



GREAT CONTROVERSY PROJECT NEWS

HOPE INTO EVERY HOME

December 8, 2011

Interview with Michael Ryan



You have often said that we have to resurrect the Seventh-day Adventist mentality of distributing missionary literature. What do you mean by that?

In the early days of the church, publishing was an important component of missionary outreach. Our membership back then was passionate about distributing the truth through literature, and because of this the church saw exponential growth. Country by country, the earliest thing they did was often to start a printing press. I think we have something to relearn today. Then, practically everyone distributed literature, and it was incredibly successful. Today, in the average church you would be lucky to have five volunteers distributing literature in a church of several hundred.

The advantage to printed material is people can read the truth, go back and review it, and share it with someone else. Ellen White indicates that this type of outreach will be effective right until Jesus comes. We should all build a culture of literature distribution.

*What does the book *The Great Controversy* mean to you?*

The Great Controversy goes beyond the other books in the Conflict of the Ages series. The other books give the biblical record and lessons for living today. But *The Great Controversy* does those two things and also gives us a picture of God's people at the end of time. The general feeling today is that something big has to happen to fix the world's problems. This nearness to the end of time makes people want to know how they should be living. *The Great Controversy* gives the big picture of all the end-time issues, and how people can handle them.

Some people have reservations about *The Great Controversy*. They see it as a confrontational book, and in some ways it is. It talks plainly about politics and world religions, sometimes favorably, sometimes not. The potential for opposition is real (though it likely depends on how you hand it out), but it has a much greater potential for good.

What is your read on the enthusiasm for this project among Adventists?

Where there is a culture of literature distribution you will find great enthusiasm. In other places it's a concept that used to be there a hundred

years ago, but now they aren't sure it will be effective. But as we continue to put the vision before people, and a few begin to participate here and there, success stories will circulate, and enthusiasm will grow.

What is your dream for this project?

It's easy to set a goal in terms of the number of books distributed, but that really isn't my dream for this project. My dream is that every book handed out will be directed to a place where it will affect someone's heart and their eternal salvation.

Michael Ryan | Vice President, General Conference

West-Central Africa Dedicates the Great Controversy Project

The West-Central Africa Division (WAD) dedicated the Great Controversy Project (GCP) on November 8, 2011, during its year-end council. In an atmosphere of joy, hope, and divine expectations, the ceremony began with a ribbon cutting by division president, Gilbert Wari, who was supported by the division general secretary and the treasurer. Benjamin Schoun, a General Conference vice president, gave a brief history of the project and shared the story of his father-in-law's conversion through reading *The Great Controversy*. He also emphasized the urging of Ellen

G. White that *The Great Controversy* should be widely circulated because of its message of final warning for the world.

All six of the union presidents and four heads of institutions made presentations of the book to the division president. The unions and institutions have ordered almost 9 million copies of the adapted version of the book. The WAD administration decided to print the adapted version during the first phase of this project, using it as a missionary book to prepare the way for prospects to receive and read the full version of the book in the second phase.

News from Nigeria confirmed that some lay members are targeting 10 percent of the Nigerian population

with copies of the full version, which translates to about 16.7 million copies. The division pledged to print 12 million copies of *The Great Contro-*

ed version of the book to be ready for distribution by January 2012. The WAD will print in a minimum of 10 languages.



versy (*The Great Hope*). We believe that at the end of 2013, God will surprise us with a total far beyond the initial pledge. Four church publishing houses around the world are busy printing 6 million copies of the adapt-

The colorful ceremony concluded with dedicatory prayers for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit by Juan R. Prestol, Benjamin Schoun, and G. T. Ng, the executive secretary of the General Conference. GCP committee members are convinced that God is prepared to do great and overwhelming miracles through this project beyond our imaginations. Let's keep praying and believing.

Soon we shall meet our Redeemer. Even so, come, Lord Jesus and take your people home! WAD is ready to bring hope into every home as never before!

Publishing Ministries | West-Central Africa Division

In a Hurry for Baptism



During WAD's GCP dedication Emmanuel Dike, a lay delegate from the Eastern Nigeria Union, gave a thrilling testimony of the conversion of a young man who attended a public outreach campaign he conducted in Yaounde, Cameroon. According to Dike on the night he presented a message on the mark of the beast this young man responded to his appeal and insisted on being baptized that very night. When the preacher inquired about the reason for such urgency, the young man told his story:

"Twenty years ago I graduated from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria's

premier university. Someone presented *The Great Controversy* to me when I graduated. I read it and was convinced I had to keep the Sabbath. For the past 15 years that I have been in Cameroon, I have been looking for the church that produced this book. When I heard on the radio that you would be giving copies of *The Great Controversy* to those who attend your program, I knew that this must be the church that wrote the book. As I listened to your message tonight it confirmed what I read. I have no other desire but to be baptized." This young man was among the precious souls who were baptized at the end of the outreach.

Abraham D. Obaya | Director, Publishing Ministries, WAD

We are urgently seeking an audio file of *The Great Controversy* in French.

If you can help, please e-mail:

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