

Why Print?

Because God Says So

Why should we publish?

The short answer is because God has told us to, and this work will be successful!

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Because God Says So

“Human power did not establish the work of God, neither can human power destroy it. To those who carry forward His work in face of difficulty and opposition, God will give the constant guidance and guardianship of His holy angels. His work on earth will never cease....” Publishing Ministry page 197

Why Print?

Because God Says So

“Our publishing work was established by the direction of God and under His special supervision. It was designed to accomplish a specific purpose. Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the great cleaver of truth He has cut them out from the quarry of the world and brought them into connection with Himself. He has made them His representatives and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in the last work of salvation. The greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world; and in the accomplishment of this work our publishing houses are among the most effective agencies.” *Publishing Ministry* page 41

Why Print?

Because God Says So

But what about this modern age of radio, television, Internet, email, and social media?

Is it necessary to print on paper when many people are going digital?



Why Print?

Because God Says So

“As our work has extended and institutions have multiplied, God's purpose in their establishment remains the same. The conditions of prosperity are unchanged.” *Publishing Ministry* page 42

Why Print?

Because God Says So

“At various points in missionary lands publishing houses must be established.

- To give character to the work,
- to be centers of effort and influence,
- to attract the attention of the people,
- to develop the talents and capabilities of the believers,
- to unify the new churches, and
- to second the efforts of the workers, giving them facilities for more ready communication with the churches and more rapid dissemination of the message—
- all these and many other considerations plead for the establishment of publishing centers in missionary fields.”

Publishing Ministry page 196

Why Print?

“To give character to the work...” PM p. 196

- When a publishing center is established close to a community, that community tends to feel more ownership of the publishing center, and it seems more relevant to them than if it was a publishing center in a distant country.
- Establishing a local publishing center encourages production of material that is adapted to the culture and needs of the local population.
- A publishing center allows a community to access materials and information where otherwise these materials would not be available.

Why Print?

“...to be centers of effort and influence...” PM p. 196

- Availability of printed materials on health, education, and other Bible study topics significantly helps the efforts of the church members.
- Printed material also boosts the influence of the church members. Literature can go where the preacher cannot go. Literature allows the receiver to study the message of truth rather than to quickly forget what was said. When the receiver can confirm for himself the message of truth in the Bible, it encourages trust of the member.

Why Print?

“...to attract the attention of the people...” PM p. 196

- Anywhere I have been so far in Africa, literature attracts attention. There is so little literature available to the population that when it is available, people may in some cases literally fight over it to get a copy.
- A simple illustration on the cover of a tract or a catchy title relative to a current issue is often enough to grab somebody's attention and lead them to read the tract.
- As I hand out tracts to people, they often stop right where they are to see what it says. One motorbike driver stopped his motorbike in the middle of the road and remained motionless until he finished reading the tract. Then he carefully folded it, put it in his pocket, and drove away. I once saw a man walking a distance of 18km between villages; as he walked, he was reading a copy of The Great Controversy.

Why Print?

“...to develop the talents and capabilities of the believers...” PM p. 196

- Church members can get involved in various aspects of publishing including writing, editing, graphic design, printing, and distribution. As they use their talents for the Lord in His work, He will bless them.
- As their talents grow, the believers' capabilities grow and they become more useful in the work.

Why Print?

“...to unify the new churches...” PM p. 196

- When we are busy doing a work for the Lord, our minds are focused on Him and not on picking at each others' faults. As members work together for the Lord, they grow closer to the Lord and to each other.
- New members should be given a work to do. One of the activities they can do is to get involved in publishing.

Why Print?

“...to second the efforts of the workers...” PM p. 196

“...to second the efforts of the workers, giving them facilities for more ready communication with the churches and more rapid dissemination of the message.”

- Every pioneer worker should have access to plenty of publications for distribution.
- Publishing and distributing a magazine of testimonies, stories, counsel, and enriching Bible studies would encourage members and give them opportunities to train themselves for better service to God.

Why Print?

“...all these and many other considerations...” PM p. 196

“...all these and many other considerations plead for the establishment of publishing centers in missionary fields.”

Why Print?

Digital Formats are Vulnerable

God has blessed mankind with amazing intelligence to create technology that is truly amazing. Technology such as radio, television, Internet, and social media may all be used effectively in God's work at times and in certain places.

But this is not the case everywhere, nor every time. Man often attempts to restrict our God-given freedom of speech. What is easy to post, is also easy to remove at the flip of a switch. At times, the Internet itself may be shut down entirely for various reasons, effectively blocking all access.

Why Print?

Digital Formats are Vulnerable

Censorship and Content Filtering

Many countries restrict religious materials on the Internet. They may require certain Internet service providers to block access to certain sites or topics. Some websites are not accessible from certain countries.

Another technique commonly used is filtering content so that certain words or pages do not show up in search engine results.

Why Print?

Digital Formats are Vulnerable

Social Media

A social media platform can simply classify your post as hate speech or otherwise an "unapproved" category, and they can block your post or shut down your account. According to some policies, many Bible verses classify as "hate speech" or "extremest" ideology.

Why Print?

Digital Formats are Vulnerable

Hacking and Cyberattacks

Enemies of the truth can launch cyberattacks to cripple or hobble a website that is presenting truths.

Why Print?

Digital Formats are Vulnerable

Dependent on Electricity

Your phone is a great place to read Spirit of Prophecy books... until the Internet shuts down. If you are lucky enough to have downloaded the books offline, you're set for a while. Until you drop your phone and the screen cracks. Or until a disaster comes and shuts off the electricity. Now you can't charge or turn on your device.

Why Print?

Physical Formats are Durable

Paper Formats Can't be Censored

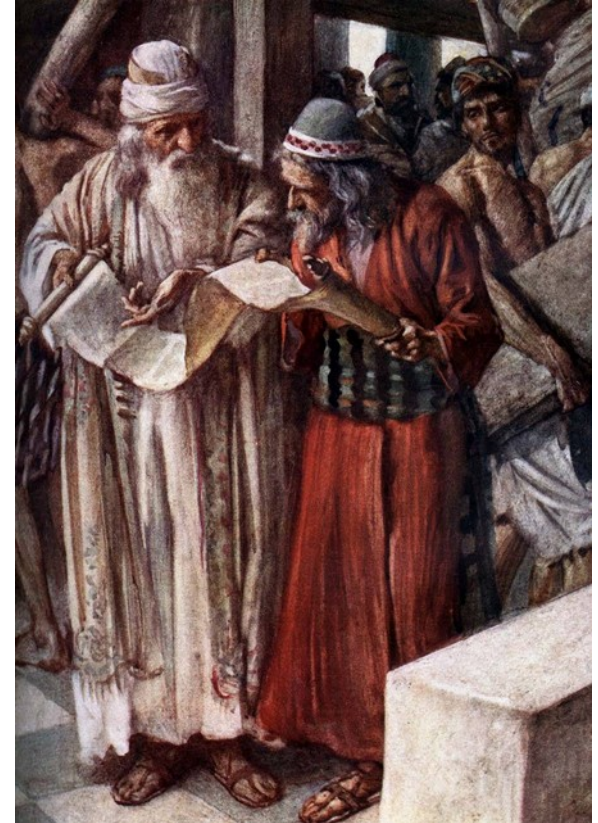
- Once a book is printed, it can't be censored, or content filtered.
- Social media has no access to classify it as hate speech and tear out the page it doesn't like.
- It is impossible to hack through the network to your book.
- A book or tract is readable without electricity and doesn't need to be charged.

Why Print?

Physical Formats are Durable

The Lost Book of the Law

"Then Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. So Shaphan the scribe went to the king, bringing the king word, saying, "Your servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of those who do the work, who oversee the house of the Lord." Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

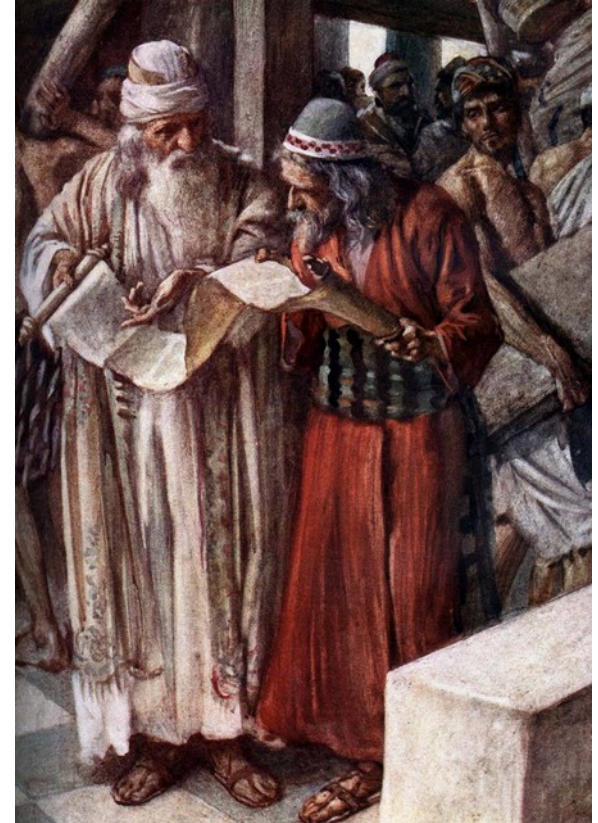


Why Print?

Physical Formats are Durable

The Lost Book of the Law

"Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Michaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, "Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.'" 2 Kings 22:8-13

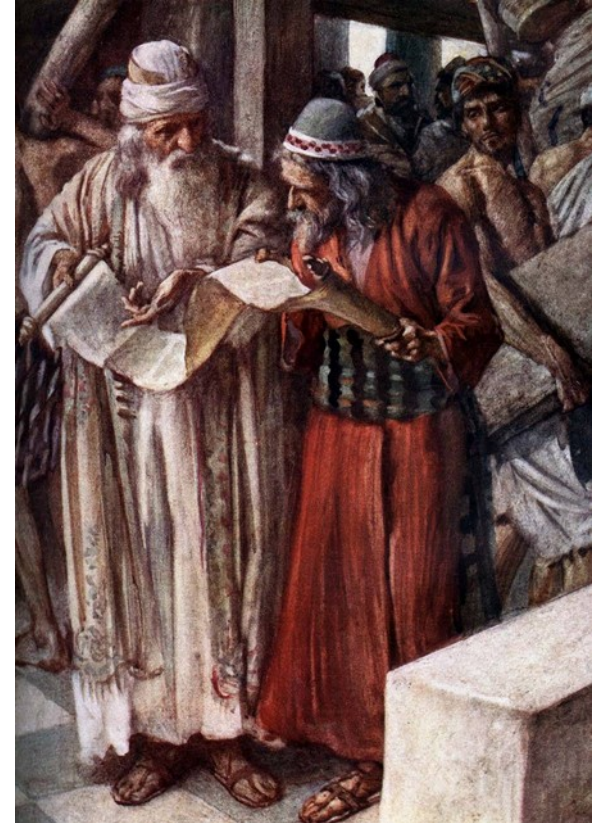


Why Print?

Physical Formats are Durable

The Lost Book of the Law

“Now the king sent them to gather all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem to him. The king went up to the house of the Lord with all the men of Judah, and with him all the inhabitants of Jerusalem--the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the house of the Lord. Then the king stood by a pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people took a stand for the covenant.” 2 Kings 23:1-3



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- It is impossible to hack through the network to your book.
- A book or tract is readable without electricity and doesn't need to be charged.
- Printed materials are more accessible to the large populations of people who...
 - are not proficient in computers
 - do not have access
 - cannot afford digital devices.