

Grace and peace to you in the name of our precious Saviour Jesus Christ!

Already two months have passed, and 2009 is looking more promising than 2008! With a cancer-stricken wife, her eventual home-going and adjusting to life without a helpmeet, 2008 was a year where the *Southland Baptist Press* ministry was operating with a semi-absent leader much of the time. But praise God for a great volunteer team who capably carried on without me and kept close to the plan!

In this first *Printing Post* for 2009, we give our report on how we invested your prayer and financial support during 2008.

2008's production

2008 is the first year in our history where the Lord has not given an increase in annual production. No doubt my family situation impacted the ministry's momentum, but a number of weeks were spent packing and moving into our new building on the *Good Shepherd Baptist Church* property. That resulted in less available press time for the year.

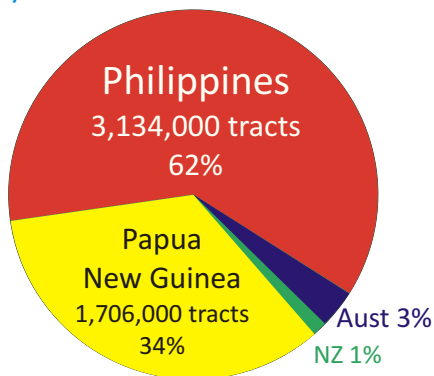
We printed over 4.6 million Gospel tracts, down 11% compared to 2007. Some 45 different designs of tracts, prayer cards, business cards, letterheads, envelopes, flyers and banners kept our two designers very busy!

2008's production brought the total number of tracts printed in *Southland Baptist Press'* history to just under 28 million tracts. Amen!

Who did we help?

Although we printed 4.6 million tracts, just over 5 million tracts were shipped out of our print shop last year.

3,134,000 tracts were sent to the Philippines, 1,706,000 to Papua New Guinea, 169,000 tracts around Australia, and 30,000 crossed the *Tasman Sea* to New Zealand. We, therefore, served only four countries last year - perhaps the Lord kept things to a minimum for such a challenging year.



We met the printing needs of some 20 churches and individuals.

Thank you for doing your part for the Lord's harvest in these countries! We are always grateful for your prayer and financial support - may the Lord bless you richly and openly!

2.34 million tracts

At the time of writing, 2,340,000 tracts - four Pidgin titles and four English titles - are on their way to *Port Moresby* in *Papua New Guinea*.

Pastor Paul Lahari of *Bible Baptist Church* will distribute the tracts to the many national pastors

and missionaries expected at a Pastors School in April.

Pastor Nathan Lloyd and Bro Jeremy Smith from our church will be preaching alongside Pastor Robert Bakss and his team from *Lighthouse Baptist*, Rockhampton.

Please pray with us, firstly, that the national preachers will receive great spiritual food and commit to applying what they learn, and secondly, that the tracts they receive will be used to plant the seed of God's Word in the hearts of the many unsaved there throughout *Papua New Guinea*.

New Zealand

Late January, the Lord allowed me to travel to *New Zealand* to showcase this ministry to several preachers at the *Stratford Bible Conference* on the North Island. The interest shown by the Kiwi brethren was very encouraging, to say the least.

New Zealand churches face very similar situations to Australian churches, and the need for sound Gospel tracts to support soul-winning outreaches is tremendous. Please pray for wisdom for me to determine how this ministry can best help the brethren in the land of the long white cloud. Thank you!

Till the next edition...

God's blessings on you!
Sylvester Chong

