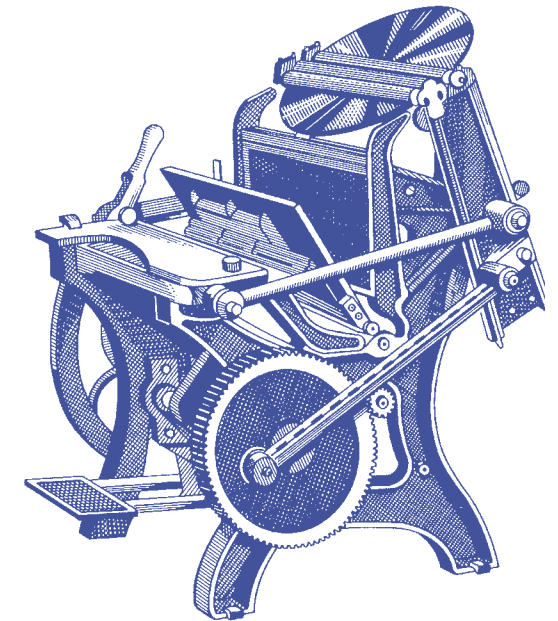


a rifle or ammunition, and then to question why the battle is not being won, and yet this is the mentality of churches when it comes to a printing ministry.

**I**N our independent, fundamental Baptist circles a dichotomy has been created in world missions, and the mindset of many pastors is that of supporting only “church planting missionaries.” They are woefully lacking in recognizing the validity of a missionary printing ministry. Some missionary printing ministries offer their literature “at cost” while others operate on the basis of “free as the Lord provides.” For some missionary printing ministries, the missionary printer receives no salary from the ministry, but raises his own support just like any other missionary. Therefore, when the printing ministry is presented in churches it has the two-fold purpose of raising support for the missionary printer as well as the print shop proper. The ministry operates by faith and all that is asked of the respective church is that prayerful consideration be given and asking the Lord what He would have to be done. Brother Missionary needs the literature for his evangelization/church planting ministry, and churches/individuals wherever they are need the literature also for their respective ministries, but where are they going to get it if no one wants to support a printing ministry? Is the “church planter” missionary able to pay for the literature from his personal funds? And what about the small, struggling church? An independent, fundamental Baptist national pastor in Honduras reports that 15,000 Spanish tracts would have cost \$25,000 there, and that just one Gospel tract would cost \$2.50. To buy this one tract, a person would have to work one week earning .50 a day in the sugar cane fields. (Report given by the national pastor at the Gospel Light Baptist Church, Pennsauken, NJ, Oct. 2000) There is no such thing as a free lunch – somebody somewhere must cover the cost and the only question to be answered is who it will be. In our independent, fundamental Baptist circles we can continue to set back and be comfortable with the dichotomy in world missions

and allow the Lord’s work to be hindered while the cults run circles around us, or we can get with God’s program while there is yet time to do so. Think on the above the next time you pick up a Gospel tract, a Scripture portion, or some other piece of Gospel literature. When it comes to missionary service may I ask you, Why should so few be expected to do so much when so many are willing to do so little?

*-Richard A. Ciarrocca © 2001*



# WHY A PRINTING MINISTRY?

Richard Ciarrocca is the founder and director of Pilgrim Fundamental Baptist Press, Inc., (PFBP) an independent, fundamental Baptist printing ministry dedicated to providing a facility for the publication of the Gospel message and related materials, and using only the King James Version Bible. He has also authored over thirty-five Gospel tracts in addition to other pieces of literature. PFBP prints in over a dozen languages, and all literature available from this ministry is available free as the Lord provides.

Pilgrim Fundamental Baptist Press, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1832, Elkton, Maryland 21922  
Tel./Fax: 410-620-2697  
E-mail: [pfbp@dol.net](mailto:pfbp@dol.net)  
Web site: [pfbaptistpress.org](http://pfbaptistpress.org)

BY RICHARD A. CIARROCCA

**S**INCE the invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in 1450, the printed page has become an extremely powerful instrument for communication. The printed message is read by an innumerable host of unseen readers as it goes to the reaches where no man can or will go. The business world employs this method for the promotion and subsequent sale of their wares. The communists extensively used the printed message for the furtherance of their propaganda, and their advancement stands as a grim testimony of their strategy.

**T**HE cults, of which the Jehovah (false) Witnesses are one among many, own and operate a large printing facility in Brooklyn, New York. From their official web site as of August 2000 we read:

The history of Jehovah's Witnesses in modern times has been filled with dramatic events. From the one small Bible study in Pennsylvania back in 1870, the Witnesses by the year 1989 have grown to more than 57,000 congregations worldwide. All literature was, at first, printed by commercial firms; then, in 1920, some literature by the Witnesses was produced in rented factory buildings.

But from 1927 on, much more literature began to be turned out in the eight-story factory building in Brooklyn, New York, owned by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc. This has now expanded into seven factory buildings and a large office complex. There are other buildings nearby in Brooklyn to house the some 3,000 workers needed to operate the publishing facilities. In addition to this, a combination farm and factory with some one thousand workers is operated near Wallkill in upstate New York. It handles printing of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines and produces food for all 4,000 voluntary workers. Each voluntary worker receives small monthly reimbursement to cover incidental expenses.

## Worldwide Publishing and Translating

Jehovah's Witnesses have developed an unparalleled worldwide organization capable of providing free Bible education to all who wish to understand the Bible better. Since the 1870's, the publishing agencies of Jehovah's Witnesses have produced a truly immense quantity of Bible literature, as can be seen from the details below.

### Languages

The Watch Tower Society publishes in 354 languages and calls on the volunteer services of more than 1,000 translators worldwide.

In the early 1980's, a team of volunteers developed the world's first multilanguage electronic phototypesetting system, which currently processes material in 227 languages, using 28 alphabets and character sets.

Braille literature has been produced since 1960. For the deaf, various publications have been translated into "video books" in American Sign Language and Japanese Sign Language.

### Bibles

Since 1926, the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania has published more than 100 million copies of the Bible in 34 languages.

### *Magazines, Books, and Research Aids*

*The Watchtower*, the primary Bible study aid for members of the faith, has an average printing of 22 million, giving it the largest circulation of any religious magazine in the world. It is published in 126 languages. Of these editions, 114 are translated and printed for simultaneous release.

*Awake!*, published in 81 languages, is a general-interest newsmagazine with a religious slant and has an average printing of 19 million.

*Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* is the introductory textbook used extensively in the home Bible study program of Jehovah's Witnesses. More than 62 million copies have been printed in 126 languages since the book was released in 1995.

**T**HE communists and cults have wisely used the printing press, but in mainstream Christianity, primarily independent, fundamental Baptists, we have done very little with the printed page as pertains to the propagation of the Gospel message. In our King James Bible (Authorized Version) we have the Word of God that is forever settled in Heaven, and it is here alone that the populace of the world will learn of God's plan of salvation. Sadly though, we have failed to take full advantage of this means. It is indeed a sad commentary on fundamentalism that we have allowed this to happen. Pastors, churches, and individuals are not taking full advantage of the Gospel in print. Missionaries go to that part of the vineyard as directed by the Holy Spirit, and in so going have as their goal the salvation of lost souls and the establishing of indigenous churches. Next to the Word of God itself, the Gospel in print is the chief weapon in the missionary's arsenal, and as such is an essential and proven tool for evangelizing the lost, the full impact of which will only be revealed in Heaven.

**A**RE you, the reader, aware that Brother Missionary must pay for his own prayer cards, stationery, envelopes, and field brochures? Most missionaries are already under supported and cannot afford to go to a commercial print shop for these services. Gospel literature is vital to his ministry in his part of the vineyard and must also be financed with his personal funds unless someone somewhere will underwrite this expense for him. For the evangelization of the lost and the establishment of a church, Gospel literature is absolutely essential, and without it the ministry of Brother Missionary would be extremely difficult if not impossible. It would be classified as unreasonable, perhaps even insanity, to send forth a soldier to combat without