

**2007
Printers
Row Book
Fair**

2007 Printer's Row Book Fair

This year's Printer's Row Book Fair was a real blessing. The weather was about the best we have ever experienced. Of all the locations we've had, this one was by far the favorite of mine. The streets are washed down. The tables and tents are set up the day before. The small pools of water that cumulate in the gutters (from the street cleaning) are in front of everyone's table... except ours! Bone dry and open to the public for business! It was like a red carpet to a sea of humanity. Above is the unique shade of 2 trees. I think it is the only location so blessed!

It is always good to have this opportunity to witness to so many people. It is also a treat when new faces join the ranks to share the experience. This year Sr. Evelyn Sheppard from the West Suburban Bible Students class wanted to come and serve. She traveled by train and taxi to come for Saturday morning. What an added treat to have Sebastian and Emilia Knapzynski! They chipped right in from the moment they arrived and helped package, sort and carry literature. You can't help but wonder how pleased the Lord is to see youth with interest to participate in truth activities! Not only will they be blessed, but the enthusiasm it instills in the rest of us is hard to describe. What a great moment!

This year we sold the 7-in-1's for \$5.00 (regularly \$15). Brethren have subsidized the cost for such witness efforts and it allows an impressive amount of truth at a very attractive price. Paperback volumes in English and Spanish are also available at \$1.00. Polish volumes were \$2.50. We continue to offer the "Free-Bee" packets which include booklets ***How to Study the Bible*** and ***The Kingdom of God***; a tract; and a business card with the CBS website, phone number, and mailing address. We don't take names, but we always want them to be able to reach us, if the interest grows.

We offered an assortment of videos for \$1.00 until the supply is gone. We also offered CVD's for \$1.00 which can be watched on a computer or DVD player. When someone purchased a volume we included their choice of a video or CVD free as a companion. They also got the Free-Bee free, too, so many who stopped long enough to listen and show interest often would leave with quite a bit of truth material. Many would speak in amazement that we were not in this to make money.

It is such an honor to serve the Lord in this activity. Some didn't bother to stop. Some did. Some listened and lingered with questions. It's amazing how many topics you can come across. One lady asked why the Jews don't accept Jesus today, so we went into Romans 11 and the fullness of the Gentiles. I can't remember EVER going into that at a fair booth before. But, it was good to sweep the cobwebs from the mind and the truth just starts to flow out. It's a great feeling to put to use doctrinal understanding we have studied over the years and find an outlet and purpose for that knowledge. It's even greater when someone actually listens and follows what you are talking about and says... "I never thought of that before..." and then leaves with a 7-in-1 and a smile, along with a desire to look further into the matter! Priceless moment!

But by far, the greatest thrill is to see the brethren and participants who work at this event speak in harmony, "I want to do this again next year!" Sr. Evelyn Sheppard already testified about this in West Suburban and Sebastian and Emilia's comments join in. To go out and witness and want to go back for more. Unbelievable! In the years we have been involved in this effort this has been the sentiment of 99% of participants! Priceless! It is always an honor to serve the Lord! I thank everyone of the brethren who supported this effort by vote or presence at the fair. I'm looking forward to doing this again next year!

Br. Mark Kandel

The sun was blazing, but we were shaded. The people walked by and looked at our displayed wares. A couple hesitated at our table. "Good afternoon! Do you read the Bible?" I asked. "This booklet 'How to Study the Bible and Have it Make Sense' shows the harmony of the Old and New Testaments. Of course, each of you may have one."

Some stopped and were rewarded with our literature, and others shook their heads and walked on. This year it appeared the visitors were more hurried, and when asked questions, replied truthfully, but bluntly.

Each year that I have attended Printers Row is a growing experience in the work for the Lord.

Sr. Wanda Jay

This year my favorite part of the book fair experience was being with Sr. Wanda and Sr. Alys, though I did miss Bro. Mark's enthusiastic and very engaging "on a roll" approach. I recommend that anybody who is interested in witnessing at a book fair participate in one with Bro. Mark Kandel. Listening to his presentation of the Good News and of the different dimensions of the truth is a very encouraging and exciting experience in itself.

But at the same time, I do think that Sr. Wanda and Sr. Alys' gentle words said with love and wisdom, and their caring smiles were appreciated by those who stopped by. Personally, I'm always blessed by being around them and being able to learn from them.

Once again this year, a lot of people stopped by and stated their love and interest in the Bible, but it was my observation that less people purchased books than in past years. But we were blessed to pass out quite a few free booklet packets (How to study the Bible and have it make sense + The Kingdom of God) to those who were interested and I am glad that Sr. Wanda kindly gave one to each, my work colleague and his twin brother, who stopped by the booth to say hello.

Thank you for this occasion to make the truly Good News available to the world. I wish we had more opportunities of this kind. *Sr. Claudia Tosa*

Sr. Roberta and I enjoyed the opportunity once again to witness at the Printer's Row Fair. It's a privilege to share the Truth with those who stop at the booth to inquire about our books, our beliefs, our religious affiliations, etc. This year there were no outstanding conversations, but we had a number of people come up and ask if we were affiliated with the Witnesses, or Adventist movement. Each year we have one or two people come up and say they are familiar with our group, from one source or another.

The biggest blessing this year was having Sebastian and Emilia Knapzynsky with us. This was their first exposure to Printer's Row Fair, so it was a blessing to see their reactions to various comments people would make. We hope they come with us again next year!

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

From Sebastian Knapzynski:

It was interesting to see people come up to the booth and watch their expressions. You can see what they think about the Bible by their expressions. I definitely want to come next year!

From Emilia Knapzynski:

I enjoyed the Fair and thought it was interesting to see the brethren share the Truth with others. I want to come again next year!

“A Perfect Day!”

After a prayer soliciting the Lord's help on our mission, Sr. Wanda, Sr. Claudia and I drove downtown. As we drove along we rehearsed what we might say to people visiting the Printers Row Book Fair.

Little white-pitched open-sided tents dotted five blocks on and around Dearborn Street. Passing the white tents gave one the feeling of passing white sails of boats in a harbor of bookstalls. The sidewalks on both sides of the tents were lined with tables of booksellers. Over 150 exhibitors drew over 90,000 book lovers to the largest free outdoor literary event in the Midwest.

Chicago Bible Students had table #146, in front of a busy bookstore. Sheltered by trees and the shade of tall buildings lining the streets, we had the perfect location. For “bookaholics”—this was a book-lovers' paradise! For Chicago lovers—the facades of buildings along Printers Row (once Chicago's bookmaking hub) and Dearborn Street Station were architecturally fascinating! For everyone else, the blue sunny skies and gentle lake breeze were pure delight!

The three of us decided to change “posts” every 15 minutes. On the north end of the table one engaged conversations using “freebee” packets—“How to Study the Bible” and “God’s Kingdom” booklets. The second post was at the opposite end of the table where there were 4 stacks of 7-in-Ones with a chart listing the chapter titles in each book. In the middle of the table were English-Spanish-Polish First Volumes, videos and CDs. A specially designed display board held tracts and magazine First Volumes, while a large Chart of the Ages hung down in front of the table. The third post was behind the table, filling in whenever needed, talking to passers-by walking on sidewalks behind us, or taking a quick coffee-tea break

Sr. Wanda had just remarked to me that we needed a brother to be present with us. I quickly responded, ‘No we don’t...you can do it!’ Within two minutes, Wanda sold a 7-in-one, followed shortly by a First Volume, followed by Claudia placing a 7-in-one, followed shortly by Sr. Wanda selling another 7-in-one. They were on a roll! Many people got an explanation of the colored Chart on the table, recently received at our convention. Some were amazed at how much material was covered in the study course of the Volumes. And others left with the freebees...and came back for one more for someone else.

At 6 PM all vendors began shutting down their booths. We packed and covered the material with a tarp, neatly tucked and taped, to protect our treasures for the night. Before our drive home, we happily thanked the Lord for “the perfect day” He had given us.

Sr. Alys Schneider

Of the thousands that attended Chicago’s largest book fair, only a dozen or so stopped and showed interest in Bible Study. A few bought “Studies in the Scriptures” and this brought happiness to our hearts. We knew they chose the unfolding of truth and if pursued and have a hearing ear, would find joy. A day well spent. The blessing is surely ours, greater than upon others. “*Truth how sacred is the treasure.*” Hymn #238, “Heavenly Truth.”

Sr. Evelyn Sheppard

| LITERATURE | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Studies in the Scriptures “7-in-1” | 10 |
| Divine Plan of the Ages (Paperback) | 16 |
| Divine Plan of the Ages (Magazine) | 3 |
| Divine Plan of the Ages (Spanish) | 2 |
| DVD | 20 |
| Videos | 9 |
| “Free-Bee” Booklet packets (approx.) | 200+ |