

# 2008 Printer's Row Book Fair

## June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

This year's PRBF witness project had a number of firsts. Br. Ed and Sr. Rachel Bushlus served on Saturday with Sr. Alys Schneider. Sr. Lynn Rose served on Sunday morning with Sr. Evelyn Shepherd. This is in addition to other returning Brethren: Br. Erwin Kalinski, Br. Bob. Giovannoni and myself, Br. Mark Kandel.

With the recent publishing of the Chinese DPA in Mandarin, we were able to offer this for the first time. The location of the PRBF is in downtown Chicago, relatively close to the Chinatown district. It is always an interesting challenge and thrill to be able to place a First Volume that is in a foreign language that you can't speak or even read. It just expands the range that the Truth can be given as a witness. We've offered the Polish and Spanish DPA in the past. The subjects are in the same order as the English. This year three Chinese Volumes were placed.

The world of VHS tapes is fading away. Most people have DVD players, but fewer and fewer VHS players are out there. With this in mind we have been offering VHS tapes we have in stock at 50 cents each and still they move slowly. In some cases they are added free to the shopping bag of someone buying a book.

VCD's can be played on a DVD player or in a computer. There are variety of subjects...many of the VHS tapes have been replaced by this format. These were placed at \$1 each, but as with all the literature placed, the price was never the key reason for being there and some were given away. Bible Students Publications supplied a number of VCD's from stock over runs or that had minor flaws on disc printing.

One of the "specials" was to offer the Studies in the Scriptures set at the "Fair" price of \$5 instead of the normal price of \$15. The choice was given for either the 7-in-1 or the 6 Volume Set. We recently received a number of 6 Volume Sets donated by the West Suburban Bible Students to be used in witness work. We will continue to offer these as long as the supply lasts.

The opportunities for witnessing were somewhat dampened by another first... rain... and when it rained, it really rained hard. This affected the tail end of Saturday and totally washed out Sunday afternoon. Surprisingly, very little literature was lost or damaged. I don't recall ever seeing lightening shoot down the street at eye level before. (I guess that's a sort of first, too.) Or having winds so strong that one of the huge tents in the center of the street was blown to the curb...and these tents are weighted down by 55 gallon drums, one at each corner! Sr. Evelyn, Sr. Lynn and myself were soaked to the literal skin in a very short time...umbrellas were useless as protection (another sort of first). The wind just blew them apart.

When the sun was out, the people came. "Free-Bees" (the booklet packets in a baggie) were free to all that wanted one or two or three. This year we also had the Spanish version of the "How to Study the Bible," so we had another first...the Spanish Free-Bee Packet! It had the Spanish "How to Study the Bible," a Spanish booklet and a Spanish tract in the packet.

Some public remembered us from years' past. I think this was our 12<sup>th</sup> year at this activity, and we've been within 50 feet of the same location. The Tribune Company sponsors the fair and their staff is very helpful, the public is specialized...book people, our neighbors are always friendly. The atmosphere is an excellent opportunity for witnessing and the brethren that participate always go away blessed and looking forward to next year. It is an honor to serve the Lord in this capacity.

We also appreciate the various Brethren that are behind the scenes in being willing to serve and the Brethren that donated literature, material and funds from their pocket to subsidize expenses. The Lord provides in so many ways.

Br. Mark Kandel

**I enjoyed working and witnessing at the Printers Row Fair with Bros. Mark Kandel, and Bob Giovannoni. I look forward every year in helping Bro. Mark set up the booth and displaying Truth literature. I enjoy the challenge of talking to people from the world and to listen to their views on life. It is a great privilege to place Truth literature in the hands of the public. I would like to continue to serve each year as long as I am physically able.**

**Br. Erwin Kalinski**

*On June 7, a nice warm Saturday morning, I met Bros. Mark Kandel and Erwin Kalinski at the Chicago Book Fair. This was my third time helping Mark at the fair. I always enjoy being there. It's fun to watch and talk to the people. This year I didn't have too many people to talk to. Usually in the past years more people stopped by and talked about different topics. This year, however, few people stopped by at least as I could tell. Mark did place several Chinese First Volumes. He was very excited about that.*

*The day was very enjoyable and hopefully the tracts that I did pass out may make someone question their beliefs. I try to keep John 6:44 always in mind.*

*Bro. Bob Giovannoni*

**The afternoon started out with the sun shining and a cool breeze. With quite a few people walking around, we were eager to get started to share with others the glorious plan God has for all. Several people were more than casually interested; and it was both a privilege and blessing to tell others of the old, old story that never grows old, but is refreshing.**

**Sr. Rachel Bushless**

Many people stopped by to see what was on the literature table, and most went home with a packet of books on various subjects. One man came over and purchased many booklets and a First Volume, and commented he was glad to see our booth back again as he had purchased a number of items the previous year and wanted more.

Another individual spoke with me about several Bible topics, and it was helpful to have the reference chart on the table that summarized the different chapter titles in the Volumes. He stated that he thought he might have purchased a Seven-in-One book some time earlier, but wasn't sure where it was. When I suggested that he could find the answers to his questions in the many topics contained in the book, and what an attractive price this was for the book, he was glad to purchase a new copy. A number of paperback First Volumes were also sold before the rain came, and we had to close the booth about half an hour early. It was a privilege and blessing to be able to share the precious truths we have with those who wanted to know more of God's Plan.

Br. Ed Bushlus

*The Printers Row Book Fair, attracting more than 190 booksellers from across the country, is considered the largest free outdoor literary event in the Midwest—drawing more than 90,000 book lovers. We had the perfect location again, same as in 2007, under a shady tree outside a popular book store.*

*Several "firsts" at Printers Row 2008...*

*How do you introduce a Chinese First Volume? "Do you speak Mandarin?" seemed to work! Several curiously paged through the book and one bought it.*

*A teacher of 44 years at an Indian Christian college recognized the 7-in-One which had been bought for him last year by two of his students...*

*Working the Saturday afternoon shift with Br. Ed and Sr. Rachel Bushlus was wonderful! They were so friendly in greeting the people and explained the chart and had such a kind approach. One man had lost the book he bought last year and made a bee-line to Sr. Rachel to get a replacement as well as CDs.*

*The Lord mercifully gave us wonderful experiences and just enough time to protect the literature under a tarp before the raindrops ended our shift an hour early.*

*Sr. Alys Schneider*

**Those of us who were privileged to work at the Book Fair will continue to do so next year, Lord willing. Although hundreds were present, few stopped to inquire. If only they realized the priceless treasure being offered in those Volumes. A prize no money could buy.**

**Sr. Evelyn Shepherd**

I came up on Saturday night to the home of the Kandels, Joy, Alys, and Mark. I was welcomed with a warm greeting and was made very welcome. They had a beautiful home with plenty of room. We had a small bite to eat and had a most interesting conversation about the PhotoDrama. Being I was not too familiar with that, Br. Mark took the time to show me the book and to start the 1<sup>st</sup> CD. Being it was getting late and we had to get up early the next morning, Br. Mark decided to let me take the whole 4 disc CD set, along with the book to read, home with me. It was very thoughtful. We arose early on Sunday morning, in time to set up and grab a bite to eat some breakfast. We had a beautiful morning, no clouds, and plentiful sunshine. We arrived at our table and set up. Shortly afterward, a sister from Antioch, Sr. Evelyn met us.

I was amazed by the architecture in the Printer Row area. The buildings were all around us, with history in each stone. The artwork was amazing! We got our morning off rather slow, a few just passersby. A few stopped and made conversation. I later sold a 7-in-1 Volume set. I was happy about that. I hope it brings light to the person's study.

Then later on, the weather was not going to co-operate, and the clouds and winds started coming in. Luckily, we gathered up all our books in time before the deluge hit. The wind was fierce and the rain was relentless. We bid farewell to our dear Sister Evelyn, who had to take the train back. Then we somehow managed (with a smile on our face and in our hearts), as our drenched bodies finally got in the car and headed for home.

Although our time was cut short due to the weather, we had a fulfilling day with much fellowship and witnessing. I felt at peace within myself that I served the Lord to the best of my ability. We arrived back at the Kandels'. I dried out, then got ready to leave for home, which was about 1 ½ hours back to my town.

The whole time, I reflected on how God works in our lives, and hopefully will work many other opportunities, as this was a blessed one.

Christian love,  
Sr. Lynn Rose

**Printer's Row Book Fair 2008**  
**Literature**

Divine Plan of the Ages (paperback)	21
DPA (Mandarin Chinese)	3
7-in-1 Studies in the Scriptures	4
VCD (variety)	20
VHS (variety)	3
Free-Bees (English + Spanish)	150
(How to Study the Bible, misc. bklt, tract, business card)	