

## 2014: What are we looking forward to?

### Publishing



As the book world becomes more digital, it is vital that CLC plays a greater role in publishing. A number of our countries are already making this a priority, most notably Korea, USA, Colombia, Philippines and India. Strategic agreements are being made with other publishers to enable us to increase our publishing output.

In 2014 we hope to publish the Randy Alcorn comic book '*Eternity*' in a number of languages, following a productive partnership between ELS India and Kingstone.

There are plans for at least two CLC publishing summits – in Asia and Europe – to see how we can best use our shared experience and expertise.

### eBooks

Our biggest challenge is, undoubtedly, how we can make a significant impact in the digital book era.



We have the opportunity to make a contribution to seeing '*the Gospel of the kingdom preached in the whole world*' (Mat. 24:14), and so we must concentrate our efforts to see this happen. We hope we will see the eReader app launched early in the New Year, together with websites offering Bibles and books in many languages.

### Websites

In 2014 we anticipate launching at least six new commercial websites in the first few months of the year, without counting any eBook sites. There are now at least 20 CLC countries selling books and Bibles on the web. It is always a slow growth path, but we are seeing a number of countries making significant sales on their websites, to the point of becoming a significant proportion of total sales.

### Sri Lanka and...



We are delighted that, following a period of training with ELS India in Chennai, Brian Stevenson has returned to his homeland in Sri Lanka to commence a new ministry in his country. Officially this is a re-launch since we had a work there some years ago, but this is a completely new operation. The legal papers are being worked on, and operations will start in the New Year. Please pray for Brian, his wife Sharmila, and his daughter, Shema.

We are also anticipating that in 2014 we will open a CLC work in Mexico. CLC Colombia are master-minding this new work and, at the same time, adding a retail unit to the warehouse they have in Miami.

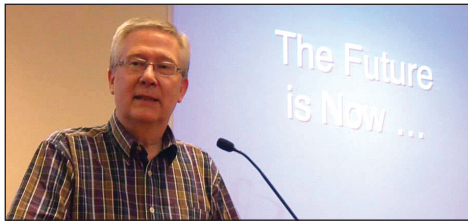
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Around the CLC World in 2013



I had the joy of visiting the Bangalore bookshop, which is our busiest in the world! We are still selling plenty of Bibles and books, indeed an increasing proportion of Bibles in many parts of the world. Let us rejoice!

Most of all, we want to see people encouraged in their spiritual journey. Here is a testimony from someone we blessed this year:

*“God bless you and God bless your Ministry. Thank you, thank you, thank you for sending me those three books... I like all good Christian books. I have learned so much thanks to you. I will keep on reading and applying to my life.”*

I trust that you, like me, enjoy being part of the world wide family that is CLC. To illustrate this, let me tell you about the joy it gave me to deliver a parcel this year. A few years ago the CLC team in Chile sent a financial gift to our team in the Ivory Coast during the difficult experience of the civil war. In appreciation, CLC Ivory Coast sent some African clothes to Chile. These were happily received and, indeed, the Chileans could not wait to put them on.



As you will discover in this newsletter, many things change, but simple friendship and fellowship remain the same. Let us encourage each other to serve the Lord with joy in our hearts. Happy Christmas!

Neil



## Dear CLC Family,

It is my joy to send Christmas greetings at this special time of year. Most of you will be exhausted when you get to December 25th after an extra busy month, and I want to thank each of you for your efforts. The Lord knows!

Once again, the book industry has been in the world news this year. The manner in which we communicate is changing and the ‘book’ is part of this process. We have seen major book chains close, and publishers combine as everyone tries to adjust to new realities.

It is vital that we, in CLC, understand this process. The written word is how we communicate the Gospel and we have to be relevant to the world we live in. Even as we are preparing to launch the CLC eReader app to take advantage of eBooks, we do not know what new technology will emerge.

I am encouraged to see the way in which we have embraced the need for a far more professional presence online – commercial websites, Facebook, Twitter. We understand that this is increasingly moving to smart phones. And this is not just in the western world. On a recent trip to Nairobi the pastor asked us to hold our Bibles in the air. A good proportion were smart phones and tablets! Get ready! Take a look at the back page of this newsletter to see the areas that we are focusing on for the future.

At the same time I am delighted to report that I have just returned from India where

## A time to linger, a time to move on

Every year it is inevitable that people will join CLC while others will step down. We want to acknowledge a number who have served as National Directors and, in each case, have given themselves to the work in a sacrificial way:

**Nacho Sanchez** (Spain): Nacho has worked in the incredibly tough economic environment of Spain. He has overseen shop closures and team reduction. This is hard work! He and his wife Laura are currently considering their future, and we hope to have news soon!



**Grigorij Torchilo** (Belarus): Gregory has been with us from the very beginning of the work in Belarus, overseeing the extension of the ministry through a network of book deposits across the country. The growth in publishing reached a new high this year with their first publication of the Bible in Russian

**Rod Fowler** (Canada): Rod does not see himself as a ‘leader’ and yet he has led the team through a series of dramatic changes. At the recent 60th anniversary celebrations it was obvious to see the affection in which he is still held by the team.

**New leaders:** As these men step down, please pray for their replacements: Darwin Vergel (Spain); Lina Pinkevich – temporarily (Belarus); and Oscar Cardozo (Canada)

## A time to open, a time to close

**CLC Canada** closed one shop and opened three. As part of a strategic reallocation of resources, they sold a down town property and opened in three new locations – Verdun, Est and Brossard – which, together with the existing Ahuntsic shop, means we now have a presence in all four quarters of Montreal.

After much deliberation, the CLC Northfield shop was closed, but was partially replaced by a ‘pop-up’ store in December. It has become popular in the **US** to open retail locations for certain seasons. This is a trial run.

Our work in **Hong Kong** was finally closed in January, and we have had to admit temporary defeat in **Tanzania**, although we retain hopes to return.

The closure of shops in Arnhem in the **Netherlands**, Medan in **Indonesia** and Saint Etienne in **France** are a reminder of the difficulties faced by booksellers in many countries. We are not immune to those pressures and a number of our shops continue to struggle. Please continue to pray for creative and positive solutions.



It was wonderful to see a new work open in Santa Cruz, **Bolivia**, not least because CLC Venezuela sent their director and his wife. This is a significant personal sacrifice, but so many spiritual advances are based on that quality, and for that reason it remains one of CLC’s values.

## October

- » **CLC Colombia** makes progress towards opening a bookshop in Miami, adjacent to their warehouse, and a new work in Mexico City.
- » **CLC Romania** places an order for the second print run of a successful bilingual children's Bible, and prepares to publish a number of other titles.
- » **CLC Canada** has celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the work in Quebec.



## November



- » Huge disruption is caused outside our bookshop in Dhaka, **Bangladesh**. The situation is made perilous when a crane falls into a collapsed section of road, threatening to fall on our shop.
- » Two containers are sent from CLC USA – one for **Sierra Leone** and the other for **Liberia**, with much needed supplies of Bibles together with new and second hand books.
- » Parts of the **Philippines** are devastated by Typhoon Haiyan. CLC workers look for ways to send practical support to the victims.

## December

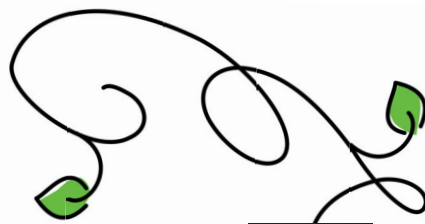
- » **CLC New Zealand** closed its bookshops last year, but they are still active! They send thousands of Christian calendars to prisoners.



- » **ELS/CLC India** is preparing to open a new work in Sri Lanka, some years after we were forced to close our operations there.
- » eBooks continue to grow! After selling 1.000 eBooks for the first time in December 2012, CLC USA sales have been significantly over that mark every month in 2013. Technology is here to stay!



- » The CLC eReader app is making progress. Neil Wardrope signs a contract with Renato Fleischner of Mundo Cristao, Brazil to enable us to sell their eBooks.



## January

- » **CLC USA** – eBooks on the rise. In December 2012 they sell 1.000 eBooks for the first time in a single month. See the end of this year for the progress achieved!!
- » **CLC Hong Kong** closes its doors for the final time after 37 years service. The demand for English books has gradually reduced in recent years. Praise God for all the Chinese books that have gone into mainland China over the years.
- » **CLC Chile** moves to a new warehouse. It is a property owned by the Bible Society, and we now share the building. It is great to work alongside the Bible Society and the facilities are a significant improvement on our former warehouse.



## February

- » **Central Asia 2** – two people came to know the Lord through the ministry of one of our bookshops. Praise the Lord that despite spiritual opposition, there is openness to the Gospel.
- » **CLC Canada** moves from its former HQ in Westmount, Montreal and opens a new shop in Verdun as the first step in a restructuring process.



- » Grigorij Torchilo steps down as leader of **CLC Belarus** after twenty years, having founded the work, developing it across the country and initiating the publishing program.

## March

- » **CLC UK** gets free publicity on BBC radio! A campaign to sell the 'Real Easter Egg', with a clear explanation of the Easter story, is sold across the country. Reporters curious to find out more interview staff in CLC London.



- » **CLC Canada** restructuring Stage Two. A new bookshop opens in Est, attached to a Bible College, and a combined bookshop / warehouse opens in Brossard.



## April



- » CLC leaders from around **Europe** meet together in Budapest, Hungary for leadership training, focusing on website development, social media and publishing. We are joined by business consultant Elba Carrizo.
- » More than 6.000 people gather in Debrecen, **Hungary** to hear the inspirational author, Nick Vujicic. Our local bookshop provides a book stall for the event.
- » Sotos & Eva Photiadou continue to be concerned about the economic situation in **Cyprus**, affected by the Greek economy. Their prayer is that financial hardship will cause people to seek the Lord.

## May

- » **CLC Hamburg, Germany** has the huge responsibility of coordinating all the book tables for a large national gathering of protestant Christians – 150.000 people were expected.



- » **CLC Portugal** participates in the Coimbra book fair.



- » **CLC USA** sends an intern, Ben Saxe, to Burkina Faso in French West Africa, to help our local National Director, Prosper Weda. Prosper is trying to improve his level of English!

## June

- » **ICRS** is a time for a number of CLC teams to meet from the English speaking world. This trade fair was held in St. Louis this year. As well as meeting with suppliers, the CLC leaders meet to discuss joint plans. This has produced an increase in publications in recent times.
- » **CLC Papua New Guinea** participates in the National Book Week which emphasises children's books.



## July

- » **CLC Myanmar** Director, Jacob Mung, suffers a significant heart problem. By God's grace, he had met some Korean missionaries a few weeks earlier and they offered to pay for him to have treatment in Korea. God is good!
- » **Romania** sends missionaries to the UK! Cristi & Ane Cotovan, with their three girls, move to the UK to further develop CLC's digital strategy. Cristi is based at the International Office.
- » The roof of the Mubai, **India** bookshop collapses. Happily, no-one is hurt but the repairs take some time.

## August

- » **CLC Bolivia** opens its doors to the public for the first time in Santa Cruz. Gamaliel and Marlene Padilla moved to Bolivia earlier in the year from Venezuela. Importation of books is complicated by the fact that Bolivia is a land-locked country and the books have to cross the Andes from Chile.
- » **Central Asia 1** receives a significant order of books and Bibles in Russian. This is a complicated process and a cause for rejoicing. Many of us take the supply of books for granted.



- » **CLC Korea** increases its publishing significantly this year, releasing many new titles.

## September

- » Although only 3 years old, the warehouse in Valencia, **Venezuela** was severely damaged by a fire in the adjoining building. The repairs will take many months.
- » The Regional Directors' Meetings took place in Africa for the very first time. A week of meetings in Nairobi, **Kenya** provided great insight into the issues facing our African brothers and sisters.



- » Yulia Shabalina gets married and moves to the USA, after many years of service in **Central Asia** and **Moscow**. Below, the CLC Moscow team with Bibles from Belarus.

