

THE LITERATURE EVANGELIST

April-June 2022

**GC SESSION
SPECIAL ISSUE**

**Highlighting Literature
Evangelism and
Missionary Book Stories**



**IT'S OUR TIME
I WILL GO!**

THE LITERATURE EVANGELIST

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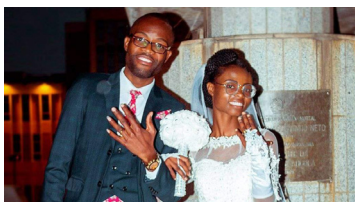


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On the cover: A church member holds up copies of the Portuguese edition of the 2022 missionary book *The Final Hope* on the streets of Brazil.

[photo: South American Division on Flickr]



Meet the General Conference Publishing Ministries team, back (left to right): Stephen Apola, associate director; Michael Eckert, assistant director; front (left to right): Adriana Duarte, administrative assistant; Almir Marroni, director; Vivienne Martinelli, editorial assistant.

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WRITE TO US

We welcome your literature evangelism testimonies as well as your opinion about the magazine and response to articles. If you'd like to contribute in another way, contact us for more information.

THE LITERATURE EVANGELIST



IT'S OUR TIME!

It is intriguing how many Christians think about supernatural manifestations. Many admit that miracles occurred throughout history and were witnessed by people of faith. However, it is common to reject the idea that miracles can happen in the twenty-first century, concluding that it's "smarter" to accept logic, reason, and common sense.

C. S. Lewis defined miracles as interference of supernatural power in the natural world. According to Lewis, naturalists are not likely to accept the action of a Higher Power. But what does this have to do with understanding each believer's mission?

There is a supernatural element in the evangelical commission that we should never overlook. In the second part of Matthew 28:20 Jesus promises: "I am with you always, even to the very end of the age" (NIV).

Before sending His disciples to carry out the mission, Jesus assures them of a supernatural manifestation: His constant presence with them.

Based on this premise, the activity of the literature evangelist (LE), before being a business governed by market trends, techniques, and successful sales methods, is a miracle.

Ellen White states: "Since canvassing for our literature is a missionary work, it should be conducted from a missionary standpoint" (*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 26). Mission is therefore a supernatural work that cannot be governed by purely human methods nor limited by challenges imposed by people and by the agents of evil.

The same power that made Jericho's walls fall can break the hearts of stone of those who listen to the words of a literature evangelist. The same power that brought light to the blind can, through a literature evangelist, give the light of Jesus to those who are in darkness.

Leading people immersed in despair and anguish to the knowledge of the Savior, Jesus, transcends all crises, wars, pandemics, and human limits. The denser the dark, the brighter the light that emanates from celestial agents' performance in the mission. It is the only line of thought capable of explaining the work of literature evangelists and church members who persist in distributing literature.

From a human point of view, the COVID-19 crisis would be the final blow to eliminate the distribution of literature from the door-to-door system. Indeed, the canvassing work is carried out through personal contact, wherein its greatest advantage lies.

As you can imagine, the first weeks of the pandemic brought great concern and anxiety. However, in many countries, digital platforms and social media were quickly incorporated into the arsenal of tools used in canvassing. Following health protocols and implementing new methods of approach, literature evangelists kept active during the long months of the pandemic.

It was undoubtedly a time of testing—of shaking, perhaps. However, we need to understand that while we were looking for new methods, God was looking for new men and women. Literature evangelism depends on miracles, and they happen only when we surrender ourselves to the Lord and rely on Him every day.

This special issue of *The Literature Evangelist* is a testimony of the modern-day miracles that dedicated regular LEs, student LEs, and church members are experiencing in the distribution of literature.

Have an inspired reading.



Almir Marroni is the General Conference Publishing Ministries director.



God's Leading During the Pandemic

by Happiness Kerubo

I started out in the publishing ministry as a student literature evangelist. After college I was employed for about two years before becoming a full-time, credentialed literature evangelist in 2015.

I prefer literature evangelism over being employed. Initially as a student, I canvassed to support myself and to pay school fees. But over time I developed a love for it because I realized the impact I had on people's health and spiritual lives.

When I got married and started a family, I realized at some point that my family needed my time and attention, but it was difficult because I was employed. However, literature evangelism allowed me to have the flexible schedule I needed to take care of my family. I could be there for them and use the knowledge I got from books, including *The Bible Story* series and parenting books, on my children.

The feedback I received from people about the impact the books had in their lives touched me so much that I decided to work for God full-time. Because I studied procurement, sales, and marketing, I realized that I could apply the knowledge I had gained from my studies in the service for God.

What really excites me about working as an evangelist is seeing God work and lead us. With this kind of job you may wake up not knowing where or whom you're going to take a book to, but somehow God will lead you to a person who really needs that book.

They'll have a testimony, and that really makes me want to go out and work, because I know that at the end of the day I am impacting someone's life

COVID Challenges

When the pandemic hit Kenya in March 2020, all schools from primary to university were closed.

At that time I lived in Kahawa West, within the city, and was expecting our third baby. My husband and I discussed our situation, and the only option to cut down expenses was for me to go live in the village with the children. My initial prayer at the beginning of the year had been to at least reach my goal, yet I had only done to a few displays. With no other option than to go to the village with the children, I gladly did.

Just Ask God

Before going, I prayed and told God: "I've come this far because of You; this is a responsibility that You've given me, and I am taking care of them. I'll go with them, but now work for me and help me work for You. I don't know how," I told God, "but I'm trusting You to lead the way."

I left for the village.

Before COVID-19 I had tried to build my contact list by doing displays. I sent emails to organizations requesting opportunities to set up displays and conduct presentations during staff meetings. Some of the

organizations through whom I built a contact list were Kenya Wildlife Services and Magereza (prisons) House headquarters. When I left the city, I took the contact list along. Any opportunity I got, I would send out emails, call customers, and inquire if they needed books, since most of them also worked from home. I was trusting God to lead and guide me.

When I started receiving calls for books, I didn't know how to deliver them. However, whenever I experienced a challenge, I would kneel and pray. Thank God for my mother, who is a great inspiration to me. Whenever I faced a challenge, she'd advise me, "Just ask God; He'll give you the answer."

Figuring It Out

God always gave me an answer. At the beginning I would make a call to the office, pay for the books, and have them packed as a parcel. My husband would drop them off at a designated point in town, and then the customer would pick them up. But this was also a challenge.

The second option was using Uber and Bolt (taxi). Whenever a customer placed an order, I would designate the book depositor as the pickup location and the customer's home or workplace as the destination. The books would then be delivered by a Bolt motorbike rider to the customer. This option became easier. The cost of using the riders varied depending on the distance. I minimized the distance as much as possible to minimize costs.

Two main institutions that frequently purchase books from me would get their orders from publishing ministries, send me a quotation, then call the headquarters and have it filled out in a letterhead, signed, stamped, scanned, and forwarded to me. Then I'd forward it to the organizations. They would then send a purchase order, and I'd send it back to the office, and the books would be delivered. I received about five similar orders through emails that really boosted and helped me reach my goal.

The Results

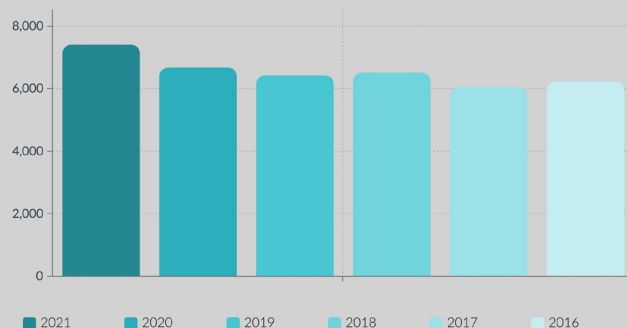
I thank God that I was able to work from the comfort of our home while taking care of my children under God's protection during the COVID period. I was also able to reach some people who were going through challenges using such books as *No Matter What Happens Life Is Still Beautiful* and *Healthy Juices* for customers who were struggling with health issues.

I thank God that I was able to assist others while still caring for my family.

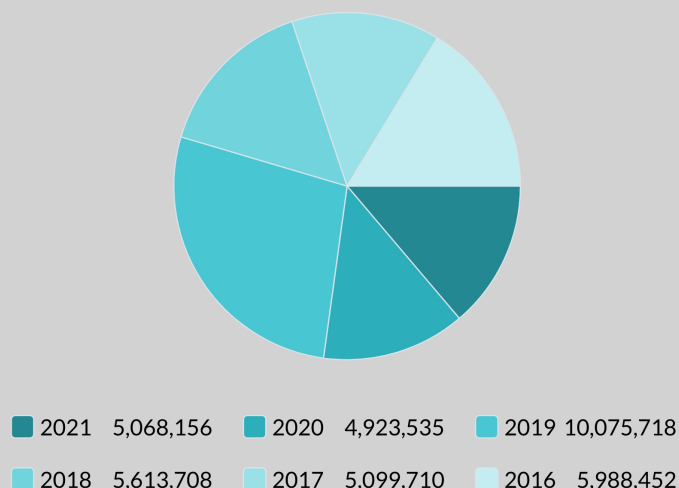
Happiness Kerubo is a full-time literature evangelist in Nairobi, Kenya.

East-Central Africa Division Statistics

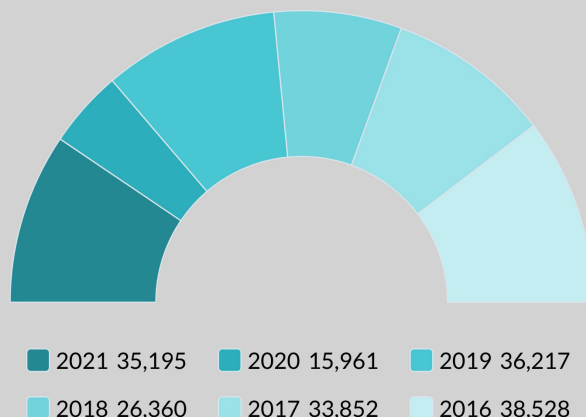
Number of Literature Evangelists



Total Sales in US\$



Contacts Baptized



The Power of Perseverance

by Vladimir Yurchishin

I stopped by an agro-industrial office in the village of Alexandrovka, in the Vinnytsia region of Ukraine. I normally don't visit these kinds of businesses, but I decided to go that day.

An assistant met me right away and refused to talk to me. But I wasn't going to give up so fast! I walked into the building, along the hallways, passing the offices of different levels of employees. I approached a door marked "chief engineer." Canvassing people in high positions is exciting, and I thought about what I would say. As I stood there, the door opened, and the assistant whom I had

met earlier walked out of the office.

"Oh, no, no, no," she said, upon seeing my intention to go into the chief engineer's office. "You have no chance; he doesn't read books!" Whenever someone speaks on behalf of other persons assuring their rejection of books, I regard it as a sign to be even more persistent.

I entered the office and saw a man about 40 years old. The smell of tobacco in the office gave me an angle. I thought, *This is my chance*. I pulled out some books about fighting addiction and suggested he take a look. They didn't interest him.

I presented the book *Prophets and Kings*,



Literature evangelist Vladimir Yurchishin.

but he expressed no interest. The book *Great Prophecies for Our Time*, by Arthur Maxwell, caught his eye. It portrays a journey through the halls of an ancient Babylonian palace, amazing prophecies that reveal the future, and the history of Europe from the beginning to the last days. He purchased it!

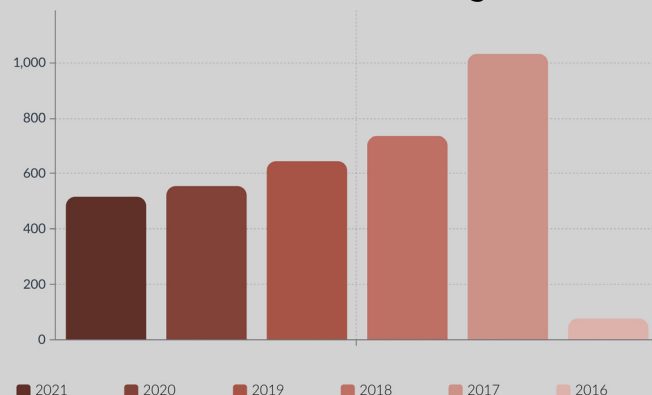
On my way out of the office I encountered the same assistant. She asked about my progress in the chief engineer's office. She was amazed when I told her that her boss had purchased a book. I told her I had an even better book and placed a copy of *Patriarchs and Prophets* on the table. She has relatives living in Israel, and quickly became interested when I told her the book would give her insight about the history of these amazing people.

Praise God for this experience. Whenever it seems that we have no chance of success, God opens doors and presents many options!

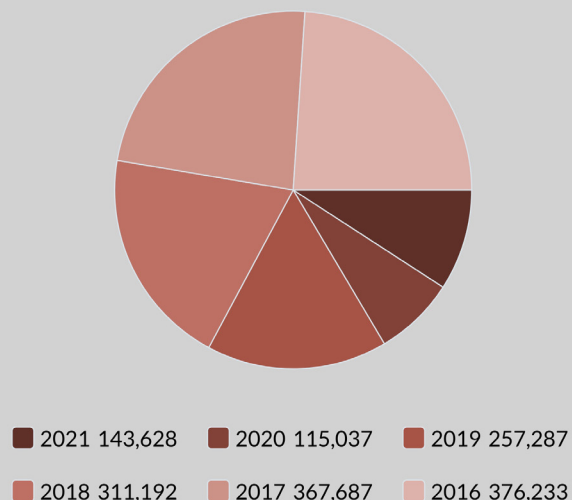
Vladimir Yurchishin is a full-time literature evangelist in Vinnytsia, Ukraine.

Euro-Asia Division Statistics

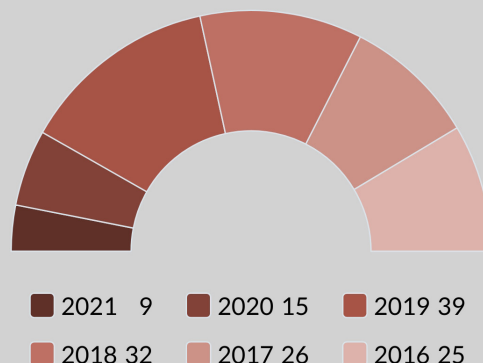
Number of Literature Evangelists



Total Sales in US\$



Contacts Baptized





Overcoming Obstacles

by Elizabeth Rosado Zapata

When I was 7 years old I discovered canvassing. Two student literature evangelists (LEs) were canvassing my mother when I asked, "What's canvassing?"

They replied: "Canvassing is working side by side with God." At that moment the desire to be part of this consecrated ministry was born in me.

When I was 19, I decided to make this dream come

true. I asked God to prepare me professionally, to allow me to serve Him better, and to do my job efficiently. Thanks to the canvassing work, I was able to further myself academically. I have a bachelor's degree in family science and a master's degree in family therapy.

I now work as a full-time LE in Villahermosa, in the state of Tabasco, Mexico. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all local businesses and shops closed. With no means of transportation in the city, Villahermosa became like a ghost town. It was and continues to be a critical situation.

I was ready to go to work, but suffered an accident that for two months disabled me and kept me from walking. I prayed that God would allow me to find a suitable means to continue working without putting my health at risk. That's how I came across the WhatsApp Business application, a tool that allows companies to communicate with their customers quickly. The app took me about a month and a half to learn its maximum benefit and potential. After setting up my business profile, I shared my direct link to the health and lifestyle catalog. My first client purchased books worth 3,800 Mexican pesos (approximately US\$180).

I have also been using Zoom to provide psychotherapy workshops to my patients. After sharing the workshop, I invite my patients to buy books. In September an electric company invited me to give workshops to its employees about values, living a healthy lifestyle, and techniques to handle crises. Personnel who want to buy books from me can deduct the cost directly from their payroll.

We have a wonderful, powerful God who is an expert in the impossible. We can trust Him. As we commit ourselves to this holy ministry we will see the wonders and blessings of God in our lives, even in times of crisis.

Elizabeth Rosado Zapata is a full-time literature evangelist in the Central Tabasco Conference in Mexico.

Finding Life's Purpose

by Roxanne Saunders-King

I have been a literature evangelist in the West Jamaica Conference since November of 2017.

I was employed by a prestigious company in St. James making more than 100,000 Jamaican dollars (about US\$650) per month, but after six years I became restless and felt my life had no purpose.

One day while at work, I broke down in tears. A friend asked me, "Have you ever asked God what your purpose in life is and why you are here?"

"No," I answered her.

That Sabbath morning I decided to ask God these two important questions. I could see myself being a

witness for God in prisons and other places through songs I had composed. But God wasn't done with me yet. He led me to read the second chapter of the powerful book *Colporteur Ministry*, titled "A Work Second to None."



As I read the book it became clear that God was calling me to this powerful ministry that I had seen my grandmother, Estella McIntyre, do her entire life. All the questions I had were answered within that chapter, and I immediately answered God's call.

Two weeks later I resigned and left the company.

With no savings or knowledge of how things would work out, I put my complete trust in the Lord. He never failed me. The very first day I went out alone to canvass in my community, the Lord blessed me with more than 12,000 Jamaican dollars in sales. He worked it out for me to sell books at my former workplace. I was able to positively impact lives and also reach gold credential status.

In my first year as a literature evangelist, the Lord also granted me the opportunity to visit the king's house, to meet and canvass the general governor of Jamaica and the honorable prime minister.

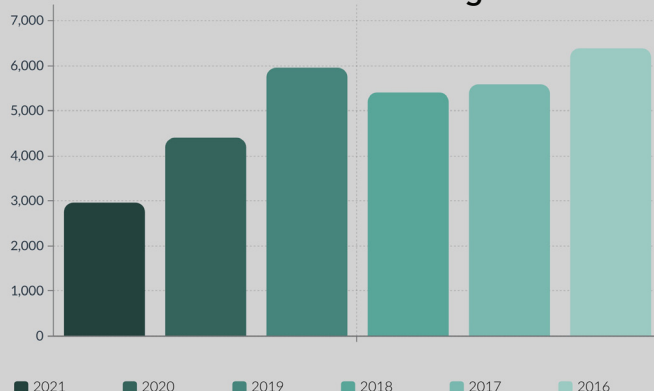
God has truly been awesome, as He has led me each step of the way and continues to lead me. So far, five precious souls have been brought to the Lord through my canvassing ministry, and many more have been blessed and drawn closer to Him.

God may be calling you to be a part of this great work in these last days. Answer the call, "Here I am, Lord, send me." I guarantee you won't regret it!

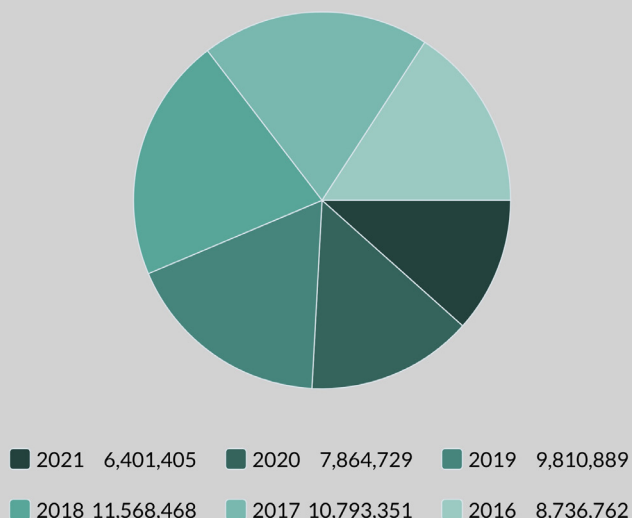
Roxanne Saunders-King is a full-time literature evangelist in the West Jamaica Conference in St. James, Jamaica.

Inter-American Division Statistics

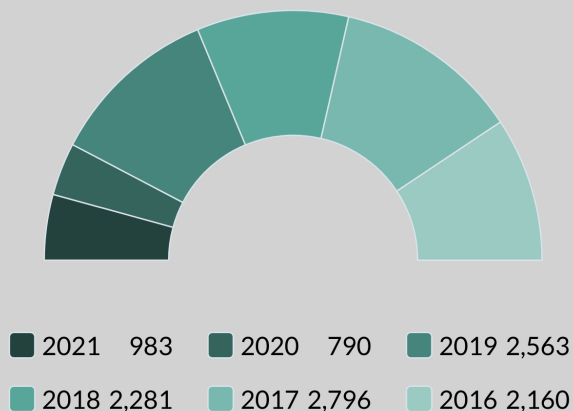
Number of Literature Evangelists



Total Sales in US\$



Contacts Baptized





Literature Evangelist Dedicates Life to Reach Isolated Communities

by Priscila Baracho Sigolin

Rodrigues Alves is a municipality in the Brazilian state of Acre. The town has about 16,000 residents, with an economy that revolves around timber, livestock, and flour production. This is where literature evangelist Juneisson Mota lives with his wife, Gleicine Dias, and the couple's three children.

Before joining the publishing ministries of the Adventist Church, the entire family worked in a small coal plant. This activity had been their exclusive source of income. After learning about literature evangelism, Mota decided to change course.

Mota began to sell books three years ago. By motorcycle, by boat, and also on foot, he goes around the entire region spreading hope through literature. Many places are isolated, but this doesn't stop him from going to visit people.

"When I arrive at a house in an isolated community, most of the time they don't have money. I sell books in exchange for products like fruits, chickens, and flour," Mota says. "Then I take the stuff to town and sell it, and get the money to cover the cost of the materials."

Rewritten History

When Mota worked in the coal mines, he earned the equivalent of approximately the minimum wage. After he started to work as a literature evangelist, the family income increased. But the material blessings are simply a complement of this work that has transformed lives. Through Juneisson Mota's ministry, 16 people have been baptized, and 14 more are getting ready to take this step.



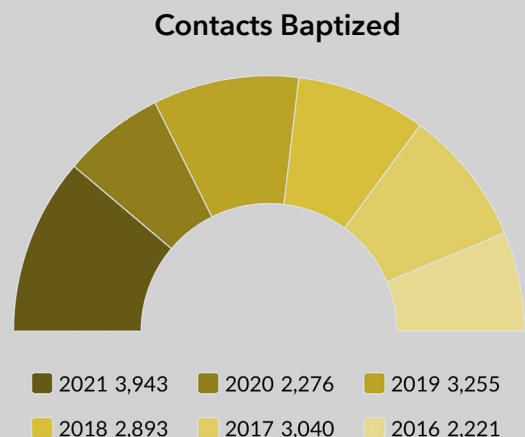
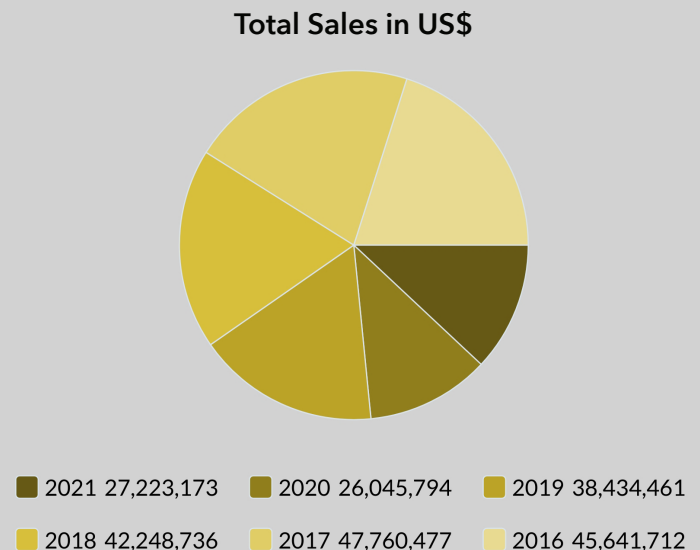
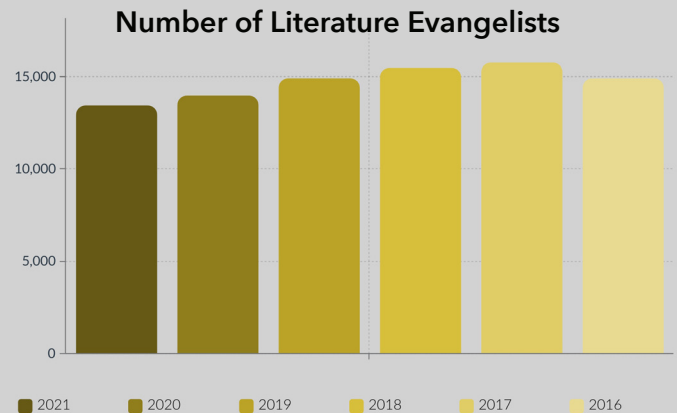
Literature evangelist Juneisson Mota goes canvassing by motorcycle, by boat, and on foot to reach isolated communities in the challenging region of Rodrigues Alves, Acre, Brazil. In the bottom photo, Mota (left) is pictured with José Ribamar, who became a literature evangelist through Mota's example.

"Through Juneisson's example and the importance of literature evangelism, I see that many people need to be reached, and that wherever the pastor cannot go, the literature evangelist can," said José Ribamar, a farmer and Mota's brother-in-law. "That's why today I decided to become a literature evangelist."

Priscila Baracho Sigolin is a journalist at the Northwest Brazil Union.

This story was first published in Portuguese on the news section of adventistas.org.

South American Division Statistics





Free From Addiction

by Conrad Jurello

One day I was out canvassing when I came across a woman in her late 50s with a European accent. I asked what her cultural background was. When I learned that she was Polish, I was able to converse with her.

The woman said her name was Yaja, and that several years earlier God had healed her from hepatitis B. She read the Bible and seemed to be a God-fearing woman.

However, I noticed that she had stubbed out a cigarette just before we began speaking, and this concerned me. God impressed me to ask outright, "Why do you smoke?"

"Nineteen years ago a friend tempted me to try smoking," Yaja admitted. "I finally gave in, had my first cigarette, and the rest is history. All these years I have been pleading with God to help me get rid of this terrible vice. But I can't give it up."

I shared with her the story of the paralytic who waited by the pool for 38 years until he encountered Jesus, who asked the man if he would like to be made well.

"The man could have let doubt fill his heart," I told Yaja. "But his faith helped him. He believed Jesus' words and put them to action."

Later that evening Yaja lit a cigarette and thought about what I had shared with her earlier. Suddenly the

penny dropped! For 19 years she had been trying on her own to give up her addiction to smoking. She hadn't truly believed that Jesus could help her break the habit.

"Jesus, take these filthy things out of my life and deal with them," she prayed. "Please give me the willpower I need."

From that moment on, she gained the victory she had so desperately been seeking and suffered no withdrawal symptoms. When her son offered her cigarettes, she was able to resist.



Literature evangelist Conrad Jurello.

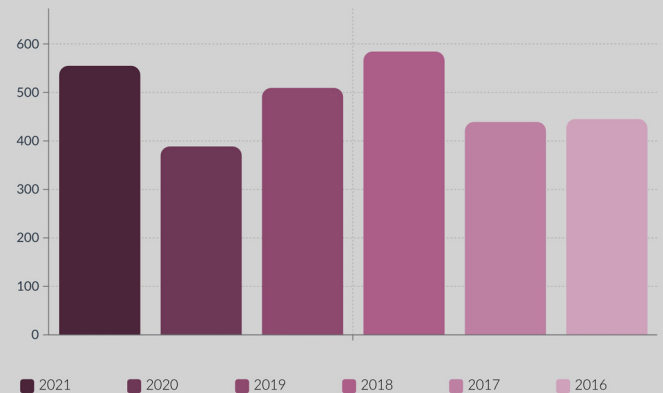
"God sent you to my house so I could have this victory," Yaja said.

Since then, Yaja has started taking Bible studies and has been introduced to several Polish Adventists..

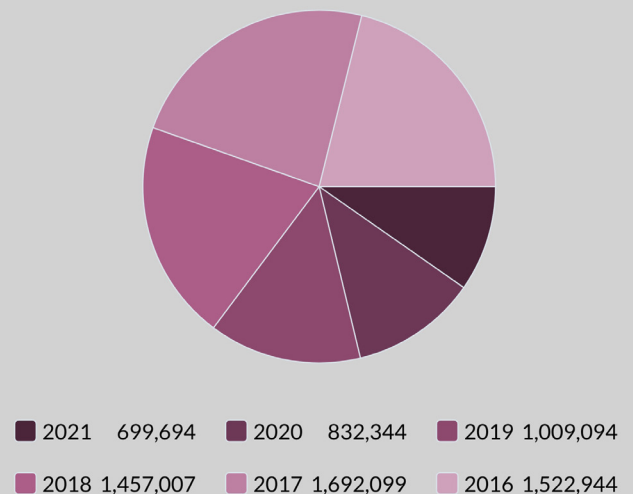
Conrad Jurello is a full-time literature evangelist in Sydney, Australia.

South Pacific Division Statistics

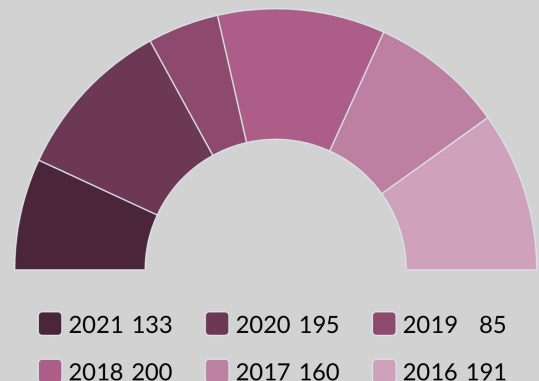
Number of Literature Evangelists



Total Sales in US\$



Contacts Baptized





God Answers the Prayers of Two Boys

by Rekha Vijaykumar

We lived in poverty. Our lives were very difficult since my husband, Mr. Vijaykumar, worked as an auto (rickshaw) driver. For some time our two sons, Jashwanth (10) and Abiathar (6), stayed home because we couldn't afford to pay for their school fees. While at home, they were earnestly praying to God:

"Why is our daddy working so hard? Please, give him a good job so that we can be happy in our home."

One fine day my husband met Mr. Manohar and Mr. Jayakumar as passengers in his rickshaw. As publishing ministries directors,

they were discussing literature evangelism ministry. My husband was curious and inquired about this ministry. After they explained it to him, he was invited to join as a literature evangelist.

When he got home, he told us about his experience. Excitedly, the children exclaimed: "God has answered our prayers, so don't say no! Please join the work!"

After my husband joined the ministry, our lives started to improve. We were able to overcome most of our challenges. Our sons started praying again to God:

"Please give mommy a good job as well."



After their two sons prayed to God to give their parents good jobs, both husband and wife were led to become literature evangelists.

God answered their prayers, and I also decided to become a literature evangelist and join my husband in the ministry.

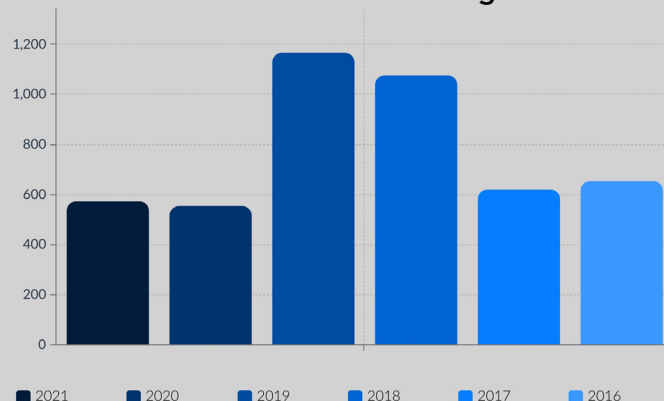
Jashwanth and Abiathar are overjoyed and love what we do. They love it so much that they go out canvassing with us during the weekends.

My family has decided to follow Joshua's example: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Every morning, before we leave the house, we pray for His grace. Recently we were blessed to sell more than 150 books in two months. To God we give all the glory!

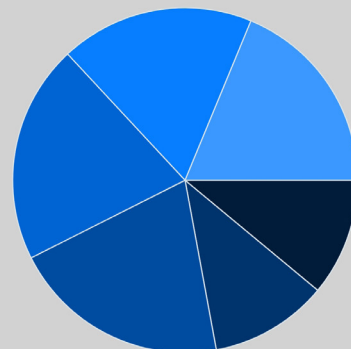
Rekha Vijaykumar is a full-time literature evangelist in Bangalore, India.

Southern Asia Division Statistics

Number of Literature Evangelists

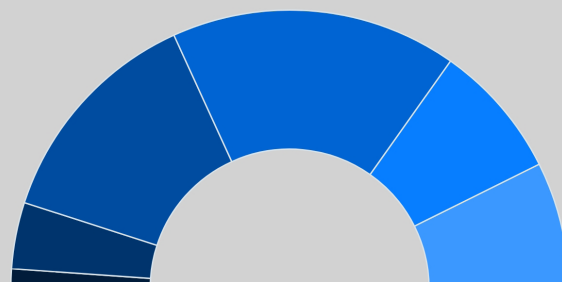


Total Sales in US\$



2021 251,220 2020 252,699 2019 467,206
2018 467,616 2017 414,604 2016 427,825

Contacts Baptized



2021 159 2020 549 2019 1,878
2018 2,361 2017 1,117 2016 1,045



Entire Family Joins the Publishing Ministry

by Jasnah Makirim

I was born in an Adventist family on the island of Borneo, Malaysia. I am the oldest of nine siblings. My mother and father were both faithful and dedicated. My father was the first Adventist in our village and also our church elder. He was baptized at the age of 19, and was 21 when he married my mother. Our parents raised us in a simple, humble home, but they laid a strong foundation of spiritual principles. Our parents were our teachers, trainers, and mentors both in church and school. When I was 18 years old, my mother became a literature evangelist. She encouraged me to join her, but I continued pursuing a degree in education since I wanted to be a teacher. But my mother prayed for me and asked the Lord to open my heart to work in the publishing ministry.

When I was 24 years old, I married Tonich-

ong, a non-Adventist who served in the military. Although I planned to get a job, my husband wanted me to stay home. After a year of not working, I started to feel lonely. My mother once again encouraged me to join the publishing work as a part-time literature evangelist (LE). She introduced me to the publishing ministries director, but I remained unconvinced. In December 2003 my mother invited me to attend an LE family program. I went just to make her happy. But now I thank God that I attended this program. By the end of the day, I fully understood what publishing ministries is about.

After the program I spent time fasting, praying, and asking the Lord if He was calling me to this ministry. I still wanted to be a teacher, but God gave me a clear answer when I read Isaiah 55:9:

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." With this answer I knew that God had a better plan for my life.

I told my mother that I wanted to become a full-time LE, and asked my husband to resign from the military to join me in the army of the Lord. Although neither my father nor my husband were happy with my decision, I began my career as a full-time literature evangelist in 2004, and faithfully went canvassing every day.

After I worked as an LE for three years, my husband joined me in the ministry. I encouraged my siblings to join me since I'm the eldest. My father was disappointed to see one of my brothers, an engineer for a gas and oil company, quit his job and become a full-time literature evangelist. I continued to encourage my other siblings to join me, and one by one they did. Seven of the nine of us now work in Publishing Ministries.



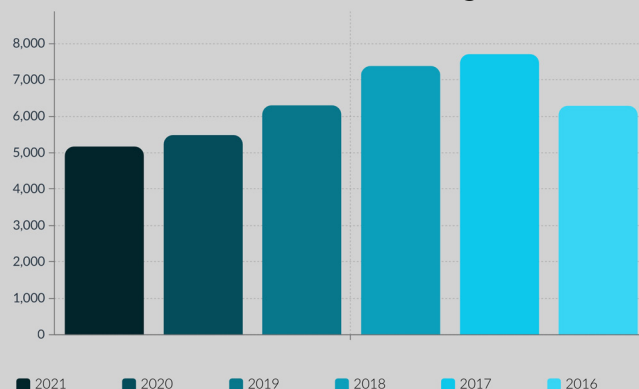
Jasnah Makirim with her husband, Toni, her son, Elijah, and her daughter, Khatty. On page 16, Jasnah is pictured with her parents (center), her husband and children, and some of her siblings, nieces, and nephews.

After praying and waiting a long time, my father also finally joined the ministry in 2018. I praise the Lord for His greatness, faithfulness, and guidance. I also thank all the publishing ministries leaders and literature evangelists who faithfully take hope into every home. I encourage all frontline soldiers to continue moving forward until the work is done, and we can soon meet our Savior, who will take us home.

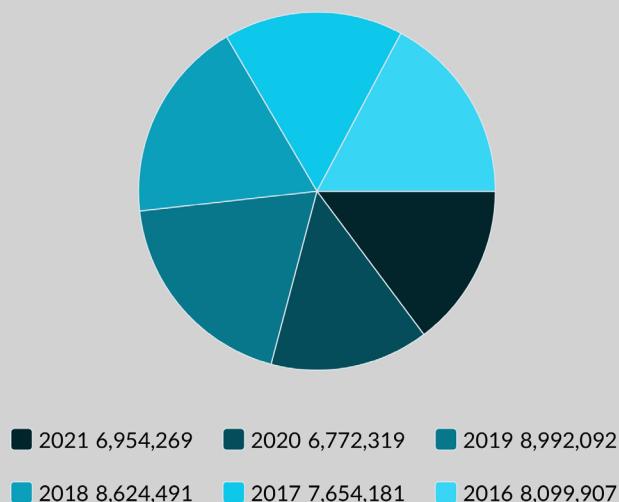
Jasnah Makirim has been Publishing Ministries director of the Peninsular Malaysia Mission since 2017.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division Statistics

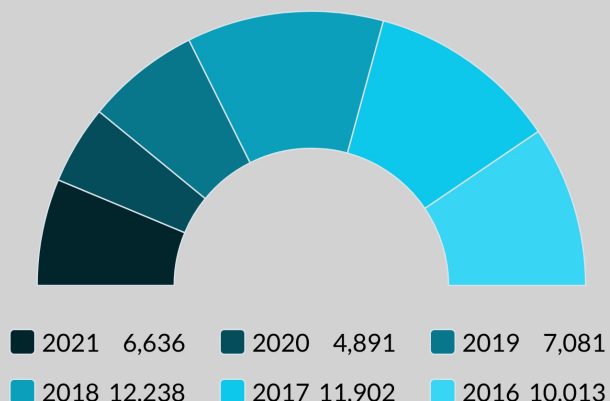
Number of Literature Evangelists



Total Sales in US\$



Contacts Baptized





Books on Beaches Lead to Baptisms

by Saša Todoran

What can be more relaxing than sitting on a beach in a beautiful location with a good book? This is the reality for the many thousands who visit the Adriatic Coast in Montenegro during the summer. Adventist literature evangelists (LEs) are providing that book.

Between the summer months LEs are selling thousands of books to people on holiday who come from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and other former Yugoslav republics to enjoy the 45 miles (73 kilometers) of beaches along with plenty of historic towns and stunning countryside.

The sales program is an initiative of the Seventh-day Adventist publishing house in Belgrade, Serbia, as part of its outreach program to people across the South-East European Union Conference (SEEUC). LEs have achieved considerable success, particularly since books in Serbian are read and understood all across this region.

This is a positive achievement, because the sale of religious books across Serbia and the SEEUC is generally in decline. However, drawing on 11 years of experience, LEs are finding that opportunities in summer holiday resorts are skyrocketing.

Between 2008 and 2019 LEs experienced a rise in sales on



Literature evangelists sell books on the beaches of Montenegro during the summer months.

the beaches of Montenegro. The relaxed holiday conditions appear to make people much more open to buy and read books. An average of 15 LEs per day supply that need.

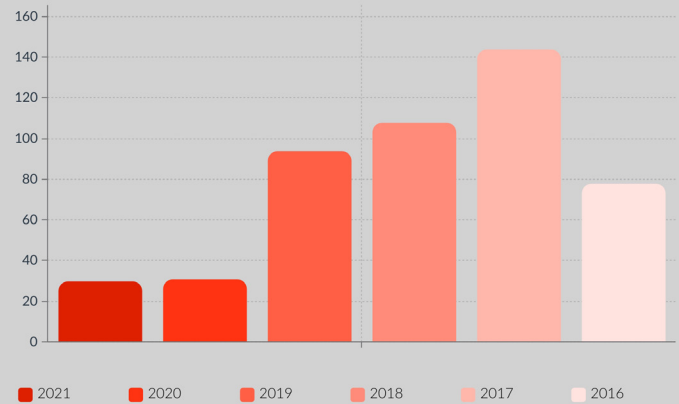
While some of the books deal with health and psychology, most of the sales are religious books and those of life stories related to religion. Once the holiday makers return home, we hear from some pastors and local churches that as the books travel home with them, so does the desire to find out more about God. Some have started attending church events, begun studying the Bible, or even been baptized. We are grateful to God for each colporteur, and for every book that came into the hands of tourists. A seed planted on holiday can bear fruit at home. Plans are already in place for future holiday seasons.

Saša Todoran is chief editor of Preporod Serbian Publishing House in Belgrade, Serbia.

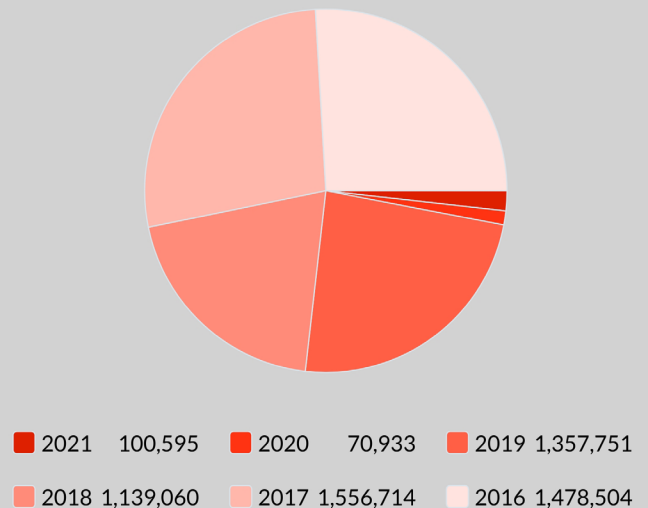
This story was first published on the Trans-European Division news website.

Trans-European Division Statistics

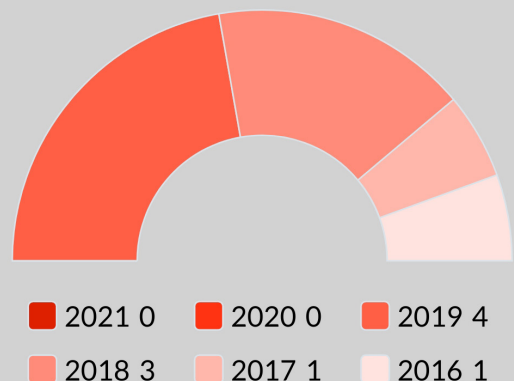
Number of Literature Evangelists



Total Sales in US\$



Contacts Baptized



Quinquennium Highlights



Literature evangelists (LEs) from Rwanda line up for a parade during the 2018 East-Central Africa Division convention in Baraton, Kenya.



LEs from Romania conduct biometric screenings on the streets.



2017 West Central Brazil Union Literature Evangelism Congress.



Bi-Union Literature Evangelism Congress in Mexico.

2017 West-Central Africa Division Literature Evangelism Congress in Babcock, Nigeria.





2019 Southern Asia Division Literature Evangelism Congress in Goa, India.



2019 Ukraine Union Literature Evangelism Congress in Bucha, Ukraine.



Literature Evangelism Congress in Switzerland in the Inter-European Division.



National Literature Evangelism Congress in the Philippines.



Quinquennium Highlights



Andrew receives a leadership performance award during the 2018 South Pacific Division Literature Evangelism Congress in Australia.



South American Division Literature Evangelism Congress.



In 2021 literature evangelists from the South Australian Conference display a booth with several books at the Body Mind Psychic Expo in Adelaide, Australia.



Literature evangelist choir from Nigeria presents a special song during the West-Central Africa Division LE Congress in 2017.

2018 East-Central Africa Division Literature Evangelism Congress in Baraton, Kenya.





Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division Literature Evangelism Congress.



Literature evangelist from Chile (left) who has led more than 350 individuals to baptism.



Literature evangelists from Southeast Brazil Union receive awards for their performance during an excellence and service recognition dinner in 2022.



Euro-Asia Division publishing leaders training in Minsk, Russia.



High School Students Sell Books to Monastery

by Sânziana Constantin

Every day from Monday to Thursday, students from Integritas International High School (Liceul Integritas Internațional) in Târgu Mureș, Romania, engage in academic courses such as science, foreign languages, social studies, music, and Bible. They are also involved in practical programs, in which they learn about different occupations and gain life skills in agriculture, beekeeping, healthful cooking, woodworking, tailoring, auto mechanics, and others.

During the daily practical work, groups of students are involved in missionary activities, such as canvassing, health caravan, literacy, visits to the hospital or homes of the elderly, and interact with children from local neighborhoods.

Canvassing was and continues to be one of the per-

manent, basic activities at Integritas. Students enjoy trying different methods: door-to-door visits in apartment blocks, house-to-house visits in the countryside, as well as in shops, offices, and other local businesses. They conduct health seminars for children in schools, health booths, and seminars in different institutions.

One day after prayer I accompanied students Emina Pohrib, Dora Ceatariș, and Sebastian Popescu to the outskirts of the city, stopping by different businesses without making any sales. We eventually decided to call on a motel, but came across a sign leading to a monastery on the way. We decided to go there. We were welcomed by a nun, who told us that the abbess (mother superior) was attending a sermon. She invited us inside to wait and talk with the abbess after the sermon. We settled quietly in the



The abbess of the monastery purchased a copy of several books, including *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*. On page 24, Sânziana Constantin (in red skirt) is pictured with students Emina, Dora, and Sebastian.

church and listened to music for more than 20 minutes. I prayed the entire time for our visit to be productive.

After the sermon we were presented to the 85-year-old abbess. We told her we were from a local high school, working on our practicums. We were offering to help the community by taking blood pressure, measuring body fat, and taking oxygen saturation readings. At first she thought we needed help. When she finally understood our intention, she was glad and surprised to know of a school in which students are taught to serve society. She asked a sister to prepare a room immediately so that we could attend to the other sisters.

When she found out what type of books we had, she sent the treasurer to take one copy of each to show her. She was so delighted with all the health books that she ordered two copies of most of them. Finally we presented to her *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*. She listened carefully when we told her about *The Great Controversy* and sounded especially interested. She received both of them happily and wished us good luck, stating that we attend a very special high school.

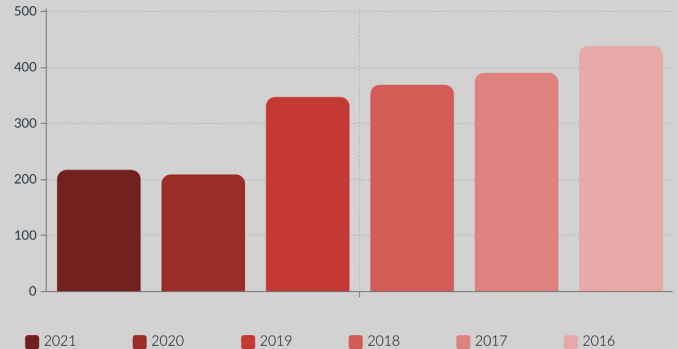
We realized that God has precious, honest souls in monasteries who search for Him and are preparing to meet Jesus. God took us to this place where His angels had done the work of preparing the hearts of the sisters before our arrival.

Please pray for the sisters, that God will call workers to take the gospel to them and others. Pray also for courageous young people to stand for the truth, even though the heavens are shaken!

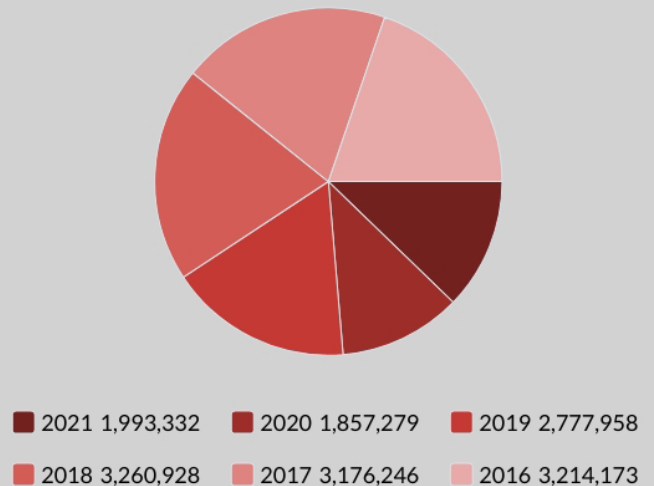
Sânziana Constantin is a teacher and literature evangelist leader at Integritas International High School.

Inter-European Division Statistics

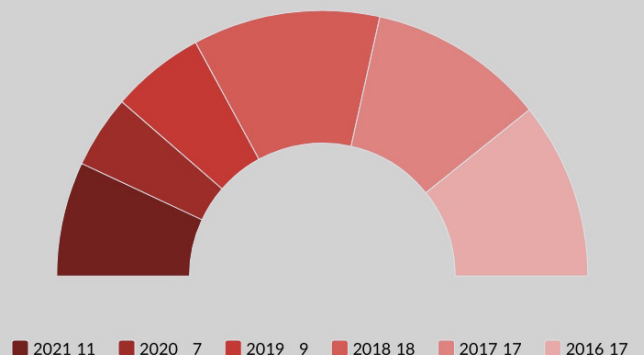
Number of Literature Evangelists



Total Sales in US\$



Contacts Baptized





From Gang Member to Evangelist

by Daniel Fagan

When I was 5 years old, I accepted the Lord. But I ended up growing up in bad neighborhoods and got involved with gangs and drugs. I had my first court case when I was just 8 years old, but through it all God never left my side. He was there every time I cried out to Him.

As I kept growing, the Lord kept doing things that made me believe in Him. When He finally got hold of

me and I submitted to Him, I started going to church and seeking His truth. I kept going from church to church, searching for His truth. I asked everyone I met for Bible studies, but no one could study the Bible with me. And it made me think, *Wow, I can't even get a Bible study. I'm gonna do it myself then. Just me and God.*

One day I was working on this construction area, and this guy walked up selling books. I walked over to him and noticed he had some Bible-based literature, so I asked: "Do you give Bible studies?"

"I don't, but I can send someone your way who does," replied Dino, a student literature evangelist with the Michigan Conference's Youth Rush.

Dino wrote down my information, and the next thing you know, I had a guy who came to my house. His name was Dennis. He gave me Bible studies, and he started proving to me that Saturday was the actual Sabbath day.

I had never known that. I had always thought it was Sunday. That spoke to my heart. From that moment on, I started to seek truth. Even though I didn't have much knowledge of the Bible, I started going door to door, passing out copies of *The Great Controversy*.



After his encounter with a student literature evangelist, Daniel was able to enroll in Bible studies.

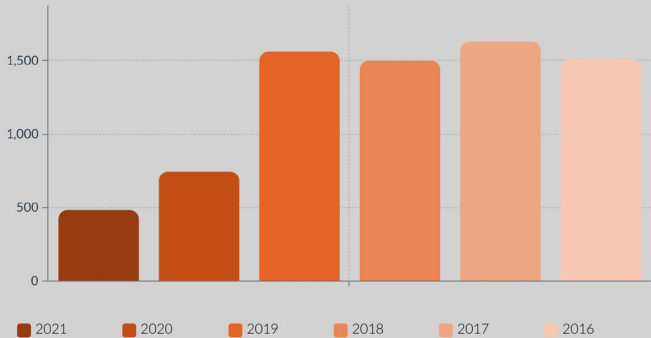
This Sabbath a man from an area where I evangelized came to church. He was going to commit suicide, but instead he actually came to church today. The Lord used me, and now I fully believe that going door to door does work. Giving away these books provides an excellent opportunity to speak with people.

The Lord has been doing such great things in my life. And now He's brought me to the point where I'm going to go to Bible school so that I can learn to be an evangelist. I want to serve Him for the rest of my life, because He is my life.

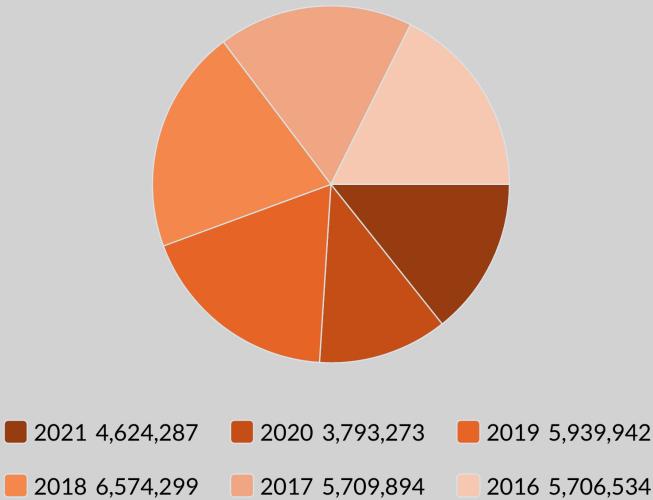
Daniel Fagan was baptized on August 10, 2019. The news of Daniel's baptism reached student literature evangelist Dino Tsatalbasidis when he was almost ready to give up on canvassing. Knowing that he had been instrumental in bringing someone to Jesus reenergized Dino and strengthened his commitment to doing the work God called him to do. Keep Daniel in your prayers as he seeks to share his newfound faith. Likewise, pray for Dino and hundreds of other student LEs across the North American Division as they reach out to more people like Daniel.

North American Division Statistics

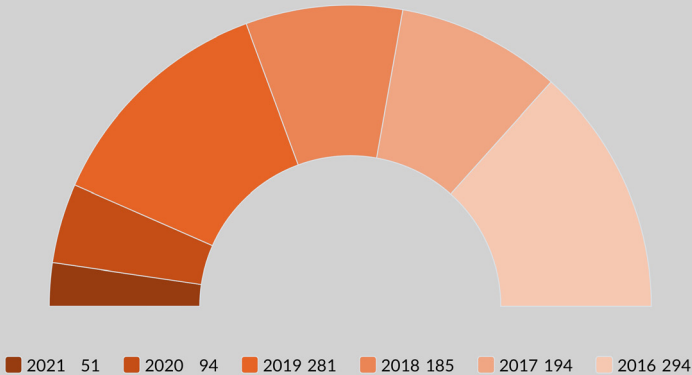
Number of Literature Evangelists



Total Sales in US\$



Contacts Baptized





Running to Sell Books

by Stanley Ng

In the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), one of the most successful literature ministry programs recently developed is the student literature evangelism program called Youth Rush, which started in Japan in 2016. At the beginning only seven students joined the program. It was then developed and well accepted by young people. In 2019 more than 40 students participated in four programs during summer and winter holidays. During the past four years a total of 111 young people have joined this wonderful program.

The following story was shared by Daniel Fukuda,

the Japan Youth Rush coordinator, about a 16-year-old young man's canvassing experience.

"The student started strong in the morning. Applying what he had learned in training, he was able to sell many books to many different people. With a big smile of victory and a cheerful spirit, he was running from door to door, visiting homes. But right before lunchtime the student met a very mean, angry person who left a very bitter taste in the student's mind. Even after lunchtime he was still thinking about the mean, angry person and was feeling discouraged. Slowly his smile turned into a discouraged, depressed-looking frown. He no longer ran between doors. He was walking slowly, discouraged, and unable to connect with people at doors. The student stopped and said, 'I feel like giving up! I cannot continue! I feel discouraged and want to quit! I feel like going door to door is meaningless at this point!'

"I simply encouraged him by saying, 'Don't give up. Don't go by your feelings. Go by faith. There is someone waiting for you!'

"We started running. About 10 minutes later we



A group of students from Youth Rush Japan.

met a woman in her 50s. To make a long story short, after a good conversation the woman purchased a vegetarian cookbook and the book *The Great Controversy* from the student. Furthermore the student was able to pray for the woman and also sing her a hymn. As soon as the student started singing the hymn 'What a Friend We have in Jesus' with a beautiful melodious voice, the woman started crying uncontrollably. She was deeply touched. With tears she kept repeating 'Thank you! Thank you! Don't stop what you are doing! What you are doing is amazing! Don't give up! Continue what you are doing!'

"After we parted ways, the student and I knelt by the side of the road and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. I asked the student to pray. The student prayed a short but beautiful prayer: 'God, please forgive me! I was unfaithful, but You are always faithful! Thank You very much! I understand. I will not give up. Now I will run! Amen.'

"After the prayer, for the rest of the day the student ran full speed from door to door with a joyful spirit. Praise the Lord! God is good. There is someone waiting! Let us be faithful until the end."

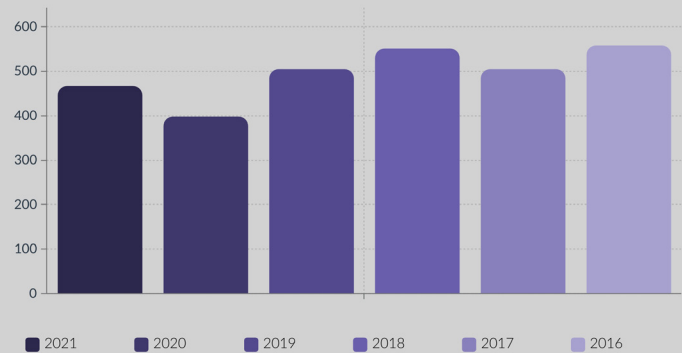
Many other positive stories have been taking place during the Youth Rush program. The same spirit of Youth Rush Japan is now spreading to other countries in the NSD territory, including Mongolia, Taiwan, and China.

Please continue to pray for the Youth Rush program in Japan as well as other countries in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

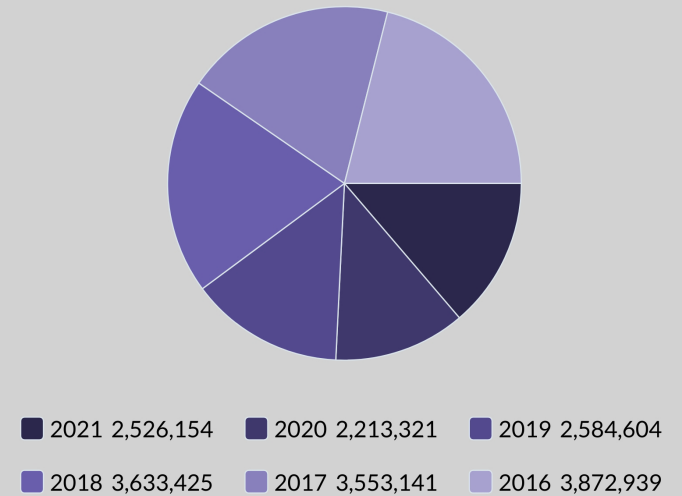
Stanley Ng was Publishing Ministries director for the Northern-Asia Pacific Division from 2015 to 2020.

Northern Asia-Pacific Division Statistics

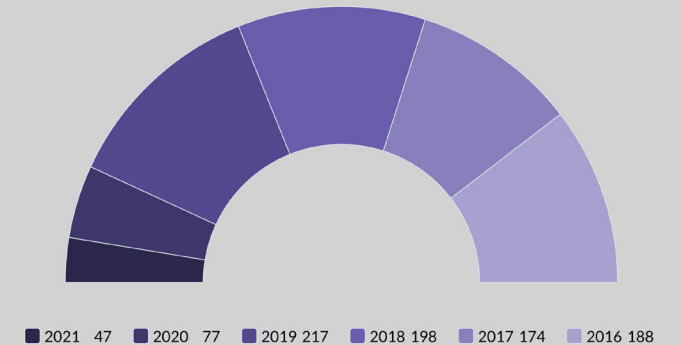
Number of Literature Evangelists



Total Sales in US\$



Contacts Baptized





Young Adult Purchases House With the Sale of Books

by Gerlanny Amorim Dias

In 2017, 18-year-old Erika Priscila Silva do Carmo was preparing for her college entrance exams. The study routine was common to those her age, but Erika had bigger dreams. A resident of Belém in the state of Pará (northern Brazil), she realized the neighborhood Terra Firme was very violent. It was sometimes scary; but that didn't stop Erika from pursuing her goals.

During a Sabbath service in the Adventist church where she worshipped, Erika was faced with the opportunity to achieve dreams that she never imagined were possible.

"Pastors Marcos Sousa and Daniel Jennings presented the project Think Big [Portuguese: Sonhando

Alto] to the youth. I decided I wanted to participate," Erika recalls.

The initiative is from publishing ministries of the Adventist Church, and is also known as literature evangelism or colporteurism. The activity provides opportunities for young people to obtain resources to attend university, while at the same time sharing messages from the Bible and on the topics of health, relationships, and child education, for example.

Erika faced many obstacles in the process of achieving her goals. The most painful, she says, was the fact that her mother, Antonia Rosinete Santos da Silva, did not understand the project.

"[She] thought that the concept of leaving the

house to sell books with several young people wasn't right. She threw me out of the house, and we spent three months without talking," Erika recalls. "My mother went as far as to say that if I went on with 'this,' I could forget that I had a mother and she would throw away my clothes."

Another difficulty Erika encountered was communication. "It was challenging because I was very shy and didn't know how to speak well. I spoke incorrectly and was unable to express myself properly. I wondered how I would get people to buy books from me with all my shyness. But I had help from many people," she says.

Achievements

In 2017 she embarked on her first experience, participating in two periods of work that lasted five months each. She lived with young people who received training for a week, then were assigned to different regions.

"The first time I left the house with only four reals [about US\$0.75] in my pocket, a toothbrush, soap, and a bit of shampoo. I was afraid, but I also felt that I could trust God and that He would help me," says Erika.

"I overcame my limitations and my fears and kept going, trusting that this was God's plan for me and that I would make it. The result was so good that I became a leader in sales and led new canvassing teams. With the money I earned, I started to help my mother with household and food expenses, and managed to regain her trust and forgiveness," she says. "My mother also asked for forgiveness for all the things she said to me. She had been afraid that I would make money and forget about studying."

After achieving good results in the project, Erika exceeded her mother's expectations by saving resources to realize another dream: studying outside her state. "I managed to save and have enough money to pay for college. I went to São Paulo in search of that dream. I went to college with enough money to pay tuition for an entire semester. I wanted to pay for the

whole year, so I decided to canvass in São Paulo to earn the rest," says Erika.

And she did. Not only did she pay for an entire year of college, she was also asked to lead a team in São Paulo. Today she is studying education at Brazil Adventist University, Hortolândia campus. She lives in one of the housing units at the institution.



One of Erika's greatest achievements because of canvassing: purchasing a house.

On page 30, Erika is pictured with her mother.

A Bigger Dream Possible

Erika made yet another promise to her mother, who could hardly believe her daughter was so close to achieving: to buy her a house with money earned from the sale of books. "At first my mother didn't believe I could do it. But I knew God would help me with this dream, so we went to look for a house," she says.

The dream became reality when Erika paid cash for the house. "We found a house with a large plot of land. Not only that, but the house had to be close to an Adventist church, so that I could achieve my next dream," Erika says.

Now she prays that her mother will give her heart to Jesus.

Gerlanny Amorim Dias is a journalist in Belém, Brazil.

This story was first published in Portuguese on the news section of adventistas.org.



Canvassing Helps Young Man Achieve Dreams

by Diamantino Sawambo

Paulo Domingos Kanganjo has been a literature evangelist (LE) since the end of 2016. During the past five years he realized that canvassing was not only a way to evangelize to others, but also a way to fulfill his dreams that had not been possible because of the death of his parents at a young age.

Paulo's first dream—to study—came to fruition shortly after he began canvassing. He is currently completing high school. He is a good reader, which earned him the title of student LE leader at the Central Association Mission in Huambo, regional headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the center of Angola.

His second dream—to get married—was not as simple. Several questions arose, including whom would he marry? How would he afford the wedding and sustain his family?

While canvassing, Paulo met Veronica, a fellow

canvasser who stole his heart. Together they developed a plan to canvass and save money to buy land and build a house. Their plans succeeded, as they purchased land and built a house in the neighborhood of Bom Pastor, Huambo.

Right away they came up with a strategy to raise money for their wedding through canvassing. By the grace of God, two months before the wedding they had saved the desired amount—more than 1 million Angolan kwanzas (about US\$1,675). However, two weeks after this feat, news emerged that again tried to shake Paulo's family.

As a child Paulo lived with his family in Namibia. When his mother, a native of that country, passed away, Paulo's father decided to move with the children to Angola. Unfortunately, death struck once again, robbing the children of their father. Paulo was then in custody of his 16-year-old sister, who took care of him and his brother. His sister did ev-

everything she could for her brothers.

Unfortunately, between 2020 and 2021, Paulo's sister and her husband lost their jobs. Then two months before the wedding, they were evicted from their house. The landlord wanted to sell the house, and informed them that it could be purchased for 700,000 kwanzas. This news left the family worried and without many solutions. After analyzing the situation, the couple's first priority was to comfort and pray for Paulo's sister and husband.

"Maybe this is the reason the Lord provided us with the money two months before the wedding," Veronica said to Paulo. "What's the point of having a dream wedding if the family is on the street?" she asked.



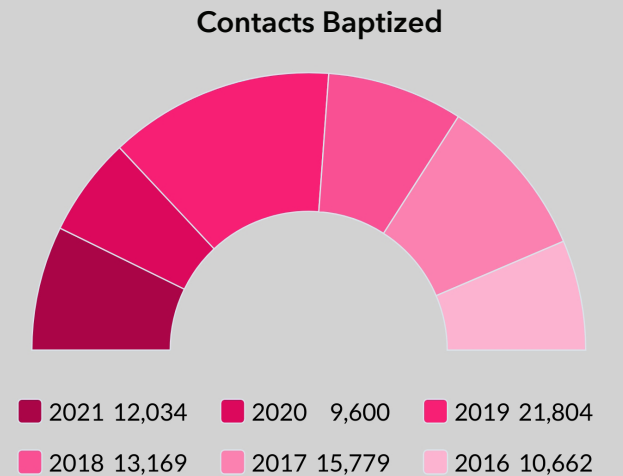
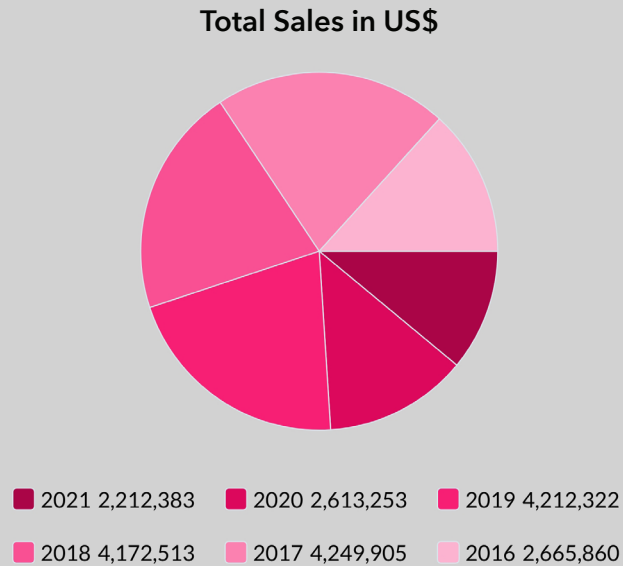
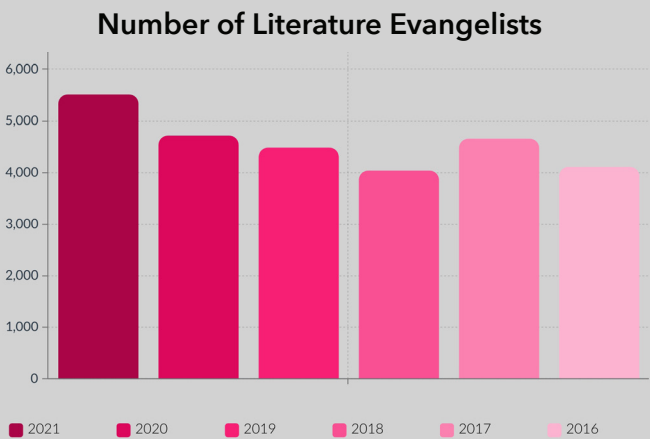
Literature evangelist Paulo Domingos Kanganjo purchased the house above for his family when they faced eviction.

Veronica encouraged her fiancé to buy the house. So Paulo purchased the house for 700,000 kwanzas and gave it to his family as a gift. The couple decided to trust that once again, the Lord would provide and help them achieve their dreams.

On September 12, 2021, Paulo and Veronica got married at the Adventist church in Ebenezer, Huambo, with the help of friends and fellow literature evangelists.

Diamantino Sawambo is Publishing Ministries director of the South-Western Angola Union.

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division Statistics





Hostage for Christ!

by MENA Publishing Ministries

Cristofer* shivered in the cold interrogation room. He faced a wall of one-way mirrors, where his faceless, nameless captors watched him from the other side. Cristofer didn't know where he was—he'd been forced at gunpoint into a van and held in a chokehold with a hood over his head during the ride. Since entering the building, he'd seen blood-splattered walls and too many guns to count.

"Why am I here?" Cristofer called out. "I'm not a bad person. I didn't do anything wrong. Who are you, anyway?" He glanced over at his canvassing bag on the floor. If only he could use his two-way radio to send a message to his team leader, surely help would come. But help hadn't come when he'd kicked and screamed on the busy sidewalk. When he asked a store owner to call the police, he'd responded with a quiet piece of advice: go with them, and don't resist. It will be better for you.

How many hours had he been here now? Five? Six? They had looked at Cristofer's ID and seen that he was a student enrolled at a university in their Middle Eastern country. They told him not to look at their faces. Walk here. Sit here. Don't move. With a gun in his back, Cristofer had

no choice but to obey.

The interrogator entered the room with a paper and pen and began asking questions. Who are you? What are you doing here?

"We are students doing a special project," Cristofer explained. "We offer books in the community, and people give us whatever donations they can, and this helps us to continue our education." As a foreign student, Cristofer had been making good sales in the Christian area of the city. He hadn't realized that he had crossed an invisible border into another part of town, where an armed national resistance group held more clout than both the police and the military—a group that is classified as a terrorist organization by much of the international community.

The interrogator leaned closer. "Are you Christian?"

Cristofer froze, unable to answer out of sheer terror.

"Are you Christian?" The interrogator asked again. Cristofer's tongue couldn't move. He felt himself to be on the brink of death.

"Are you Christian?" the man asked a third time.

"Yes, but I'm a very different kind of Christian than you're used to," Cristofer finally stammered.

"What do you mean?"

"We don't eat pork, we don't have sexual relations outside of marriage, we don't drink, we take care of our health," Cristofer started talking fast. "We do good things for other people, we read the Bible and try to be close to God . . ."

The interrogator unzipped his canvassing bag and pulled out the books. As he flipped through them, his deadly calm erupted into anger. "What are you doing here with Christian books?" he shouted.

Cristofer tried to explain that he sold health books to non-Christians and spiritual books to Christians, but the man had turned away in anger, slamming the door as he left. Cristofer knew now that he had played his last card. His heart sank as he realized that they were going to kill him. It was the lowest point he had ever been in his entire life.

God, forgive my sins, he prayed. Please, protect my family. I know I'm going to die now. I'm sorry, forgive me for all my sins . . .

The moments stretched out interminably, and Cristofer's desperate prayers became more fervent. Then he suddenly sensed Someone else in the room. A calm, soothing presence descended and wrapped around him, as though he could literally, physically feel someone hugging him. In a moment his fear evaporated. *OK, if I'm going to die today, that's fine. I'm ready now.*

Time passed agonizingly slow. Alone in the cold room, Cristofer started speaking with God out loud.

"God, I want to see my family again. What am I doing here? I want to see my mom. God, why did this happen to me?" His voice choked up as his emotions threatened to overwhelm him again. A voice on the other side of the mirror broke through on the intercom.

"Don't cry," the invisible speaker said. "Because men don't cry."

"I'm not crying for those things," Cristofer replied. "I'm crying because I don't know who you are and what I'm doing here."

"We're not bad people," the voice told him.

"Then why do you treat me like a criminal? Why does everybody have guns? Why do you wear masks when you talk to me?"

"Look, I'm going to come into the room, and you're going to see that we're not bad people."

A moment later the door opened, and a young man entered—perhaps only 17 or 18 years old.

"Nothing bad is going to happen to you," the young man told him. "You don't need to know who we are. The only thing you need to know is that nothing bad will happen. You're going to leave soon." He asked Cristofer if he wanted to eat or drink anything, but he refused. There was only one thing Cristofer wanted—to get out.

His time came after much more waiting. They put a hood over his head again and escorted him in the back of a van to the original place where he had been picked up. As they removed his hood and brought him out of the van, Cristofer saw his canvassing leader waiting for him on the other side of the street. A sense of relief rushed through him. He turned to the man who had been the first one to take him hostage.

"Hey, you took my time from all morning and all afternoon when I should have been out here selling. Buy one of my books."

The plainclothes captor was surprised, but he looked through Cristofer's titles and purchased one of his books. Then he disappeared into the crowds on the sidewalk, leaving Cristofer alone with his team leader—free to continue working for Christ.

Cristofer recalls that he had prayed that morning, "God, show me that You are present with me in this work." Never in a million years had he expected such an experience as a result.

"When we ask God to show us that He's with us, we expect a really nice response," Cristofer says. "We think we will have an angel experience or a divine appointment. But God showed me that He is with us not only in the best times but also in the worst times."

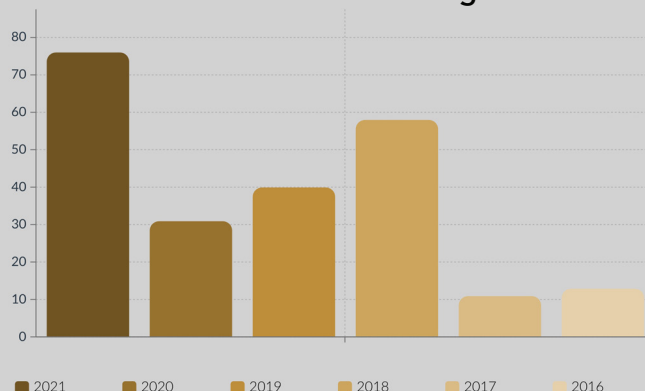
Literature evangelists around the world face incredible hardships as they take the gospel to highly resistant communities. Cristofer's experience reminds us that hardships do not indicate the absence of God, but His presence in a most intimate way. "The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them" (Psalm 34:7). That is, the angel of the Lord does his camping around those who need deliverance, not those who have an easy time. Like Cristofer, may colporteurs around the world feel the embrace of God as they faithfully carry on their work.

*Not his real name.

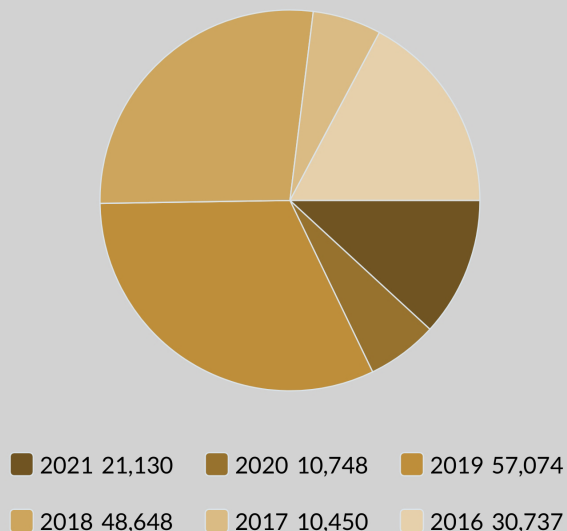
Written by **MENA Publishing Ministries.**

Middle East and North Africa Union Statistics

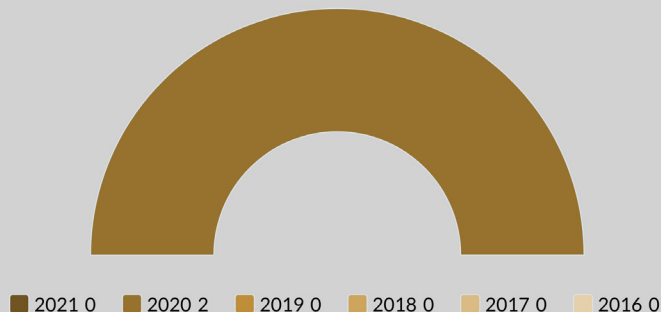
Number of Literature Evangelists



Total Sales in US\$



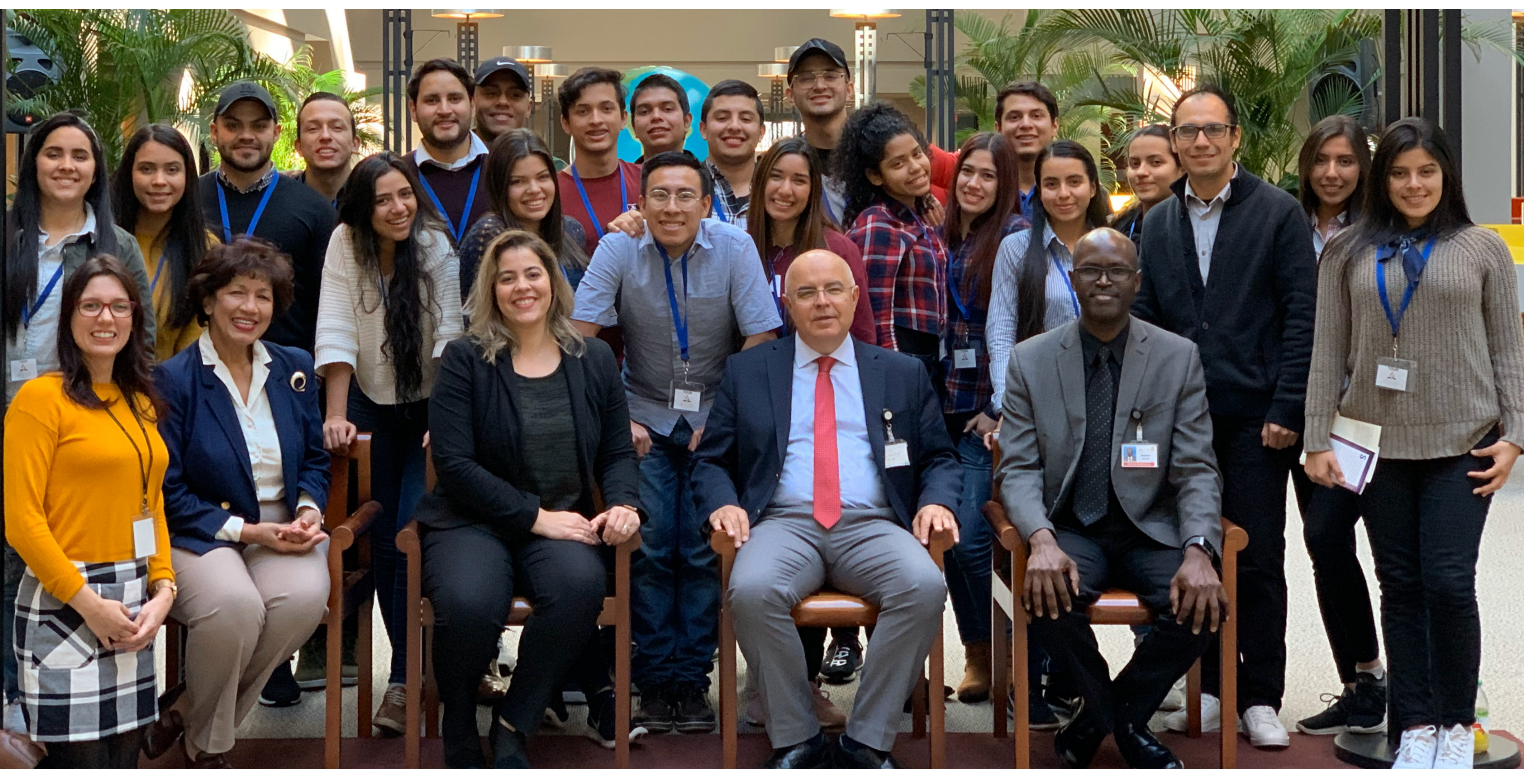
Contacts Baptized



Quinquennium Highlights



Student literature evangelists (LEs) from Youth Rush Japan.



In 2019 student literature evangelists from Colombia visit the General Conference (GC) after completing a winter canvassing program in New York City.

Brazil Adventist University student LE leaders during a training in São Paulo, Brazil.



Students from Lowry Adventist College in Bangalore, India, practice canvassing with each other during a training in 2018.





Middle East and North Africa Union student literature evangelists and leaders.



Youth Rush students from the Central California Conference in 2016.



Students from Ghana with Abraham Obaya, West-Central Africa Division Publishing Ministries director.



A group of Spicer Adventist University students with Stephen Apola, GC Publishing Ministries associate director.

Spicer Adventist University students in Pune, India, with union, division, and General Conference leaders during a training and recruitment session.



Quinquennium Highlights



Emprendum student literature evangelists (LEs) from Colombia.



Youth Rush student LE canvassing in Dearborn, Michigan.

Youth Rush student LEs from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division with Almir Marroni, General Conference Publishing Ministries director.



Mountain View College students in Valencia City, Philippines, during a recruitment and training in 2018.





Youth Rush student LEs pray together.



Emprendum student LEs canvass in Mexico, in the Inter-American Division.



Student program recruitment and training in Gaborone, Botswana, in 2018.



Middle East and North Africa Union student LEs receive certificates and scholarships to further their education.



The Power of Hope

by Deonesia

I lost my son in a car accident on New Year's Day, January 1, 2018. From that day on, my life deteriorated, and I was in a serious state of depression. As my condition got worse, I lost the ability to walk and to sleep normally. I was taken to a hospital for medical attention, where I was admitted.

Many people from different denominations, such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Manna, and even Seventh-day Adventists, visited and prayed with me. However, my condition continued to deteriorate under the care of the medical doctors and clergy visits.

Because I wasn't making any improvement, I had to be discharged from the hospital since it didn't make any sense for me to occupy space in the hospital and receive medication without any improvement. My daughters took me home, where they nursed me for 15 days. I couldn't walk, talk, or eat. I was completely withdrawn.

After the initial 15 days I began to feel better. What a blessing. At the end of eight days I went to a recording studio to record a message. Little did I know that this visit would mark a turning point in my life.

While at the studio I conversed with Jackson, the owner of the studio, who happened to be a Seventh-day Adventist. I related my entire ordeal to him,

and when I finished, he asked if I attended any church, to which I responded no. He went on to tell me about a book he had bought at church, of which he had read just a few chapters. He told me that the book addresses my situation and if I read it faithfully I could find some relief. The book was titled *The Power of Hope*.

The moment I got home, I was captivated by the book. The more I turned the pages, the better I became. I can testify that the book became my personal doctor and everything in my entire existence. In fact, from the time I fell sick, the longest I had slept was just a wink, about two minutes or so. The day I started reading the book and completed the first chapter, a miracle happened. The book fell on my chest, and for the first time I dozed off to sleep that evening until 5:00 the next morning. Since that morning I have not needed a sleeping or pain-numbing medication to manage my condition. Surprisingly, the more I read the book, the greater my recovery was. By the time I finished the book, I could walk, talk, and sleep with ease. I got stronger by the day.

I felt a strong urge to attend church in response to the question that had been asked by the man who had given me the book. One Saturday I embarked on a search for the church that the owner of the book attended. When I found it, the leadership reluctantly gave a stranger an opportunity to share her story. This was not at the church where the person who had shared the book with me attended.

My testimony had such an impact on the members. They realized that a book could be such an effective evangelistic tool, that it had brought a person to church. By the time I left home to look for the church, I had already made up my mind to join the church of the book that healed me and changed my life forever. In a nutshell, this book was sent to tell me that it is time to repent and follow Jesus all the way. I am prepared to do so. Reading this book was a one-stop solution



Deonesia is pictured with her three daughters and granddaughter.
Jackson, the owner of the studio who gifted *The Power of Hope* to Deonesia.

for my life.

My appeal to church members and every living person out there is this: Brothers and sisters, please read this book, because this book is what led me to God, and in Him I have found a life of happiness. I have started to attend Saturday services, and I feel like a new person. I never had a Bible in my life, but now I want the church to explain everything to me about the Bible.

Deonesia writes from the island of São Tomé, in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.



Ellen G. White Book Unscathed in Nigerian Fire

by Andrew McChesney

A Nigerian student lost his possessions in a red-hot blaze that melted even the iron pipes in his apartment, but he was shocked to find one item undamaged—a copy of Ellen White's book *The Great Hope*.

The student, Olajide Oluwatobi Igbinyemi, immediately read the book and rushed to the local Seventh-day Adventist church, whose members had given him the book on a literature evangelism Sabbath.

"This book is great, wonderful," Igbinyemi told astonished church members, holding up his intact copy of *The Great Hope*, an 11-chapter abridged version of *The Great Controversy*.

"I have not seen this type of book," he said. "The miracle made me finish reading the book."

A church member presented the book to Igbinyemi, 30, in Ede, a city located about 135 miles (217 kilometers) northeast of Nigeria's capital, Lagos. Church members—working in cooperation with a world church Mission to the Cities goal to distrib-

ute 1 billion pieces of literature in cities around the globe—hand out thousands of copies of *The Great Hope* across Nigeria's state of Osun every quarter on "Great Hope Day," a special Sabbath set aside for sharing the book, said Joseph Adebomi, president of the Adventist Church's Osun Conference.

"He collected the book and was reading it," said Adebomi, who has interviewed the student.

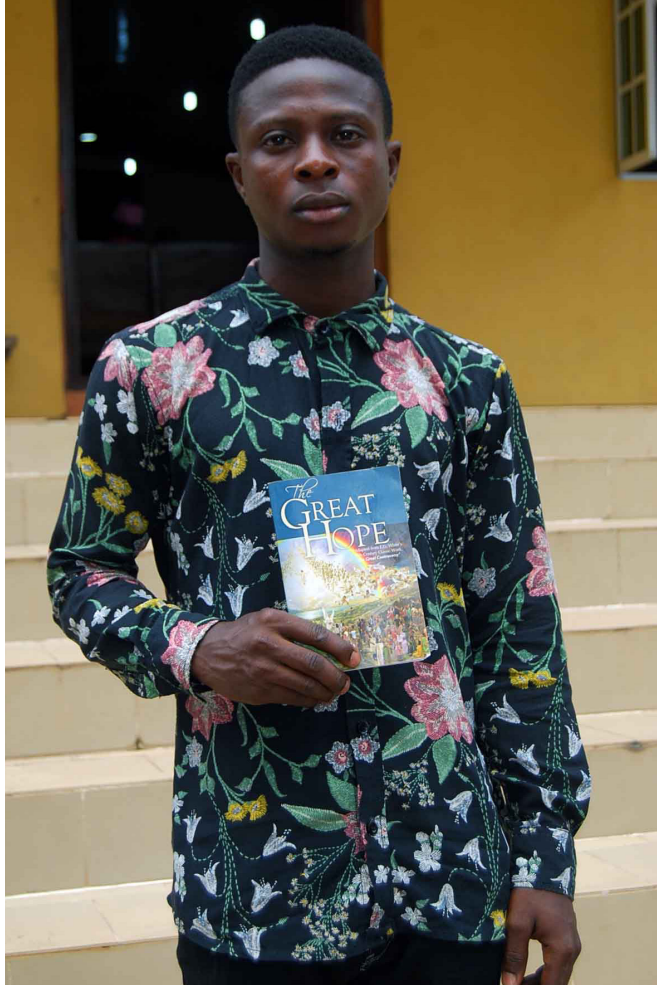
But then Igbinyemi, a student at a Nigerian institution of higher education called Federal Polytechnic Ede, went for a trip in September 2018, leaving the book in his rented one-room apartment. When he returned, he found that a fire had gutted the house. His schoolbooks, furniture, and mattress were destroyed.

"Even iron melted," Adebomi said.

The cause of the fire was not immediately clear.

But as Igbinyemi sifted through the ashes, he found *The Great Hope*.

That day he eagerly finished reading the book, which uses history and prophecy to make sense of



Nigerian student Olajide Oluwatobi Igbinymi holding his undamaged copy of *The Great Hope* in Ede, Nigeria. On page 42, Olajide Oluwatobi Igbinymi is pictured with a local Adventist pastor. [Photos: Osun Conference / Adventist Mission]

the chaos unfolding in today's world. Then he ran to the Adventist church to share his testimony.

"You do not know the book you are sharing," he told the church members, according to Adebomi. "The power of God is in it."

Igbinymi knelt before the congregation and praised God.

He is now taking Bible studies in preparation for baptism.

The story is touching hearts and increasing people's faith in Nigeria's state of Osun.

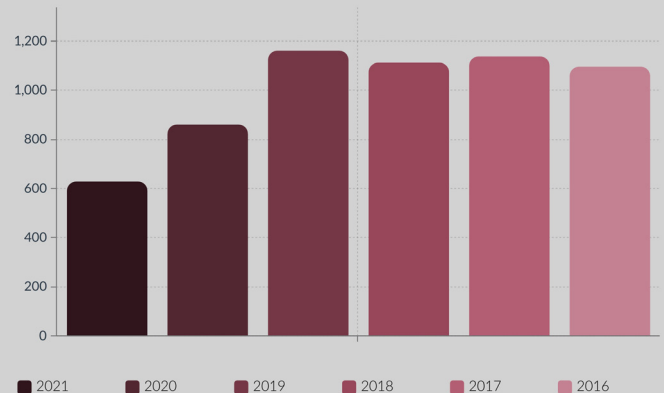
"I have heard about Bibles not burning in fires, but I have never heard about any other book not burning," said Onaolapo Ajibade, a retired pastor and former executive secretary of the West-Central Africa Division, whose territory includes Nigeria. He lives in Inisa in Osun state. "This miracle has increased my love for the Spirit of Prophecy books."

Andrew McChesney is editor of *Mission*.

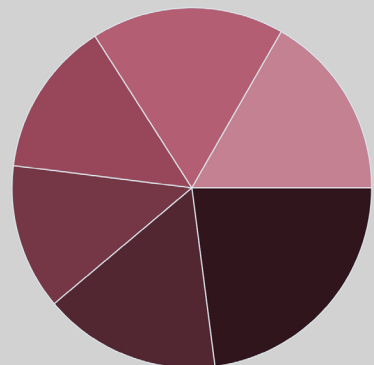
This story was first published on the Adventist Mission website.

West-Central Africa Division Statistics

Number of Literature Evangelists

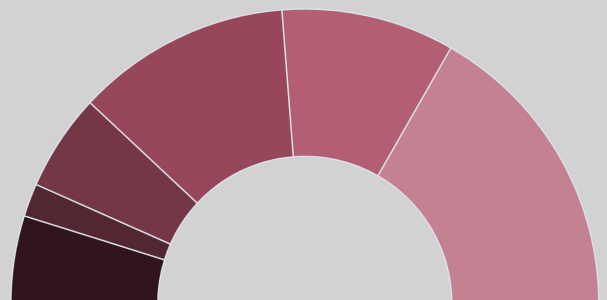


Total Sales in US\$



2021	1,201,884	2020	834,705	2019	686,075
2018	731,671	2017	908,556	2016	875,406

Contacts Baptized



2021	359	2020	135	2019	396
2018	879	2017	709	2016	1,245

The Literature Evangelist : **43**



missionary book of the year

Quinquennium Highlights



West-Central Africa Division president Elie Weick-Dido distributes the missionary book in the streets of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.



Brazil Publishing House employees celebrate 2021 Impact Day.

Church members in Curaçao prepare to go out to distribute the 2021 missionary book, *Hope For Troubled Times*.



44 • The Literature Evangelist

General Conference leaders dedicate *Hope For Today's Families*, the 2020 missionary book.

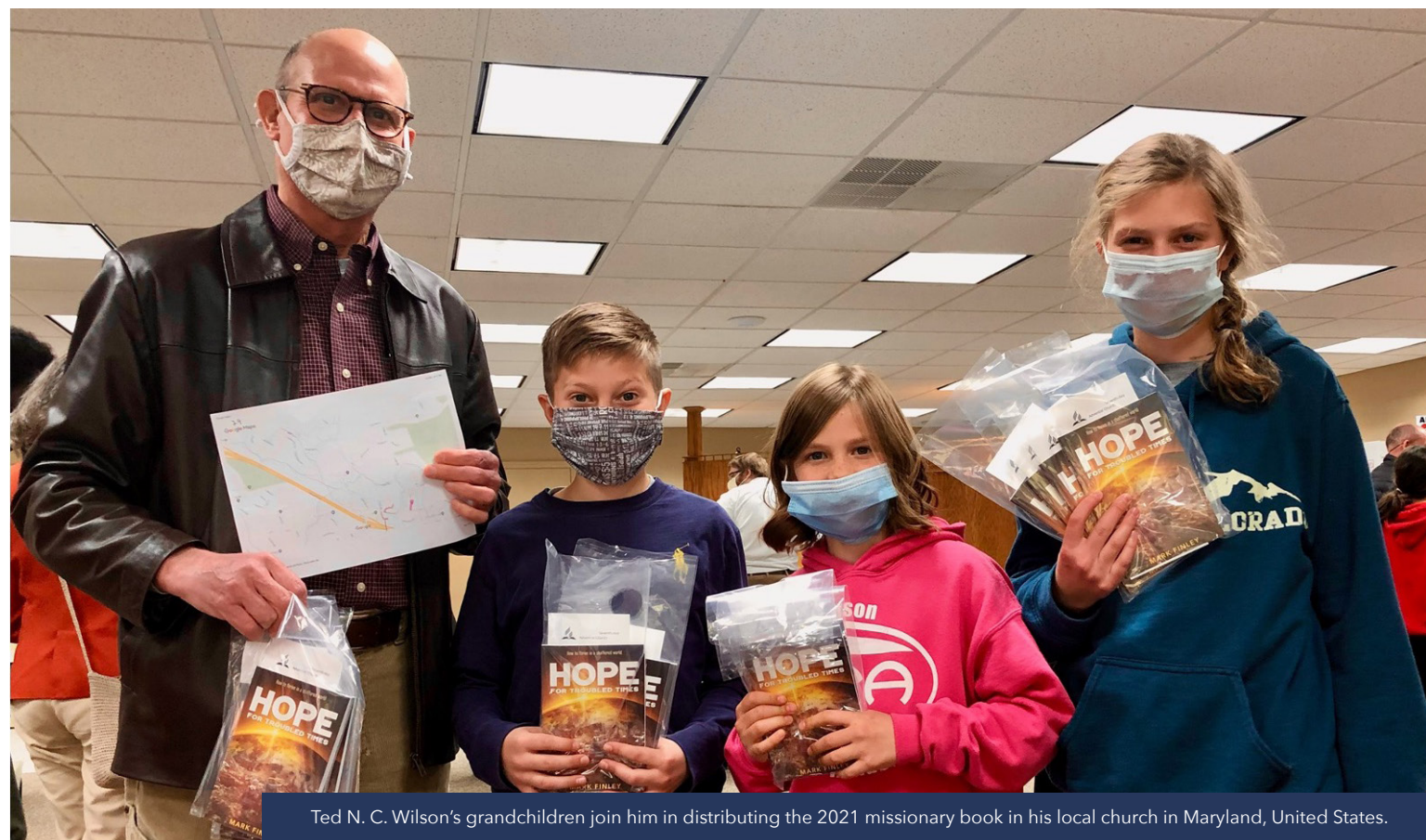




Policemen in Peru receive copies of *La Última Invitación*, the Spanish version of the 2022 missionary book, *The Final Hope*.



Children in the Inter-American Division distribute copies of *La Esperanza Definitiva* (*The Final Hope*).



Ted N. C. Wilson's grandchildren join him in distributing the 2021 missionary book in his local church in Maryland, United States.

Ghana Conference publishing directors lead out in the distribution of the 2021 missionary book, *Hope for Troubled Times*.



Members in New Zealand participate in the distribution of the 2021 missionary book.



missionary book of the year

Quinquennium Highlights



Church members in El Salvador, Inter-American Division, distribute the missionary book *Hope for Troubled Times* in 2021.



Church members in Mozambique, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, distribute copies of the missionary book to policemen in 2022.



Balloons highlight the distribution of *The Final Hope* in South America.



Students in Zimbabwe on fire to distribute *Hope for Troubled Times*.



In the Chile Union a church member delivers copies of Mark Finley's *Hope for Troubled Times* to cars at a stoplight.



Child hands a copy of *Hope for Troubled Times* in the Tema metropolitan districts of Ghana.



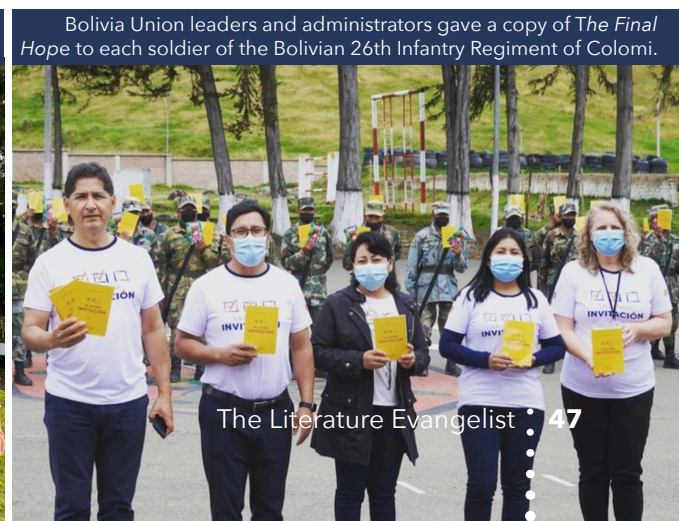
The Inter-American Division Publishing Association (IADPA) bookstore in El Salvador organized a book distribution to residents in San Salvador.



Church members in Brazil get creative to distribute copies of *The Final Hope*.



New Plymouth Adventist Church members in New Zealand ready to distribute *Hope for Troubled Times*.



Bolivia Union leaders and administrators gave a copy of *The Final Hope* to each soldier of the Bolivian 26th Infantry Regiment of Colomi.

The Great Controversy

Project 2.0



Join the distribution of
millions of copies
during 2023 and 2024

"The Lord impressed me to write this book in order that without delay it might be circulated in every part of the world, because the warnings it contains are necessary for preparing a people to stand in the day of the Lord."

Ellen G. White, Manuscript 24,1891



To download, purchase, and distribute, visit:
www.greatcontroversyproject.org

