Public religious activities on the part of Protestant churches in Belorussia are limited. Although not allowed free rein, however, in Minsk and a number of other cities throughout the country, Seventh Day Adventists are finding golden opportunities for missionary witnessing. Best received at this point in time are social ministries through which we can acquaint people with knowledge of our wonderful God. Ministries that invoke the evangelistic tone of social kindness are well respected, and our health message does exactly that.

On the 3rd of July Belorussia celebrated her Independence Day. In this connection it is of interest that Belorussia has also declared the year 2008 to be “Healthy Lifestyle Year.”

It is a warm celebration of practical knowledge, practical diet and exercise with an emphasis on practical health habits. So, again we Adventists were cordially invited to take part in this holiday by presenting a health expo and a display of our books.

Throughout the entire day our Adventist Book Center director and assistants were on hand to meet and greet citizens of the great city of Minsk. They, along with volunteer church workers, teamed up to work diligently through the entire day in acquainting people with basics of Adventist lifestyle and present the good books that are foundational to our beliefs. There was such excitement at our site that the citizens visiting our expo were willing to stand in line to see the materials and participate in the vital signs testing services we offered.
We believe that almost everybody who was in the festival came into close contact with our book displays and services. Thus, our publishing work through the Source of Life publishing house was favorably introduced to the crowds. Due to these efforts, wonderful new acquaintances were made. Many were the people of special interest to whom were extended gifts of *The Great Controversy*, *The Desire of Ages*, *The Proverbs of Jesus Christ*, and the missionary book *God’s Law*. Many seemed so impressed with our staff because they all worked so willingly and helpfully, even as unpaid volunteers and they exuded the spirit of Christian happiness to everyone all day. In fact it was an often-overheard topic of conversation. Best of all, it afforded a great opportunity to witness publicly for our God and for our church. About 100 people who had participated in the testing services during the health expo left their addresses and expressed an interest in continuing further in their newly found acquaintance with Adventists.

Truly there are no insurmountable difficulties in finding ways to witness for God. Alas we tend to find ourselves dealing with problems and difficulties that we create for ourselves just by not using the wonderful opportunities that are given us by our Lord.

These are days of opportunity, and we must accentuate the positive of Christian witness. We must encourage our own selves and our own people to build altars, as it were, out of the books our presses produce. We must feed regularly upon the spiritual bread of salvation found within them, and then cast that bread upon the waters in a personal sharing of Jesus Christ with others.

Let us be faithful in using our opportunities to take the books that carry the light of the gospel and place them into the hands of people everywhere. Let us tell them of the Savior’s love and invite them to worship with us. The work of the pastoral ministry and the literature ministry go hand in hand.

“The living preacher and the silent messenger are both required for the accomplishment of the great work before us. (CM pg. 8).” May God strengthen our hands in His service.

N.A. Gunk, Publishing Director
Belorussian Conference

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**Korean Union: Keeping the Vision Alive**

At the Madalpi Training Center, a wonderful group of God’s servants gathered for intensive study and training between July 17—20, 2008. These are Korea’s Literature Evangelists. They are men and women whose dedication to service leads them to espouse the humble work of going from door to door to spread the gospel, and they count it an honor to serve their master, Jesus Christ.

Primary speakers for the training sessions were Pastors Howard F. Faigao, General Conference Publishing Ministries Director, and Dae Sung Kim, the Publishing Ministries Director for the Northern Asia Pacific Division.

Pastor Kil Su Um, director of the Publishing Ministries Department of the Korean Union Conference, planned, coordinated and presided over the entire session. At the beginning of the session, Pastor Um stood before the dynamic group of some 500 Literature Evangelists, spouses and delegates to formalize a statement of purpose for the meetings. “We have come together to recoup our physical energies and gather again our spiritual strength. We have come to refocus our eyes and our hearts upon God’s great calling to literature evangelism.”
Pastor Um concluded with these words of admonition: “I earnestly desire that all of us who have felt God’s summons to service will be faithful to the very end and claim God’s rich reward. Let us forsake the trends of the world and shine on as beacons of light in this dark world. Although there will be barriers at times, we know that the light of God’s truth will indeed shine upon this world, and at last we shall experience the sweet reward of faithful service before God.”

Our primary and guest speaker, Elder Howard Faigao, began his message by indicating that God started LE work, and He will finish this ministry in a blaze of glory. Those who work as literature evangelists need our prayers for they need access to the power of God at all times. Theirs is a ministry of self dedication. There are presently a fine group of about 300 literature ministers in Korea. Pastor Faigao envisions 800 workers. There are about 800 churches in the Korean Union now, and this would be in keeping with the goal of having at least one literature evangelist in every church. He appealed earnestly to Korean Adventists that realize that this is God’s command, His gentle but firm call to His chosen people. The work of our literature evangelists is akin to that of the apostles. They, too, are called as were those men of old. They are called as separated unto this special service, and today God is calling for many LEs. He calls from every church among us. (reference: GW P18, Letter P124, 1902)

Pastor Dae Sung Kim spoke earnestly and with power. His message bore the title: “All Christians have a mission to spread the gospel.” Not just anyone can do the LE work, and it is impossible to do it without self-sacrifice and deep humility of heart before God. He exhorted his fellow workers not to be worried and concerned about:

a. How many people you introduced to God through LE work and
b. how many books you conveyed to people.

“Please,” he said, “Just do faithful work and trust God for all of the results”. Humans only play in the role of scatter the seeds of truth, and God harvests in His own time and way.

Pr. Dae Sung Kim introduced the “1752 Evangelism” a simple formula that can become vastly effective as well as easy. “If every member would choose someone to pray for during the course of a full week, and give that person a book, that means every member would distribute 52 missionary books a year and the gospel message will go forth everywhere around the globe! “You see,” Pastor Kim said, “The only treasure we can bring from earth to heaven is our character. Our character is the sole standard by which our entry to the Kingdom of Heaven is affirmed. And the literature ministry is a most powerful character building work. Believe in it. Engage in it, and you can experience the Holy Spirit’s work of changing your character through this very ministry!”

This is the solemn and wonderful mission of literature evangelists in this end time. It’s time to live the life of prayer and readiness. It’s time to put our all on the altar of service in winning souls to Jesus!

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.” (Isaiah 60:1)

By His grace, let us “keep the vision alive!” Amen.
Romanian colporteur, Aurelian Anghelescu, is a former immigrant to Spain where he lived for several years. In 2008, he returned to his native land of Romania. Soon he went searching for meaningful employment, and he was led to apply to become a literature evangelist.

Before long, he began to realize just how much good could be accomplished by distributing the Missionary Book of the Year, and the thought just flooded his mind. He loves the book, The Triumph of God’s Love, which is an edition of The Great Controversy that is being utilized as the Missionary Book of the Year in Romania. Aurelian developed a brief introductory message and set about distributing as many of these books as he could. Needing some capital to really get started, the Romanian Adventist Publishing House agreed to release some books on credit to him to get his work nicely started. He made a fund raiser out of it, and he was successful from the start. It enabled him to purchase more and still more of them. Before long, he had distributed 24,000 copies. Soon he enlisted a friend named Gheorghe Constandis to partner with him in this work. Together they have distributed over 90,000 copies of the book!

In July 2008, brother Anghelescu visited the city of Vienna and visited the Vienna Romanian Adventist Church. There he shared the good news of how his plan was working. It inspired one of the brethren in the Vienna Church to inquire, “Do you have any of those books with you?” Aurelian smiled and said, “I always have books with me! I have 500 of them with me.” Whereupon this brother said, “Could we distribute some of them on the street here, and perhaps I can accompany you to see how it is done.” Aurelian said, “Why sure, let’s do it tomorrow.” So they met together on Sunday morning.

Since it was Sunday, and most of the Romanian speaking people were to be found around the Orthodox Church, they started to distribute the books. Aurelian and his fellow church member began talking to the people that were coming and going about God’s goodness and love. People were receptive and happy to receive the book. After distributing some dozens of books, about 100 or more, two or three of the people became angry. They went back inside the church and informed the priest about the matter. The priest came out and asked them not to distribute the books any more, and he proceeded to call the police. Within just moments the police came to the scene. The priest said to the policeman, “Please stop them!

“This experience motivated me to do even more,” said Aurelian. “We don’t know how long we will have this freedom,” he reasons. “In Romania, thus far, I have never been stopped by an Orthodox priest from distributing these wonderful books, only this once in Austria. So I continue my work and for the next two months my friend and I will be distributing another 64,000 of them. The year isn’t over yet!”

Brother Aurelian Anghelescu works as a regular part-time literature evangelist using 50% of his time to distribute the missionary book of the year. He is an inspiration, and there will be stars in his crown representing people whom he will never know until he meets them in God’s Kingdom.

The words of the policeman in Vienna are thought provoking. “For the moment, we have freedom . . . .” Yes, in various places of the world, the freedoms of today may succumb to the politics and prejudices of tomorrow. God’s people must be alert to work for the Lord now—where and while the freedom to do so is extant.

Gabriel Maurer, Publishing Director
Euro-Africa Division

Elder Vivencio Bermudez, of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, was welcomed as our Chairman, and Pastor Thang Lian Khai, Union Publishing Director, served as Secretary. Also in attendance from the Union were Pastor Memory Tun and Elder Nang Do Dal. Serving on the Council were Pastor Khin Maung Yin, President of the Ayeyarwady Mission, Mr. Kalusay Paul, Treasurer of the Central Myanmar Mission, Mr. Lay Moo Kyaw, Treasurer of the South East Mission, Mr. Gin Lam Cin, Treasurer of the Upper Myanmar Mission, Pr. Maung Maung Htay, Administrator of the Yangon Attached District, Mr. Ler Hser, Secretary and Treasurer of the Ysngon Attached District, the publishing directors of the four Missions and one Attached Field, and the Kinsaung Publishing House Manager.

In his presentations, Elder Vivencio Bermudez spoke about the mission of the Publishing Ministries and described strategies to expand the ministry. He encouraged all leaders to move forward with enthusiasm and great faith, and the Lord will give us victory. He encouraged us to set goals which are achievable, reachable, and yet aim high.

During the Council, three main goals were considered:

a. How to increase the number of literature evangelists in the Union. One idea considered at length was to follow the counsel of E. G. White: “God calls for literature evangelist workers from every church.” The Council adopted the slogan: “One Church, One Literature Evangelist.”

b. How to involve all of our church members in evangelism through the circulation of literature. Again, the Council considered the counsel of E. G. White: “Every believer must circulate tracts, leaflets and books.” The slogan, “One Member, One Book—Keep Sharing to Tell the World” was adopted.

c. The Council considered strategies by which to implement the slogan: “One church, One Literature Evangelist” in the Union. After a discussion, the strategic plan of the Publishing Ministries Department of the General Conference, “A Publishing Ministries Department Leader/SOP Coordinator must be elected in every organized church in the whole union,” was adopted.

In order to implement the goals and strategies, the Union and Missions will conduct a series of Literature Evangelism Awareness Seminars for their publishing leaders. Then the Union and Mission leaders will present the Literature Evangelist Awareness Seminar to the local church publishing coordinators.

The presentations, goals, and recommendations made during the council were received with enthusiasm by all the participants, especially from the Mission officers. The Division believes, that by the grace of God, we will soon see great results in the publishing work in the Myanmar Union Mission.

Thang Lian Khai, Publishing Director
Myanmar Union
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division Holds Leadership Seminar

A historic publishing leadership seminar was held July 8–10, 2008 at the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID) Headquarters in Irene, Pretoria, South Africa. The list of attendees included publishing directors, Adventist Book Center coordinator, and publishing house managers from the eight unions of SID.

Facilitating the seminar was Elder Howard F. Faigao, General Conference Publishing Ministries Director. Inspiring devotionals were presented by pastors Solomon Maposa, SID Executive Secretary and Gilberto Araujo, the Vice President.

The useful and highly informational topics addressed included job descriptions, policy reviews and organizational structure studies for the Publishing Ministries Departments and the Adventist Book Center/HHES operations. Matters of sales and inventory logistics, handling procedures, pricing mix, and customer relations were reviewed along with discussions pertaining to capital investments, trust fund management, financial statements, audits and evaluations.

This being the first time that a publishing leaders meeting of this in-depth nature has been convened since SID was established, it was very beneficial to all.

In our Division Publishing Ministries Department, Elder Faigao has been given the endearing title of “Mr. Think Tank.” Although we say it with a smile, it is highly complimentary—for we, as a world division family, are greatly benefitting from his insightful guidance. We now have a clear vision and a renewed focus on our mission. We praise the Lord for Elder Faigao’s dynamic leadership work.

Super Moesi, Publishing Director
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Revitalized Vision – New Plans Emerge

European Tri-Division Publishing Directors’ Council

The European Tri Division Union Publishing Director’s Council was held in Romania on the campus of the Adventist Theological Institute in Cernica from September 22-25, 2008. More than fifty delegates representing twenty unions across the vast continent of Europe met to share and explore ways and means of furthering the work of God. World divisions represented included the Euro-Africa, Euro-Asia, and Trans-European territories.

It was a time of celebration as leaders from the General Conference Publishing Ministries Department, Pastors Howard F. Faigao and Wilmar Hirle, shared word of the successes of the publishing work in sister divisions of the world church. They gave us excellent instruction on the principles of leadership for greater effectiveness in our work throughout Europe.

Special guest, Pastor Dae Sung Kim, Publishing Director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, joined us and shared messages of spiritual encouragement. He also explained a method that has produced an increased involvement of church members in literature ministries and a growth of literature distribution in his Division field. The delegates also celebrated and gave thanks for the successes experienced by various Union territories in Europe.

The publishing directors and publishing house managers were all encouraged to strive for excellence in the training of literature workers and in creating a climate for sustained growth in the publishing ministry. Emphasis was given to the urgency of achieving the cooperation of all leaders and administrators in building up and strengthening this vital ministry within the Seventh-day Adventist

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Churches of Europe.

The success of the Missionary Book of the Year Project ignited enthusiasm among the delegates. The world church motto, “Share a Book, Tell the World,” has been enthusiastically adopted and has generated encouragement and motivation for the mass distribution of the 2009 missionary book on the Second Coming of Christ. The goal is to mobilize every member of the church to become involved in sharing the message of the second coming of Jesus with friends, relatives, and neighbours. All publishing directors and managers present left the conference determined to become actively involved. Some have already pledged to produce hundreds of thousands of copies of The Second Coming for 2009.

One delegate commented that, having now heard the testimonies of other delegates concerning their plans for the missionary book, they have decided to increase greatly the size of the printing order for their Union. One small field in the Trans-European Division, with a membership of only 500 members, was so motivated that they plan to print a minimum of 10,000 books for distribution. This equates to each member making a minimum of twenty personalized evangelistic outreach contacts in 2009. Seeing the great potential for evangelism, the delegates’ enthusiasm was rekindled for action.

A special expression of gratitude was expressed to the host union, Romania, for their excellent hospitality and their fine example of faith and creativity in the publishing ministry. They have very successfully combined spiritual books—with health books serving as the opening wedge—for reaching the warm hearts of the Romanian public. More than one thousand-five hundred health seminars have been conducted during the first nine months of 2008. They educate the public on how to enjoy the advantages of a balanced, healthy lifestyle. The seminars conclude with attendees inspired and motivated to purchase many health and spiritual books.

Without exception, the delegates to the European Tri-Division Union Publishing Directors’ Council have been inspired with renewed vision for the greater work that can and must be accomplished in Europe. Where many have said it cannot be done, the testimony of many today ring with the new confidence of “It shall be done!” for God’s arm of strength is not shortened, and His matchless grace is all enabling. His work shall be accomplished, and we, His servants, shall prevail.

Michael G. Hamilton, Publishing Director
Trans-European Division

Great diversity is experienced by the literature evangelists in the South Pacific Division. Large cosmopolitan cities, small towns, outback communities, and isolated farm houses surrounded by thousands of acres of crops and pastures, make up much of Australian and New Zealand. In some areas our LEs work in rain and snow, while others bask in tropical sunshine or dodge the torrents of the tropical monsoon rains.

Our LEs from the island territories also work in diverse situations. Some LEs travel for hours in canoes with outboard motors through lagoons and the open sea to reach their customers. Other LEs are confronted with growing urbanization and its tendency to increase crime and violence, due to unemployment and financial hardship. Some of our LEs have experienced threats and danger as they carry out their work.

Literature evangelists from all over the South Pacific Division brought a wide range of cultures, languages, and experiences to the 2008 Literature Evangelist Congress for a time of celebration.
challenge, and fellowship.
“It’s Time”, the theme of the congress, held in Brisbane, Australia, focused on the second coming of Jesus, and that now is the time for re-commitment and action.

The guest speakers included Pastor Wilmer Hirle, Associate Publishing Director for GC Publishing Ministries, Pastor Bill Beckworth, Publishing Director for Southern Union in the North America Division, and Pastor Mirto Presentacion, Publishing Director for Inter-American Division. All of the guests challenged us to embrace the tried and true methods of success and to combine those with a new vision and technology to break into new and untried markets.

The Brisbane Congress attendees were encouraged by stories of God’s leading shared by LEs from across our diverse division. One of the most inspiring stories was the story of John, one of our leaders from the Solomon Islands. John recently lost his precious daughter when she was swept away in a tsunami. Instead of giving up, John is forging ahead with renewed zeal because he longs for Jesus to return quickly so that he can see his precious daughter again.

During the special presentation night, awards were presented to those who achieved outstanding results in sales, or who experienced the greatest increase in their sales. Several LEs received a plaque for being part of the $100,000 club.

Our Sabbath worship service was enhanced by the presentation of service pins in recognition of the years of service to God. Andrew Johnson, a dedicated LE and unit leader, was honored for his forty years of service to God in Literature Ministry. Two of our division leaders, Pastor Terry Goltz and Ken Read each were awarded a service pin for thirty-five years in God’s service.

“It’s Time” to be motivated to greater service.

Kevin Geelan, Associate Publishing Director
South Pacific Division

A Montaintop Experience
Americas Tri-Division Publishing Directors’ Council

J esus promised His disciples, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35, KJV). The Psalmist describes this experience by saying, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1, KJV). The Bible bears further record of the fulfilling of Jesus’ promise in the lives of those who believed His words by saying, “... they were all with one accord in one place. And ... they were filled with the Holy Ghost ...” (Acts 2:1-4, KJV).

In the providence of God, an earnest of these Scripture promises was realized for three days, from September 8 through 10, by some seventy persons at meetings held at the Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Georgia, USA.

After much prayer and reflection upon God’s Word and His Testimonies, leaders at the General Conference Publishing Ministries Department had the vision to convene a Tri-Division Union Publishing Directors’ Council for the purpose of further extending the mission of the Church through its publishing houses. Delegates and guest delegates totaled seventy persons from the Inter-American, South American, and North American Division Publishing Ministries Departments.

In the keynote address, Elder Howard F. Faigao, General Conference Publishing Ministries Department Director, concluded his message with an appeal for all present to seek the Lord earnestly for the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.
The General Conference Publishing Ministries Department presented the ten focus for the quinquennium which were also highlighted as the union publishing leaders rendered their colorful reports. These ten points are:

1. Build up the literature evangelist force.
2. Expand and maximize the student literature evangelism program.
3. Develop effective leadership through enhanced training.
4. Encourage the unions to establish Literature Ministry Seminaries.
5. Increase literature evangelism awareness through all media ministries.
6. Inspire creative marketing through the Internet and other media ministries.
7. Energize the “Tell the World” initiative by enlisting Church members for total involvement in literature distribution.
8. Strengthen all publishing house operations.
9. Maintain the highest production quality in our literature.
10. Provide ample literature for the spiritual nourishment of the church.

The Lord’s name was glorified, not only in the literature-related soul-winning experiences that were shared, but in the manner in which those reports were presented. New media presentations of experiences in the field were further enhanced by Elder Mirto Presentacion’s sharing of examples from his field, Inter-American Division, where literature evangelists are canvassing with i-pods!*

Every report was shared in such a way as to glorify God and His providence that made the experiences possible. Every report was shared in such a practical manner as to be implemented back in the home fields of the leaders listening. The whole atmosphere was one of mutual benefit and encouragement, unmarred by any hint of professional jealousy or unsanctified ambition!

Pastor Almir Marroni and his Publishing Ministry team from the South American Division reported that this year, their entire division field was mobilized for action. From the office of the Division President, in cooperation with every level of church organization and their institutions, to the humblest members of each local church, all were poised to cooperate with the publishing houses in the distribution of over 22 million booklets on the 2nd coming of Christ in one glorious day – September 6, 2008! No more fitting “vision” could have been set forth and fulfilled to demonstrate what God can do through His remnant people as they “Think Big” and cooperate with Him in the distribution of the Church’s literature!

Bill Beckworth of the Southern Union Conference, Felix Castro of the Pacific Union, and Tercio Marques of the Review & Herald in the North American Division*, bore ample testimony to the fact that the Lord is still working through “the youth, and those older in years,” who give themselves wholeheartedly to soul-winning through the use of our literature. Reports from initiatives such as Youth Challenge, SOULS, G.L.O.W, and Light America Mission echoed the theme, “Share a Book—Tell the World!”

Wilmar Hirle, Associate General Conference Publishing Director, on the very anniversary of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center, challenged those present with the words of Scripture recorded in Luke 21:28, “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads: for your redemption draweth nigh.”

A most fitting send-off it was for those whose mission is, by God’s grace, to “Keep the Vision Alive” by having at least one literature evangelist active in every local Seventh-day Adventist church, and of having every church member in every local church share at least one book with someone else every week. How encouraging to note that, like those disciples coming down from their mountain-top experience, as recorded in Mark 9:8, those who attended this Tri-Division Union Publishing Directors’ Council could also have it said of them, “And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save only Jesus with themselves.”

Ron Clark, Assistant Director of the Home Health Education Service Review and Herald Publishing Association
It was a trilogy of fellowship, joy, and enlightenment! We praise God for the rich blessings we received during our annual Literature Evangelist Congress held at Belusske Slatin y in Slovakia, August 3–10, 2008.

Our full-time literature evangelists with their families were in attendance, along with most of the part-time and student workers as well. Together there were 107 participants.

We were very pleased that Pastor Howard F. Faigao, our world leader, could come to us from the General Conference headquarters and serve as our main speaker for the convention. His spiritual approach and clear presentations were highly motivational. We were greatly blessed.

During our week together, we experienced a true sense of spiritual, mental, and physical renewal. Our mornings were set aside for worship and lectures, while afternoons afforded rest. Evenings were characterized by physical activities plus time for sharing experiences.

On Friday afternoon, our group met with some of the leaders and administrators of the Czecho-Slovakian Union. This meeting was important in that we were able to share some new ideas directly with our brethren in responsible positions of administration.

The climax of our convention came on Sabbath as we joined in close fellowship for the worship services. The morning presentation, drawn from the book of Jonah, helped us to reflect again upon the significance of our calling to go out into the field and faithfully serve the Lord.

To Elder Faigao and to all other participants in the program, we wish to express our heartfelt appreciation. We just thank God that we could experience such a refreshing, motivating, and edifying Literature Evangelist convention.

We, as brothers and sisters in Christ, can serve as a united force empowered on behalf of “the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people“ (Rev. 14:6, KJV).

Cestmir Stovicek, Publishing Director
Czecho-Slovakian Union

Czechoslovakian Literature Evangelists Gather for Congress