SPD Conducts Leadership Training and LE Congress
by John Brereton | Publishing Director, SPD

The South Pacific Division (SPD) held a Publishing Leadership Training and a Literature Evangelist Congress from September 11-20 in the Adventist Alpine Village, nestled in the Snowy Mountains halfway between Sydney and Melbourne.

The training saw 23 Publishing leaders from 10 countries come together for six days of training and inspiration. Special guests included Howard F. Faigao, General Conference Publishing director; Pavel I. Liberanskiy, Euro-Asia Division Publishing director; and his wife, Aksenniya; Mario P. Martinelli, Safeliz Publishing House president; Branimir Schubert, SPD Leadership and Professional Development manager and Ministerial Association secretary, and his wife Danijela Schubert, SPD associate general secretary.

Faigao inspired and motivated leaders with practical fundamental principles of Christian leadership presented with wisdom, experience, and humility. Liberanskiy helped leaders understand the challenges faced by literature evangelists in Russia and inspired us to continue spreading truth-filled literature until Jesus comes. Martinelli pumped up leaders with his motivational talks and presentations about quality books from Safeliz.

Branimir and Danijela Schubert both made presentations that were greatly appreciated by the SPD Publishing Ministries team. The material presented, and the fellowship with leaders, was outstanding and paved the way for the Australia and New Zealand Literature Evangelist Congress.

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The congress saw 104 attendees come together for inspirational training by Faigao, Liberanskiy, and Martinelli. Faigao shared some powerful and inspiring testimonies from around the world that were appreciated by all.

The Literature Ministry in the South Pacific Division is alive and well. We realize we are living in the last days of this world’s history, and that now is the time to distribute books and tracts like never before.

Forty Publishing leaders and colporteurs from the Trans-European Division (TED) met in Belgrade, Serbia, from September 19-21 for the Festival of Praise, Training, and Inspiration.

Festival organizer Miroslav Pujic, TED Publishing director, said: “Do we really think that the people of Europe don’t want to know God? ‘Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest’” (John 4:35).

Other guests were Wilmar Hirle, General Conference (GC) Publishing associate director; Ryszard Jankowski, Polish Union Publishing director; Samuel T. Ouadjo, Stanborough Press Limited sales manager; Noah Naylor, North England Conference Publishing sponsor; and Dragan Pejovski and Laslo Galus from the South-East European Union.

Forty literature evangelists (LEs) from seven different countries listened carefully to advice about methods to improve this branch of God’s work. They were inspired to never give up and strive to achieve their goals through prayer and hard work. The participants were called to think big, have a vision, and, with God’s help, expect results.

The Sabbath school and worship service were an integral part of the festival. Speakers motivated the congregation to share their personal testimonies and stories.

Sabbath will also be remembered for the Health Evangelism Festival. A new book about health principles was printed especially for this purpose. The *Transforming Secrets of Life* reveals biblically supported principles for enjoying optimal health. Members were invited to buy as many books as they could to share with those in their communities. A project initiated by the GC to give the book wide distribution will take place on Saturday, April 18, 2015, as church members around the world will be called to leave their buildings and share books.

LEs from seven different countries around the world marked the final day of the festival by sharing experiences about working with unique and distinct methods.

Life is a mission. May God help us fulfill it in every way possible with the help of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
With the motto “Bringing Hope into Every Home” the Inter-European Division (EUD) Literature Evangelist Congress started on Monday, September 1. The congress was held at the Romanian Adventist Theological Institute in Cernica, Bucharest. This was the second time literature evangelists (LEs) in the division were invited to participate in special professional training.

As a branch of Adventist Publishing, literature evangelism aims to make biblical values, as well as information about education and health, accessible to the public. By seeking people where they are—in their homes, work places, and public areas—LEs are creating bridges. LEs offer information that is not found in any bookstore: the connection between knowledge, health, and trust in God.

The LEs who attended the congress came from diverse backgrounds. Some have been university students, medical doctors, or have worked in other occupations prior to becoming LEs.

This year’s congress focused on outreach. Through health seminars offered in schools, companies, and other places, books sold by LEs contribute significantly to improve public health and well being through education and practice. Distribution of the Missionary Book of the Year in Portugal has impacted the population in a special way.

By operating officially approved exhibits in public places, trained LEs are also health agents. They help people change their lifestyle to attain better health. People learn how nutrition affects physical and mental health. By taking time to listen, these agents contribute significantly in helping people find solutions to their health and relationship problems.

Many inspiring experiences confirm that the secret to success in literature evangelism is the combination of health literature and spiritual books. Our ultimate goal is to bring people into contact with our Savior. The rest is the work of the Holy Spirit.

“One month ago I had no idea what to do,” said Alina, who had just finished high school. “These few weeks of participating in the Waldensian Student program radically changed the situation. Now I know that I want to invest my life in helping people. I decided to study medicine.”

On September 4, the congress concluded with an appreciation service to honor God for His blessings and express gratitude for the service of all LEs, especially those who have served for many years. All participants are committed to “Bringing Hope into Every Home!”

EUD Holds Literature Evangelist Congress
by Gabriel E. Maurer | Secretary and Publishing Director, EUD

TOP: LEs and Publishing leaders gather for an LE congress at the Romanian Adventist Theological Institute in Bucharest. Bottom: Delegates to the LE congress.