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**FRESH LOOK,
SAME MINISTRY**

THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL IN HER LIFE

Emily faced incredible challenges against her when she came into this world. Born in China, completely Blind, her birth parents immediately chose to abandon her. Thankfully for Emily, she was taken in by Christian missionaries who ran an orphanage in the city where she was born.

Growing up in the orphanage, Emily soon learned Braille in both Mandarin and English. In fact, her first memories of reading English Braille were of the Primary Child Stories produced and distributed by Lutheran Braille Workers. At age 6, Emily was adopted by a wonderful Lutheran family in Arkansas who continued to raise her in the Christian faith.

"Lutheran Braille Workers has been in my life for as long as I can remember. My Bible, my catechism, my devotionals, all came to me from LBW, both in China and in Arkansas. When I moved around the world as a little girl, I was

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Your gift of \$200 will produce and distribute an entire set of the Braille Bible (between 36 and 44 volumes) in one of the 16 languages in which LBW currently works.

THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL IN HER LIFE

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scared, but I was able to keep Jesus with me the whole time. I don't know what I would have done without you. Thank you!"

Now as a young adult, Emily attends Concordia University Nebraska where she maintains a separate set of the Lutheran Service Book (hymnal) at the college's chapel. She wants to become a missionary after graduation and spread the Gospel to men, women, and children of all ages, especially those who are Blind or Visually Impaired. Amazingly, Emily has already had an opportunity to do this.

"My family took in a foreign exchange student from Morocco my senior year in high school who was also Blind. She was so excited to be able to read a Bible in Braille even though it was not allowed because her trip was paid by the government. When it was time for her to return home, she wanted to keep a few books of the Bible with her and so we took off the covers and anything with writing. She kept the Braille pages which none of the government officials could read. We still talk through our phone apps and she is able to read the Bible to her family. I'm grateful I was able to help her take the Bible back to her home, and I'm thankful Lutheran Braille Workers replaced the books I gave her."

Your support makes a difference in the lives of so many people like Emily. Your generosity has an impact both in the United States and around the world. You are sharing the Gospel from your home to men, women, and children everywhere desperately seeking the Good News of the birth of Jesus!





A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am looking forward to Christmas this year. I'm not excited because of Christmas gifts, or watching football on television (though these are always fun moments), but because I eagerly await celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I also look forward to 2021 because, like many of you, I'm ready to be done with 2020. This has been a challenging year on so many levels, and I earnestly pray that next year will be better. Waking up on Christmas morning means the new year is a week away!

What excites me most about 2021 is the continued advancement of Lutheran Braille Workers' ministry! We continue to explore new languages in which to work and produce, as well as expand the number of titles we offer in Braille, Large Print, and Audio. We are updating our Audio files to meet the standard required for their entry into the Library of Congress database. There are new Ministry Production Centers being opened and new volunteers are working from home! Our team is working with new potential ministry partners and we are looking at new countries to send the Word of God into. Opening a new Ministry Production Center and distribution hub in India is a major project we continue to work on as we seek new funding sources.

There were great results in 2020, in spite of the challenges LBW faced. We accomplished so much, and thanks to your generous support, there wasn't a single month in which the Word of God did not continue to be produced and distributed throughout the world. You enabled this ministry to continue its mission and survive. More than this, you have put our ministry on a path to thrive in 2021 and beyond, especially after the COVID restrictions are removed.

Most importantly, you have ensured men, women, and children continue to receive the Good News in a format they can read, listen to, or understand. You have helped tens of thousands of people know the love of God this year. You have helped individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired, around the globe, look forward to celebrating Christmas on December 25; some of these individuals will be celebrating for the first time!

Thank you for your dedication to this ministry. I pray you are able to enjoy a wonderful Christmas season and celebrate the coming New Year safely!

In His Service,

Jay Zemke



CREATING THOSE SPECIAL DOTS

One of the most important components of Lutheran Braille Workers' are the beautiful zinc plates which are instrumental in the creation of Braille pages. By placing a piece of special paper between the plates and running them through a Braille press, the life-saving Braille dots are embossed on both sides of every page. Yet for years, Lutheran Braille Workers has been trying to create these plates on old Plate Embossing Devices—specialized machines which come from Europe and have to be made one by one. Unfortunately, these machines were becoming too old to function properly and were using outdated computer software. Considering each Braille Bible contains over 3,000 plates, this is incredibly important technology for our ministry.

Beginning with an incredibly generous grant from the National Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) of \$100,000, LBW began a campaign in 2019 in an effort to raise

the \$330,000 required to purchase a new PUMA Plate Embossing Device (PED), cover the cost of shipping, installation, and training, and purchase new plates and other required supplies. This campaign, which started among the volunteers of our Ministry Production Centers nationwide, was called Buy-A-Dot.

We are excited to announce that through the incredible support of our volunteers and their churches, we have raised an additional \$143,000 in the past year and a half. This generous funding has allowed LBW to purchase the PED and have it installed earlier this year by a technician from Germany. Despite some challenges with adapting our ministry to new technology, new plates have already been produced on the PED, even during the COVID pandemic.

LBW is in the final stages of the campaign and hopes to raise the remaining \$87,000 by next spring. These funds will help purchase additional plates which will be used by our volunteers, new computers and software to run the PED, and other supplies necessary to the production of Braille materials.

Your financial support is literally producing the millions of dots embossed every single year and distributed around the world. Your support of the Buy-A-Dot campaign is important for the continued production of Bibles in Braille which goes to men, women, and children who are Blind or Visually Impaired.





Your gift of \$140.00 will produce and distribute one complete Large Print Bible (14 point) for two prisoners

GOING BEHIND BARS WITH THE GOSPEL

When Lutheran Braille Workers began producing a 14 point, Specialized Large Print Bible for use by prisoners and chaplains, there was little indication these materials would become so popular! Upon introducing the Bible to prison chaplains around the United States, within a few weeks thousands of orders had been placed for over 15,000 volumes of books.

During the COVID pandemic, there have been even more requests for these Large Print Bibles in prisons. In fact, almost every time we send a Bible to a prisoner, there are at least two or three requests for Large Print Bibles from other prisoners in the same facility.

We receive letters from prisoners begging to have the Word of God in a format they can read, especially with the lack of eyeglasses. In addition, who is more in need of the life-changing Gospel than men and women who are living in physical darkness behind bars?

We also hear from chaplains who talk about the powerful impact the Word of God brings to their inmates. One chaplain shared with us that when these Bibles made it into the library, the number of incidents among the prisoners dropped precipitously.

Your support is allowing Lutheran Braille Workers to continue to produce these Bibles every single day and distribute dozens of complete sets per week.

TEARS OF JOY

When Ken got into the car after church, he noticed his 10 year old daughter was crying. Immediately he became worried that somebody had bullied his daughter because she was Blind. When he asked her what was wrong, she answered, "Dad, I was able to read to the other kids in Sunday School for the first time! It was amazing!" It turns out Ken's daughter was crying tears of joy because she had received the book of John in Braille during the week and was able to go to Sunday School and read to the class for the first time in her life.

Could you imagine what it would be like to have to wait until you are 10 years old to be able to more actively participate in Sunday School? Yet, for children who are Blind or Visually Impaired, this is a normal challenge. It can be difficult for families to gain access to affordable resources, even in the United States. Yet for children, getting books of the Bible in Braille they can read is liberating and brings about an incredible, emotional response.

Your gift places Braille and Large Print books into the hands of children throughout the world, and helps them understand the love God has for them, as well as how He plans to use them in the future. Imagine the smile on the face of little boys and girls as they get to read the Gospel, and that is what your support provides.

SPREADING THE LOVE OF GOD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Jeff was on a mission trip to Nicaragua where he was involved in handing out dozens of Bibles to men and women in different communities. On the last day, before he got into the car to head to the airport, he was approached by a young man, Christopher. Christopher pleaded, "Don't you have a Bible I can use? All I want to do is read the Bible for myself." You see, Christopher was Blind, and he did not know where to get a Spanish Braille Bible.

After returning to the United States, Jeff and his wife, Barbie, began the process of looking for a Spanish Braille Bible. Eventually, they found Lutheran Braille Workers and ordered a Bible, expecting they would be paying a hefty price for it, especially in terms of shipping costs. They couldn't believe their ears when they called LBW on the phone and were told the entire Bible would be sent to them, completely free of charge.

Upon receiving the full 44-volume Spanish Braille Bible, they immediately began exploring ways of getting the Bible to Christopher in Nicaragua. Jeff and Barbie chose to send the books via the US Postal Service's free matter shipping. Christopher received his books in a few weeks and was incredibly excited to have a Bible he could read for himself! [Cont'd on page 7](#)

THE JOY OF VOLUNTEERING

"I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to volunteer from home. With this pandemic, I've been trying to find things to do to help me stay busy, but it has been hard. Being able to do proofreading from home has been a blessing. I feel like I'm useful and doing the Lord's work. Thank you."



FRESH LOOK, SAME MINISTRY

Lutheran Braille Workers is excited to announce the launch of its new website. In addition to being a place to order materials or make a gift to the ministry, the new website contains new resources for your use!

For our donors, volunteers, and supporters, we are offering complete access to our videos, logos, and other materials which can be used to share your passion for LBW with others. There

are also a number of materials available for use in Sunday Schools or church schools to teach children about Braille and the ministry. Finally, our newsletters and other communications will be available for download free on the site!

For our recipients, we are offering a number of our Braille files which are downloadable to their computers or Braille readers. We are also planning to create an audio library on our website in the future which will connect with the Library of Congress. Please visit our website at www.LBWloveworks.org.



Sharing the Gospel
always and the
power of Christ's
love



Love Works and
the Word brings
knowledge of Jesus



Love is expressed
through actions and
the service of our
volunteers



The community of
believers supports this
ministry and reflects
the love of God to all



SPREADING THE LOVE OF GOD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD Cont'd from page 6

Your gifts allow men and women like Christopher to know the love of Christ for themselves! Your gifts also support missionaries and men and women who are sharing the Gospel throughout the world.

Lutheran Braille Workers currently works in approximately 20 languages between Braille and Specialized Large Print and reaches thousands of people in countries around the world every single year.



BRAILLE



AUDIO



LARGE PRINT

Yes! I completed all 5 puzzles in 2020! Please send me my special prize.

Answer 1: _____

Answer 2: _____

Answer 3: _____

Answer 4: _____

Answer 5: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Please fill out this form and return to: **Lutheran Braille Workers**
PO Box 5000
Yucaipa, CA 92399

braille alphabet

a b c d e f g h i j k l m

n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Can you read this? (Puzzle #5 of 5)

We hope you enjoyed learning more about the Braille alphabet this year. Look for more fun and games in our 2021 newsletters!