

The 2005 Printer's Row Book Fair

The 2005 Printer's Row Book Fair had a number of unique blessings. Our location was about as good as it gets. We were under two shady trees in front of a used bookstore. The Lord was good in even providing the shade of trees when the heat reached the 80-90's. The weather was perfect all weekend long. Serving this year were Br. Mark and Sr. Roberta Tabac and Br. Erwin Kalinski. We were treated with the addition of two more volunteers, Br. Bob Giovannoni and Br. Avram Pop.

Mark and Roberta are always first to volunteer and reliably handle the task of witnessing to the estimated 75,000 in attendance this weekend. Br. Erwin had the unique approach of telling everyone that the volumes were written by Charles Russell and then added "but we are not Jehovah Witnesses". This is not my approach, but it was one he was comfortable with and it worked for him as he placed most of the literature Saturday morning. His enthusiasm was great to watch as it grew with each conversation! This led to Erwin saying, "Sign me up to work with you next year!"

Bob had his first contact with the brethren at the Printer's Row Book Fair a few years back and when he showed up Sunday morning he intended to stay until the fair closed at 6:00 pm. This was precisely held, as he was still witnessing to a woman at the now empty table when we drove away with the literature... leaving him with only 1 volume to either place or take home! Bob started placing books with his easygoing mannerisms, plus he seemed to know a number of fair goers from his work downtown. His presence was a great encouragement!

Avram has had many new experiences the past few months as he started meeting with the brethren. In addition to attending the Schneider-Kandel Tuesday night meeting regularly and the Hinsdale Sunday services, he was game to try the Printer's Row Book Fair for an all-day commitment! He witnessed to a Romanian couple, placed a 7-in-1 and a 1st volume! In addition to this he and Bob kept up with making the Free-Bee packets as they were being taken at a record pace this year. His comment was "next year I'll do better."

While Bob and Avram had never worked at a fair booth before, they watched and listened as we approached those who stopped. It wasn't long and they were both approaching public on their own. We faded into the background and watched as their skills developed with each new contact. What a joy to behold! It was just a great experience!

This year's witness showed an increase in literature from last year. The 2004 results are included for comparison.

ITEM	2004	2005
7-in-1	19	25
DPA-Eng	1	15
DPA-Mag	3	5
DPA-Sp	1	0
FTC-Sp	1	0
Videos	1	9
FTC-DVD	19	20
FREE-BEES	157	300+

We appreciate any avenue of witnessing, but this was one to remember.

Your brother in Christ,

Mark Kandel

“We enjoy serving at Printer's Row each year and try to be available for this effort. The Lord has blessed this effort, by not only bringing Bro. Bob G into our midst, but by having many others stop by that have come to recognize us through the years. Different ones who already have our literature stopped at the booth and talked about how they appreciate our message. Interested ones from all age groups and ethnicities stopped to ask questions and look over our materials. Being able to offer people our "Fair Special," which is the 7-1 Volume for \$5.00, is a great attention-getter.

We appreciate the freedoms we have in America and appreciate all of our opportunities to share God's Plan with others. We're thankful the Ecclesia supports the Printer's Row Fair!”

**In His Service,
Bro. Mark & Sr. Roberta Tabac**

“I went to the Printer's Row Book Fair mainly because I felt a sense of responsibility to return some of my time and service, since it was there in June of 2001 that I was introduced to the Chicago Bible Students. Mark and Avram had been there since the morning and had everything already set up. I was impressed with Mark's table, he had all the literature well organized and easily available to the public. I watched Mark present the literature to several different people and noticed how he outlined the chapters of the Six-In-One-Volume and explained what each one was about. The people seemed impressed that the

book had so much information at such a low price. After a while I decided to give it a try myself. Borrowing Mark's technique, I stumbled through a presentation to a young couple and to my surprise they bought the book, I think they did it out of pity or maybe they became tired of listening to me, but the important thing is that they have it. Encouraged by that I continued to talk to others. I became more confident as the time went on and the more people I talked to. I didn't have any confrontational discussions, everyone seemed friendly and willing to listen. I talked to several dozen people and placed three books. On my way home I felt a sense of accomplishment having spent time in the Lord's work. I am grateful to Him for guiding me to the Bible Students and hope that I have other opportunities to show my Him gratitude. “

Br. Bob Giovannoni

“My main purpose in working at the Printer’s Row Book Fair was to help Mark Kandel set up the display and to keep him company. I appreciate his zeal and determination to serve the Lord.

Much to my surprise the Lord really blessed our efforts to serve him. I experienced the greatest witness results of my life. With the Lord’s blessings and direction I was able to sell 9 7-in-1 volumes. I thank the Lord for this opportunity and can’t wait to serve him next year.”

Br. Erwin Kalinski

This Book Fair was my first experience like this. I have never done this before. I want to say that I was happy to be there all day long and help as much as I could. It was really encouraging for me to see that some people seemed to be quite interested in seeking the truth and they even bought the Volumes or they got free booklets. We gave away dozens maybe hundreds of booklets and tracts.

Also, at the beginning I was encouraged by watching Mark and Bob, how they were approaching those who stopped. Then, I was trying to do better and better. I was glad to witness to a Romanian couple. I was able to express myself in my native language. I am sure next time I shall do much better. It is really a great joy to be able to share with others and talk to the other people and tell them that God’s plan for humankind is just amazing and it cannot be expressed by words as wonderful as it is.

Well, it was a great blessing to be there.”

Br. Avram Pop

Printers Row Lit Fest — 2005



Printers Row Lit Fest — 2005



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