

Report

Printer's Row Book Fair—June 2,3, 2001

This was the third year at the Printer's Row Book Fair. I was very pleased that the Class voted so overwhelmingly to continue it this year. As it turned out, we were located in the exact same place as the previous two years. We wanted to experiment with a slightly different approach...fewer variety of books. We emphasized Volume 1, For This Cause videos, and a free packet of booklets. These three items were available in three languages: English, Spanish, and Polish...each in its own gray tub, which was labeled. We also had a gray tub for videos on *God's Kingdom*, *The Truth about Hell*, *The King of Kings*, and *Israel*. The Bible Study Kit was also featured which includes: Paperback Volume 1, a 15 minute video on *Why God Permits Evil*, a cassette of hymns, a cassette (which is the audio of the 2 videos *God's Kingdom* and the *Truth about Hell*), a CD-ROM of Studies in the Scriptures, and the booklets: *The Doctrine of Christ*, *I Will Come Again*, *How to Study the Bible*, *How to Study Revelation*, *Time to Favor Zion* and *Where Are the Dead?* A clothbound set of Studies in the Scriptures was also available. Volumes, booklet packets, and the 6 Volume set and the Bible Kit were all protected in plastic or baggies because of the rainy weather reports.

Saturday morning started with rain...on and off. Cover the table...uncover the table...then repeat the cycle a few more times. We were next to a Spanish literature table. I thought that worked out fine, because as people would come to see their books in Spanish, we would have our videos and books right next to them in Spanish. I think the Polish literature was an interesting addition, because a number of people did stop to see what we had to offer. While no Volumes were placed in Polish, a video and a number of booklet packets did go out. Conversations were spaced at a level I would compare to a flea market. There were expected objections from the fundamentalist branches of Christianity over the "once saved, always saved" doctrine and the Trinity, but generally it was quite civil.

More than one person came up and remembered us from before...I thought that was a good sign. A variety of persons bought 1st Volumes...a policeman, a bus driver, a student.... An added feature which showed the lingering effects of a witness effort came the Tuesday after the fair. Br. Ted Marten gave me an email response to the Chicago web site which referred to the book fair and asked about further information re Spanish literature and Bible study. This has been passed along to Sr. Marge Hagensick for follow-up.

The totals for the activity were 13 Volumes, 4 videos and 1 Bible Study Kit placed. A number of booklet packets in all 3 languages were distributed. I appreciated the opportunity of serving with the Brethren at this fair. I think it had a unique market of exposure. I liked trying the added languages (it was fun to hear Sr. Noemie witness in Polish!) And I liked seeing people remember us from the past and make a point of

telling us. Most of all, I appreciate the opportunity of expressing the Truth to others and sharing what has become precious, because the best part is...it includes them whether or not they accept or take literature...although it is always more thrilling to find an interested ear to hear.

Br. Mark Kandel

I got really cold those two days, but it was worth it. I really appreciated being involved in the witnessing effort at the Book Fair. I would like to share some of my highlights.

One man was looking at the Polish literature and I started to talk to him in Polish. I talked to him about the First Volume, and then he started to tell me his life story. He lived in Poland during the Second World War and told me about how his dad helped thousands of Polish people survive the German ruler ship by hiring them in his factory (like Schindler's list). He wrote a book about his experiences during this time how the Nazis treated the people. I was able to tell him that my grandmother was living in Poland at that time and shared with me some stories about how horrible it was. I was able to share with him the hope of the Kingdom. He was still very emotional about this topic and started to cry. He also took some booklets.

Another joy was to hear a man come up to our table and tell us that he had bought a First Volume last year and that it has changed his life. He is a professor at a Calvinist University and he is having a hard time teaching there now. He bought a Bible kit (CD ROM, video "Why God Permits Evil"...).

A young Polish lady came up to the table and asked who we were. After explaining to her, she told me that she thought that we were JW's. She wanted to know what was the difference with them. She found our beliefs very interesting. At the end she told me that she started to meet with the JW's and that she is still looking for something else. She took some free booklets.

It was worth being there. We have to go back next year.

Sr. Noemie Brychcy

We gave away about 6-8 free booklet packages; all of them in English, except for one which was in Spanish.

A gentleman from a booth at the other end of the Fair came and was looking at our materials. We started talking and he said he had a Bible Book Store in the city on Irving Park, near Pulaski. He's with a non-denominational group who just meet to study and worship together. I asked him what type of things he sold in his bookstore and he told me they rented all kinds of videos about the Bible. So I ended up "loaning" him one of each of the For This Cause and God's Kingdom videos. I figured it may get more circulation if rented out in a Bible Book Store. He has our contact information and knows how to get hold of me through the 800 number for the class. I guess I should have gotten his name, but I did see his booth when I was walking around in the afternoon.

*We were glad for the witness opportunity. Christian love,
Br. Mark and Sr. Roberta Tabac*

I was only there for one shift, but was glad for the opportunity to serve the Lord in this manner. There were not very many people who stopped by our booth, but those who did made it worth it. There was a very nice woman who stopped and wanted to talk for a while. She was very glad for a free packet, and even offered to pay me for it. She was going to be going on a trip the next day, so I am hoping she will read the booklets on the plane. There was also a very nice man who stopped and listened very attentively to what is in the 1st Volume, so much so that he bought one.

Other than that, I enjoyed the fellowship with Brethren when it was slow!

☺ **Sr. Joanna Knox**

“Hi, Good morning,” I greeted them. Sometimes they stopped, but not for very long, these walkers at Printer’s Row Book Fair. Sunday the day was cool, gray and with such chilly wind gusts.

Another came, stopped and looked. “Do you read the Bible?” I queried. “No, I know it. I’m Catholic—I know it all.” She did not move. To better understand the Scriptures, I quickly suggested the booklet *How to Study the Bible*. “Oh, thank you.” And she walked away with the booklet.

That was typical of my morning. Short snips of conversation, nothing in depth and it seemed all were hurrying seeking that treasure of a book.

The Adversary gave a good pinch. Our table abutted a Spanish/English literature table. There, next to our Spanish Truth videos and literature, was a picture of Madonna—Mother Mary. When in front of the table, I would point, “Our Truth literature begins here.”

It was a morning of patience, but always it is a privilege to serve wherever the Lord permits.

P.S. I like a display of the Plan of the Ages...it invites discussion.

Sr. Wanda Jay