The South American Division prepared the way for a major evangelistic endeavor to be held in Brasilia, Brazil. It was conducted via satellite with Pastor Mark Finley of the General Conference as the speaker. It started on October 24, 2009. One vital part of this great evangelistic thrust was the mega distribution of the 2010 missionary book *Time of Hope* authored by Finley himself. The Central Planalto Conference carefully coordinated this effort in advance. Various churches in the Federal Capital District and surrounding area enthusiastically embraced the challenge of delivering a copy of the book and a special invitation to each home within the territory.

The goal was to distribute 560,000 books mostly prior to the starting Sabbath, October 24. The Central Church of Brasilia had set a goal of delivering 70,000 books across the South Wing and the South Lake sectors, where many middle- and upper-class citizens dwell within this Federal Capital. Being an area of difficult access, church leadership arranged for special envelopes for the books to be inserted into, then addressed and delivered.

The distribution was conducted on two consecutive Sabbaths, October 17 and 24. Prior to this, the members worked together with great zeal and dedication...
late into the night for several days until all the envelopes had been prepared and addressed; complete with a cordial invitation to attend the outreach program. Entire families joined in this difficult but enjoyable task. Practically the entire church membership became involved in the project.

On Sabbath, October 17, for the first phase of distribution all the church members wore uniform shirts in promoting the “Day of Hope” and the “Future with Hope” projects. After a brief Sabbath School, a ceremony of dedication for the books and their distribution was conducted by division President, Pastor Erton Kohler. Pastor Luís Gonçalves preached a vibrant sermon and then, at 11 a.m., all members went out to distribute the books. Within minutes, large stacks of packages of books disappeared, leaving the certainty of a mission accomplished. South Wing and South Lake were literally "swept" with the message in print.

On Sabbath October 24, the second phase began. This time the target area was the commercial blocks of Brasilia South Wing. To everyone’s surprise, before the sermon began, Mrs. Naiana was interviewed. She had come across the book through someone who had received it on the 17th, but did not care to read it. Naiana accepted the book and, upon reading it, she felt compelled to immediately seek out the church that keeps the Sabbath as a day of rest. It was the first time she and her 10-year-old son had ever visited an Adventist church.

The sermon at the divine service was delivered by Mark Finley. His enthusiasm inspired the church members to complete the task begun in the previous week. Pastor Finley, his wife, and other leaders of the Division, Union and Conference went into the streets along with the church members to distribute the books.

Seeing the joy and motivation of the brothers and sisters in the church was a reminder that the joint involvement of distributing missionary books unites and strengthens the church spiritually—while at the same time reaching thousands of people with the written message. Ellen White wrote: “If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 390). It is a missionary work for every believer.

We praise God for all these blessings, and we challenge you, dear friend, to embrace the goal of joining together in placing a missionary book in every home within our territories. Indeed, reaching this goal is not merely a dream. It is possible when we start with each church reaching its own territory. The Lord God will help us in this endeavor! Let’s allow ourselves be infected with the missionary spirit.
At each congress in the South Pacific this year, the theme has been “Trust the Lord and Never, Never, Never, Never Give Up!” During the month of November, annual literature evangelist congresses were held in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

In Papua New Guinea 14 unit leaders and three area managers train and manage the work of 130 literature evangelists. We felt highly privileged for the presence and participation of Howard F. Faigao, Publishing Ministries Director from the General Conference. Rarely have we had visitors from our world headquarters come to us. On Sabbath, more than 6,000 people were in attendance as literature evangelists related their heartwarming stories of personal evangelism in the field.

More than 60 literature evangelists from Vanuatu and areas of the Solomon Islands were in attendance.

For the last 15 years, literature evangelists have used wooden dugout canoes to work in this area. Thanks to the generosity of literature evangelists in

With 115 in attendance, it was the largest literature evangelist congress ever held in Papua New Guinea. Over the last 12 months the team has increased dramatically. New units have been established in areas where we had not previously worked. It is also interesting to note that sales over the last four years have increased substantially. Four years ago, the highest annual sales total had reached approximately A$260,000. During the year past, sales reached $649,000 and, by the end of the current fiscal year, we expect to have surpassed the A$800,000 mark.
Pastor Terry Goltz has retired, having given 38 years of active service to the Adventist Publishing Ministry. In 1971, Terry left an active farming life in answer to God’s call to become a literature evangelist. His decision resulted in his two parents, one brother, and a sister following his lead into the literature ministry.

Terry began his ministry in western Queensland. Living in caravans with his wife and five children, he faithfully canvassed towns and cattle stations of the outback. There were periods of time when he had to leave his wife and children to dwell in the caravan while he, using a tent for shelter, pressed on to reach precious souls.

His call to leadership led him to minister in South New Zealand, Greater Sydney, and then as Assistant Publishing Director of the South Pacific Division. Terry has served as Publishing Ministries Director for the Division for the past 11 years.

Under his leadership, several initiatives were implemented. A computer program to manage the efficient handling of customer business for the individual literature evangelist was set up. This streamlined paperwork and enabled literature evangelists to spend more time with their customers. The island territories of the division, which had heretofore been overseen by expatriate leaders, were nationalized—and this added impetus to the development of stronger leadership among national workers. A program to expand the product list for literature evangelists has allowed the team to develop their customers and build long-term relationships with them. It has resulted in an increase in sales and more precious souls being introduced to Jesus.

Recently, Terry followed the lead of his sister and others to develop a new stream of selling known as “Book Parties.” Based on the model of Tupperware® Party Sales, this is enabling a new segment of our church members to utilize an alternate method of placing literature into homes. It is also reaching a new stratum of society with Adventist literature.

Even in retirement, Terry plans to pick up the briefcase and spend some of his time spreading the printed page through literature evangelism—the ministry that has been such an integral part of his life for the last 38 years. Our prayers and best wishes accompany him.
On December 9, 2009, all roads led to Tshwane University of Technology at Gauteng, South Africa. At least that’s how it seemed when more than 500 delegates to the first Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID) started to arrive from all points within the country. It was a high day, and it could readily be sensed as such when Paul Ratsara, SID President, spoke to the congress delegates with his fine keynote address. He was accompanied by his wife, Denise, and Solomon Maphosa, the SID Executive Secretary. Pastor Ratsara spoke directly to the theme of the congress “Empowered to Fulfill the Vision.” He challenged delegates to a conscious and personal commitment to the Division’s goal to attain the working presence of at least one literature evangelist for every one of the 20,000 congregations within the SID.

Notable among the dynamic speakers were Pardon Mwansa, General Conference Vice President; Howard F. Faigao, our beloved world Publishing Ministries Director; Alex Llaguno, SID Health Ministries Director; and S. Alexander, an invited motivational speaker. The delegation was composed of officers, publishing leaders, and various workers from the SID, the Unions, the Conferences and Missions, the Publishing Houses and Adventist Book Centers. All were present to participate and lend their support to our literature evangelist army. Additional personnel were present representing Stanborough Press Ltd. in England and Editorial Safeliz in Spain.

Interesting reports were heard from the union publishing departments, and powerful testimonies were shared by outstanding literature evangelists. Sabbath was a day of spiritual celebration and sacred praise to God. Several singing groups rendered wonderfully elevating music and leaders presented touching testimonies in evidence of God’s goodness during the quinquennium. Elder Mwansa capped the morning service with a stirring sermon. On Sabbath afternoon, a special dedication service was conducted in honor of literature evangelists who have attained a service record of 15 to 40 years.

Super Moesi, SID Publishing Director, together with his team of union directors, organized and coordinated the whole event to a successful finish.

The congress concluded with an earnest commitment service led by Elder Faigao for all of the delegates. At the end of the congress, the literature evangelists were visibly empowered to go forth with renewed vigor and determination to “Keep the Vision Alive.” They could well testify that in this Division-wide LE Congress, “Surely we have been with Jesus!”
The First of the Best

"Careless spectators," we are told,
Don't value what we do,
But those who view it "from the Cross,"
See it's God's service true.

As Elder Higgins used to say,
"Persevere, and stand the test:
Then every day thereafter,
Will be The First of the Best!"

'Twas true for me as an aimless youth,
Wandering without a goal,
God led me to this ministry,
That helped to save my soul.

And provided funds for college,
And a home for fam'ly dear,
It built my faith and taught me trust,
And subdued my doubt and fear.

"Careless spectators" never know,
The blessings that others see,
Like one who met me with a gun,
Then bought a book from me!

When Jesus' name was shared with love,
Especially "the closing scenes,"
With tears in eyes he said, "I'll take it!"
And bought from his scanty means!

Sue lived in a gorgeous mansion,
Where fifteen sets were sold,
She said, "These are the finest books,
I ever did behold."

Magdalena, the college professor,
When for her books she paid,
Said, "Of all the things I've ever bought,
It's the best investment I've made!"

But Monica's man was angry,
And said, "Not a penny I'll give!"
It was plain that he was someone,
With whom it was hard to live.

He stormed right into the kitchen,
With a scowl that nearly kills:
But the Spirit spoke as he listened,
And paid with five fifty-dollar bills!

I recall the old man named Arthur,
Who over this country had roamed,
In his shack he bought books from me,
Triple the cost of his home!

I took him to church on Sabbath,
He said, "It's the best day of the week.
You see, Mom once was a worker,
At the San at Battle Creek."

"Careless spectators," seeing our work,
May think, "What a thankless shame;"
But thousands each year are saying,
"I'm oh so happy you came!"

Even now, I find in retirement,
When, by grace, we stand the test,
Elder Higgins' advice is still priceless,
Each day's still The First of the Best!

Paul Jensen, Retired Literature Evangelist and Publishing Leader of 49 years