The history of the church in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) traces back to literature evangelism with Abram La Rue as its pioneer. His headstone reads: “In memory of Abram La Rue, the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary to the Far East.” He arrived in Hong Kong on May 3, 1888, and for 15 years spread the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14. He printed the first Seventh-day Adventist tracts in Chinese (1891), prepared the first seven baptismal candidates in Hong Kong, and assisted the first English Adventist mission school (1902). In addition, he witnessed the first six Adventist baptisms and the formation of the first Chinese Adventist church at Sin Yang Chau, China (1903).

Ellen G. White wrote, “The night of trial is nearly spent. Satan is bringing in his masterly power because he knoweth that his time is short. . . . Unvarnished truth must be spoken, in leaflets and pamphlets, and these must be scattered like the leaves of autumn.” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, pp. 230, 231).

We hope and pray that many more books and materials will be distributed through our publishing house in the NSD territory. Ellen G. White wrote, “The Great Controversy should be very widely circulated. It contains the story of the past, the present, and the future. In its outline of the closing scenes of this earth’s history, it bears a powerful testimony in behalf of the truth. I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book than for any others I have written; for in The Great Controversy, the last message of warning to the world is given more distinctly than in any of my other books” (The Publishing Ministry, p. 358).

Many more copies of The Great Controversy in Chinese will be printed and distributed to the people of mainland China.
The West-Central Africa Division (WAD) dedicated the Great Controversy Project (GCP) on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, during its year-end council in an atmosphere of joy, hope, and divine expectations.

All six union conference presidents and four heads of institutions made presentations of the book to the division president.

The unions and institutions have ordered almost 9 million of the adapted version of the book. The WAD administration decided to print the adapted version during the first phase of this project and use it as a missionary book to prepare the way for prospects to receive and read the full version in the second phase.

News from Nigeria confirmed that lay members are targeting 10 percent of the Nigerian population with copies of the full version, which translates into about 16.7 million copies. The division pledged by faith to print 12 million copies of The Great Controversy (The Great Hope).

We believe that at the end of 2013, God will surprise us with a total figure far beyond our initial pledge. Four church publishing houses around the world are busy printing 6 million copies of the adapted version, which will be ready for distribution in January 2012. In all, WAD will print in a minimum of 10 languages. Thus, all the unions and institutions in WAD have laid their strategies to accomplish their goals and distribute this book to every home in the division.

GLOW and the Publishing Ministry

by Nelson Ernst | GLOW Director, Central California Conference, NAD

GLOW stands for “Giving Light to Our World.” This ministry is focused on evangelism through the circulation of literature. It is a program of the Central California Conference in the North American Division (NAD).

HOLLAND: Early in November I responded to an invitation to speak about GLOW, train people in its distribution, and canvass in Holland and Norway. On one weekend, 12,000 GLOW tracts were distributed by 50 participants. Simultaneously, plans were made to translate GLOW into Dutch. Almost all of the GLOW tracts have now been translated, and GLOW coordinators in the Netherlands are looking into printing options that GLOW from NAD will most likely help launch. Consideration is being given to authorize and initiate the GLOW program in the Holland Union.

NORWAY: The trip to Norway turned out to be productive. I was able to adapt our U.S. canvass to the Norwegian mind-set with the help of some locals. After some training at a mission school, we were in the field and ended up selling a few subscription copies of The Great Controversy for US$40 each.

GERMANY: Our contacts in Germany are putting together a proposal to print another installment of 40,000 GLOW tracts. They may also create a shipping and selling structure that will likely make them the hub of GLOW distribution for much of Europe. Plans are also underway to visit Germany next year, where we will launch the GLOW program to a larger platform and train more church members. This might be done through the Youth in Mission Congress that meets in Mannheim, Germany, every April.

[continued on p. 3, GLOW]
On December 1, 2011, Pacific Press celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of Aileen Andres Sox as editor of Our Little Friend and Primary Treasure, the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s weekly magazines for children aged 0–9. Our Little Friend, first published in 1897, and Primary Treasure, established in 1957, are handed out weekly to thousands of children in Sabbath School classes around the world. Since Mrs. Sox, as she is affectionately known, became editor, Pacific Press has produced 97,664,424 copies of the two magazines, or more than a billion pages. If laid end to end they would reach around the earth more than seven times and would stretch between New York City and Los Angeles 66 times.

During a special chapel service dedicated to honoring Sox, a congratulatory note was read by Randy Fishell, editor of Guide and Real magazines: “I hope that there is no such thing as ‘getting tired’ in heaven, otherwise you will be in big trouble meeting all the youngsters you have influenced for Jesus Christ over the past 25 years!”

Lowell Cooper, a general vice president of the Adventist world church added, “Aileen, you now join a small and elite group of individuals who have edited a church periodical for 25 years or more. You have maintained an outstanding ability to connect with the hearts and minds of children.”

In response, Sox noted: “This job really is not about me. It is about pursuing God’s plan for magazines, and eventually books, to reach kids for His kingdom. Only with God’s help can my ministry have any meaning at all.”

Under Sox’s tenure several children’s books have been published, based on series in the magazines. These include God’s Ten Promises, A Child’s Steps to Jesus, and What We Believe for Kids. The latest book, We Can Trust the Bible, is scheduled for a spring release. Web sites for both Our Little Friend and Primary Treasure include an audio version of each week’s lesson, stories, and a place for children to correspond with Mrs. Sox.

From Brisbane, Australia, Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, wrote: “God has guided Aileen to choose the right stories and emphasis to influence thousands of youngsters and their parents for 25 years! Her work and influence reach far beyond Pacific Press. Through her work she has touched the farthest corners of the globe to help point children to Jesus, our Best Friend and Greatest Treasure.”

Dale Galusha, president of Pacific Press, summed it up in his closing remarks: “For 25 years, Mrs. Sox has been sharing Christ’s love with children. Because of this ministry, many will be in heaven.”

Congratulations, Mrs. Sox!

[GLow, continued from p. 2]

AUSTRALIA: Australia just finished adapting GLOW tracts for their country and are gearing up to print them before the end of the month.

POLAND: The Polish Adventist-Laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI) contacted us and would like to start translating GLOW materials into Polish.

Our Web site (glowonline.net) is shown on the backside of all tracts and it is almost entirely “internationally friendly.” People from different countries can easily access the site to sign up for Bible studies and request additional literature or books in their own languages. Additional languages will be made available soon.