

2014 Indiana State Fair Report

This was our 6th year. It was also the first time Mom wasn't offering a prayer to start us on our activity. While I didn't dwell on the idea, many commented about her having died last year during the fair, even the vendors we have come to know as friends and neighbors. August 8 will be an easy date to remember... 8/8... and it was about 8:00 am when Alys called to let me know, so it is really 8-8-8.

There were new changes this year. The banner was redesigned. Instead of a packet of literature as a handout, we used a new APP card that offered more *tools*. This removed on a lot of labor in making up the packets, lowered the price for the handouts, and took up considerably less storage space. The APP card slipped inside the newly formatted *How to Study the Bible* booklet and was handed out to anyone interested in Bible study. The card could also be handed out by itself. The public liked the idea of having so much information on one card. The card offered access to a number of web sites with the click of a finger. You could use a "smart phone" or a computer to see study aids, DVDs, TV programs, newsletters, Bible Student web sites, Christian Questions radio archives, even a way to have a personal Bible study on the phone, hear sermons on various topics from the past, review frequently asked questions, and see a Youtube presentation on Israel's Tabernacle. On the backside was a description of *Who are the Bible Students?* The theme of the booth has been "Providing tools for better Bible understanding." It fit well with the booth and witness opportunities.

At the booth we offered DVDs, newsletters, magazines, Chart of the Ages, highlighters, the new children's book *Gods Plan for Everybody* (which had a very good reception), and volumes in English, Spanish, Polish and Chinese (these also caught attention and interest). Christian Questions sent us 100 tote bags with their imprint and they all went out in a few days. We held some back for use with sets and heavy items, but they all went out in the first week.

There seemed to be many repeat customers who sought us out. They had read our material. There is an advantage of being in the same location each year. I checked the trash periodically and found only one or two items tossed away during the whole fair.

We rented a space for our trailer in the Exposition Hall parking lot. I think it served well to have our storage of literature nearby, but not all in our 10 x 10 space. A new backdrop display for the chart was great. It was light and easy to put up. The chart was held on by Velcro to a cloth material. Unfortunately, it fell down a few times, but I think the problem was solved, thanks to our neighbor, Atif. Thinking of neighbors, we had a Mormon family from Salt Lake City working on one side and a new Muslim (Atif) selling cookware on the other side. We all got along quite well. Atif told me many times, "Mark, I enjoy all your friends at this booth." Across from us there used to be a 2/3 scale model of Israel's Tabernacle, but they decided not to come back this year. I did speak with one of their members who stopped by to see us. That was nice. The lone salesperson, Lawrence, working the marble and granite booth was a 7th Day Adventist. We shared a number of good discussions and hopefully future correspondence.

The brethren were all great co-workers. I used to think that I should train everyone to be clones of me, but the Lord had different plans. One Mark Kandel is enough. Everyone brings a personality and approach to the Truth that is unique, much better, rounded out and refreshing. It attracts certain elements of public that one personality alone might miss. Also, if everyone used the same words or approach the public would know that this was a memorized sales pitch and not a reflection of a person's heart. As it is, the brethren express the Truth in their own way. They all did quite well.

I am always pleasantly surprised to see new faces serving. It's fun to watch their first contact with the public and see it progress through trial and error until the last conversation at the fair. "The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat," "Abase and abound." In the end, I've learned that whatever happens, "It's ok." Growth occurs. I've been blessed to watch this happen time and time again.

This year it was great to watch Sr. Joanne Klich and Debbie DeKruyf work as a team. They were first-timers at the fair, but you'd never have guessed it. They adapted well from the start. They were

impressive, tireless, fearless and a joy to watch in action. They were two of the most prepared brethren I've seen serve at the fair booth. All the way to Indianapolis they said they prepared for the possible questions and Scriptures they might use. When they each placed a book you could see the energy just flow. Sr. Debbie was also the first I have seen witness using sign language... twice. That was different.

The best gauge for me on how it affects brethren is when they use the phrase, "Next year." It seems everyone thinks this way, even those who couldn't serve this year, but have in the past, will say "next year at the fair...."

One experience I'd like to share was with an 11 year old girl, Olivia. She and her mom came by the booth and when I asked if they liked to study the Bible, the mother said, "Yes, especially Olivia." That's when Olivia saw the children's book, *Gods Plan for Everybody*. Olivia wanted one, but her mom said that they had just started at the fair. Maybe they should walk around the aisles in the building and if Olivia didn't ask for anything else, they would return. If Olivia still wanted the book, then she would buy it for her. An hour or more passed. I didn't think they would come back, but they did. Olivia's mom said Olivia didn't ask for anything, not even a piece of candy! She still wanted the book, so her mom got one for her. Olivia's eyes reflected her happiness. I'm sure she will be blessed... I was too!

It takes a lot of effort, sacrifice and support of many brethren to make this witness event work smoothly. One of the brethren said, "I was a different person before the fair." That is one result from witnessing that we hope to see...changes in us. Numbers and statistics just can't compete with what witnessing does to our character and lives.

From the opening prayer by Sr. Alys when we started until the closing prayer by Br. Richard when we headed back home 17 days later, it was a real blessing and honor to serve at the fair. Lord willing, we can do it again "next year."

Br. Mark Kandel
Chicago Bible Students

Bro. Mark had the trailer packed with *The Studies in the Scriptures*, hundreds of DVDs, and other truth literature. We were off, bright and early, for a Thursday arrival and set up at the Indiana State Fair. The beautifully done Chart of the Ages assembled easily on the new frame for the booth back drop. Working at the Indiana State Fair has always been such a positive experience for us. People helped themselves to free literature, responded with positive curiosity when we explained who we were and how we study, and for the most part gave us encouragement for working for the Lord! One man was appalled to our message of salvation for all and preferred his belief in eternal torment. How sad. We thought more of the DVD's on the subject of Israel would be of interest to people, given the news of the past month. Many Christian people, in our experience, really weren't that interested to hear about Israel. The newly available children's book, *God's Plan for Everybody* was purchased by several families. We know those children and their parents will receive a blessing from the reading of the stories and by having a glimpse into the understanding of God's Plan. It's a rich blessing to work at the Indiana Fair Booth, even for a couple of days.

Bro. Russ and Sr. Camille Marten
Chicago Bible Students

As usual, it is an immense blessing to serve at the fair booth, witnessing to truth as provided to us in the Biblically topical and Scriptural presenting of the Divine Plan of the Ages as not known through the age. I love the chart as originally outlined by Apostle Peter and use that approach when talking to those interested in Biblical study.

This year I thought Sr. Marilyn Binda's and my watch was a bit slow—but we had some opportunities to discuss the Scriptures including two separate discussions on man's length on the earth. Imagine my surprise with the agreement to approximately 6100 years!

Then there was a man who approached the booth with, "Do you have the Photodrama—on DVD?" Without leaving info to contact him, he said he'd be back in a few days "wearing the same hat."

Am still impressed with church people who not only know the Scriptures, but recite them to complete your beginning them. Am so thankful the Lord used us to get Volumes, free literature and charts into people's hands. Trust we can continue individually and collectively to thrust in the sickle of truth wherever we have opportunity.

*Fellow Reaper,
Sr. Merrily Wesolowski
Bible Students Congregation of New Brunswick*

This year was different than last year; last year was quiet, but not so this year. This year's experiences were more of a lesson in strength and standing firm in the Truth for myself.

First though I will talk about the helpful conversations that I had. There were 2 different women that came to our booth looking for help with talking to children about death. We explained our views about hell, quoted John 5:28 and Ecc. 9:10 and talked about the resurrection and the millennial kingdom, plus gave them the magazine *"Where are the Dead."* One of the women had cancer and wanted to prepare a child in her life for what might happen. I hope we were able to give her strength also to endure what is ahead for herself. It was good to "bind up the broken-hearted." I stayed mainly on the book table this year and sold close to 15 DVD's, 2 Divine Plan books, plus 1 children's book.

On the following Monday I was happy to fill in for a sister who couldn't get off work. That was a quiet day also, but I had many opportunities to drop "seeds of truth" with the people. I did have one woman who had been at the booth on the previous Thursday, received a newsletter about death and hell ending and wanted an

explanation of the message contained in the article. I hadn't read the article but relayed to her what I felt the article was about. I hope I was able to answer her questions with the scriptures I quoted. It was also a pleasure to work along side you, Mark, and share your enthusiasm about the fair work you enjoy.

Now for the learning experiences I had. On the first Monday I worked I had 2 times when I had opposition to our message of peace and of a loving God. The first was as soon as I took over and was not prepared. With Nancy K's help we were able to use John 1:1 to question her belief in the trinity. The second was a family, parents and adult son. When I tried to explain our belief in 2 salvations they came back at me hard. No matter what I said or quoted from the Scriptures, they wanted no part of what I was saying. It was hard to get them to change the subject in their rebuttal to me, but again Nancy got them to consider John 1:1 from the Diaglott. The very first thing I did when they left was to retreat to my Bible and my book opened to Philippians 2:12 and 13 which was what I needed because I also tried to reason with them about "being saved." This experience shook me, but with the Lord's assistance and the Aug. 14th Manna text and Reprint article (plus the next one) I have been able to understand the meaning of what happened to me and sympathize with our Lord Jesus and the apostles (and others) that have suffered persecution also.

I look forward to next year. Thanks, Mark, for your continuing fair efforts.

Sr. Lois Talley

NW Indiana Bible Students

The ISF was a blessing as Lois Talley and I talked to many. One lady I talked to said her son was in jail for a serious crime. As we talked of our Lord's plan for all mankind, she was in tears that he wouldn't be lost forever. It was a blessing for me to give such assurance. A Sunday school teacher came by. We talked, but she was hesitant as she spoke. I told her we are not JW's. She completely changed and was smiling as she took a lot of the free literature for her class. Sometimes I think we should add to our banner, "Not affiliated with the Jehovah's Witnesses organization." A question frequently asked is, "What Bible do we use?" And, "What is your organization?" or "Who are your leaders?" The lady across the aisle from us would talk to all that served at our booth. The subject came up of the resurrection.

This really interested her. I told her of the novel written by Gene Burns about the resurrection of all mankind. She said she would read it. Thanks to Lois, the book was hand delivered a few days later. When Nancy Machacek was serving at the booth she checked to see if Pat had any questions. She told Nancy she had started to read it. Blessings come in many ways.

Sr. Nancy Kleppe

NW Indiana Bible Students

Thank you again for all your support before, during, and after the Fair. It was such a blessing. And I, too, was glad to get to know you better, and hear of many fair experiences. You are a good teacher! The Lord blessed my efforts by giving me two very special witness opportunities in Vermont (we just returned after a week there):

1. A Jehovah's Witness came to our cottage door - mind you, it's rural - no cell phone service, no TV, but a J.W. knocks on the door (we've been up there for the last 8 years). So I felt better able to witness to him (also from the ABSCO discourses).
2. In 8 years, I've just briefly witnessed to our friend who rents the cottage to us and lives next door. He has Parkinson's disease. For the first time, we had a longer discussion on the permission of evil, God's kingdom, God's love, etc. Truly a blessing to me.

I wrote the first submission very late at night hours before Rich and I were leaving for Vermont, and when I returned, re-read your email which said August 27 (not the 17th) was the deadline. So I reworked it and I hope it's not too late to delete the first one and use this instead. I am sending it below, and as an attachment, both the same.

It was a blessed experience to be part of the fair witness effort his year. The Lord's providences were clear and unmistakable that this was the year I would be privileged to participate, which I had hoped to do for a long time. Mark was encouraging every step of the way, and guided Sr. Debbie DeKruyf and me, as we were both new. It uplifted us to know that others were praying for us.

The first day there were many who were happy to receive the "How to Study the Bible" booklet, as well as the chart with the sub-heading, Paradise Lost, Paradise Regained. If they said they were interested in Bible study, that's how we started. This often led to presenting the two salvations, and then the topics covered in the First Volume, all proven by Scripture. Several individuals showed interest in the first volume when the topic of why God permits evil was mentioned, and several purchased first volumes. Two women said they'd left their churches – one Mormon, another Baptist, because of the control of thought. We said they'd made the right decision!

The second day was Veteran's Day, and we truly felt for the groaning creation as many elderly people walked by. Two veterans said they were now against killing and war. They had become Quakers, but were disillusioned with that sect's liberal unscriptural views on social relationships. They took the chart and "How to Study" booklet, and agreed that the world needs God's kingdom.

One memorable discussion lasted about a half hour. Initially the gentleman individual was closed to hearing about the opportunity for mankind to know the Lord in the kingdom. He didn't believe in a "second chance" but he was glad that he had "security of salvation" – once saved always saved. He wasn't sure how God could tell if a deathbed conversion was sincere, and how God would evaluate someone who lived a bad life for 67 years, but whose last three years of life were good. So, in this way he seemed to be questioning. He said he would look into the Scripture about Paul saying he could be a castaway after having preached to others. As we talked, he softened and in the end accepted the booklet on salvation that he had earlier refused. This change was so encouraging. Other blessings:

- A common theme in discussions was "end times" and several said, "But we'll be ok." So we would say that others who *didn't* know the Lord in their lifetime *now* would be ok after the difficult time and would have the opportunity to know the Lord in God's kingdom on earth. No one objected to that.
- A kindly gentleman who purchased a set of volumes after hearing about their contents said he taught Sunday school. Later that day we saw him as the presenter in a religious booth. We hope he reads the volumes.
- An Israeli was happy to receive materials on Israel. "Why are you doing this?" he asked. I told him not to convert him but because we believe in God's promises to Israel and that the land will be theirs.
- One woman bought a Chinese first volume for her son's girlfriend.

All in all, several volume sets were sold during the two days, even more first volumes, and lots of free booklets and sheets on various topics were taken. The computer application card drew a lot of interest. We thank the Lord for the blessing of being able to share a little of His plan for all mankind with others, and pray that they will be comforted in the future by the materials they received at the Fair.

Lord bless your efforts at the Sandwich Fair. I will pray for the brethren there.

By Grace,

Joanne Klich

Mohamet Bible Students

What a privilege and joy it was to serve at the fair booth. This was the first time for me. I thank our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus so much for providing this and for arranging that Sr. Joanne Klich and I could share our first fair experience together. I treasure the experiences and fellowship with both Sr. Joanne and Br. Mark. I learned so much, still am learning, keep thinking of other scriptures and logic I could share, and the entire experience was so spiritually uplifting! My witness experiences since the fair have been more relaxed and more natural than before the fair. I thank everyone who prayed for us and everyone who contributed in any way to make this possible.

Overall, I was amazed at how many opportunities there were to plant seeds of hope and comfort by sharing our Heavenly Father's beautiful plan for ALL. I didn't expect it to be so continuous, but I so enjoyed that it was.

Prior to the fair, Sr. Joanne contacted some sisters who served the fair booth in the past and asked about the methods they used to connect with people passing by the booth. That was a huge help!

I do not want to influence anyone to do what we did because I agree with Br. Mark's method of encouraging us to be ourselves and find what we think is the Lord's will for us. I didn't feel any pressure to get people interested, but I looked at this as a special opportunity to be more forward.

The suggested method we used was when we made eye contact, we would hold out the booklet "HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE" and then ask something along the lines of "Are you interested in Bible Study?" or "Are you interested in some helpful tools for Bible Study?" This method continued to work well with the addition of some other comments depending upon the initial response. When people said they already study the Bible we would mention we have some free information and tools to help with their study stressing the importance of studying by topic to harmonize all the scriptures on a subject — here a little there a little, line upon line, precept upon precept. There wasn't always time to add the scripture, but sometimes I found that did slow people down and they would come over. I was surprised at how many people were familiar with these scriptures who also said they were trying to study by topic. The thing that got additional people to stop was the "APP card." This illustrates the Website page for online Bible Understanding Tools, www.biblevideos.info/card. After any first "rejection" of the booklet by people who said they already were studying, or just weren't interested, or that they got the booklet last year, we would hold up the card and explain that this is something new this year — it's a free card with links to online Bible Study tools. Most people who weren't interested at first would suddenly stop to hear more about that. Some people just would not look over at all and others answered and made it clear they weren't interested and just kept walking. Of the people who kept walking, all were polite, and we would just smile and look for the next person.

The free printed Chart of the Ages also was a useful tool once people came over to get the booklet and the APP card. People appreciated that there were so many scripture citations on the back of the Chart and almost everyone gladly took a chart after a brief explanation pointing to the two salvations and Paradise restored.

There was an *End Times* newsletter on the free table of the booth, and many people who stopped at the booth stated they felt certain that we were in the end times and a few were aware of prophecies relating to Israel associated with the end times. This led right into showing the chart and Israel restored and discussing the gospel as preached to Abraham again.

Most of the beginning of the first day was somewhat of a blur to me. I was feeling an intense excitement level which I prayed would level out if it was the Lord's will. People were talking with me and happily taking the free literature, often taking a chart also, however, none of the people wanted a first volume or a DVD and no one was questioning or commenting much really. They did hear about the two salvations though!

I had one long conversation on the first day with a man who said he used to believe in a heavenly and earthly salvation but no longer did. I asked him what happened and why he changed his mind. He really never gave answers but asked about scriptures he cited. I used *MySword* on my cell phone for our discussion. He held to his belief but was calm and pleasant, and when his family came back to get him he did leave smiling and thanked me for the discussion. I actually was calm and relaxed inside after this conversation — what I was praying for!

After this I realized that quite a few people Sr. Joanne spoke with had left with first volumes and more. Eek! I was praying to the Lord for help and to show me if I was doing something wrong — not that placing volumes was the goal.

Not too long after this, one man was standing across the aisle intently looking at the chart on the banner. I decided to walk over to him and offer him the Bible study helps. He said he had just started studying the Bible and wants to be more organized about it. Right then I thought this is an opportunity. We walked back over by the booth and I do not remember all we talked about but I know I was speaking slowly, at the same pace as he was, and I was amazed at how many scriptures he knew, how receptive he was to the Truth, and how he quoted scriptures that were proof texts for what I was telling him about various features of the two salvations! I never had an experience like that. He was calm, humble, and also so interested in learning more. I finally had an opportunity to tell someone more in detail about the Studies in the Scriptures. Located on the table with the Volumes and All-in-One was a sign and small cards that showed a Chart of all the Volumes and the Tabernacle Shadows as headings and under each heading is a list of all the chapters. Earlier in the day I watched and listened to Br. Mark and Sr. Joanne use this tool to summarize each volume and highlight certain chapters. I now was doing the same thing. Sr. Joanne got a bag and put the All-in-One and the free literature in it for Robert. He was so happy to have it. I introduced him to Sr. Joanne and Br. Mark. He thanked us and was on his way. I walked back into the booth holding back tears. Br. Mark and Sr. Joanne were so happy too. There were so many blessings in that one first experience of “placing a set” with such a kind person who had a hearing ear.

Early the second morning I met Candy, a 7th Day Adventist. She asked if we had information on the Sabbath and strongly told me I could speak boldly about what I believe because she wanted to look at this more closely. I showed her the Jubilee chapter in the Second Volume and the Sixth Volume Chapter on “The Rest, or Sabbath of the New Creation.” She left with an All-in-One and received some additional free information on the Sabbath.

I also appreciated a Presbyterian lady. She said that some of the scriptures her Pastor has been using to support the Presbyterian beliefs did not fit right in her mind and she’s been studying to see what is correct. She asked if the Studies in the Scriptures included scripture citations and I showed her the 5th volume. The Lord provided that it opened to some of those pages that are almost all scriptures! She left with a full set, the Tabernacle booklet and the admonition to “Prove all things.” I was quoting that scripture a lot along with being sure everyone heard about the Kingdom for ALL.

A Minister came to the booth who said he was always looking to prove what he believes and see if he has anything wrong. He quickly purchased a set of volumes and was on his way.

A young girl, maybe 7 to 9 years old — I realize now it would have been good to ask her age — was the one to bring her family over to the booth. She was looking at everything. I had some discussion with her family and with her. She noticed the beautiful Children’s Book, turned the pages, and pleadingly asked her Mom if she could please have this book. Her Mom looked at it, thought it was beautifully done and purchased it for her daughter. The family members each left

with “HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE” and the “APP card.” Usually only one person in a family would take the materials or one parent and a child.

Mike and Yvonne came to the booth primarily looking for Bible audio. They gave me their email and I sent them the htdbv8 link that took them directly to the KJV page and I explained how to download the audio files. Although Yvonne said Mike only wanted to listen to the Bible while on the combine, now he has access to downloading all the audio files for the Volumes and Tabernacle Shadows, too. Yvonne wrote back to thank me and say Mike loves the audio files.

I also especially remember the sweet young couple (20s I think) who looked so in awe of hearing about the two salvations. While still intently listening, the young man was getting his wallet as the young woman was asking if we take donations. I told them about the Volumes that they could purchase for the money they were offering and went through the summary of the chapters so they knew what they were getting. They left with a set of volumes and the Tabernacle booklet.

I only had 3 experiences with people who strongly disagreed and only one person left in a hurry. The first experience I mentioned already.

Another experience was with a very tall young man who was with a friend who just purchased a First Volume. The young man who purchased the volume seemed to be in awe of what he was hearing about the two salvations and the permission of evil, etc. Sr. Joanne even said she noticed that he looked very interested. At some point, the other very tall young man with him spoke up and asked me a question. He said what he wanted to know was how could I be with God? He was familiar with quite a few scriptures and said he had been studying the Bible for some time. He also asked where God was located and this led to referring him back to the two salvations and how now was the time when God is calling out a people for His name, for the future work of blessing all the families of the earth. This led into Romans 12:1,2 and he actually quoted the scriptures when I gave the citation. We talked some about what it means to present your body a living sacrifice. He asked what would happen if I fell short and some more direct questions that had to be answered with the scriptural discussion of the Great Company and Second Death, stressing God’s love, patience, and mercy and how now this only applies to those who are begotten of the Holy Spirit, etc. There was quite a bit to the discussion. At the end, the tall man was a little less certain about what he believed and I stressed proving everything, not just taking what I say or what anyone else says. I never expected to have such a discussion. I trust the Lord will kindly overrule.

Two ladies came up to the booth with questions on what we believed about the rapture. Sr. Joanne and I had just reviewed the scriptures and Harvest message on this topic the night before. The Lord provided the recall of the scriptures and logic and both women listened though not familiar with it. Then the one woman who initially asked the question asked about the 7 years tribulation. The previous day Br. Mark pointed out a section in a booklet that was added because the Brethren were encountering more people who had been applying the 70 weeks in Daniel to the Second Advent of Jesus instead of the First Advent. I had briefly looked at this the night before and was able to ask her if she was talking about the 70 weeks spoken of by Daniel. She didn’t answer and basically said she sees I don’t believe in the 7 years tribulation so there was no reason to keep talking. They quickly just walked away without taking any additional information.

Two deaf people came up to me at different times. I know very few whole word signs but can use the alphabet to spell. It probably would have been more efficient to write to speak to them, but I have been told by some deaf people I've met that they do appreciate the signing. I think it may be another way to express to them that someone cares and that is good. Both took the free materials and charts and thanked me very much by signing.

Sr. Joanne was having an in depth conversation with a man who obviously was indoctrinated but did have knowledge of scriptures and really wanted to talk. I spoke with his wife. She said their Pastor uses a lot of scriptures and really explains everything clearly to them. She didn't do any personal Bible study and I realized that she wasn't interested in hearing any more about God's plan at that time. She was looking sleepy so I asked her if they had children. She perked up and this started a conversation that by the Lord's grace kept her from getting bored and allowed Sr. Joanne to continue the discussion.

My hope and prayer is that something in this very long report is a help to the Brethren in some way.

With Christian Love,
Sr. Debbie Dekruyf

A woman stopped by the booth to look at the free literature. As she was thumbing through the articles, she said, "Do you believe that when someone dies, they simply go to the grave?" I said, yes. And she immediately said, "So do I, but not my minister." She explained that had read the Bible on death and concluded that the teachings of her church were not totally correct. Then she said that her minister told her that she thinks too much and asks too many questions. I encouraged her to keep thinking and asking questions and provided more topics to mediate on.

Many of those stopping at the booth this year were willing to share some of their life experiences and their faith. One woman told me that she had stage 4 cancer and she said that God would heal her. A couple weeks later she went to doctor for a cancer progress scan. The doctor told her that there was no detectable cancer. What should I respond, but talk about restitution blessings to come upon all mankind in God coming kingdom.

Another woman stopped for material to share with her Bible study group. She stated that some of their meetings turn out to be more of a testimony meeting than a study. I mentioned that I love testimony meetings and the value that comes from sharing of our trials and knowing how to pray for one another.

One woman with some sharp tones in her voice asked after reading the banner, "What are the tools that you are offering. Some software! Selling some books!" I mentioned that the greatest tool that we have is doing a topical study of the Bible. She said, "Oh! Thanks," and walked away.

This year's experiences reinforced two items from our studies. First item was the reprint article used for the August 14 manna text, Reprint 3130. There are some who greatly appreciate a little cup of cold water. And there are some who are so deceived that would not even want a single drop to touch their tongue. The second item is from our sixth volume study on Parental Obligations. We observed the full gamut of parent involvement. It was a blessing to see some parents looking for material to share with their young and teenage children.

**Br. Tom and Sr. Nancy Machacek
NW Indiana Bible Students**

Good day in the Lord!

Greetings to All! I would like to thank my heavenly Father for this wonderful opportunity to share my witness experience.

I had the privilege of serving the fair on Sunday August 10th. I came in on Saturday evening to the hotel to get a good nights rest. It's a 3 and a half hour drive from where I live. I was greeted by the brethren with a warm welcome!

Sunday morning started off very well. My partner in service was Sr. Jacqueline Fowler. We served together in the past. We were to be there from 10-6 pm. Br. Mark was there to show us what we had to offer. It was very well organized! Our chart of the ages looked very nice hanging in back of us.

We offered something fairly new this year. It's a QR reader code for your smart phone. Once you scan this code into or on your phone, you have direct access to various Bible Student Web sites that cover a wide variety of topics. Right at the touch of your fingertips! It was handed out regularly throughout the day. Many people found it useful and convenient.

Sr. Jacqueline and I had many rather long discussions with fellow Christian's. Most lasted a half hour to 45 minutes. We spoke to a man who was with his son. He didn't have a Bible. Sr. Jacqueline took it upon herself to go behind us to the Gideon's booth to give him a small New Testament Bible. He was so happy, he was hugging it!

I enjoyed also seeing some familiar faces come by that I remember seeing in past years. Our booth caught the eye of many. Sunday was a good day being many were probably coming from church.

We spread the word of the truth and as usual it was a blessed learning experience.

Hopefully, Lord willing, I can be of service next year.

God Bless,

Sr. Lynn Reeland

La Salle Bible Students

It was enjoyable again this year. On the Sunday I served I had 2 distinct experiences that stood out.

(1) 2 adult JW's and 2 teenagers were spoken to by Br. Mark and I heard the lady say, "We have our own, we are Jehovah Witnesses." I turned around and said, "Hello, sister! I was a witness also but I found my brothers, the Bible Students, and now I associate with them." She was speechless and said "WE ARE THE BIBLE STUDENTS! We have our history book just released," I told her I had it, but it was in conflict with our history book and the Bible Students have been around over 70 years and were never dead as we had been told. She was not okay with this. I asked her to call Bethel and tell them about the dilemma here with her seeing flesh and blood Br. Mark that I told her has always been a Bible Student and his mother.

I assured her I was not DF (*disfellowshipped-mk*), and would never put her in a position to talk to me if I was. She and the teenagers said thanks, and she liked that. She told me I could come back at any time. I said thanks, but this is closer to the Bible itself and not an organization and what Br. Russell really taught. Hopefully, she will tell her husband and CO.

(2) I noticed the Seventh Day Adventist huge Tabernacle was not there, but a marble display with a member of the Adventist religion there. I told him how I used their display to show in real time the Tabernacle and we had the APP at the top so we could find it easier. He said he told them it was a mistake not putting their display up and appreciated my giving him some info. We discussed some of the meaning of the Tabernacle and he stated there are a lot of things he disagreed with about his religion. (I know it is similar to the Witnesses.) Some of the same elements that I had and I had used the Bible on three separate visits during the day to show him about a Ransom for all, two salvations and more. He said he believed it some of the same way and took some of the free literature.

(3) Parents were talking to Sr. Lynn and the nine year old said very loudly, "I wish I had myself a Bible to read." I asked his parents if I could take him around the corner. The Gideons were there and I invited their crowd to stay and hear what the young child had to say; it would be a blessing to them. He was loud and in a southern accent, said he wished he had a Bible. I explained which booth I was in and that there is no need to duplicate because the Gideons have the Bibles and we have the literature that points you to it. I sent the people around to get some free literature and helped them and the young boy. Sis Lynn was in deep conversation with the parents.

The Gideons told me they liked the presentation by the Bible Students. I said we are in this together, why would we not let people know that you were giving away the Bibles to look up the info in our literature. And they would send the people around to get some free pamphlets. So we hugged each other, and I told them if we can't respect each other and get along, we need to close up shop.

They said they had heard about the Bible Students booth right behind them and expect to give Bibles to the people after they leave our booth. Hopefully, I believe in seeing a sermon not hearing one. I enjoyed this broad witness for they will tell others about the Bible's message in a positive way. We gave away a lot of free literature. Thank you.

Sr. Jacqueline Fowler

Please let the brethren in Chicago know how much we appreciate the privilege in sharing in this witness experience. Your tireless efforts are a blessed example to us, and we thank the Lord for all of you and your faithfulness in letting your light shine. "Many hands make light work."

We had three particularly memorable experiences.

Last year, Sr. Estelle had an extended witness on Skype with a young woman named Bethany, that is, until her church found out about it. They warned her to stop meeting with us because we were a cult -- we didn't believe in the trinity and hell. So, Estelle had not heard from Bethany after that. Shortly after we arrived at the booth this year, Bethany and her 7th Day Adventist friend came to the booth, not knowing that Estelle would be there at that exact moment. Bethany said that it surprised her that of all times that she would be there, Estelle would be there, too. She said that she had hoped to avoid Estelle, because she was embarrassed for having abandoned our study on Skype. Estelle comforted her and said there was no reason to be embarrassed, because she was following her conscience at the time. Bethany and her friend said that they were just starting a study on Revelation. We gave them each a Revelation booklet and they seemed quite excited to have it. She said that she still had my info in her Skype listing, so Estelle told her that, if they get stumped on a Revelation scripture, they can call or Skype her. We are praying that communication will continue.

Another repeat witness was a couple who had purchased a 1st Volume last year from us, and they came back to look for more study materials. Br. Bill talked to the man and Sr. Estelle talked to the woman while they were there. Estelle asked the woman if she had wondered what prophecies were being fulfilled in Israel. She said that what was happening in Israel troubled her, so Estelle explained several of the scriptures that touched on Israel in prophecy, and showed her how Israel was going to be a blessing throughout the entire earth. She was thrilled with the message, and rolled up her sleeves to show Estelle her goose-bumps. Both the husband and the wife then started talking to both of us about what they had learned in the Divine Plan book. They said that they understood now that there will be a thousand-year kingdom and that all are in their graves until the Church is complete and the ancient worthies return. The only thing that troubled them was the scripture about the thief on the cross when Jesus said that they would be with him that day in paradise. (Luke 23:43) Estelle said, "Well, that depends on where you put the comma. 'I say unto thee today - comma - thou shalt be with me in paradise.'" She gasped, "Oh!!! Oh!!! Oh!!! That explains everything! Oh! That's it!" She actually jumped for joy to have that stumbling block removed. The couple ended up purchasing the Volume set. They live in the same city as Br. Mark and Sr. Ela Chastain, but they said they were happy at this point to stay in their church. As they learn more about the truth and want to share it with others in their church, that may change.

The young man in the granite booth across the aisle looked bored during a long lull in traffic, so Sr. Estelle went over to talk to him. Br. Mark had told us that he had many long conversations with Lawrence and that he was very open to other ideas, even though he was a 7th Day Adventist. He explained to Estelle how "Pi" - the squaring of a circle - is found in a scripture text. Estelle said, "If you like that, you will be amazed at the link between the Great Pyramid and the Bible -- it also shows Pi. Did you know that the shape of the Great Pyramid is referenced several times in the Bible to Jesus -- 'the stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner.'" (Luke 20:17) She explained further about the unique shape of the pyramid, pointed to it on the chart and showed how all will come into conformity in God's kingdom, making one large pyramid. He said that this fascinated him, because he is an architectural student, and loves the Great Pyramid. So, Estelle then went into Isaiah 19:19-20 and he immediately typed this into his smart phone to see if she was correct. While he was looking this up, Estelle went back to the booth, and brought him back the Pyramid booklet. When the conversation ended, Lawrence sat down and immediately started reading the booklet, looking things up on his

smart phone as he read. Every time the traffic slowed down, he was reading, and as he left the fair that night, he came to say goodbye, then exclaimed, "Oh! I forgot my booklet!" He planned to continue to study it that evening.

There were several others who had seen us the year before and remembered us, stopping to say hello and taking more literature.

Again, it is a privilege to be a co-laborer together with God and with you.

***Lovingly, In Him, Br. Bill and Sr. Estelle
Associated Bible Students of Central Ohio***

When we observed how much more interest there is across the isle (Indian jewelry & sun glasses) we marveled. We marveled that the Lord has called us to a higher interest! That by his grace we haven't passed by the greatest treasure and gone home with a pair of \$7 sun glasses!

And though there isn't a great deal of interest in God, there is interest. And what a blessing it is, to share the truth with so many people in one day! These conversations were the highlight of my day at the fair. Another highlight was listening to a dear brother answer over a dozen questions asked by a very curious and open minded Seventh Day Adventist. How logical and wonderful the truth sounds and as the hymn goes - *for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.*

A final highlight; you get to know some of the venders around the booth and though they may not be Christians, they're good people. How good it is to know, that (along with the world) they will soon rejoice in the truth and be blessed by God right here on earth. Life is good, when we have this peace that only the truth gives. Witnessing the truth at the fair booth reminds us over and over just how blessed we are.

Br. Dan Monette

Oakland County Bible Students

Once again it was a great blessing to be able to serve on Sunday, the closing day of the Fair. We arrived Saturday afternoon and had not even been at the booth 20 seconds before the back-drop fell down, and at first, that was somewhat unsettling. Then on reflection it seemed as though perhaps the Lord's providence had waited for us to be there to help Bro. Bill Gill fix

things since I was tall enough to reach to top of the display while standing precariously on a step-ladder. Interaction with the crowds seemed a little slower this year, but we were able to distribute a lot of copies of “How to Study the Bible,” Charts of the Ages and other free material. Additionally, the excellent interactions from returning interest and new interest definitely made this a most worthwhile venue. The attractive new children’s book on the plan was a good sales item for the returning interest. What seems noteworthy is that there were some people who read our materials, said they understood the materials, really appreciated what they learned from them, but seem not to be eager to find a group of Bible Students to meet with for more in depth study.

- One of the most exciting contacts was with Chuck (estimated as being in his late 50s) who came back later in the day with his whole family after purchasing materials earlier. He loves our materials and when he returned purchased an additional 6 copies of “Can these bones live again?” a video about the promise to Israel to share with friends. Chuck is a committed Christian who has spent time living in Israel and has been rejoicing since coming to know of us. He just wanted to say, “Thank you for sharing the Truth.”
- Another man came by who says that he loves his set of 6 volumes and has gone through them and underlined many passages. He says that his mother in her 80’s has a 7-in-one Volume and studies them even more intensively. She has underlined and dog-eared many of the pages. Another two visitors said that they use our materials to help prepare their Sunday School lessons.
- Bro. Mark always sets aside two full sets of volumes because at the close of the fair, the same woman from the fairgrounds staff comes around each year to purchase two additional sets for distributing to her friends.

Special note needs be made of our new next door neighbor, Atif, who is an émigré from Lebanon and acted friendly and generous to us throughout the fair. He even insisted on cooking some lunch for us (he sells pots and pans). What a blessing to be able to serve while we still have such marvelous opportunities!

By grace – Bro. Richard and Sr. Sue Doctor
Chicago Bible Students

Brethren that served:

**Marilynn Binda; Debbie DeKruyf; Richard and Sue Doctor; Jacqueline Fowler;
Bill and Estelle Gill; Mark Kandel; Nancy Kleppe; Joanne Klich; Tom and Nancy Machacek;
Russ and Camille Marten; Dan Monette; Lynn Reeland; Mark and Roberta Tabac;
Lois Talley; Merrily Wesolowski; Harry and Karen Wildblood**

2014 Indiana State Fair Summary

	LITERATURE	RET	ISF	2014	2013
	7-IN-1 w/CARDS (PLUS 1-DISPLAY)	47	60	13	27
	6 VOLUME SET (PLUS 1-DISPLAY)	6	28	22	18
	DPA ENGLISH (PLUS 2- DISPLAY)	112	200	88	123
	DPA SPANISH / PACKETS	19/31	20/40	1/9	5/21
	DPA POLISH / PACKETS	9/10	10/10	1/0	1/9
	DPA CHINESE (PLUS 1 DISPLAY)	10	20	10	8
	HTSB BOOKLETS - ENG	898	2100	1202	1900
	APP CARDS	439	2100	1661	-
	GOD'S PLAN FOR EVERYBODY (PLUS 1 DISPLAY)	7	30	23	-
	CHART OF THE AGES (NWIWS)	352	800	448	400
	HIGHLIGHTERS	200	1200	1000	700
DVDs					
	FTC-DVD-E	17	40	23	18
	CREATION VS EVOLUTION-DVD	32	40	8	7
	CAN THESE BONES LIVE-DVD	29	40	11	9
	911-DVD	37	40	3	9
	AFTER ARMAGEDDON-DVD	30	40	10	10
	BEREAN BIBLE STUDIES-CD	7	10	3	5
	GOD'S KINGDOM-DVD	30	40	10	17
	GREAT PYRAMID-DVD	39	40	1	9
	TRUTH ABOUT HELL-DVD	37	40	3	13
	BLINDNESS IN PART... TO ISRAEL-DVD	29	40	11	5
	SABBATH	33	40	7	16
	FTC-DVD-SP	20	20	0	5
	FTC/HTSB-DVD-SP	20	20	0	2
	DAY OF JUDGEMENT-DVD-SP	20	20	0	4
	FTC-DVD-POLISH	20	20	0	-
	ISRAEL APOINTMENT WITH DESTINY-NB -DVD	4	5	1	0
	ISRAEL FULFILLING BIBLE PROPHECY - NB - DVD	3	5	2	0
RACK MATERIAL					
	FW - DPA	17	98	81	37
	FW - CHART	63	100	37	40
	FW - OLR	78	100	22	48
	FW - WHERE ARE THE DEAD	30	100	70	69
	FW - SPIRITISM	24	50	26	28
	HERALD MAG PAST ISSUES	0	50	50	35
	NEWSLETTERS MADE	X	X	1180	222
	CHRISTIAN QUESTIONS BAGS	0	100	100	NA

BOOKLETS

TITLE	START	2013	2014	NOTE
After Armageddon, God's Kingdom	10	6	2	
And God Cried	10	2	5	Permission of Evil
Can We Identify Antichrist?	10	1	1	
Church Union and the Antichrist	10	0	1	
Comfort and Consolation	10	0	0	
Creation Triumphs over Evolution	10	2	4	
Do We Worship the Same God?	10	0	0	
Early Christian View of War	8	3	2	
God's Grand Plan of the Ages	35	24	34	Condensed DPA
Grace of Jehovah	9	1	0	JW doctrinal changes
How to Study Revelation	10	2	10	
I Will Come Again	10	3	5	
Israel, Nation of Miracles	10	6	9	
Speaking in Tongues	10	2	10	
The Doctrine of Christ	10	4	7	Trinity
The Great Pyramid	10	2	2	
Time to Favor Zion	10	3	3	OT hope to Jews
What Everyone Should Know About Being Saved	10	1	4	
What's This World Coming to?	10	0	2	
When Pastor Russell Died	10	0	0	
Where Are the Dead?	10	0	5	
Why God Permits Evil	10	4	1	
Will Israel Survive the End Times?	10	0	6	
Israel's Tabernacle	100	75	5	

ITEMIZED EXPENSES

ITEM	COST	SOURCE	NOTE	COST	SALES
7-IN-1	\$10	FW	13	130.00	65.00
NB SET (6)	\$17.25	NB	22	379.50	110.00
DPA-E	\$1.50	NB	88	132.00	88.00
DPA-S	\$2.50	DAWN	1	2.50	1.00
DPA-P	\$2.75	DS	1	2.75	1.00
DPA-C	\$8.00	TA	10	80.00	10.00
GGPFE	\$10.00	OAK	23	230.00	230.00
DVDs	\$1.00	BSP	90	90.00	90.00
JEWELL CASES	\$.30	OFFICE DEPOT	90	27.00	0
DVDs (ISRAEL)	\$6.00	NB	3	18.00	3.00
FW MAG	AVERAGE .50 EA	FW	236	118.00	0
HIGHLIGHTERS	\$.60 EA.	OFFICE DEPOT	1000	600.00	0
HTSB	.25 EA	BSP	1202	300.50	0
APP CARDS	.05 EA.	BSP	1661	83.05	0
MISC. BKLTS	AVERAGE .30 EA.	LDS	118	35.40	0
NEWSLETTERS	AVERAGE .06 EA.	MK	1180	71.74	0
ISF REPORTS	AVERAGE .22 EA.	MK	50	11.00	0
TOTALS				2311.44	598.00

2014 INDIANA STATE FAIR EXPENSE SUMMARY

ITEM		NOTE	AMOUNT
FAIR BOOTH SPACE+INSURANCE			\$1200.00
DRURY MOTEL	CBS		\$2620.48
PARKING SPACE FOR TRAILER			\$125.00
3 EXTRA TICKETS			\$21.00
CLASS BUDGET			-\$4,000.00
BALANCE SURPLUS			\$ 33.52
PARKING FEES/ADMISSION *	MISC		\$85.00
LITERATURE EXPENSE			\$2311.44
DONATIONS			-\$1798.44
FAIR BOOTH SALES			-\$598.00
BALANCE			\$ 0.00

* Parking was \$5 and admission without a ticket was \$10. Brethren scheduled to serve were supplied tickets in the most part. Any expenses for parking and admission were reimbursed. If brethren chose not to be reimbursed it was accepted under donations.

It is not possible to itemize every detail and expense, so the figures above are as close to accurate that I have been able to get... I think it's pretty close. --- Br. Mark Kandel