

Statement Concerning Free Literature

Office of the General Overseer

June 1, 2011

For eighty years the Free Literature ministry of the Church of God of Prophecy has diligently served the needs of the Church by supplying millions of Gospel tracts, doctrinal pamphlets, Sunday School literature, and other printed materials to our network of ministry around the globe.

This ministry, largely funded by offerings throughout the decades, has helped provide these tools to churches at little to no cost.

At the International Assembly of 2008, the Assembly approved a recommendation to eliminate the “Ministry Support Offering” and create a “Harvest and Leadership Development Offering,” shifting funds from the International Offices to the National/State/Regional Offices. The Ministry Support Offering was the main source funding the work of the Free Literature Department and with its elimination, eventually the funds available for continuing the ministry diminished. Thanks to the faithfulness of churches that contributed to this offering over the years, the ministry was able to sustain printing levels for two more years.

We have now reached a point where the ministry no longer has funds available to continue printing at the levels we once did. In May 2011, the General Presbyters met and discussed the future of Free Literature and how it might best serve the needs of the international Church family. As a result, we are redefining the ministry to provide tools to churches that are unique to the ministry of the Church of God of Prophecy and will benefit it most.

Tracts

It has become aware, that we will no longer be able to supply tracts to our churches for free. With the loss of the Ministry Support Offering, coupled with soaring printing costs, it was no longer feasible to continue to do so.

Therefore, we have partnered with the American Tract Society (ATS) to assist in serving the tract needs of our local churches. The ATS has a wide catalog of attractive, relevant tracts available at a very low cost to churches. In addition, they are able to provide tracts in multiple languages around the world.

Enclosed you will find a flyer from ATS. We encourage you to contact ATS for your future tract needs. They may be reached by calling 1-800-54-TRACT or ordering 24/7 on their website www.atsdirect.org. They are not only willing but anxious to serve you!

In time, we also hope to make the content from our current tracts available on the church's website www.cogop.org, so that the information is still available to those interested in learning about specific topics.

Identity Specific Publications

In an effort to more effectively serve our churches, we will focus our efforts on the printing and Internet-based presentation of identity specific publications. One such publication is the recently produce “Biblical Principles, Beliefs, and Practices” pamphlet, formerly known as the “Important Bible Truths.” In the spring of 2012, we hope to make available a revised version of the booklet produced over a decade ago entitled, “An Introduction to the Church of God of Prophecy.”

Such publications are specific to our organization and help educate and inform our congregates of information specific to our movement.

These publications will be printed on a case-by-case situation, as needs arrive, allowing us to be responsive to the needs on the ministry field.