The Literature Evangelist Congress in Wagrain, Austria, took place September 16 to 20, 2009. Literature evangelists, publishing directors, publishing house managers, and editors of the Euro-Africa (EUD) and Trans-European (TED) Divisions were invited to this congress. Thirteen unions were represented. It was the first publishing meeting conducted in this bi-division format. The theme was “Sharing Faith Through Books,” and this theme permeated everything we experienced.

The setting for the congress was surrounded with picturesque landscape scenery, which was a pleasing surprise. Without city and traffic noise in the heart of the mountains, delegates experienced days filled with peace, encouragement, and inspiration.

We worshiped God and listened to His Word under the guidance of Howard F. Faigao and Wilmar.
Hirle, from the General Conference, and Gabriel Maurer and Michael Hamilton, from two European Divisions. We were blessed by the presence and participation of Lev Bondarchuk, Manager of the Russian Publishing House; Terry Goltz, Publishing Ministries Director of the South Pacific Division, and Mario Martinelli, Vice President for Marketing, at the Review and Herald Publishing Association.

We took part in training seminars for Literature Evangelists (LEs) and also met personally with one another to discuss and share our own experiences.

One by one, the delegations from participating countries (Slovakia, Czech Republic, Austria, Romania, Poland, Switzerland, Portugal, and Great Britain) introduced themselves. They informed us about their work, methods, results, ideas, and projects, as well as about their visions for the future. It is a wonderful feeling to know that in a European and worldwide context our work has a much bigger extent and outreach than we would ever think! More than 300 literature evangelists were present from different countries of Europe.

In Romania, LEs sell books in metro stations. They use a small kiosk where they offer to take blood pressure for free. People queued up, eager for the service. In offering a personal service in this manner, they befriended people and, in turn, became customers for literature.

In one instance, in Romania, while LEs were distributing books, one upset man went to the local Orthodox priest and showed him the book. The priest read the book, came to see the LE, and asked for 50 copies he could share with his parishioners the next Sunday.

The congress was presented in English, and simultaneously translated into five major languages. In addition, three more translations were done for smaller groups.

The site of the congress was also historically interesting: 102 years ago the Gospel was brought to Austria through a Seventh-day Adventist literature evangelist.

We also learned that the Missionary Book of the Year, Signs of Second Coming of Jesus, was sold and handed out in millions of copies. In some countries it was promoted by an extensive advertising campaign and distributed extensively, which is a great motivation to continue spreading this book to as many people as possible.

Food and care were first class. We enjoyed nutritious, tasty, good-quality food. We spent free time together on a trip to a mountain lake, to Salzburg, as well as to the surrounding mountains.

Sabbath evening all literature evangelists renewed their commitment to God for the literature work. It was a wonderful finale of the meeting. Our work has a huge significance and through this work many hearts will be filled with God’s love.

Praise to our Lord!
In a quintuplet of nines, it was a blessed four-day event. The 9th nationwide Literature Evangelist (LE) Convention convened on the 9th day of the 9th month in the 9th millennial year at precisely 9:00 in the morning! More than 1,000 eager and well-dressed literature evangelists made their way in parade style around the huge compound of Cebu International Convention Center (CICC) before entering the auditorium, which was the venue for their convention.

Florante P. Ty, President of Philippine Publishing House and coordinator for the event, opened the services with welcoming words of encouragement for the many LEs whose faithful work in selling gospel literature “enhances the moral, social, and spiritual aspects of life.”

In his keynote address, Howard F. Faigao, Publishing Ministries Department Director of the Adventist world church, told participants, “You are here today not by chance, but by choice and calling. It is up to us individually to broaden our vision and to remind ourselves of our commitment to this ministry. Let us live up to our theme: Keeping the Vision Alive!

Devotional speakers included Vivencio Bermudez, Publishing Ministries Director for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD), and Sergie Ferrer, under treasurer of the Adventist church in SSD.

Guests from other countries included Thang Lian Khai, Publishing and Spirit of Prophecy Director of Myanmar Union Mission, and Demetrio Taotao Jr., Publishing Director of the Thailand Adventist Mission.

A highlight of the convention was the 50th anniversary celebration of Health and Home, the flagship periodical publication of Philippine Publishing House (PPH). A video presentation highlighting the ministry of PPH, its early beginnings, and the guiding hand of God through the years was enjoyed by the delegates.

After the video presentation, three top LEs from the Northern Luzon Mission in the province of Pangasinan Luzon, gave their testimonies and experiences about why they concentrated on selling Health and Home (single copies and book-bound) and how they have been so blessed by maintaining their rosters of 600 or more customers each.

All throughout the convention, the primary focus was upon the experiences and successes of LEs as...
they go about their work of selling, sharing the gospel of Jesus, and winning souls for God’s Kingdom through the printed page.

Singspirations, awards ceremonies, and soul-winning stories punctuated the spiritual atmosphere of the gathering. Responding to the challenge to an ever deepening experience with Christ and fidelity to His literature ministry, the delegates were refreshed and returned home ready to resume their ministry in the field.

J. F. Saroza, Editor
Philippine Publishing House

East and West Indonesia Unions Convene for Joint Convention at Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

It was a vibrant day when 240 literature evangelists from both the East and West Indonesian Unions meet. September 2 to 5, 2009, and from all parts of the vast Indonesian archipelago. They arrived to experience the spiritual feast and warm fellowship that attends such a gathering.

Assembling together at Denpasar, the primary city on the island of Bali, it was an educational treat. Many Literature Evangelists (LEs) were visiting Bali for their very first time.

Administrative officers from the two unions and local fields were also present to participate and lend support to their valued literature workers.

Howard F. Faigao, General Conference Publishing Ministries Director, was on hand along with Vivencio R. Bermudez, Publishing Ministries Director of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. They led out in energizing the assembly with their inspiring counsels and training sessions. They focused upon the sacred calling of God to the literature ministry. Each literature evangelist is literally a “modern-day apostle,” affirmed Elder Faigao. The workers were likewise challenged by Pastor Bermudez.

He set forth the example of Nehemiah, whose undaunted dedication to build was met with myriad difficulties imposed by agents of Satan to hinder the work of God. As it was with Nehemiah, today’s LEs also meet many hindrances and challenges, but they continue to go forward in the spirit of God! Books that contain truth must now be spread like the leaves of autumn, Pastor Bermudez pointed out.

The Indonesia Publishing House serves two unions within Indonesia. Indonesia, a nation of 240 million, has the largest Muslim population of any country in the world. The Indonesia Publishing House stands tall in supplying the Health and Family magazine and many books for distribution to the millions of Indonesia. It also nurtures the 225,000 Adventists, and it provides the literature needs of its 1,002 literature evangelists—whose noble ministry and worthy livelihood is derived from their outreach ministry.

Elisha Gultom, Editor-in-Chief
Indonesia Publishing House
For the second time the Southern Asia Division (SUD) held a division-wide LE Congress in Kolkata, India, August 12 – 15, 2009. Over 200 delegates gathered from all over the division territory including division, union, and local conference/field administrators, publishing leaders, and literature evangelists.

The guest speakers were Howard F. Faigao, GC Publishing Director, R. R. John, SUD President, A. J. Tito, SUD Publishing Director, and union presidents. Included within the congress programs were the exciting reports from the Unions and their delegates. We were blessed immensely as we listened to the heart-warming testimonies of literature evangelists from the different regions of the division territories.

Literature evangelists and leaders went home spiritually refreshed and recharged with new energies for a dedicated and efficient ministry.

The Euro-Asia Division is on the move with the Missionary Book of the year. The division and union officers have led in the promotion of this great missionary endeavor. The objective is to mobilize every member of the church in the whole division to be involved in evangelism.

This evangelistic outreach is combined with the great plan of the division for a series of evangelistic meetings, thus using the written word and the spoken word as tools of evangelism, according to God’s plan.

Starting January 2009, the division adapted a goal of having “Each member share one book each month for 20 months,” a total of 1,502,000 copies. As of this period, close to one million copies of the 2009 Missionary Book, by Alejandro Bullion, about the second coming of Jesus, have been printed and distributed by church members and workers.
We have just concluded our two Publishing Administrative Councils for the South American Division. One council was held for the Brazilian unions and the other for the Spanish-speaking unions.

In the Brazil Publishing House we joined with the Brazilian leaders to dedicate the first installment of 5,200,000 copies of the 2010 Missionary Book. The book is interestingly authored by Pastor Mark Finley to emphasize the timely truth about the God’s holy Sabbath. The distribution goal carries approval for 8 million copies, but our administrators really expect to reach more than this.

Additionally the publishing houses are producing a small magazine presenting the same basic message for our Hope Impact 2010. Thus, the magazine and the book will total 40 million publications that are to be distributed this coming year.

In recent months, we have seen outstanding progress in mass distribution strategies. In Campinas, church members distributed 250,000 books in July.

In October we will be broadcasting an evangelistic series for the entire country of Brazil. Evangelist Mark Finley will be the speaker. The church has selected a fine venue in Brasilia for holding these meetings. All of our churches will receive the program through satellite, and this will constitute our primary evangelistic thrust for this year.

Our church leaders in Brasilia are excited about the challenge of distributing one missionary book to every home. Inside each book will be found a warm invitation to attend the evangelistic meetings.

The leaders from 101 churches of one of our conferences were invited to attend a special meeting on August 22. The president of the division and the presidents of the local and union conferences were in counsel together with the church pastors, elders, and treasurers. After sharing with them the distribution plans, the churches then placed their first orders, in excess of 500,000 copies of the Missionary Book to be distributed from house to house in October. This contagious enthusiasm has energized and strongly motivated the entire church in South America.

In another conference, in the city of Goiania, church leaders have ordered 360,000 copies. They, too, have developed a plan to thoroughly blanket their city with literature, and church members are excited about that.

We have a dream to reach every home in South America by 2015. It will require 100,000,000 books and thousands of helping hands. We believe that with God’s enabling power, this too, shall be accomplished.

Almir Marroni, Publishing Director
South American Division

On September 20 to 21, 2009, the first European Publishing House Council was held in Wagrain, Austria. In attendance were the managers of 16 European publishing houses plus one each from Australia and the United States. Howard F. Faigao, Director of the General Conference Publishing Ministries Department, served as chairman.

A primary purpose of the event was to provide for an open, sharing communication between the constituent members of the European family of Adventist publishers.
During the council in Wagrain, Austria, time was deliberately set aside in order to find the blessed strength that derives from the fellowship of praying together. It was wonderful to see leaders sitting together, sharing their thoughts and products with each other, each one trying to serve God through the printed page. It was very clear that the presence of the Holy Spirit is working among us.

Wilmar Hird, GC Associate Publishing Director

Each Member Shares One Book Each Year!

“Every believer (SDA) is called upon to scatter and broadcast tracts, leaflets, and books containing the message for this time” (RH, November 5, 1914).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Division membership</th>
<th>Number of Copies Circulated as of September</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. East-Central Africa</td>
<td>2,376,903</td>
<td>350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Euro-Asia</td>
<td>137,676</td>
<td>950,000*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Euro-Africa</td>
<td>176,047</td>
<td>2,400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Inter-American</td>
<td>2,958,485</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. NAD-Pacific Press</td>
<td></td>
<td>234,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. NAD-Review &amp; Herald</td>
<td>1,062,189</td>
<td>224,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Northern Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>590,684</td>
<td>203,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. South American</td>
<td>2,617,706</td>
<td>7,350,000*</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. South Pacific</td>
<td>399,979</td>
<td>Report not available</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Southern Africa-Indian</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Southern Asia-Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Trans-European</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. West-Central Africa</td>
<td>798,494</td>
<td>872,000*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Divisions who have reached their circulation numbers over their church membership.
**College Students Distribute 15,000 Missionary Books in One Day**
As part of the 15th founding anniversary celebrations of the Central Philippine Adventist College, students went out to nearby Bacolod City to distribute 15,000 copies of the missionary book *He Is Coming*. Enthusiasm filled the students as they participated in the global mission of the church and the “Share a Book, Tell the World” initiative. By Philippine Publishing House

**Nepal Field Revives Literature Evangelism**
After 10 long years of waiting, the publishing work in Nepal is reviving. With the determination of the field administrators, literature evangelism was given a mandate for a fresh start by action of the executive committee. The first training for eight literature evangelists was conducted in August by Benedict Biswas, publishing director of the Northern India Union. By Umesh Kumar Pokherel, Nepal Field Publishing Director

**Literature Evangelists (LEs) Convene for Annual Congress**
Nearly 300 literature evangelists in the Ukraine Union convened on the campus of the Ukrainian SDA Institute, July 16 to 18, 2009, for their annual congress. Publishing leaders from the General Conference, Euro-Asia Division, and Publishing Houses, with the union president, Vladimir Krupskyi, graced the event and inspired the delegates with their messages. Heart-warming testimonies of God’s blessings from the LEs punctuated the spiritual fervor of the event. By General Conference Publishing Department

**110 Pastors Commit to Circulate 400,000 Missionary Books**
This was the encouraging response of the pastors who attended the Publishing Awareness Seminar in Central Luzon Conference, North Philippine Union, on August 18 to 19, 2009. Their enthusiasm was demonstrated by their commitment to motivate their church members to distribute a total of 400,000 copies of the missionary book in Metro Manila. By Bong Guevara, Conference Publishing Director

**120 Literature Evangelists Distribute 1,000 Books in 20 Minutes**
As part of the program of the Council of Literature Evangelists of the North Ecuador Mission, 1,000 books “Sinais de Esperança” (Signs of Hope) were distributed from house to house. The distribution took place in a fishermen’s village located just a few kilometers from the hotel where the council was held. The books reached nearly all of the houses in that locality, where there is an Adventist congregation of about 20 members. While literature evangelists distributed the books, they wrote down the names and addresses of the people who seemed interested in future contacts. By Almir Marroni, South American Division Publishing Director