

2013 Indiana State Fair Report

This was our 5th year at the Indiana State Fair. I can keep track of the years by thinking of the names of the Muslims who have been next door to us. (Alex, Lydia, Bahar & Farah, Bahar & Sherry, and Sherry). We had 25 brethren serving this year, some coming back for more than one shift. The brethren who actually supported this activity go well beyond the "25"... it included the CBS class as a whole that continually supports the effort, generous support from NW Indiana Bible Students and a supporting cast of brethren that volunteer to do what is necessary to make it work. There are classes that send overruns of newsletters and LDS that provides a good assortment of booklets. We even find ways of using "obsolete" booklets with old bulk mail imprints and donated Herald magazine past issues. **Christian Questions** provided cards with their latest broadcast information that went into the FREE packets. There were private donations to cover the misc items and some major ones. Funds received from sales are blended with these to cover purchased literature or recycled towards the next witness effort. Somehow the Lord provided just what was needed.

Of course, one memory that sets this year's activity apart from the rest will be Mom (Sr. Joy Kandel). Alys and I wondered how this would work out taking care of Mom while the fair was going on. The Lord took care of that arrangement, too, with hospital and nursing home staff to handle her needs. When we were ready to leave home to go to Indianapolis, we stopped by the nursing home to see Mom. Alys was there, Br. Russ and Sr. Camille Marten were there, too. Mom was in full control of her mind and out of pain. She offered a beautiful prayer on our journey and the activity, just as she has for each activity we have embarked upon. She has been so supportive over the years, she didn't want to hold us back from this either. None of us knew at the time this would be the last time I would see her.

Of course, breakfast at the Drury Inn will be right up there when thinking about the 2013 ISF. Srs. Karen Baker, Diane Lucas and Dawn Shallieu met me for breakfast before heading out to the fair. That's when Alys called to say Mom had passed away during the night. We all heard Alys' voice on the speaker phone. There was a short prayer and then we moved on. What a great memory. What a way to start a day... just as Mom would have wanted it. One of Mom's last notes ended with the words, "no regrets." I think of that often.

I don't know all the experiences the brethren had, but I thought of the way brethren handled themselves in an activity. The brethren at this year's fair had an enthusiasm for sharing the truth that was inspiring to me. I enjoyed their persistence, knowledge, various approaches, humor, support for each other, and love for the Lord. I saw it... the neighbors had to see it... the visitors coming down the aisle experienced it. Some brethren are used to witnessing to public. Some struggle at times. I tried to "tweak" their techniques a little. Not that I am that great at this, but I can see when they spin their wheels in presenting literature and suggest how to get to the next step. Sometimes brethren are so eager to witness they jump on top of someone else's conversation and I think that confuses the public. It's hard to hold back when it comes to the truth, but there are times it's better to hold back, listen and observe when others are in a conversation.

It is always good to see brethren from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and New Jersey... our church is from all over the US... from all over the world! The brethren keep coming back for more. They don't give up. If they fall, they brush off the dust and try again. You can't help but see this. This spirit rubs off on the world, too. When various vendors heard of my Mom's death, they sought me out to express their condolences. Pat and George from the jewelry booth across from us gave me a sympathy card. People down the aisle would call me aside... they knew my face as a vendor and would offer their sympathy. They didn't know how to say the right words all the time, but in their own way they tried. They saw how the brethren tried to comfort others at our booth or showed a sincere interest in helping others... and they wanted to do something, too. Even the building manager, Jon Frost, went out of his way to make arrangements for Srs. Dawn and Diane to get from the fairgrounds to the airport. (Next time you see them ask how *that* went!)

When I saw that Sherry, our Muslim neighbor, would be working the whole fair alone, I asked her "Why?" Every other sales rep at that booth said they would never come back. So, I wanted to know why she wanted to come back. She said it was because of her neighbors... mainly our booth! When Jon Frost offered her another location in the building, she turned it down. She wanted to be here, next to us. Somehow she is learning that the Bible Students are different Christians. She doesn't feel the pressure to convert, but she listens and learns of the truth. She has been cheated and lied to by other Christians, but she trusts the Bible Students. When you come from Iran or Canada to work at state fairs it is a different world. Some have compared it to "carnival people" who are always on the road and not always honest. Sherry is a good person and will really enjoy the Kingdom... every one will, but she may adjust more quickly than most.

Randy is at the 7th Day Adventist booth across from us. I've known him for 3 or 4 years and we have become friends. He was a dentist until he fell off the roof and damaged his wrist. He had to sell his practice and get into another line of work. He has been doing work in Nepal. Similar to Doctors without Borders, he has helped with dental work on children. While he is limited in his service, he can extract infected or bad teeth and prescribe the right meds for the infected areas. I gave Randy the DVD, "Sabbath... the rest of the story." I asked him to watch it and see if it answers the question of the Christian's relationship to the Sabbath. I know we've been good friends and he knows that I'm not trying to criticize or belittle his beliefs, but to seek truth from the Scriptures. He feels the same and is eager to find truth, too. We'll see how this goes. He brought his wife and son over to meet us, saying, "Mark is the one I've been telling you about." (Hmmm...)

Randy also said, "I want you to meet my friend, Jeff, from our church. I think you'll like him. He's tall. You can't miss him." So, the next day I met Jeff. YIKES! He is a foot taller than me! My neck strained while talking to him, but he was a good brother to meet. He definitely seems consecrated as does Randy. We were going along quite well in our conversation until we came to 1 Cor. 15:26-28. In explaining how the 1,000 years will end, we mentioned that everything will be turned back over to the Father so that He can be all things to all people. Then I mentioned that even Jesus would be subservient to the Father, another proof that Jesus is not part of a Trinity. Jeff said, "I believe in the Trinity." (Oops! I didn't think the 7th Day Adventists were Trinitarians!) I love these unexpected moments when you are about to end a conversation, pack up and part for the night and your last step is on a mine... BOOM! Jeff took it well. He highlighted the passage and said he'd study it. I gave him a Doctrine of Christ booklet and we shook hands on friendly terms. We never know, but the Lord knows.

One of the last people I met has been there every year. She is an attendant assigned to caring for buildings. She used to be assigned to the Expo Hall, but the past few years she was reassigned to other places in the fair. It doesn't matter, after getting her paycheck, she makes a point of coming to our booth to buy two sets of volumes. She has done this every year and gives them as gifts to her minister, family and friends at her church. You never know where the literature will end up. She smiles and walks away... "Til next year."

For me, one of the best gauges for an activity is when brethren say, "I *want* to come back!" It has become part of their vocabulary to say, "Well, next year at the fair..."

To all the brethren that made this possible... Thank you. It is such an honor to serve the King together.

Br. Mark Kandel

Traffic was very light during our shifts (Sunday night and Monday morning of the first weekend), but we did have memorable conversations with a few of the public who stopped by. Jehovah's Witnesses are easy to identify - they pick up the First Volume because they recognize the title, "The Divine Plan of the Ages," and seem to be surprised that anyone outside their fellowship reads and even sells the Volumes! We had a good discussion with one nice gentleman about our common roots and history.

A Christian man stopped, and after some conversation, bought one of every CD and DVD we sell. He mentioned that he's not attending any church right now but is worshipping privately at home and seeking to increase his spirituality. Perhaps such ones, disenchanted with the mainstream churches of today, are the best candidates for receiving the Truth into good and honest hearts.

Joe & Kathie Megacz

It was a blessing to be at the fair talking to people about our Lord's Plan. It is obvious that many fair goers had visited our booth in previous years. Many came back for more literature. On Monday Lois Talley and I were reasonably busy and enjoyed passing our literature to many that were sincerely interested. The Chart was of interest especially when we turned it over to show scriptures relating to each point. The interest in the 7-in-1 book was so well taken a few would say they were coming back to get it on the way home. It really happened, one gentleman came back just to purchase the book. He must have had it on his mind as he went around the fair. On Tuesday \$2 day at the fair was extremely busy. It was hard to talk to any one person. Hopefully we can have more than 2 at the booth on \$2 day. I feel Lois and I did well but I'm sure by the end of our shift our minds were a little slow. Bro. Mark you were a great help in picking up when my knowledge was lacking. The layout in the booth was much better this year for showing both the books and literature. I'm already looking forward to next year.

May our Lord add His blessing to all.
Christian Love and Hugs

Sr. Nancy Kleppe

Greetings in the Lord. I want to again thank you for hard work and tremendous dedication to this witness effort.

I would like to share my thoughts with the brethren, first thankful to my heavenly Father for the opportunity to be able to serve. This is my fourth year I believe. I'm also very thankful for the wonderful brethren I am privileged to serve with.

I was there on Saturday August 10th from 10-6. I was there with Roberta and Mark Tabac till about 2 or 3. Mark Kandel was on his way after being at home Friday making arrangements for Sr. Joy who just passed. He made it after running into some traffic hold ups. I admire his zeal and strength it took to come back to the fair after the loss of his mother. Like he didn't miss a beat! He always teaches me some awesome pointers on how to present the materials of truth and it does help. I always enjoy going to the fair and watching the people. Some just look so sad and if they knew the peace of the truth they would smile. A lot of people wanted CD's on the resurrection and For this Cause. We had an average amount of lookers and a few takers. Most people pass by and looked right up to the chart behind us. It really is a beautiful display. Not only do we witness in the booth but outside the booth. I had a chance to walk around a bit. I stopped at a booth and got talking with the gal there. She saw my exhibitors badge and asked what booth I was in. I told her Bible Students. She said "Oh, that's great I'm a Christian." I gave her a tract from my purse. She took it and smiled. So it goes to show that you don't have to be in a booth to witness. Let your light shine forth so all can see the hope that is in you!! My goal is that I touch at least one heart when doing a fair witness.

I know my heart was filled with "Joy" and happiness the whole time I was there.
God's will be done.

Sr. Lynn Reeland

I thank our Heavenly Father for the privilege to witness at the Indiana State Fair effort. It was a blessed time as the Chicago Ecclesia, especially through Br. Mark and others, made the arrangements very convenient with the motel rooms provided and transportation to and from the motel.

The background banner and abundance of literature especially the "Chart of the Ages" (supplied by the NW Indiana Ecclesia) made it very easy to witness. I had many people see the chart and remark, "Oh, you believe in dispensationalism." It was an easy introduction to the basics of the plan and then Volume One with the chapter on the explanation of the chart.

The Seventh Day Adventists had their model of the Tabernacle a few feet away but they had no literature. The Chicago class has made up an attractive booklet with many illustrations on the Tabernacle that was prominently featured on our table. Some were interested in this also. One gentleman came up to me and said he didn't think the garments of glory and beauty on the High Priest were correct. He thought the hem of his garments should go all the way to the ground. I told him I thought the same thing. It's nice to see people familiar with their Bibles.

Another gentleman asked me how I know the Bible was inspired. I started by talking about the orderliness of creation. He interrupted me and said that he knows because of I-S-R-A-E-L. I heartily agreed. We talked about the land belonging to God and he has given it to the nation of Israel and the miracle of their rebirth. He took some several flyers on current events on Israel. If the subject of Israel came up everyone I talked to was pro-Israel. They could see the ridiculousness of the Palestinians' claim to the land. We directed them to the literature we had on the subject and many, many took the free flyers.

Of all the booths in the immediate area ours was by far the busiest. We were had a steady flow of conversations sometimes with two or three discussions going on at once. Even the lady next to us saw someone looking at our literature on the revolving rack and noticed them straining to see the back side. She told them, "It turns." So she was watching the activity.

As the Lord sent his disciples out two by two, I was thankful to work side by side with Sr. Diane Lucas and Sr. Dawn Shallieu. Though we all had different styles we all worked well together. The additional fellowship was an added blessing. Again we thank the Lord to be a finger to point others to His wonderful plan. We pray the Lord will bless the seeds that were planted if they bring forth fruitage in this life or the next.

Sr. Karen Baker

I had the privilege of working at the Indiana State Fair this year with Srs. Diane Lucas and Karen Baker. I have been desiring and praying for more opportunities to witness. When I found out that brethren outside the area could participate in the Fair, I was so thankful that there was room for me. I love working at fairs, because people approach you. They come up to the booth or at least walk by the booth. If they glanced in our direction and they didn't glance away immediately, you knew that they had some interest in the Bible. Then we would engage them with "Are you interested in personal Bible study?" or "We are offering literature to help you in your personal Bible study."

The booth was well thought out. Not only was there a large colorful Chart of the Ages as the backdrop, but there was one table with all free literature, which included a tall, circular rack with newsletters on various topics. It had 'Free' signs on it. This was very eye catching and many looked through the rack for subjects that caught their interest (which of course we encouraged). Also on the table were color copies of the Chart of the Ages. It was printed on oversized heavy stock paper and had printed on the back a list with each of the letters on the chart, what each letter represented and several scriptures associated with that letter. It was a great witnessing tool! We were able to give a brief explanation of the chart and suggested that they keep it near them when they are studying the Bible since it is very important to know which time period the scriptures they are studying apply to (and how there is misunderstanding amongst Christians due to scriptures being applied to the wrong time period). That seemed to make sense to most who felt that the Chart would be a valuable aid to their Bible study. Some even said that they had picked up the Chart in previous years and that it was a help to them.

If they were particularly interested in the Chart, that became the perfect segue to the 1st Volume pointing out that it had an entire chapter which went into a deeper explanation of the Chart. I was just amazed at how many people at the fair studied their Bible, were involved in a weekly Bible study or at least felt that they should study it more. I know that we were in the 'Bible Belt,' but the reaction was so different than we have received at fairs out East, it was just a delight. Because of that, it made it very easy to introduce the 1st Volume. For those that said that they studied the Bible or attended weekly Bible studies, we were able to suggest that it is important to study the Bible in two ways (you could see the puzzled look in their eyes when you said that) – verse by verse Bible study (which they were currently doing and they would nod their head :) and studying the Bible by subject. So many times it was like a light went on and you could see from their expression that they realized that made perfect sense. Of course finding scriptures throughout the Bible on various subjects isn't always easy (again they would nod their heads :) Therefore, we were offering a wonderful series of Bible study guides which were by topic. Then we would move to the 2nd table which had items for sale: the 1st Volume, the 7-in-1 Volumes, the 6 Volume set, as well as DVDs. Also on the table was posted a list of each of the Volumes by title with a list of all of the chapter titles. This made it very easy to give an overview of each Volume and point out some of the chapters which might be interesting to them. Having this list made it much easier to sell entire sets of Volumes, since many wanted the Complete Bible Study guide.

In my early days of witnessing, someone told me that Bro. Russell had told the colporteurs to get the Volumes in the hands of the people and to let the Volumes do the witnessing. Since in a fair setting, this would probably be my only interaction with those stopping by that was my goal.

However, I did have some one-on-one discussions on specific issues. No one was antagonistic. I had a discussion with someone who spoke in tongues and someone who believed in a social gospel (felt that since they had lost everything like Job, that they should be restored like Job. They weren't too happy when I emphasized that we should not pray for temporal things, that the Lord knows what we need). I spoke to someone who had purchased the Studies in the Scriptures in the past, had read them and appreciated them. And at least one who listens to the Christian Questions radio program that is broadcast in Indianapolis.

I wanted to share these details, because when sharing this with our ecclesia one of the brethren felt that some of these details would be helpful with their own personal witnessing efforts and so it is shared in the hope that someone else may find it helpful and encouraging as well.

It was also a blessing working together with Sr. Karen and Sr. Diane. I would hear the way that they explained something and then incorporate their wording into a more effective way to approach someone. And of course, during the quiet times it would give us an opportunity for fellowship. Though it was a very large fair and there normally was a steady stream of traffic, so not a lot of quiet time. It was a wonderful blessing! I thank the Lord for the privilege and opportunity.

Sr. Dawn Shallieu

1 Corinthians 3:7

“So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”

What a wonderful experience it was to be able to share God's Word with the world. The Lord was so gracious. I had great encouragement when a person came by the booth within moments after I first arrived and purchased an entire set of volumes. Most of the individuals that stopped at the booth were interested in the brief summary of the chart and accepted the free literature that was being handed out. I did not have any occasions where people were confrontational. I had a number of lengthy conversations with several people who were more interested in telling me what I should know rather than listening to what I had to say, but I also found this profitable. It is always good to be able to have an answer for the hope that is within us when confronted with opposing views. One gentleman commented that he was surprised that I really did know my Bible because so many claim to be Christians and do not know their Bibles. Conversation with him revealed that he believed the Papacy to be the Antichrist (which surprised me!), and he had a website that was an extensive study of the book of Hosea. After listening for some time I asked him if he believed that hell was a place of fiery torment. (I thought I should cut to the chase!) He hesitated but then said that he did. I told him that I was disappointed to learn that since I believed that it was a doctrine of devils. At that point, he walked away. I was taken with the thought that one can have all kinds of interpretation of prophesy but if you don't have the basic truths, it is really does not help you to understand the character of God. Likewise, if one can't understand the character of God, how can one be like our Lord? I thank the Lord for the privilege of sharing his words of life with others and especially thank Br Mark for his labors in setting up, scheduling the brethren, transporting the brethren hither and yon and replenishing the stock distributed at the fair. Blest be the tie that binds.

Sr. Diane Lucas

Greetings in Our Precious Master and Example! Heb.12:2 *"...who for the joy set before him, endured the cross..."*

Once again, the Fair has been one of the highlights of the year for us. This unique witness venue holds so many opportunities to share the truth, which we all hold so dear. *"How can we keep from singing!"*

We were at the Fair mid-week for two days, which seemed to be a bit slow, however, those who did come by were often more talkative, so it made for a more uninterrupted and substantive conversation about the truth. The little *"How to Study"* packets were the most popular, along with the free literature rack. So, even though we didn't place as many 1st Volumes or sets as we would have liked, the truth was still placed in the hands of many.

The lulls in activity at the booth made it possible to chat with Sherry, our next door neighbor with the Titanium pans. She expressed her disappointment with a few Christians who visited her booth. One man, who had just been at the 7th Day Adventist booth came over and told her that it is very important to be an *honest* and righteous Christian or suffer the wrath of God. He then asked her to package up a set of pans and that he'd be back later to pick them up. Well, he never showed up, and she saw the hypocrisy of not being *honest* with her. We discussed how not all Christians were dishonest, and explained that God was a lot more merciful than this man made Him out to be. We also explained that the Bible students had the

booth, not to try to convert atheists, Muslims and Jews, but to teach those who claim to be Christians the truth of their Bible -- that God has a plan for all -- atheists, Muslims, Jews and even the Christians who misunderstand the Bible now. She said that she was *"really happy"* that we explained that, because she could never figure out what we were doing talking to those who were already Christians.

We had several positive discussions with various individuals, but one in particular was outstanding. At the start of the fair, Sr. Camille Marten had witnessed to a young married woman, Bethany, who worked at a booth just down from us. She received several items of truth literature, and she told Sr. Camille that she was writing and illustrating a children's book. Sr. Camille told her that Sr. Estelle, who would be coming later, also illustrates and writes children's books, and that she should share her project with us. Bethany wasn't working on the days we would be there, but she came especially to see Sr. Estelle. She brought her portfolio of drawings to the booth, and Sr. Estelle welcomed her with a hug, saying, *"Oh, you must be Bethany... I'm so glad that you came!"* The first few minutes were spent going over Bethany's project, and Sr. Estelle told her about her biblestudentkids.com web site - hoping she would read some of the booklets on the site which explain many truths. We quickly got into a witness about the Kingdom. People were coming up to the booth, so we had her come back into the chairs area to continue discussion with Estelle while Br. Bill kept up the witness to those stopping to look at the materials. Bethany talked to Sr. Estelle for about 45 minutes, explaining about her Apostolic Christian Church, which is very strict with many rules. We discussed the difference between rules and Bible principles, and how important it is to view all who love the Lord in a generous manner, because God has a plan to bring all into at-onement with Him in due time. This led to a discussion about the errors of eternal torment and the hope of the two salvations. When Br. Bill had a lull in visitors coming to the booth, he talked to her for another 45 minutes while Sr. Estelle handled the visitors. Bill asked her whether she believed in the seven creative days and if she ever thought that these might be longer periods of time. She had not, but wanted to know more. He asked her, *"Had you ever thought about why God said that all of the first six creative days were 'very good,' but God never said that about the seventh? That is because he is not finished with that day yet."* Bethany gasped and exclaimed, clapping her hands, *"That is amazing!!! I love this!!!"* On several other occasions, she clapped and shouted, *"WOW!"* It gave us a thrill to see how thrilled she was! All in all, we had about a two hour conversation. Since the fair, we have communicated via e-mail asking if she'd like to start a phone study. Bethany told Estelle, *"I would LOVE to start a phone study with you! I started reading and listening to the first book in the big book. I'm not sure where I would want to start. Although I have been a Christian for 20 years now, I still feel like such an infant. My love for Him is well beyond that, but my knowledge of Him and His Word is so bad for someone who has been a Christian so long. With what do you think we should start? I did talk to my husband about some of the stuff we talked about, and I got the reaction I was expecting... 'I was taught this, so I am not really going to be open to thinking about it in any other way.' It was the hell subject, and I just really don't know enough about either side to be able to explain either point of view... I'm worried... what if Nathan isn't convicted of the same?"* Brethren, please keep us in your prayers that we might be an instrument of the Lord's blessing to Bethany, nurturing her love of the Lord and His truth.

We had a few *"opposers"* this year that served to remind us of the amazing contrast between truth and error, and the difference in character that one begets over the other. A Jehovah's Witness lady insisted, *forcefully*, that we were *"the apostates who left the organization when the new light and new leaders came in to rescue the flock when Russell died."* We couldn't get a word in edgewise, and we just thanked the Lord in our hearts that she had a future

opportunity to *"learn righteousness,"* even though she said we would be going into second death. (Isaiah 26:9) Another woman came, intent to discredit us before her husband and other passers-by, challenging us with the question, *"Do you know what the five points of the Gospels are?"* We responded, *"Please tell us, we'd like to know."* She put her hands on her hips and exclaimed, *"I can't believe that you don't know what the five points of the Gospels are!"* She looked at her husband and exclaimed again, *"I can't believe that they don't know what the five points of the Gospels are!"* She looked at us again and repeated this statement. We asked her one more time to tell us, and she refused. We told her what we thought were five wonderful truths of the Gospels, but that there was an additional, and even more beautiful sixth point -- the resurrection hope for all the world of mankind. She just shook her head and said again, *"I can't believe you don't know what the five points of the Gospels are!!!"* We again asked her to state them, and when she refused, we asked, *"Do you know what they are?"* She said that she did, but she wouldn't tell us. So, we thank the Lord that we know what the *real* Good News is and that we are happy to tell anyone who has an ear to hear. Experiences such as these remind us of the words of Ezekiel: *"...whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them...be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks... thou shalt speak my words unto them..."* Ezekiel 2:4-7

We always find participating in the Fair experience a rich blessing. We brethren have the words of life like no others. How can we keep it to ourselves?

Lovingly, Br. Bill and Sr. Estelle Gill

How greatly we appreciate the privilege to participate with a variety of brethren serving at the ISF booth! Each brings a unique approach. The result? The whole activity is an encouragement – to the public, as well as to those manning the nearby booths. We are thankful to the Chicago ecclesia for its support and to Br. Mark for all the hours of work he invested in this worthwhile effort.

One of the events that most strongly affected this year's fair was the death of Sr. Joy. We are thankful to the Lord for working out the details. As one sister said, "The Lord's timing is significant with her death during the week of the State Fair."

We had a few "repeat customers." Some eagerly reviewed what was offered – anything new. One lady, Kim, came directly to the booth once she arrived at the fair, taking much of the free literature, buying a 7-in-1 for her friend so that they can have a Bible study, as she already has the same book. She recently told her pastor that he does not have the God's Truth. New experiences:

- 1) A family stopped at the booth, the husband and wife discussing in Spanish what the booth was about. The Lord helped me to have the right words and they were happy to purchase the Spanish Volume 1 and the two-DVD offering of For This Cause and How To Study The Bible And Have It Make Sense! Maybe we'll see them next year!***
- 2) We were thankful that the Lord helps us to have a sympathetic heart for those who are grieving. One lady's 18-year old grandson died last year. She is so overwrought with grief for the lost promise of his future! We assured her that God has a plan and that she will definitely see him again. We gave her some literature and a big hug. Another "repeat" lady began her visit to the booth by asking about the dates of Easter and Christmas. We looked in Volume 6 for the Passover study and gave an overview of the***

subject. One topic led to another. She shared several crises that have occurred in the life of her family over the last year; her daughter's death last November at age 43 – leaving two little boys and their wonderful dad, adoption of two granddaughters, leaving the church because she learned lies had been taught. It is true; the only foundation that we have is in the Lord's promises, many of which we touched on.

- 3) The fellow who does not believe in the Bible because there is no proof that Adam ever lived. After some mutually respectful discussion he was willing to take the free literature *The Heavens Declare the Glory of God*.**

The lady in the pots-and-pans booth next to us has a very open mind and heart. Her background is Muslim, yet she is supportive of the Bible Students, as we are of her. She manned her booth alone for the 17-day duration of the fair. When we saw her, she said that the only way that she could manage it was because she knew who her neighbors would be. She knew that she could count on the brethren for support.

With each opportunity to work at the fair, we do our best to be guided by the Lord and God's Word. Because so many are hungry for something to "hang on to," we encourage them in the Scriptures as we listen to what they are saying. As we encourage them, we are encouraged. The Scripture says that he who waters is watered himself.

In serving the ISF booth, I took the approach that there are three groups who will talk with us. There are a few who are truly searching for the truth. When they see and hear it, they begin to bubble over with joy and desire to learn more – like Bethany working a nearby booth. There are many who love the Lord and presently their church. These are receiving seeds of truth and "maps" that will one day will guide them out of Babylon – many wonderful short discussions with bible study teachers and home study groups. Finally there were the prideful tares who would rather instruct us than open their hearts and minds to a different thought on any subject. Having this perspective before me, I would slowly guide the "hungry" wheat with the chart or volume, etc. For those with one foot in Babylon and one stepping out, I would not correct their comments but offer different thoughts with articles along the lines of discussion or interest. For the tares, the rejection of any material or truth discussion was evidence of being bound tighter and knowing that their day will come in the future. And I believe that how we approached these three groups was a wonderful witness to Lisa and Sherry in the booths next to ours. Thus the fair days were based on the quality of a few good discussions rather than quantity of handing out a lot of material.

One example of being a witness to Lisa was watching her booth while she stepped away. She returned with one of the free handout packages that she had picked up from the floor. She gave it to me and said, "Maybe someone else would appreciate this material." When someone was selecting several free newsletters, etc., Lisa was ready to give them one of her bags to carry it.

Another example of being a witness is with Sherry. Sr. Nancy was talking to an older mother whose daughter had died. The two made a strong connection; the mother started crying. Sherry observed the entire event. When the tears began to flow, she offered something to dry them.

The blessing of the fair experience was not only handing out material on a large variety of topics. It was the blessing of those serving the booth, endeavoring to be an epistle to others.

Br. Tom and Sr. Nancy Machacek

We were blessed with the opportunity to serve for a day and a half at the IN State Fair again this year. As always, most of those who passed by our booth were very friendly and usually agreeable with taking a free booklet or other material. This year though, each of us had a highlight outside of our Booth. The highlight for me (Roberta) was talking with someone helping at the 7th Day Adventist Booth across the isle that was NOT a 7th Day Adventist. I was walking by the their booth and just said "hi" to the woman standing there, Mary Beth. I said that I was from the Bible Student Booth across the way. Mary Beth said that she was not an Adventist, just helping out at the Booth. So I started chatting with her and found out she did not even consider herself a Christian. We had a lengthy discussion about why she thought that and I had the opportunity to share some of the doctrines that make us different from mainstream Christian Churches. She said, "I like YOUR Church!" The belief of no burning hell and God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit being 3 individual entities was very appealing to her. Mary Beth was only at the booth for several hours that day and I was sure to say good-bye and give her a couple of booklets that I thought would appeal to her. My main goal was to give her hope for those who are believers and non-believers in this world and hope that there is a Plan that includes her. Mark used a newer tactic that seemed to work well. When people seemed hesitant to take free literature, they would make comments like "I'm good," "that's okay..." He asked: "Do you still believe in eternal torment? Here take this." He wanted to let people know that our literature was different than most other groups out there.

Mark's highlight took place outside of the Expo Building while he was outside trying to find some "healthy Fair Food." He had the opportunity to speak with a woman for about 40 minutes. He was walking the Midway to get something to eat and she was working at the Ford exhibit. He stopped briefly to look at a hybrid car and they started talking. When she found out he was from Chicago, she asked why he was there at the Fair. He told her that our Church had a booth and we were encouraging people to study the Bible. She immediately responded by saying, "I'm a JW." Additionally she shared that she was raised a JW, had left for a short time and then returned and married a JW. Her candor surprised Mark and they had an instant rapport. Then Mark told her about our similar backgrounds, some of the doctrines we agreed on, Bro. Russell and the IBSA, the Watch Tower Reprints we had at home. She was amazed that he had such an understanding of Biblical doctrines. When he inquired about whether she had ever heard of "Bible Students," she said "she may have a while ago, but wasn't sure." He invited her to come to our Booth where she could see the Volumes and even buy them for the State Fair Special Offer of \$5.00. She said she would probably be able to stop by on her dinner break. When she didn't come to the booth, Mark put some literature in a bag, along with a First Volume and went to find her. The Exhibit she was working was about 40 yards long; so he looked, but didn't see her. He was a bit disappointed. As he was leaving, she called out "are you looking for me?" He said, "as a matter of fact, he was." He gave her the literature which she was thankful and happy to receive. Mark told her we'd be at the Booth until lunch on Saturday, which was the next day. She said she'd try to come by, but it was a distance from her Exhibit area and she had limited break times.

On Saturday morning, Mark mentioned this witness opportunity to Bro. Mark Kandel and he thought she'd enjoy the Bible Student History Issue of The Herald Magazine. So the Herald Magazine was put in a bag with a CD of the Volumes to give to her. Since she did not get to our Booth before we were leaving, Mark really wanted her to get this literature. We are glad the Lord over-ruled that we found her again as we were leaving the Fair and gave her this additional package. Mark also gave her the website: www.FriendsOfJehovahsWitnesses.com. She was very happy to receive this as well. We asked her to stay in touch and feel free to contact us anytime; hopefully she will.

Thanking for the Lord for this opportunity to spread the good Word of His plan for all,
Bro. Mark and Sr. Roberta Tabac

Sr. Sue and I were very blessed by the opportunity to participate. The booth keeps getting better and better and this closing Sunday was expected to be a record attendance day. It was interesting that some individuals who had spoken to us the previous year, recognized us and came back for additional discussions. A good amount of Hispanic literature and three Chinese first volumes were placed. Sr. Sue was able to place a full set of volumes, but for the most part the interested ones purchased the paperback or hardcover "Divine Plan of the Ages."

Sr. Sue: "I prefer to place literature rather than become involved in longer discussions. I wanted the literature to speak for itself when the people returned home to read our studies. So I focused on distributing, 'How to Study the Bible.' On this Sunday we distributed 300 copies of the packaged booklet."

Bro. Richard: "Some brethren favor short discussions and placing the volumes, my personal preference is for extended discussions, and at least six conversations went for a quarter hour or longer. It is a matter of individual style."

Here are some of the highlights:

"Russ" brought along the DVDs he had purchased the year before so that he could purchase new DVDs and be sure that he was not getting duplicates.

"Tom," from a Baptist background, would not accept change from his \$5 bill for a paperback 1st Volume. He was so excited to find a group that agreed with his investigations that the dead are in a state of sleep and that baptism is a symbol only and not essential to salvation. He said that in speaking with those in his Baptist Church he asked them, "If baptism in some various form was essential to salvation how could they to explain the repentant thief? Was he taken off his cross, baptized, and then put back on his cross?" I had to agree with his logic and tuck it away for baptism discussions in the future.

"Erik" a member of the Church of the Brethren headquartered in Elgin, Illinois wondered if I knew what a "historic peace church was," as we then got into the history of the Anabaptists and how our movement respects and concurs with the Anabaptist stand during the Reformation on the separation of church and state, baptism, and the Lord's supper as a Memorial and not part of the Mass. He was very pleased and wanted information so that he could contact us further when he next visits Elgin which is about 15 fifteen miles from our home.

Another man, who spoke with me the previous year, is a Jehovah's Witness. Within a minute he wanted to discuss further and in detail how we differed from the Witnesses. He was pleased to get a copy of the special Herald History of the Bible Students issue so he could look into this further. "Tom" an African American Seventh Day Adventist asked about the DVD of Bro. Springer's discourse on the Sabbaths on display, clearly intent on challenging our position. After pointing out that the argument in Hebrews was that even though the nation of Israel was under the careful eye of Moses in observing the Sabbath Day, and stoned the man collecting firewood, there was yet another and greater Sabbath that the nation of Israel failed to enter into because of unbelief. This Sabbath was clearly rest in God's will and purpose through full consecration and could not refer to the Day of the Week Sabbath. We talked at length about the importance of full consecration. He took literature and particularly the web-site information saying that he would secure the full Scripture Studies as a download.

Work until the 12th hour!

About twenty minutes before the building closed, a Lutheran minister from the Lutheran booth came by and asked if the Chinese 1st Volume was in Mandarin. When it was confirmed that it was, he was very excited to purchase it as his grand-daughter was studying Mandarin.

Ten minutes before the building closed, “Andy” and “Nichole,” a delightful young couple who are planning for a missionary posting in India, stopped by the booth. Sr. Sue and I spoke with them until 15 minutes after our building was closed, indeed after the building closed for the year. They both were very open to the Truth, purchased the 1st volume, and left with a lot of material. They really want to continue talking further. We will leave that in the wise hands of our Heavenly Father. Overall the privilege of participating at the fair is an annual joy. We are thankful for the opportunity.

Bro. Richard and Sr. Suzanne Doctor

2013 INDIANA STATE FAIR AUGUST 2-18 SCHEDULE 2013.23

DATE	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
DAY	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU
10-2	RCM	RCM	TNM	JKM	LT NK	KB DL DS	DL DS	MRT	MRT LR	JF MK	JF MK	JDW	HKW	BEG	DM MK	TNM	RSD
2-6	RCM	RCM	TNM	LT NK	LT NK	KB DL DS	DL DS	MRT	LR MK	JF MK	MK	JDW	BEG	BEG	DM MK	TNM	RSD
6-9	RCM	MK	JKM	LT NK	KB DL DS	KB DL DS	MK	MRT	MK	MK	JDW	HKW	BEG	BEG	DM MK	TNM	RSD MK
RM 1	R C M	R C M		JKM	LT NK	KB DL SD	KB DL DS	MRT	MRT	JF	JF	JDW		BEG	BEG	DM	RSD
RM 2	MK	MK	MK	MK	MK	MK	MK	MK	LR	MK	MK	MK	MK	MK	DM MK	MK	MK

SET UP ON THURSDAY

LAST SUNDAY 10AM – 8PM

KB	KAREN BAKER		JKM	JOE/KATHY MEGACZ	
RSD	RICHARD/SUE DOCTOR		DM	DAN MONETTE	
JF	JACQUELINE FOWLER		LR	LYNN REELAND	
BEG	BILL/ESTELLE GILL		DS	DAWN SHALLIEU	
MK	MARK KANDEL	847.834.1774	MRT	MARK/ROBERTA TABAC	
NK	NANCY KLEPPE		LT	LOIS TALLEY	
DL	DIANE LUCAS		JDW	JACK/DONNA WHITTAKER	
TNM	TOM/NANCY MACHACEK		HKW	HARRY/KAREN WILDBLOOD	
RCM	RUSS/CAMILE MARTEN				

2013 INDIANA STATE FAIR LITERATURE AND EXPENSE REPORT

ITEM	2009	2010	2011	2012		BROUGHT	+	RETURN	2013 PLACED
7-IN-1	104	65	70	38	*	63 8 BX		36	27
SET	44	62	51	17	*	30		12	18
DPA	236	155	48	65	*	120	40	37	123
DPA's	6	6	4	8	•	21		16	5
DPAp	4	0	0	1	•	5		4	1
DPAc	7	5	1	10	•	14		6	8
DVDs									
PYRAMID	13	26	17	6	•	40		31	9
AFTER ARM					•	40		30	10
BEREAN BS					•	10		5	5
FTCe	43	47	31	24	•	40		22	18
FTCs	13	9	8	1	•	20		15	5
911	81	65	50	20	•	40		31	9
CREATION	39	34	25	14		40		33	7
KINGDOM	28	48	28	16	•	40		23	17
HELL	22	31	24	16	•	40		27	13
ISRAEL BLINDNESS	18	8	4	4	•	9		4	5
ISR APT					•	4		0	4
CAN BONES	28	27	20	14	•	40		31	9
SABBATH					•	40		24	16
FTC/HTSB - SP					•	10		8	2
DAY OF J - SP					•	20		16	4
ISR APT - SP					•	5		5	0
BLNK JEWELL CASE					•	10		9	

ADDITIONAL FREE LITERATURE

	Taken to Fair	Distributed
Free Literature packets	2000	1900
Highlighters	800	700
Ft. Worth Magazines	427	222
Newsletters	3000*	3300
Chart of the Ages	a lot!	400 (EST.)
Herald-BS Review Mag	75+	35
Spanish F/B	50	21
Polish F/B	10	9

FW Magazines

95	OLR FW	48
160	Chart FW	40
80	Where Are the Dead? FW	69
52	DPA FW	37
40	Spiritism FW	28

TITLE	BOOKLETS		NOTE
	IN	PLACED	
After Armageddon, God's Kingdom	80	6	
And God Cried	10	2	Permission of Evil
Can We Identify Antichrist?	10	1	
Church Union and the Antichrist	2	0	
Creation Triumphs over Evolution	10	2	
Do We Worship the Same God?	10	0	
Early Christian View of War	10	3	
God's Grand Plan of the Ages	49	24	Condensed DPA
Grace of Jehovah	10	1	JW review of doctrinal changes
How to Study Revelation	10	2	
I Will Come Again	13	3	
Israel, Nation of Miracles	10	6	
Speaking in Tongues	10	2	
The Doctrine of Christ	10	4	Trinity
The Great Pyramid	10	2	
The Lord our God is One Lord	10	0	John 1:1
Time to Favor Zion	10	3	OT hope for the Jews
What Everyone Should Know About Being Saved	10	1	
When Pastor Russell Died	10	0	
Why God Permits Evil	7	4	
Will Israel Survive the End Times	10	0	
Israel's Tabernacle	200	75	
LDS Catalog	25	0	

LITERATURE EXPENSE

ITEMS	COST	SALES
BOOKS	831.50	364.00
DVDs	186.25	149.00
ISRAEL'S TABERNACLE	67.50	37.50
FREE BOOKLETS	23.75	FREE
LIT PACKETS, HIGHLIGHTERS, FT. WORTH MAG, NEWSLETTERS	2991.80	FREE
TOTALS	\$ 4100.80	550.50
SALES OF LIT	\$ -550.50	
PRIVATE DONATIONS	\$ -3550.30	
BALANCE	\$ 0.00	

CLASS EXPENSES

CBS BUDGET FOR FAIR	\$4000.00
MOTEL ACCOMODATIONS - 31 ROOM NIGHTS	-2538.59
ISF SPACE RENTAL	-1123.50
BALANCE	\$ 337.91