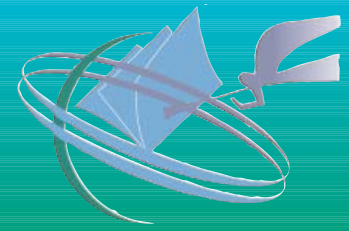


The Publishing Leaders Digest



Publishing Ministries Department
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
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Bringing Our LEs Closer to God

Through His word (I Peter 5:8, NIV), the Lord has alerted us of Satan's plan to destroy us. He never gives up. In fact, he works even harder when he sees dedicated Christians who are trying to obey God and eager to do His work.

After serving many years in the publishing ministry, I can clearly see that the enemy tries especially hard to destroy LEs. Satan specifically targets our work because every day we are engaged in personal missionary work aimed at saving souls. LEs are on the front lines in the battle for souls, and Satan hates what we do.

We, as leaders in God's work, have a grave responsibility in protecting our dear LEs. We do this by developing and promoting activities that prepare them for their special mission in life. Some of these activities include pastoral visits, praying with the LEs, assisting them in the field, teaching them how to succeed, and motivating them for service. We do this by providing rallies, institutes, and by hosting LE Congresses for them.

As leaders, we are at our finest when we lead our workers into a deeper Christian experience. Within our total work program we must focus upon the themes and precepts that draw our LEs into a closer relationship with the Father. In so doing, they are also drawn closer to one another in their service for Christ.



Wilmar Hirle,
Associate Director
GC Publishing
Ministries
Department

Bishop Visits Adventist Book Center

A senior Catholic bishop came to our Adventist Book Center in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, early in 2005. He asked the shop staff for some material that would explain what the Seventh-day Adventist Church believes.



Our clerk sold the bishop *What SDAs Believe - 27 Fundamentals*, and he was pleased to obtain this comprehensive material.

Over the next six months he read this book and checked the Bible texts. He was quite amazed at what he was discovering, and he talked with six other bishops in the area. He even invited them over to go through the material with him on a regular basis.

After twelve months or so, the bishops wondered what to do for they had discovered so much in the Scriptures that was new to them, and much of this information

seemed to be in conflict with the teachings of their church. One bishop suggested they start their own church. However, the senior bishop's answer was that the Seventh-day Adventist Church already follows these Bible teachings.

The first bishop made contact with the Adventist leaders in Port Moresby and commenced Bible study with Pastor Peter Oli, the Mission President. He took his stand for Bible truth in October 2006 and was baptized. I heard recently that he wants to go to Pacific Adventist University and retrain for ministry in the Adventist Church.

The first bishop is confident that other bishops will also follow his steps and take their stand for the truth.

Our ABCs are also front line evangelistic centers open to serve five days a week all year around. We share the Good News about Jesus and His soon return. How I would love to see ABCs situated in every town with open doors to all communities and working closely with our door-to-door teams. All pulling together as a team under Publishing, and with its full focus upon the books we publish.

Doug Oaklands, Pacific Island ABCs
Papua New Guinea Union

Publishing Holds Europe-Wide Departmental Advisory

In early March 2007, over forty publishing workers gathered for a bi-division Publishing Advisory Council in Rogaska, Slovenia. The group consisted of publishing directors, editors and publishing house managers.



Coming from both the Trans-European (TED) and the Euro-Africa (EUD) Divisions, they assembled to lay plans for an inspired and progressive thrust for literature ministry throughout Europe and their attached fields.

World Church Publishing Director, Howard F. Faigao and Associate Director, Wilmar Hirle, were present to guide and advise participants in understanding the central role publishing plays in influencing people to consider Jesus as their Savior.

Present were special guests: Dr. Roy Adams, from Adventist Review, who helped to sharpen the writing skills of those in attendance; Lee Gallagher, from Stanborough Press, Grantham, UK, who addressed the subjects of working with images and print design; Elisabeth Sanguesa Abenia, Marketing Manager from Spain's Editorial Safeliz, who shared some insight into the importance of good marketing strategies for an effective and successful publishing ministry; and the challenge of the secular and postmodern culture in much of Europe, as outlined by TED's Media Ministry Director, Dr. Miroslav Pujic.

All delegates resolved to promote a greater involvement of the local membership in the distribution of books and other literature to their local communities and to work toward increasing the number of active literature evangelists throughout the divisions.

Hungarian Publishing Director, Krisztina Teremy Zarkane, said, "Last Sabbath I shared many of the

experiences (presented at the Advisory) in our church, and the members became excited. The majority of the church members long to do something for the Lord, and that is why it is important to keep the vision alive and help them find ways to be involved in service."

**Michael Hamilton, Publishing Director
Trans-European Division**

SID Adopts New Publishing Policy

Fifteen Union Publishing Directors and Publishing House Managers within the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division convened in Johannesburg, South Africa, March 5 - 10, 2007, for their Division Publishing Advisory.

At the top of the agenda for the whole week's meetings were three main issues: 1) Revision of the Division Policy, 2) Launching of the Literature Ministry Seminary (LMS) training program, and 3) Consideration of the Ten Quinquennial Goals voted at the World Publishing Advisory in 2006.

Pastor Paul Ratsara, Division President, challenged the publishing leaders to double the number of literature evangelists



by the end of this quinquennium based on the 2,161 LEs they have at present. Delegates accepted the challenge.

Being brought to the faith through a book at a very young age, the president is a firm believer and supporter of the literature ministry. "This is one of the most powerful ministries in the church," he said in his testimony.

The GC Publishing Director, Howard F. Faigao, guided the group in the policy revision process. Then he presented the Ten Publishing

SID New Publishing Policy, *Continued*

Quinquennial Goals and introduced the curriculum and materials for the new Literature Ministry Seminary training program. All of the union leaders enthusiastically accepted the new LMS program.

Led by the GC Publishing Director and Pastor Super Moesi, SID Publishing Director, every delegate participated in and contributed well to the Advisory. After completing the policy revision, it was voted by the Division Publishing Committee and recommended to the Division Annual Council for final approval. "Now we have a policy that we can call our own," the leaders commented.

In addition to the above items and upon the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Division Publishing Committee took the following actions:

1. That each local church in SID elects a publishing coordinator as a church officer according to the church manual to promote literature evangelism.

2. That the division holds a division-wide LE Convention for a Celebration of Praise on December 2009 in Lusaka, Zambia.

3. To print around 600,000 copies of the book *The Ten Commandments*, by Loron Wade, as the 2007 missionary book to be sponsored and distributed by church members.

4. To double the number of LEs equivalent to 4,200 by 2010.

5. To print the book *Miracles of Grace*, by Abraham Oberholster, an adult devotional book for the whole division in 2008.

6. To conduct union-wide publishing administrative seminars in each union attended by all local conference/mission administrators.

The Advisory was concluded on Sabbath with a big gathering of several churches for combined services focused on literature evangelism.

The delegates went back to their respective fields full of courage with ideas to be implemented, saying, "the Advisory was a success."

Howard F. Faigao, Publishing Director
General Conference of SDA

Eastern Africa Union Holds 2nd LMS Graduation

On Sunday, December 17, 2006, the Eastern Africa Union experienced the joy of holding the second LMS graduation exercises. Their first LMS graduation took place on April 04, 2004, with 40 men and women graduating.

Now, the Lord has brought them to the second graduation with 61 graduates having finished their training.



The ceremonies were graced with the presence of Pastor and Mrs. Mwasia, Pastor S. Apola, the EAU Publishing Ministries Director, Mr. B Kitur, Pastor C. Mturi, the EAU Assistant Publishing Director in charge the LMS, family members and many others. Pastor Jules K.K. Lumbu, the division Publishing Ministries Departmental Director and Spirit of Prophecy coordinator, was our chief guest.

The Eastern Africa Union, is one of the largest in the ECD, and is among the larger unions of the world field. It is located in the eastern part of Africa and comprises the country of Kenya and Somalia, the larger part of its activity being in the Kenya sector.

Pastor Lumbu ECD Publishing Director based his message to the graduates on Revelation 18:1, and he charged them to be sober and careful in their ministry for they have an extremely important message to bear. Theirs is the task of illuminating a sin-darkened world. He reminded them that they will be out working in Babylon where there is a lot of confusion today, but they need not become confused if they lean on the Lord, and He will ever accompany them.

2nd LMS Graduation, *Continued*

Pastor S. Apola, the Eastern Africa Union Publishing Ministries Director, in his charge and challenge to the graduates, urged them to be diligent scholars, disbursing only what they themselves have learned and studied for themselves. He charged them to be true servants of the Lord: Nothing less and nothing else--but a true and faithful literature evangelist.

The graduates responded to the challenge, and as Mrs. Winnie Wambua, one of the credentialed literature evangelists stated, "We will do what we can by the grace of the Lord and the assistance of the Holy

Spirit to represent our God in all of our ministries. We will turn neither to the right, the left, nor backwards!"

May God bless these new graduates of the Literature Ministry Seminary.

**Jules K. K. Lumbu, Publishing Director
East-Central Africa Division**

Rwanda's LEs and Leaders Team Up for Public Evangelism

Literature evangelists and their leaders throughout the Rwanda Union teamed up for public evangelism during the months of July and August 2006.

The teams were pre-arranged, speakers designated, territories assigned, and plans were well established in advance. This program was launched with an abundance of prayer and implemented throughout the union at eight different sites. The headquarters city of Kigali was the pilot site.

There were challenges, to be sure. Among the baptized was a pastor of the "SEKA Church," a branch of the Pentecostals.

The crusade witnessed opposition and miracles. When some congregations learned of the work, various persons were sent to stone the members and disrupt the meetings. In fact, one of those who were sending such people was the pastor just mentioned. When he heard the message, he himself, became converted and was baptized. When his members learned that the pastor had accepted the message, more attacks came from unknown persons, and four of our members were injured. But still, people accepted Jesus as their personal Savior.

Not only that, but when those unknown people angrily attacked the meeting place with stones, some

of their local elders, who had come to the meetings just to help maintain peace and security, attended daily. In the end, they also accepted the message and were baptized.



God's abundant blessings attended the united efforts of the publishing workers, and together with a number of fine lay workers, their service was honored with a harvest of 485 precious souls. This event has helped to swell the soul-winning results of the publishing workers. In all, the baptisms through the LE work topped 2,007 for the year 2006. For this we are joyous indeed!

Did the sales suffer during this two-month period? Not at all! In fact, the literature sales of \$66,382 represented a significant gain over the same two months of the prior year. How could this be? Because our God is great!

An additional testimony is worthy of mention here. Among the 485 who were baptized was a young lady whose family had become so enraged by their daughter's acceptance of the truth that they chased her out of their home. They wanted nothing more to do with her because she had taken a stand to follow Jesus. She was rescued and given shelter by our own church members.

Now, at this very time, in accord with the over-

Rwanda's Public Evangelism, *Continued*

all plan, a month of follow-up work commenced right after the two-month crusade ended. This follow-up work culminated with a second baptism of 126 additional persons. And who was found in that second baptism? The parents of the young lady who had driven her out of their home! Praise God for His mighty power that changes hearts and heals wounded spirits.

At that second baptism, that young lady was reunited into the loving arms of her now-changed parents who, having seen the light, rejoiced also with her in God's message. What a great moment!

Thanks to the Lord for this miracle and all of the others that occurred along the way. God's Word has

not returned unto Him void. Thanks to the church leadership and those who so faithfully ministered in the crusade and follow-up efforts.

Jonathan Bizirema, Publishing Director
Rwanda Union Mission

Publishing and Integrated Evangelism in the South American Division

In the time designated for their reports at the Annual Council of the South American Division, almost all the unions presented well-prepared videos. In these videos, literature evangelism and publishing appear with an important emphasis within the general plan of Integrated Evangelism.

There are at least two important meanings when the unions show what publishing and literature evangelists are doing.

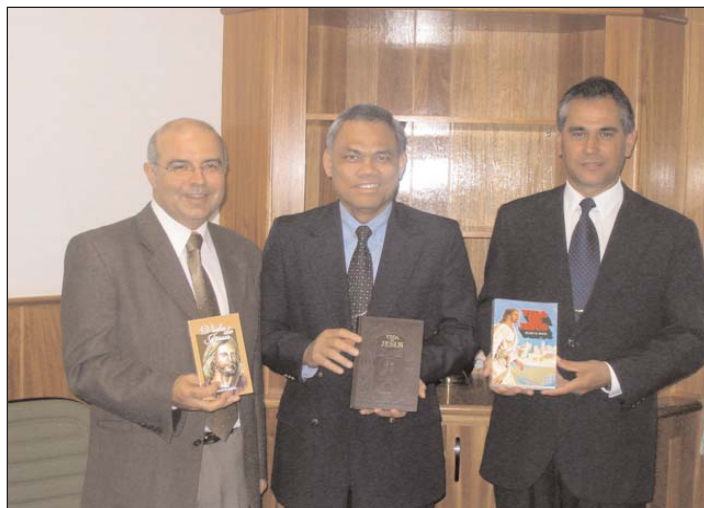
1. It signals that in this union Literature Evangelism is a powerful means of evangelism.

2. It signals that the union publishing leader and his collaborators from the fields are accomplishing an excellent work. They have led this activity within a missionary focus and through an intelligent relationship attract the attention and care of the administrators to Evangelism with Publications.

There is something more that those who participate in these meetings are able to perceive: Literature Evangelism is not a commercial agency, it does not exist "to sell" but it exists to spread the message. It is a noble activity, necessary and possible in the midst of the 21st century.

Let's point out some facts that took place especially in the last two days of the meetings.

The Brazil Publishing House and the South American Spanish Publishing House, our two publishing houses, in a planned manner presented a new mis-



sionary magazine with the topic of Jesus' Return. Great enthusiasm soon spread among the participants. After various positive and motivating observations, the program was voted causing a circulation perspective of three million magazines in 2007.

On the morning of November 1, a space in the programming was set aside. Soon after the morning devotional, the missionary book *The Ten Commandments* was dedicated. It was a solemn and inspiring moment. Almir Marroni, SAD Publishing Director, had the opportunity of presenting the general purpose of this project immediately followed by

SAD Integrated Evangelism, *Continued*

the participation of pastors Ruy Nagel and Erton Köhler. They challenged each one of the delegates present to have their own personal project to distribute this book. After the prayer of dedication each participant went to the altar of books and took their copy.



Following, the program was proposed and an opportunity for observations was opened.

For more than thirty minutes the floor was open to the discussion of strategies of how to involve each Seventh-day Adventist in evangelism with publications. Some leaders were overtaken by joy to have two publications that identify the Seventh-day Adventist Church-- the magazine on Jesus' return and the book *The Ten Commandments*.

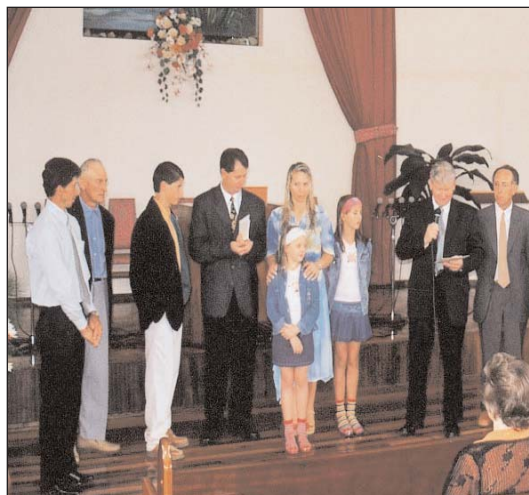
Emphasis was given to the idea of repeating this dedication solemnity in the union, conference and missions year-end meetings and the conventions of pastors, literature evangelists, elders and finally in each Seventh-day Adventist Church and company.

Coming from the division to the local church, we are sharing the philosophy and mission of evangelism with our publications.

It is the church returning to its origins, massively using books and magazines to fulfill the mission!

To close, the last union to present their report presented the video story of Valdir Brandt and his family. He was a Lutheran minister when two student literature evangelists visited him and sold him two books, one of them, *The Third Millennium*.

During two years his wife read the book, comparing it with the Bible. She encouraged her husband to read the book to understand the prophecies in Revelation. Finally, Valdir read the book and was convinced of the truth. He decided to preach the



Sabbath doctrine in the sermons to his church.

Soon he was fired, but through God's leading, today, he, his wife, and his children belong

to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In the city of Taió, Santa Catarina, Brazil, he serves God as a full-time Bible worker.

The Year-End Meeting ended. Literature evangelism and evangelism with publications were presented to the leaders and representatives from all regions of the SAD. Among those present were administrators, pastors and lay members, men and women of influence, and leaders of this church at various levels.

I am very pleased because two focuses of the Publishing Ministries are becoming clearer and clearer to the leadership of the church here in the SAD.

1. That in each church there should be at least one literature evangelist.
2. That each faithful Seventh-day Adventist spread missionary books and magazines.

This is our responsibility before God and the church. This is the mission that the Lord has entrusted to us.

We appreciate very much Pastor Howard F. Faigao's leadership and vision, and we pray that God may grant him health, strength, and motivation to continue inspiring the publishing work throughout the world.

**Almir Marroni, Publishing Director
South American Division**

Well-Known Literature Evangelist Dies

Torshavn, Faroe Islands - One Sabbath evening recently, Ib Jensen fell to his death as he climbed through a gorge on the rocky Faroe Islands in the Atlantic Ocean. Ib Jensen was the last literature evangelist in the Danish Union of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, who at the age of 71, was still very active in selling Adventist literature, primarily children's books.

Jensen was well known and well received by the people of these islands that he loved so much. For 45 years he had visited every home several times. The 18 islands (17 inhabited) have a population of 48,000, and he will be missed not only by the Adventist church but by his many friends on these lonely islands.

Ib Jensen filled an important place in the local Adventist church, where he served as deacon and secretary for the mission society. He was still looking forward to selling his books for many years and a new set of *My Bible Friends* in Faroese, which had recently been reprinted, and a ninth volume of *Bedtime Stories*, which was in preparation. There is probably no other population in the world where Adventist literature is found on the shelves of almost every home from the sales of just one person.

**Sven Hagen Jensen, Publishing Director
Danish Union of Churches**

“It was Christ’s joy to help those in need of help, to seek the lost, to rescue the perishing, to lift up the bowed down, to heal the sick, to speak words of sympathy and consolation to the sorrowing and the distressed. The more fully we are imbued with His Spirit, the more earnestly we shall work for those around us; and the more we do for others, the greater will be our love for the work, and the greater our delight in following the Master.”

(CM, p.46)

The Publishing Leaders' Digest

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