

# Printer's Row Lit Fest 2010

Each year the Printer's Row Lit Fest has its unique characteristics for a witness effort. There's something new... something similar... and always a good experience. This year we were moved across the street from where we have been the past 4 or 5 years. The area has had some cosmetic improvements which shows an interest to maintain this event for years to come. A park has been expanded, planters installed, and concrete benches with reversed lettering similar to handset letters used in typesetting years ago spruced up the atmosphere. This year I only came to set up and to pack up. The rest was handled by the brethren that had volunteered to serve. Weather played a factor at times, but there seemed to be opportunities in the calm between the storms. Weather has a way of thinning out the herd of visitors, but the Lord can direct the right person to the right place each time! It was good to have been there and work with the friends in this witness. Our appreciation always expands to the ones behind the scenes that supported the effort through prayer, providing materials, and class vote to make this effort possible.

- Bro. Mark Kandel

*Brethren Each year it is a wonderful experience to work at the Printers Book Fair with my two faithful brothers in the truth, Bro. Bob Giovannoni and Bro. Mark Kandel. I appreciate their zeal in trying to get truth literature into the hands of the public. It is a great thrill whenever I place any of our literature into the hands of the public. I also enjoy listening to the views and experiences of the public as they journey through life. It is my desire to continue to serve as long as the LORD will permit because I want to show my appreciation to the LORD for opening my eyes to understand His plans and purposes.*

- Bro. Erwin Kalinski

*On June 12, 2010 I went on what has become my annual excursion to the Printer's Row Book Fair. To me it will always be the Printer's Row Book Fair, just as the Sears Tower will never be The Willis Tower. Some things can't change. In any case, I met Bro. Erwin there and we spent an enjoyable morning deciding whether we should cover the book table or wait just little longer and see if the rain would pass us or not. I think we covered it and uncovered it at least three times. Fortunately we were under a tree which helped keep the rain off the books.*

*A few people stopped by and asked if we were JW's. I've come to expect that now and as I let them talk I get different insights on how the JW's and their teachings are perceived. People are surprised when they learn the real history of the Bible Students. I did get a chance to talk to one gentleman who seemed genuinely interested in the history of the Bible Students and bought the 6 in one volume. Hopefully he'll read it.*

*I always enjoy my yearly adventure to the Book Fair; some years are more interesting than others. This year the rain kept many people away on Saturday morning. However, I always find Bro. Erwin worthwhile company. Usually Bro. Mark joins us also but this year the weather kept him working at his secular job. It is a good feeling to know that time was well spent. We never know how our efforts will be rewarded.*

*- Bro. Bob Giovannani*

The Printer's Row Lit Fest is the largest free outdoor literary event in the Midwest. It draws more than 125,000 book lovers and over 200 booksellers from across the country annually. We have enjoyed having a table of Truth literature at Printer's Row for about twelve years.

I arrived a little early because Br. Mark had been called out to work and was not able to take his morning shift. Bros. Bob and Erwin were actively involved. The tarp was along the back of the table because of occasional showers needing fast action to protect the literature.

Sr. Claudia and Sr. Dorchen soon appeared and we began our afternoon shift. We each had interesting discussions.

One man I talked to was Jewish and we immediately got into a discussion on Rashi's commentary on the Tanakh and Talmud. ("Rashi" is an acronym for **R**abbi **S**hlomo **Y**itzhaki, a French rabbi who lived from 1040-1105. He is considered the "father" of commentaries on the Talmud and Tanakh.) Thankfully, I was familiar with Rashi because of listening to Israel National Radio. More thankfully, after some discussion, this gentleman accepted the DVD "Israel in Bible Prophecy" and a "Time to Favor Zion" booklet. I explained we were Christians and believed that God had brought Israel back to their homeland and they would never be removed again. I also quoted scriptures about Israel's future role in being the light to all the nations, bringing them into a covenant relationship with God through their Messiah. He did not object and gladly took the material.

Another girl came up to the table wearing a Jewish Star of David necklace. I asked if she were Jewish. She said she was a Jewish Baptist—her mother was a Baptist and her father was Jewish. After a brief discussion, she also took the "Israel in Bible Prophecy" DVD and a "Time to Favor Zion" booklet.

I recognized a few people who stopped to talk from previous years. It is always encouraging to know people remember us from year to year and even look for us. One man came up and bought one of every DVD. He said he had purchased the 7-in-One last year and, actually, I remembered him from last year. He also took one of everything on the literature rack (newsletters and magazines) to read when traveling on the bus. He was so excited he gave me a huge hug before he left.

Another man was drawn to the "Truth about Hell" DVD...saying he could never believe that a loving God would torment anyone in flames for eternity. (What a great opening that was!!!)

Another man took some literature and went into detail of how he spent seven years printing the Lithuanian Bible, the greatest work of his lifetime.

Several people were drawn to the "Creation vs. Evolution" DVD. Also the "Where Was God on 9/11?" DVD...they were interested in why God permits evil. We were so happy we could share the answers with them.

The last hour we felt rain drops again and heeded the warning. We gradually began putting the material in the plastic bins under the table, and by the time the tarp was tied down, the drops had not diminished. We went to the car ½ hour early, had our prayer of thanksgiving and prayed a blessing on each person we had spoken to and the seeds of Truth planted. I then drove Sr. Dorchen and Sr. Claudia to Union Station where we parted, with thankful and happy hearts to have spent a few hours together in wonderful witnessing opportunities. "For every good my soul doth know, the glory, Lord, be Thine!"

- Sr. Alys Schneider

I always look forward to this event, but this year especially so because Sr. Dorchen Kotoulas from Germany was visiting Chicago at the same time and she was very excited to go along with me since she's never been at the fair presenting Truth literature before. It was a beautiful afternoon - we enjoyed fellowship with Sr. Alys.

There weren't as many people present as I remember in the past, probably because of the threat of rain that was in the news, and I can't say that a lot of people stopped by, but we sold two of the big 7-in-one books and some DVD's to those who did. One of the young ladies who purchased one of the big books kept asking - Why is this only \$5; it covers all these topics, how can it be only \$5? Even after she purchased it and left, she came back after 5-10 minutes with the same questions - why only \$5? - I guess it was really hard to believe - just like the Good News - for some people it seems too good to be true. I told her it is worth a lot more, but we want to make the Truth available to the public and then she said OK. One young man stayed for a long discussion, especially with Sr. Dorchen, philosophizing on different world views. We told him about the Kingdom and he accepted the Kingdom DVD. I found it interesting that two people who stopped by at different times (one Jewish, the other studying theology) to look at what he had available had exactly the same comment - regarding the DVD Creation vs. Evolution - why does it have to be versus? Are more Christians and Jews accepting the idea of evolution these days? Just wondering.

I appreciated that the brethren made available on racks some good articles on various topics of interest to the contemporary Christian. At the end I picked one of each and I've been really enjoying them; it makes me more prepared to answer questions the public may ask in the future.

Thank you Bro. Mark and the entire class for making this opportunity available. I always enjoy being part of it.

All praise and honor be to our Awesome Heavenly Father and to our Wonderful Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

- Sr. Claudia Tosa

*I am a sister from Germany and I was in Chicago from 10<sup>th</sup> June until the 13<sup>th</sup> June. Even before I arrived in Chicago I heard from dear Sr. Alys about the Printers Row Book Fair. She wrote to me "I do not know what you might plan to do on Saturday, June 12...but the Chicago brethren are having a booth at the Printers Row Book Fair on the 12th and 13th. I am scheduled for Saturday the 12th from 2-6 pm with Sr. Claudia Tosa. If you might have those hours free, maybe you would like to be with us?" I was very happy and excited to hear about such a wonderful witnessing opportunity and of course I wished to be there!*

*Dear Sr. Claudia picked me up and we arrived in the afternoon. I directly enjoyed seeing the nicely arranged table with all the different Truth literature, Volumes, books, tracts and DVDs. I had the impression that the table looked very inviting.*

*And it did not take long until the first persons stood in front of us. At first I just observed Sr. Alys and Sr. Claudia because it was the first time that I saw how brethren do a fair booth. We do not have such witness activities in Germany. Different persons with different questions and interests arrived and I really enjoyed seeing my dear sisters so joyous and confident speaking with the people. The first discussions I listened to were about Israel and so also the first things we handed to persons were the DVDs "Israel in Bible Prophecy".*

*After a while I also had the possibility to get involved into a discussion. There was a young man and the conversation started with his question about the DVD "Creation vs. Evolution". He wanted to know why we say "versus". So we spoke about Genesis and the creation account. We underlined the importance that man was created directly by God and that God has a special plan for man. Through this we entered a dialog about God's Plan and also about the Kingdom. We figured out that he was a student of theology. In the conversation he mentioned different philosophies even of the Old Greeks but he told us that he believes that the Bible is God's Holy Word. Sr. Claudia and I talked pretty long with him, sometimes he seemed confused but he had so many questions so that we did not want to break up the conversation. In the end he left with a DVD about "Christ's Kingdom" and the guide "How To Study The Bible."*

*Another man who stopped just asked if I am from Germany because he heard my German accent. We did not really spoke much about the Truth, I just was able to give him the free tract "How To Study The Bible."*

*I absolutely enjoyed the afternoon at the Printers Row Book Fair. It was so interesting and such a joy. The people who came to us were friendly and all were interested, so that some good discussions were possible. Of course we do not know what will happen with these persons, we can only hope that seeds of Truth were planted and the Lord knows the rest. But I can say one thing for sure that it was a very big blessing for me! We love the Truth with all our heart and opportunities to speak about it are like precious gifts because we can communicate our joy and hope. And I appreciated very much the closing prayer of Sr. Alys in the car in which she thanked God and asked for His future overruling. We know that everything is in His hands!*

*- Sr. Dorchen Kotoulas*

*We really enjoyed our time downtown at the fair. Although there was not a lot of activity in the morning, there were enough individuals who stopped by that were at least interested in seeing what we had available as there were not any other Christian booths there.*

*While most asked if we were from Moody, nearly everyone we saw seemed to be afraid to purchase any books that they were not sure what organization or denomination that they came from. However, after speaking with them a bit and giving a short outline of the plan we were able to convince some to either take some of the free literature or purchase some of the books.*

*After explaining the chart, one gentleman asked, "What about Mohammed?" He was a bit surprised when I pointed to the Millennial Kingdom exclaiming that he would be there.*

*We had a couple of conversations with some other ladies who seemed surprised with the concept that all mankind would have an opportunity in the future regardless of whether or not they accepted Christ Jesus now. After outlining some of the Scriptures on the subject we were able to convince them to take some literature on the topic. A Christian family stopped by after Church and stayed awhile with us discussing this topic and some others. I was able to get their telephone number in hopes of following up with them again in the future as they had promised to purchase a 7-in-one.*

*Estera and I enjoyed our time visiting with Cristina Filicky and Jacob and look forward to doing this again in the future.*

*- Br. Jeff Mezera*

Once again we enjoyed the opportunity to serve at the Fair Booth. Unfortunately our time was cut short by the weather, but in the time we served we were able to place four 7-in-1 volumes and a number of DVD's. One surprise visitor was the owner of our local UPS Store in West Chicago. When Sterling realized there was someone he knew sitting at the Chicago Bible Student table, he stopped by to say hello. Even though he was not interested in anything we had to offer, we'll have a chance to say something more to him when we see him at his store.

We were happy to have Emilia and Sebastian with us again this year. Hopefully the interactions with public at the Fair makes them feel better prepared to witness to their friends at school. They said they enjoyed the experience again this year.

With thankfulness for this opportunity . . .

*- Bro. Mark and Sr. Roberta Tabac*

Participating brethren:

Bro. Erwin Kalinski, Bro. Bob Giovannoni, Bro. Mark Kandel, Sr. Alys Schneider, Sr. Claudia Tosa, Sr. Dorchen Kotoulas, Sr. Cristina Filicky, Jacob Filicky, Bro. Jeff Mezera, Sr. Estera Mezera, Bro. Mark Tabac, Sr. Roberta Tabac, Emilia Knapczynski, and Sebastian Knapczynski.

### Printer's Row Lit Fest 2010 Literature

ITEM	DPA English	DPA Spanish	DPA Polish	7-in-1	FTC DVD	DVD-misc	ISRAEL DVD	TIME TO FAVOR ZION
SA-AM			1	1		1		1
SA-PM				2	2	10	2	2
SU-AM	2					2		3
SU-PM	3			4	1	3		
TOTAL	5	0	1	7	3	16	2	5

**FREE** booklet packs were distributed, which included: *How to Study the Bible*, a tract, a CBS business card, Who are the Bible Students, and *Hope for A Fear-filled World* booklet.

A literature rack of **FREE** magazines and past issues of various Bible Student newsletters were also available.

**Space Cost: \$250**

**6.26.2010 mk**

Printer's Row Book Fair -  
2010 4.25.10

Saturday  June 12	8:30	SET UP - MARK K 847.224.8449
	10:00- 2:00	ERWIN K.
		BOB G.
	2:00- 6:00	ALYS S. 847.533.1874
		CLAUDIA T. 630.290.4874
		SECURE FOR NIGHT
Sunday  June 13	9:30	OPEN MARK K 847.224.8449
	10:00- 2:00	CRISTINA & JACOB F.
		JEFF AND ESTERA M
	2:00- 6:00	MARK T 630.890.9850
		ROBERTA T 630.890.1918
		EMILY / SEBASTIAN K.
6:00	TEAR DOWN	