The year was 1907, exactly 100 years ago, when Ferdinand Prauhardt came as a colporteur to Austria from South Germany. He went right to work calling at the homes of the people and selling Bibles, Christian literature, and books on health. This was the beginning of a 100 year-old story of soul-winning success on Austrian soil.

To commemorate this 100-year anniversary, a special weekend program was organized by Raimund Fuchs, the Publishing Ministries leader for Austria. He worked closely with the Schloss Bogenhofen Seminary of Austria, where the event took place August 17-18, 2007.

The group of 350 attendees consisted of active literature evangelists, their families, former colleagues in the literature ministry, and a number of guests from Austria and abroad.

The opening address on Friday evening was given by Pastor Gabriel Maurer, secretary of the Euro-Africa Division, who is also in charge of the publishing houses and book evangelism sectors. He spoke of the encouraging aspect of the great value that Christians living in today's secular society still place upon world missions programs: programs that function in response to Christ's commission to go, teach, preach, and baptize.

The Sabbath morning speaker, Elder Howard F. Faigao, General Conference Publishing Ministries director, revealed the burden of his heart to see secularism met head-on with renewed plans that will keep the vision of literature ministry alive. Plans that will invigorate and inspire the spread

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**Equal in Importance to the Ministry**

Canvassers must go out into various parts of the country. The importance of this work is fully equal to that of the ministry. The living preacher and the silent messenger are both required for the accomplishment of the great work before us.

Canvassing for our publications is an important and most profitable line of evangelistic work. Our publications can go to places where meetings cannot be held. In such places the faithful evangelistic canvasser takes the place of the living preacher. By the canvassing work the truth is presented to thousands who otherwise would never hear it.

We have no time to lose... But few have broad and extensive views of what can be done in reaching the people by personal, interested efforts in a wise distribution of our publications. Many who will not be induced to listen to the truth presented by the living preacher will take up a tract or a paper and peruse it; many things they read meet their ideas exactly, and they become interested to read all it contains.

*Colporteur Ministry, p. 8*  
Ellen G. White
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Austrian Union Celebrates, Continued

of Christian literature through book evangelists in today’s Europe. In a presentation on Sabbath afternoon, Dr. Daniel Heinz, director of the European Archives for Seventh-day Adventist History, outlined the record of the book work. He explained its importance as relates to Adventist mission. Following the example of the Waldensian colporteurs of the 13th century, the Pietist “literature missionaries” of the 18th century, and the “book evangelists” of the Bible and Missionary Societies of the 19th century, the Adventist movement was developing its book evangelism. “It is an interesting fact,” said Heinz, “that the birthplace of Adventist book evangelism was not in North America, but in Europe. It was Michael Belina Czechovski, a former Polish priest who joined the Adventist Church in America, and afterward returned to Europe as a missionary ‘book colporteur.’”

The motto of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Austria for this quinquennium is “Reaching out for Austria.” “Book evangelism is something very special,” explained Pastor Herbert Brugger, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Austria. He added that he could not even think of the Adventist Church without its book evangelists. He affirmed that the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Austria would continue to support the work of the book evangelists and their families.

The publishing house representatives from Switzerland, Germany, and the Czech Republic commented happily on the cooperative efforts transpiring between Adventist publishing houses of the neighboring countries. This has made joint projects possible through shared funding. In Austria, there are 3,800 baptized members, in 49 churches.

Gabriel Maurer, Executive Secretary and Publishing Director
Euro-Africa Division

Ecuador Union Renews Focus on Literature Evangelism

The Ecuador Union recently held two conventions. The first one was for the training and the spiritual renewal of their literature evangelists and the church publishing directors. The second convention focused on training the church pastors to get their members enthusiastic about and involved in literature evangelism.

The National Literature Evangelist Convention was held September 10-12, 2007, at the Hotel Calypso in Salinas, Ecuador. The 170 literature evangelists in attendance were joined by the local church publishing directors. The event featured training seminars designed to teach new sales techniques, inspirational testimonies, and a time for spiritual renewal.

The attendees especially enjoyed three very important visitors: Howard F. Faigao, General Conference Publishing director; Pastor Almir Marroni, SAD Publishing director, and Pastor Marcello Nestares, the Marketing director for the South American Spanish Publishing House. Their words of wisdom and inspiration were truly appreciated by all.

The spiritual high point of the event was found in the baptism of a man who purchased a copy of The Life of Jesus. Seven months after he bought the book another Literature Evangelist (LE) knocked on his door and discovered a soul thirsting for a deeper knowledge of Jesus and the Bible. The LE conducted Bible studies with this precious soul until he was ready for baptism.

The second convention was held September 13, 14. Its primary objective was to teach the church pastors how to train, motivate, and involve their church members in the publishing ministry. Involving the laity in the distribution of literature is a new way to carry out God’s great mission.

Elder Faigao taught the church leaders how to get their church members involved in the publishing ministry. The pastors recommitted their lives for service to God.

Magdiel E. Perez Schulz, Education Director
Ecuador Union Mission

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A Publishing Administrative Council was conducted September 5-6, 2007, at Quilpe, Chile. The purpose of the meeting was to:

a. Review the current status of the publishing ministry throughout the Chile Union
b. Revisit the department’s mission and ascertain existing needs for maintaining its vitality
c. Set forth distinct plans for its evangelistic advancement.

Adison Morais, the Union Publishing Ministries director, led out with organizing the council and its agenda. Constituting nearly a full contingent of administrators, the Chile Union president, Elder Guido R. Quinteros, along with the two union officers, the publishing house officers, and all presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and publishing directors from the six conferences/missions in the union were participants.

The counsels of our two guest speakers especially blessed the council members, namely: Elder Howard F. Faigao, General Conference Publishing Ministries director, and Elder Almir Marroni, South American Division Publishing director. Both Elder Faigao and Elder Marroni’s presentations focused on the values and urgencies of our mission in the publishing ministries. They both shared helpful viewpoints and strategies for evangelistic expansion of the literature ministry.

Two main issues on the agenda for council discussion were:

a. How to increase the number of literature evangelists in our union, and
b. How to involve church members in evangelism through the circulation of literature.

Renewed focus drawn to the written counsel of Ellen G. White: "God calls for literature evangelist workers from every church."

After deliberation and prayer, it was voted to bring new attention to this plan by adopting the slogan: *Una Iglesia, Un Colportor* (“One Church, One Literature Evangelist”).

Again, following Mrs. White’s advice, "Every believer must circulate tracts, leaflets, and books," the council deliberated on a strategy which would encourage all of the church members to get involved in the distribution of literature. The slogan, *Un miembro, Un Libro* (“One Member, One Book”) was also adopted.

To help reach the objectives called for, the council approved the holding of a concerted series of Literature Evangelism Awareness Seminars for the pastors throughout the entire union. After the pastor’s seminars, another series of seminars will be held for all the local church publishing coordinators, thus enlisting the participation of all through a comprehensively organized approach.

The presentations, goals, and recommendations presented during the council were met with enthusiastic responses by all participants, and warmly welcomed by the officers of the local conferences/missions. Our publishing leaders believe that this is the beginning of great things for God’s work in the Chile Union.

It was very inspiring to see God’s Chilean leadership working together harmoniously toward the same purposes.

By God’s grace, the Chilean Union Mission will soon experience great rewards in the advancement of the publishing ministry.
Haiti’s Literature Evangelists Aim “Higher Still”

The National Literature Evangelists Congress convened August 30, 2007, on the campus of the Seventh-Day Adventist University of Haiti. It was initiated and carried forth under the theme of Excelsior, which means, "Higher Still."

Two hundred fifteen literature evangelists were in attendance. Among those present were Pastor Presentacion, Publishing director for the Inter-American Division, Pastor Elie Henry, a vice president of the Inter-American Division, Pastor Theart Saint Pierre, President of the Haitian Union, the other leaders of the Haitian Union and the local fields, and the literature ministries directors of the four local Haitian conferences.

Presentacion, Publishing director for the Inter-American Division, Pastor Elie Henry, a vice president of the Inter-American Division, Pastor Theart Saint Pierre, President of the Haitian Union, the other leaders of the Haitian Union and the local fields, and the literature ministries directors of the four local Haitian conferences.

For the first quarter of 2007, 652 souls were baptized in this union as result of the soul-winning efforts of our literature ministers. We give God the glory, and we commend Pastor Germain for his leadership under God’s guiding hand.

The champion LE soul winner for 2006 was Saintil Octavious, who was instrumental in the baptisms of 59 precious souls. As such, his soul-winning results were among the top five in the union.

Another significant worker in the literature ministry is Brother Saintil Brice. He works as a literature evangelist and also serves the Haitian University voluntarily in the area of Publishing Relations. Last year he sold US$23,808.58 worth of literature. His example motivates others to Excelsior for he has shown this characteristic through his own achievements. He believes it is God’s will that we excel in His work. We commend him as a true role model among his fellow literature evangelists in Haiti. Hearty congratulations to these men! They are outstanding warriors of the cross.

Those in attendance at this dynamic three-day congress were well blessed by the various seminars held on Thursday and Friday. On Sabbath, Pastor Elie Henry preached a most inspiring sermon. It was a rejuvenating experience to be present on Sabbath afternoon when the colporteurs told their personal experiences. The musical interludes were filled with the inspiration of spirit-filled musical renditions.

The evening closed on a very high note with incentive awards being presented to the various LE champions of each local field in the Haitian Union. Glory to God, great things He hath done! Indeed this congress is one that shall be long remembered.

Mirto Presentacion, Publishing Director
Inter-American Division

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**Church Member Donates Printing Press**

The Indonesia Publishing House (IPH) has needed new equipment for a long time—good high speed printing equipment to augment existing machines in coping with the expanding needs for published materials. But financial constraints shelved this dream until August 21, 2007, when Wimpy Ibrahim, a dedicated church member and successful businessman, donated two machines.

At the turnover ceremony, Dr. E. H. Tambunan, president of IPH, expressed deep appreciation for the liberality of the donor. “The Adventist Church and the Indonesia Publishing House are really blessed by people who have the heart to see, understand, and empathize with the needs of the Church. On behalf of the Indonesia Publishing House, I sincerely thank Wimpy Ibrahim and his family for these two machines. Truly, this is a mark of love and dedication.”

On hand to give the turnover speech was Dr. Yody Ibrahim, the eldest son of Brother Wimpy Ibrahim. “My father’s philosophy was rooted in the message of Matthew 6:33, ‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’ This philosophy shows how God richly blessed father and the family after giving Him first place in their hearts. It makes us very happy when we have the opportunity to help. This is a way we participate in telling the world how God cares and loves,” said Dr. Yody Ibrahim.

Following the turnover preliminaries, a blessing ceremony was conducted by Pastor Richard Barends, the Indonesia Publishing House church pastor.

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**WAD Leaders Keep The Vision Alive**

For four days, September 12-15, 2007, the Sahel Union publishing leaders met in Cotonou, Benin Republic, to evaluate the advancement of the work. Also in attendance were the union president, Pastor Guy Roger, and Oyeleke Owolabi, the Publishing director of the West Central Africa Division (WAD).

The Sahel Union spreads across 11 of the 22 countries of the division. Almost 90 per cent of these countries fall within the 90/40 window, and they have little or no Adventist presence. Consequently, amid a population of over 100 million, membership in this union is just a little above 35,000. Among these Muslim-dominated countries are Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Burkina Faso.

Given the relative inaccessibility of this territory, the traditional methods of evangelism have proven extremely difficult. The union is compelled, therefore, to resort to creative means of sowing the gospel seeds of literature. Thus far, the Lord has used the printed word through literature evangelists, those worldwide messengers of hope, to carry the truth to people wherever they are found.

Seventy of these resolute workers attended the congress. For the most part, they have been God’s instruments in translating the theme of the quinquennium, “Keeping the Vision Alive,” into a success story. They continue to give impetus to soul winning in pursuing their special ministry.

This year’s program witnessed the honoring of Koffi Jean Paul (Cote d’Ivoire), Amelafor Osei Paul (Benin), Ligbezim Koami (Togo), and Bayala Sylvain (Burkina Faso) as the top LEs in their respective fields.

The agenda, coordinated by Pastor Wilmar Hirle, General Conference Publishing associate director, and Pastor Mario Martinelli, vice president at the Review and Herald, gave the directors an opportunity to openly discuss how the canvassing work in each union can reach their objectives.

It was observed that the student work programs need to be further strengthened through more goal-oriented organization and implemented with the objective of training capable leaders who will go on to develop strong programs and expand the student work.

Pastor Dale Galusha, president of the Pacific Press Publishing Association, said he would like to see more student programs in operation. "The students are dynamic and can produce excellent results," he stated. "Secondly, they understand the importance of using the health message books to open the doors."

During ensuing discussion, the importance of using spiritual books that teach the plan of salvation in conjunction with the health books was reaffirmed. Field directors were challenged to put greater effort and intelligent planning into their recruiting and training of regular LEs as well as the students. Pastor Rock Davis, youth coordinator from the Southern Union Conference, emphasized the absolute essential of having qualified leaders in the field who can understand and implement sound LE programs.

In his seminar, Pastor Howard F. Faigao, GC Publishing Director, drew from his own personal background of experience in leadership, and he demonstrated how a director can be organized to carry out an effective publishing ministry. He emphasized the importance of getting the church at large involved in the distribution of literature.

Java Mattison, who is in his first year as a publishing director for the South Central Conference, was especially impressed with the concept of involving fellow church members in utilizing literature to spread the message.

The Publishing Directors' Council reaffirmed the importance for LEs at all levels of the publishing ministries to pull together in the same direction. Pastor Tercio Marques, publishing director for the Review and Herald, and mentor of the “Light America Mission,” said that while we are growing and sales are increasing, it is still of prime importance to remember that we need committed leaders in this ministry.

The many testimonies shared during the council reflected the reality that the ministry of the printed page is very much alive. Pastor Demilson Reis, publishing director for the Chesapeake Conference in Maryland, reported that in his conference 42 people had been baptized so far this year, and another 160 people are currently enrolled in Bible studies as a direct result of the LEs work. Throughout the North American Division more than 1,000 people have been baptized during 2007, and more than $10,000,000 worth of literature has been distributed. The importance of the missionary aspect of our ministry was a central theme throughout the council meetings.

Recognizing that this ministry is both a privilege and a responsibility, and that it has an essential and prophetic role to play in the end time, the publishing directors renewed their commitment to the circulation of literature and to the preaching of the gospel.

Pastor Robert Smith, president of the Review and Herald Publishing Association, one who has dedicated more than 50 years of his life to the publishing ministry, reminded everyone present that the Spirit of Prophecy writings declare that the publishing ministry will have a great future: It began as a blaze of glory, and it will finish in the same way.

Luis Biazotto, Associate Publishing Director
Review and Herald/Southern New England Conference
Throughout the blessings of God the Georgia-Cumberland Conference literature evangelists have placed more than one million dollars worth of truth-filled literature in the homes of the people thus far this year.

But as awesome as that it, this is not the whole story. It doesn’t tell of the thousands of homes where prayer was offered and hearts were ministered to.

It doesn’t tell of the smiles on children's faces when they have been shown a beautiful way of seeing Jesus through our books. Nor does it reflect the homes were hope was restored by the kind words and listening ear of a faithful literature evangelist.

Truly, God is good all the time!

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Tim Leffew, Publishing Director
Georgia-Cumberland Conference
North American Division