

2006 Printer's Row Book Fair

“...no man ever labored for our Master who will not receive abundantly more than he could ask or expect.”

Thy Kingdom Come, page 224

The 2006 Printers Row Book Fair had some memorable moments. Our location was switched to the middle of the street in the crosswalk. We didn't realize it at first, but we were blocking wheelchair access to the sloped curbing that allows access to the sidewalk. After moving the literature from under the table and surrounding areas, we moved the table for one man then moved it back. This was a drawback to being out in the street this year, but the inconvenience to us was minor. Saturday and Sunday mornings were slow, but slowness doesn't always mean bad. It was during the morning that Marilyn McCormick stopped by and wanted a 7-in-1 and that turned out to be one of the highlights of the fair for me. (See Sr. Claudia Tosa's comments.)

It was good to have Sr. Gretchen Sandler with us on Saturday afternoon. It's always good to have someone new witnessing at the fair for the first time. It's not easy to do and it takes a lot of determination not to get discouraged. Sr. Gretchen didn't give up.

A new feature was offering the Divine Plan Special Edition magazine from Ft. Worth. It explains the chart of the ages with Scriptural backup for each point on the chart. This was literally hot off the presses and brought to Chicago personally by the Ft. Worth Brethren in just one week before.

We tried a new sign at Sr. Jeannine Farrell's suggestion. "Polish spoken here." We had to keep changing the sign to include "Italian" – "Romanian" – "Spanish" depending on who was on at the time. Surprisingly, it did spark some conversations that would otherwise have been missed!

Sometimes you could just sense that the crowd was not in tune to the message. It's a tribute to each of the workers at the fair that they stayed cheerful and kept trying, even when faced by the indifference of the crowd. There was one man who enjoyed talking, but was not looking for answers. He showed up each day. It became obvious to me that his presence might chase away sincere seekers of Truth, as he spoke loudly and talked in circles, coming back to the same themes without any evidence of progress. It was time to cut the bait and recast the fishing line. I finally asked him to just go away, read the material he had gathered, and then get in touch with us when he has been exposed to more information. He just stopped talking and walked away.

Some have said, "Br. Mark is such a good salesman or witness. He can place Volumes with anyone." I know that is far from reality. This year was a prime example. I don't think the total numbers were all that different from previous years, but I wasn't the one placing the books. Someone else was. Maybe that is the lesson, ***don't give up!*** Maybe it's good to see that Br. Mark doesn't place a book with everyone either. Whether the people hear or forebear, keep telling the old, old story to as many as will listen. This was the great blessing to me...to work with Brethren that never gave up. What an honor to work with them!

Br. Mark Kandel

I do not have too much to say about this year's Printer's Row Book Fair, but I would still like to share some thoughts.

It was beginning to look like a promising day when we were on the expressway towards downtown. The weather was nice and there were conditions for a good day. Maybe it was a very good day, but not a very profitable one for us that were there in the morning.

Until we left, there were not too many people stopping by and having questions or showing interest in the material that we were offering. But, there were few of them and that still makes me hoping that more people will manifest more interest in the Truth sooner or later.

Even in this situation, not being a very encouraging day, I still don't lose the hope and the love for sharing more and more in every opportunity of God's wonderful plan. May that His kingdom soon be established here on earth and so every creature understands his glorious plan for us.

Sincerely,
Avram

On Sunday, June 3, I helped Mark and Avram at the Printer's Row book table. I enjoy going to that fair and this year was no exception. The day was beautifully sunny and comfortable. We didn't have as many people stop by this year as last. The reason may have been that we were in a different location and not as visible as last year. In any case, we were able to place various literature with people and talk to some of them. Of course, it's always a pleasure to talk about God's Word to people. Hopefully, the seeds planted may grow.

Br. Bob Giovannoni

Serving at the Printer's Row Book Fair this year was a great blessing and much joy. I enjoyed very much working with Sr. Gretchen Sandler and Br. Mark Kandel and getting to know them better. When I got there at 2 o'clock and saw that the sun had passed our spot and we would have shade and wind for the rest of the time, I was afraid I would be freezing for the remaining four hours. But, after Sr. Gretchen graciously got me a hot chai latte, and I got into discussions with people, I totally forgot about the cold and I couldn't believe how fast the four hours had flown by.

I was glad to see that many of the Christian people who stopped by were attracted to the big book of 7-in-1, because the idea of having so many in-depth topical studies in one book really appealed to them, and of course the low price helped finalize the decision.

Bro. Mark had been there all day, and though we didn't have time to talk about the individual discussions they had in the morning with the customers, he did mention to me that one lady in the morning asked that the book be delivered to her work and he told her that somebody would deliver it on Monday morning (without knowing exactly who would do that, but the Lord knew). He also mentioned that she works in Downers Grove, to which I replied that I also work in Downers Grove. And when he showed me the address, I was stunned to see my company's address and to recognize the familiar name of one of the ladies in our Bible study at work. Because Sr. Joanna Knox knows this nice lady even better than I do, I asked her to deliver the book to her and she was happy to do so. Joanna says that the lady was very excited about the book and plans to start studying it right away. I pray the Lord will help us be a good witness to her.

This was a special experience for me because I was a little reluctant to go to the fair, knowing that I would not be able to represent and uphold the Truth as well as it deserves to be. But the Lord is gracious and He listened to my dear Sr. Alys' fervent prayers for me and gave me this special token of His power to orchestrate things way beyond our efforts.

I am very thankful for the experience. I learned a lot just by listening to Bro. Mark presenting the literature and the Truth and I was stimulated to study all the things I realized that I didn't know from the discussions we had with the public.

And yes, Br. Mark, please sign me up for next year (same shift)! I hope Sr. Gretchen is coming, too! I look forward to it!

Sr. Claudia Tosa

We were very thankful for the opportunity to participate once again in the Printer's Row Book Fair. This event is one that is always interesting as it gives opportunity to interact and share God's plan with people of all races, backgrounds and interests.

We had several in-depth witness opportunities with those stopping at the booth. Two notable ones revolved around the discussion of Hell, and the true meaning of what the Bible Hell is. Both were friendly discussions with Christians that knew their scriptural citations well.

We had one young man stop in and ask if we believed in the 10th Plague in Exodus. Of course, we said that we did. His main concern was how a loving God could kill innocent people, like the first-borns, as stated in these scriptures. We talked about how many were killed throughout the scriptures, but this taught the sinfulness of man and the experience with evil. We told him of God's plan for a resurrection of all, and that's what we look forward to. We gave him some food for thought, as well as some booklets to read.

A couple of individuals came by and said that we were the only booth that had Christian-specific literature for sale. These individuals were surprised that none of the Chicago-area Christian printing houses were represented. We were surprised to hear this, but had no explanation to offer.

We look forward to participating again next year in this witness opportunity, if the Lord allows.

In His Service
Br. Mark & Sr. Roberta Tabac

I, Erwin Kalinski, consider it a great privilege to serve with Br. Mark Kandel at the Book Publishing Fair. I appreciate the zeal of Br. Mark in trying to witness to the public. His enthusiasm is wonderful and contagious.

I have always been an inhibited individual, but now I enjoy talking to the public and trying to show my appreciation to the Lord for opening my eyes to a knowledge of His Plans and Purposes for mankind.

Br. Mark displayed a sign stating that we can speak Polish and Romanian. I had some wonderful experiences talking to people of Polish descent. When we were setting up the booth a woman saw the Polish sign and started to talk to me in Polish.

Lord willing, I hope to serve again next year. Br. Erwin Kalinski

Literature placed over the weekend:

7-in-1's	25
DPA Paperback	6
Videos	9
DVDs	3

200 + Free Booklet packets: *How to Study the Bible*; *Hope or God's Kingdom* booklet; tract and business card with class address, web site, 800 phone #.

Magazines: *Divine Plan Journal Special Edition* (explanation of the chart) = 75; *Bible Student Publication Catalog; *Spiritualism**; *Bible Study Review* (past issues)*; and *Magazine DPA**.**

*Specific numbers not kept.