jodi had accompanied her friend, Camille, to the Fair just to keep her company, as Jodi was not getting paid and did not work for the Window Company. Jodi and Camille could hear much of what we were saying to those who stopped by. She is a sincere Christian who is going thru some trials in life. Jodi and Camille both shared a recent experience that occurred which upset many members of the Methodist Church they attend, when the new Pastor came in. We could see they were deciding whether to continue attending that Church, or seek other study opportunities. We’ve continued to stay in touch with Jodi since we’ve been home from the Fair. We’ve been able to share some of God’s Plan for all; as well as Scriptures to strengthen her thru her current trial. This will hopefully turn into a long term relationship and opportunity to continue to plant seeds in the months ahead.

In His Service,  
Bro. Mark and Sr. Roberta Tabac

### **Experiences at Indiana State Fair 2012 - Bro. Richard Doctor**

For many years I have loved serving at fairs, but it has been far too long since my last opportunity. Sr. Sue and I served with Bro. Mark Kandel on the closing day of the fair Sunday, August 19. Perfect weather over the weekend attracted good attendance, and we came in on Saturday afternoon and had the privilege of seeing Tom and Nancy Machacek. At the booth Saturday, I spoke at length with David (50 years old and a perennial visitor as I was informed) who is a man of

a gentle spirit. We connected when it turned out that I knew a good deal about Mazon, the small town in Illinois near Braidwood from which his family came. He was passionate in his remembrances of his grandmother and the family history during the Great Depression and of their faith in the Lord. We spoke about his current church (Apostolic - Pentecostal) his life experience and hopes, and the hopes for the Kingdom. As it turns out, some of his prayer hopes included that God would restore the family property he had lost in 2006 and also bring him a Christian wife. Sadly, such hopes were not based on a well-grounded understanding of the Lord's word and will. David left with some reading materials and encouragement to continue to feed upon the Lord's Word and put his trust in Him.

Man (early 60s): He began by observing that we were obviously "dispensationalists." I agreed, and asked if he was also. It turns out, he was not. He was interested in discussing the differences between Biblical translations and recessions of the text. He left with the information packet and some additional materials. His was the first of four comments which stated that the printed text in the books was too small for convenient reading.

Two men (early 30s): A Catholic Sunday School teacher and his companion showed up late morning and were very open to accepting material. The teacher seemed somewhat skeptical about his own church's dogma and seemed to be leaning more towards higher criticism. Since the Sunday School teacher was interested in discussing the canon for the books of the New Testament as laid out in Eusebius (~330 AD), that is what we did in an effort to strengthen his faith. We discussed the specifics respecting the internal evidence for the Gospel of Matthew being originally written in Aramaic as maintained by Eusebius. He left with the information packet, a Chart of the Ages, and additional materials. Let us trust that should provide some helpful augmentations to the Catholic Sunday School lessons.

Woman (late 20's) accompanied by husband and infant children. She agreed that she needed to be better grounded in the scriptures, especially so that she could guide her children. She purchased a Divine Plan of the Ages.

Ellie (African American, 50s) very delighted to return to the booth since she was a perennial visitor and immediately began telling Sr. Sue, Bro. Mark, and me about the excitement she had in the last year in reading and placing our literature in the hands of her family and now her new pastor. She reported that her pastor now delivered sermons out of the Scripture Studies. She stocked up on literature, additional free materials, and left us with a hug and well-wishes.

Hispanic family with young children: Drawn in to the study materials by Sr. Sue. The father was very interested in the Spanish material on display as well as the other materials. The family group of ten or so gathered around while they received what materials we could find, including DVDs. We made certain they had our contact information for additional materials in Spanish.

Fellow Vendors: The morning on Sunday began rather slowly, but this provided an opportunity to get to know the other exhibitors and keep up the friendly relations that Bro. Mark has so adroitly nurtured. I visited the Tabernacle exhibition from the Seventh Day Adventists across the way. By mid-afternoon it was possible to have some serious discussion with a kind young lady, Tony, (mid-30s) from the Seventh Day Adventists who was a Bible Class Instructor (a paid position in their church). By the close of the day from another exhibitor Jodi., we learned her life story and painful experiences. We were entreated to pray for her as she dealt with the collapse of her marriage due to her husband's traumatic war experiences (PTSD) as a soldier. An offering of a newspaper article on the sad world conditions in sub-Saharan Africa came to us from another exhibitor, Pat, who just wanted a friendly relationship and who sold fine and expensive Southwest style jewelry. Some extended discussion and a warning from a pleasant but firm male exhibitor (late 60s) who considered us Jehovah's Witnesses (see below).

Of special note, we had some serious discussion about the Watchtower with one of the other exhibitors who was a Jehovah's Witness (late 60s, see note by Sr. Sue below). He thought that the only way that the Bible Students could be possessed of the knowledge of God's Plan and scripture was that we had former Witnesses who had left the movement and were now instructing us as elders. This opened the opportunity to discuss the history of the Bible Students and the Watchtower's separation and modification of the Harvest Message by Judge Rutherford and his associates. Our friend received some serious food for thought even though he ultimately was too hesitant to buy the Studies in the Scriptures.

**Non-Denominational Status:** Many of the visitors seemed to be Pentecostal, or Non-denominational. Our non-denominational status seemed to be a point of connection. It was possible to have some extended discussions and to place some literature. We also pointed out that the free newsletters came from several Bible Student groups and that this accurately reflected the voluntary association of believers sans creed that we cherish.

**Chart of the Ages:** The chart served as the basic backdrop for the booth and the free charts were always referenced as the best way to organize your Bible study. People were frequently very surprised when the chart was flipped over to show the scriptural basis for each element. This proved to be a good approach to getting them to take a free copy.

**First Volume sales:** The volumes sales began slowly in the morning but began to move more rapidly during the afternoon. By the close of the fair between the three of us, two Seven-in-One volumes and 19 Divine Plan of the Ages had been placed; a few Tabernacle booklets, and a good number of varied newsletters. We kept distributing information packets and yellow highlighter pens with the Chicago Bible Students web-site imprint at a very good rate.

**Happy Trails:** As the day came to a close, the prize announcements over the fair speaker system slid into ad-lib humor-- apparently "two gallons of used hot-dog water" is typical. While our purpose is very serious, it does help to have a sense of humor when serving. As the building closed, "Happy Trails to you, until we meet again..." from the close of the old Roy Rogers cowboy series were played over the speakers. All the vendors eagerly started packing and saying good-bye. We got a high-five from Bahar next door, a seller of the world's finest Titanium pans; but on a more serious note, had an extended discussion with Jodi at the booth next door as noted. All the books, pamphlets, DVDs, and the booth itself got packed and stacked in the U-Haul or Bro. Mark's trunk and we departed with a group prayer and thanksgiving.

### **Sr. Suzanne Doctor**

I echo Richard's sentiments. It was a very exhilarating and joyful experience to be able to talk about God's wonderful plan. I was especially pleased to talk to the man who tried to entrap me into confessing we were Jehovah's Witnesses. He approached me by asking for some Watch Towers! When I said we didn't have any, I wondered, aloud, why he was asking. He replied that we were JW's. I simply said we were not and asked him if he was a Witness. He seemed to be simmering in a little anger, but politely stated he was not a Witness. I like to talk with angry people. I like to hear what they have to say and then try to diffuse the situation - to God's glory.

Another memorable conversation was with a woman in her fifties who was worried she might go to hell because she did not speak in tongues. She had been raised in the Pentecostal church from her youth, but could not seem to learn tongues. We talked about salvation and tried to allay her fears. She took some printed material about speaking in tongues and also wanted my phone number. She said she might want to talk to me some more. Her friend, who was attending the fair with her, also wanted my phone number. Her friend took a several of our free newsletters. We thank the Lord for the opportunities to tell the truth about His marvelous plan and His loving, just character.

# 2012 INDIANA STATE FAIR AUGUST 3-19 SCHEDULE

DATE	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
DAY	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU
10-2	RCM	JB PR	TNM	RS	RS LT NK	JF MK	MK	JDM	LR JF	JF MK	MW MK	JDW	MH MK	BEG	MRT	TNM	RSD
2-6	RCM	JB PR	TNM	RS LT NK	RS LT NK	JF MK	MK	JDM	LR JF	JF MK	MW MK	JDW	BEG	BEG	MRT	TNM	RSD
6-9	RCM	JB PR	MK	LT NK	MK	JF MK	JDM	JDM	JF MK	MW MK	JDW	MH MK	BEG	BEG	MRT	TNM	RSD MK
RM 1	R C M		RS	LT NK	JF		JDM	LR	JF	MW	JDW		BEG	BEG			
RM 2	MK MK	MK	MK	RS MK	MK	MK	MK	MK	MK	MK	MK	MK	MK	MRT	MRT	MK	

SET UP ON THURSDAY

LAST SUNDAY 10AM – 8PM

JBPR	JOHN BAKER PERRY ROBINSON	RCM	RUSS/CAMILE MARTEN
RSD	RICHARD/SUE DOCTOR	JDM	JIM/DEBBIE MOSS
JF	JACQUELINE FOWLER	LR	LYNN REELAND
BEG	BILL/ESTELLE GILL	RS	ROGER SMITH
MH	MARGE HAGENSICK	MRT	MARK/ROBERTA TABAC
MK	MARK KANDEL	LT	LOIS TALLEY
NK	NANCY KLEPPE	MW	MERRILY WESOLOWSKI
TNM	TOM/NANCY MACHACEK	JDW	JACK/DONNA WHITTAKER

## 2012 INDIANA STATE FAIR LITERATURE

ITEM	2009	2010	2011	2012
7-IN-1	104	65	70	38
SET	44	62	51	17
DPA	236	155	48	65
DPAs	6	6	4	8
DPAp	4	0	0	1
DPAc	7	5	1	10
ISRAEL'S TAB	0	0	0	137
PYRAMID	13	26	17	6
WGPE	27	0	0	0
FTCe	43	47	31	24
FTCs	13	9	8	1
911	81	65	50	20
CREATION	39	34	25	14
KINGDOM	28	48	28	16
HELL	22	31	24	16
ISRAEL	18	8	4	4
CAN BONES	28	27	20	14
MISC	130	2	8	4
TOTAL	843	590	389	395

## ADDITIONAL FREE LITERATURE

Free Literature packets	2100
Highlighters	1400
Ft. Worth Magazines	400
Newsletters	1600
Chart of the Ages	a lot!

### Newsletters:

Behold the Man	Population
Church & State	PSA 83
Does God Care?	Purgatory
Great Expectations	Putting Out the Fires of Anarchy
Health Care Plan	Salvation
History of English Versions (B. Wilson)	So you Want to Speak in Tongues
History Bible (ABSCO)	Tests4Truth
Hurricane Tragedies	The Christian Sabbath
Israel-A Nation of Miracles	The Death of Hell
Is the Trinity a Mystery to You?	The Only Begotten God
Jerusalem Indivisible	The Prosperity Gospel
Left Behind Novels Flawed	Three Destinies of Man
Luther	Throw their money
No More War	Waiting for the Rapture
One True Church	Why are you a Christian?
Palestinian Refugees Myth	Women in God's Plan

## CLASS COVERED EXPENSES

<b>CBS Budget for ISF</b>	<b>\$ 4000.00</b>
<b>29 Room-nights Motel Expenses</b>	<b>-2205.16*</b>
<b>ISF Both Space Rental</b>	<b>-1123.50</b>
<b>Unused Balance</b>	<b>\$ 671.34</b>

\*minor adjustment pending

## FAIR EXPENSES COVERED BY DONATIONS AND LITERATURE SALES

ITEM	COST	NOTE
U-Haul Trailer	217.00	two one-way rentals
7-IN-1s	397.10	38 x 10.45 (5.00 + 5.45 : bag, card, shipping)
6 Vol Sets	316.37	17 @ 18.61 (15 + 3.61 packaging/bagging/postage)
Israel's Tabernacle Bklets	109.60	137 @ .80 Booklets
DPA - e,s,p,c	162.20	84 - multiple languages
DVDs	146.90	113 @ 1.30 (DVD w/Jewell cases)
Israel DVDs	20.00	4 @ 5.00
Highlighters	588.00	1400 @ .42 Highlighters
Literature Packets	2205.00	2100 @ 1.05
Ft Worth Magazines	180.00	400 Magazines
Re-Printing Newsletters	240.00	paper, toner
Admission	24.00	Paid by ISF brethren... donation
Parking	85.00	Paid by ISF brethren... donation
Misc	90.00	ice, water, cleaning materials, 50 copies of report, bags etc.
Sales from ISF	-540.50	
Covered by Donations	-4240.67	
Balance/Total	0.0	

The above calculations are at best estimates... close, but still estimates. For example, some magazines were 50 cents, some 40 cents, some less, some free... when people take FREE items it is too tedious to inventory. --- MK