

PUBLISHING AND SPIRIT OF PROPHECY REPORT



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1. Mission Statement

The mission of the Publishing Department is to fulfil the Biblical mandate of witnessing and proclaiming the gospel through the printed page.

2. Objectives

2.1 To coordinate and promote literature evangelism

2.2 To help other church departments in the promotion, sale and distribution of SDA literature.

2.3 To work with the pastor and the church in helping to involve members in publishing ministries.

3. Introduction:

“There are many places in which the voice of the minister cannot be heard, places which can only be reached only by our publication—the books, papers, and tracts filled with the Bible truths that the people need” (CM pg. 4).

At the beginning of the term I was asked to incorporate the Spirit of Prophecy into the Publishing Department, hence this report is a fusion of Publishing and the Spirit of Prophecy. We were asked by the Union to fuse the two as there was observation that the Spirit of Prophecy is losing grip in the churches. Therefore, the sole purpose of the fusion was to encourage members to return to a culture of reading the Spirit of Prophecy.

4. Strategic Pillars

This report covers the period spanning from October 2013 to June 2016. This report will pay attention to the TOC strategic document commonly known as *The Three Pillar Strategy* as set out by the Conference at the beginning of the term. These pillars are as follows:

4.1 Evangelism Explosion

4.2 Reconciliation, Healing and Reclaiming Project

4.3 Governance

5. Literature Evangelists

Number of Literature Evangelists in TOC (2013-2016)	
Conference Director (CPD)	1
Assistant Publishing Directors (APDs)	3
Assistant Publishing Leaders (APLs)	3
Number of LEs – full time & Part time	230
Number of LEs recruited (2013-2016)	72
Number of APDs who left the ministry	1
Number of APLs who left the ministry	0
Number of LEs who left the ministry	8

6. Evangelism – Book Distribution



6.1. Book Distribution 2013/2014

District	Books Distributed
Shalom	6459
Free State	7000
Mahikeng	3000

Shilo	4200
East Rand	1164
Highveld	1076
Total	<u>22, 899</u>

6.2. Book Distribution 2015

District	Books Distributed
East Rand	1800
Highveld	2770
West Rand	3150
Golden West	8000
TOC Depot	5000
Mahikeng	6000
Free State	5000
TOC_Chaplaincy	350
LEs	11976
Total	<u>44, 046</u>

6.3. Book Distribution 2016

2016 saw all the TOC departmental directors invade districts with crusades in what was termed the President's Special Project. Crusades were conducted in the following districts and books distributed as free literature are as follows:

District	Books Distributed
Mahikeng Crusades	3000
Golden West Crusades	3000
Diamond Heritage	1500
TOC Depot	17853
Total	<u>25353</u>

At the time of submitting this report more crusades were to follow, particularly in Shalom and Shiloh. This means that more books will be distributed. **Note:** a total of **92298** books and other free literature was distributed during this term.

6.4. Other Activities in the Department

- 6.4.1 Throughout the term literature evangelists were given a chance to promote our books in churches and promote a return to the culture of reading the Spirit of Prophecy.
- 6.4.2 The Publishing Department collaborated with the Personal ministries department in 2015 to make the missionary books of the year available in campaigns.
- 6.4.3 Literature evangelists further displayed our books (including the SOP books) at our camp meetings.
- 6.4.4 Literature evangelists continue to give Bible studies in Carolina Correctional Unit.
- 6.4.5 Prayers (Epaphrus Ministry) are offered on daily basis as LEs go out to sell our books and distribute free literature.
- 6.4.6 Members of the constituency were invited to a Spirit of Prophecy in February 21-23 February 2014 at the Union.
- 6.4.7 LEs attended a Division Publishing Institute in December 2014, a program that was aimed at celebrating the Literature Evangelism work.
- 6.4.8 A depot was opened in Emerlo in 2015 which is now established and fully functioning at no 43 Laffnie Street, Emerlo.
- 6.4.9 Publishing leaders and LEs attended the Literature Ministry Seminar in Bloemfontein from the 2nd to the 8th February 2015. This activity speaks to the church governance pillar.

7. Training and Development/Church Governance

- 7.1 We kick started every year during the term with Conference departmental trainings. This trainings were used to equip and train church Publishing

coordinators to run the department in their local churches efficiently and effectively. Publishing coordinators were instructed to also resuscitate the reading of the Spirit of Prophecy.

7.2 Through the work of LEs in Highveld a Sabbath School branch has been opened in Morgenzon 2015.

7.3 Through LEs we have had the privilege of opening a library in Carolina Correctional Unit in 2015.

7.4 LEs continue to meet monthly to discuss issues that affect their work. This platform has been used to further raise awareness among LEs on church governance.

7.5 Our LEs met with the SAU Pub Director on the 22 of June 2015 to be appraised further on Publishing Policy issues.

7.6 On the 14 November 2015 12 new Literature Evangelists received Literature Ministry Seminar and have since started working.

8. Adventist Book Center

8.2.1 The ABC is now open and running. The projected was completed in 2016.

9. Challenges

One of the positives the Publishing department has experienced is the growing in number of literature evangelists. The implication for this growth is that through these recruits more books will be distributed and evangelism will grow. In the years that I have served the department I however observed with sadness some negatives. One of those negatives is the loss of interest by church members in the distribution of free literature. I also have noticed over the years that some local churches do not even elect a publishing coordinator which contributes directly to the decline in book distribution. The culture of the Spirit of Prophecy is not yet satisfactory point.

10. Recommendations

For literature evangelism and the culture of reading the Spirit of Prophecy to grow even bigger, involvement by church members is highly recommended. Church pastors and

elders can also come on board particularly in helping by electing Publishing coordinators in their churches.