



ILLUMINATIONS

SHARING THE GOSPEL ALWAYS | FALL 2020

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**LETTER FROM THE
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GOOD NEWS
**THIS PANDEMIC HAS NOT
STOPPED THE WORD OF GOD**

HOW YOU CHANGED A FAMILY'S LIFE WHEN THEIR SON BECAME BLIND!

"My son, Sean, was born a healthy baby. Little did we know, within a few years, an illness would rob my son of his eyesight and place our family onto a journey we were not yet prepared to take.

At age three Sean complained of not feeling well and began running a fever. We took him to a doctor who said he likely had a cold. Within 48 hours he woke up screaming and crying about how much his head hurt. We took him to the emergency room where they identified swelling in his brain. My son ended up in a coma for a week, and when he woke up, the doctors informed us the pressure from his brain swelling crushed the optic nerves and Sean was likely to be blind for the rest of his life.

As a family, how were we to deal with this news? We did everything we could to prepare our household for this change, but it was a struggle.



I wasn't very religious, but my wife got me to start going to church with her. I questioned why my son had to lose his eyesight, and I felt guilty thinking I had done something to cause his illness."

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 -

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

You are incredible! How do I even begin to describe what makes you amazing?

Your love for this ministry! Your dedication to sharing the Gospel! Your passion for bringing the Word of God to those who are Blind or Visually Impaired!

You are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people every single year.

Thank you!

In spite all of the challenges facing us this year, you continue to be a steadfast supporter in sharing Christ's love with people like Richard and Sean (cover story). You remain committed to sharing the Gospel from your church and home, and I feel it is only fair we are as committed to this same mission at our headquarters.

We continue to expand into new titles in Braille, Specialized Large Print, and Audio. We are in the process of opening brand new Ministry Production Centers in areas we have never had a center before! We are in the planning stages of new ways to better distribute the Bible around the world. Our 14-point Prison Bibles continue to be requested in incredible numbers and we are increasing production to meet demand.

Men and women who are Blind or Visually Impaired are seeking the love of God and the peace found in Jesus Christ like never before. They want to be able to read, touch, and hear about the hope found in our Lord. You are making this possible.

So thank you for your support because you are bringing the Light of the World into the darkness in which so many people live. You are amazing!

I hope you are uplifted by the stories in this newsletter, and find joy in reading the thank-you messages from recipients. I also hope that as you read how we remain focused on bringing the Gospel to the approximately 253 million people who are Blind or Visually Impaired, you will prayerfully consider every way in which you can continue this mission through your support.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Zemke".

Jay Zemke



HOW YOU CHANGED A FAMILY'S LIFE WHEN THEIR SON BECAME BLIND!

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 -

"Our pastor gave a sermon about John 9, when Jesus told the disciples the man in front of them wasn't blind because of sin, but because God was going to use this man for greater purposes.

This message from Jesus transformed my life and ultimately Sean's life.

I quit feeling sorry for myself and focused on helping my son grow-up to do whatever he wanted to do. When he began to learn Braille, I searched everywhere for a Braille Bible but they were way too expensive for our family—over \$1,000 for one set! My pastor connected us with Lutheran Braille Workers, and I couldn't believe you would send us a Bible for free. I thought a bill would come after we got the first volume or

two, but no! You sent us the Bible, catechism, devotionals, and other books for my son, all for free. Sean learned God had a plan for him and he grew up with the knowledge he could accomplish anything through God's support.

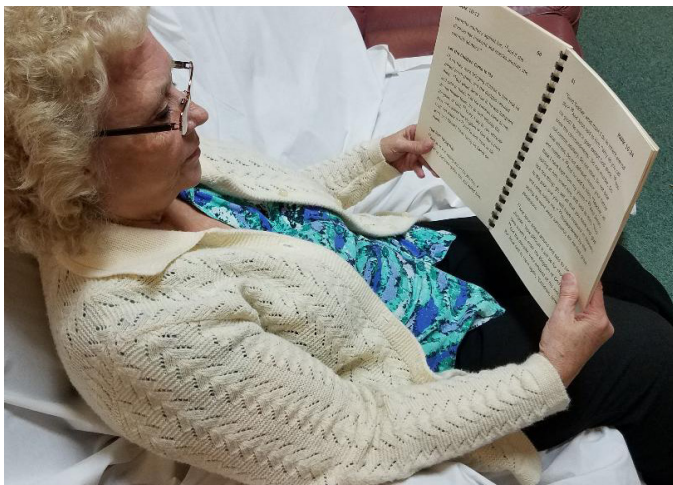
Now Sean is grown up and married, with a wonderful career and beautiful family. His faith in our Lord is a witness to everybody around him. The materials you sent us gave Sean a chance to know Jesus, and they helped our family overcome these challenges. Dealing with illness and blindness can be expensive, and your free resources were exactly what were needed. Thank you so much for what you do for people who are blind and also their families. May God bless you and your entire organization for a long time!" -- Richard, Chicago, IL

**"REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT
CEASING, GIVE THANKS IN ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES;"**

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a)



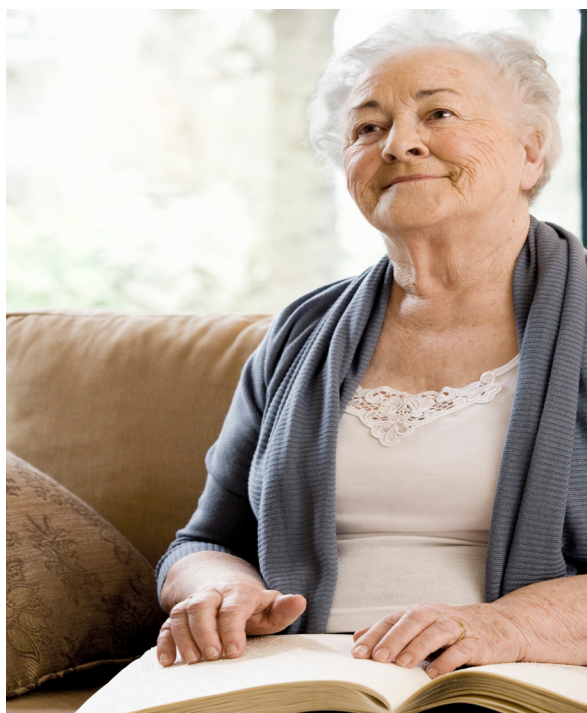
THE IMPACT YOU ARE MAKING!



"My mom suffers from dementia and is struggling with her eyesight. Yet, she became so excited when she received a large print Mustard Seed devotion. She read it over and over, to the point she basically wore it out. I was embarrassed when I asked for another, but your worker was so friendly on the phone and sent two more to us. When my mom reads these devotions, she is the calmest I've seen her in a long time. Thank you for what you're doing for my mom and my family." Lara- Madison, WI



"Dear friends at Lutheran Braille Workers. Thank you for sending me the Braille Bible in my language. It is a joy to read about the love of Jesus for myself. I have shared my Bible with others like me who are Blind, and they are just as excited as I am. They hope to one day get their own Braille Bible. We are not given a lot of resources, and what you have given us is a blessing. I tell everybody I know about Jesus! Bless you all!" Aubrey- Africa



"Thank you for continuing to send us Braille books. My mother's hearing is practically gone, so Audio doesn't work for us. I know everybody wants to go to technology, but for a lot of people, having Braille is still important in their life. For my mom, it's how she reads the Bible every day. So thank you for producing Braille." Mary- Detroit, Michigan



LEAVING A LEGACY OF LOVE

Marlene called Lutheran Braille Workers recently and asked about estate planning. She shared with us her passion for this ministry as well as her desire to spread the Gospel.

She had served as a volunteer for decades in a small work center in California before moving out of state. She had personally helped to deliver thousands of boxes of Braille Bibles to the post office and has seen numerous thank you letters in return. Marlene even knew of a woman in her community who was Blind who had received Braille materials from LBW. In her own words, ***“Lutheran Braille Workers is the ministry I love the most, not because other ministries aren’t important, but because it has reached my heart the deepest. How else could I have shared Jesus with so many people around the world from my tiny little church?”*** Saddened because her new home has no Ministry Production Centers nearby, and the church she attends isn’t interested in forming one, she reached out to see how she can still support the ministry.

Marlene’s number one concern was that she didn’t have a lot of money to give every year, especially since she was worried if she gave her money away now, it may not be there if she became ill later in life. She also wanted to be able to leave something for her children, church, and two other charities she supported.

Marlene was amazed to find out that with a proper estate plan, she can support her family, church, and favorite charities, especially Lutheran Braille Workers, both now and in the future. In addition, the gift she will make after she goes to heaven will be far greater than

what she had hoped to give while alive. In fact, while Marlene hopes to donate enough money to fund one Bible per year, her estate gift will be able to fund the production of over 2,000 complete Braille or Large Print Bibles!

Marlene is working on leaving a complete legacy of love, and you can too! For the great majority of Americans, the largest gift a person can make to a ministry they support is through their estate. This is also the legacy they leave behind for their children and grandchildren to observe—the legacy of supporting ministries with passion and the gifts God has give us.

Would you please pray about the legacy you want to leave behind? Do you wish to take care of your family, church, and all of the ministries you care about? Will you support Lutheran Braille Workers for years, if not decades, to come? Will you help share the Good News about Jesus long after you’ve gone to heaven?

If you have left us in your estate, please let us know. If you would like to learn more about estate planning and how it can benefit your family, please contact us at daniel@lbwloveworks.org, or by phone- 909-795-8977.



GOOD NEWS

THIS PANDEMIC HAS NOT STOPPED THE WORD OF GOD

Wow, what a crazy year this has been. Who would've ever thought we would go through a Pandemic in our lifetime? Having to temporarily keep Ministry Centers from producing materials (for the safety of our volunteers), and closing the doors to the Home Office was a new, and somewhat scary, situation. But this situation didn't stop the Bible, Devotionals, and Magazines from going out!

Our Lord and Savior prepared us (staff & volunteers) as LBW had three months of magazines produced. Our shelves were full with volumes of the Bible and Devotionals, just before the shutdown. He knew this was going to happen.

Yes, we had to send The Team home, but this new situation was quickly figured out. One team member lives in a home on the property and maintains the landscaping; in the evenings he packs Braille and Large Print books and



ships them. Our President and his wife not only work from home, they also come in on the weekends to work on mailings and other items. Another team member ensures our mail is picked up daily while processing gifts and bills every week!

Some team members continued to format Large Print and produce Audio, all of which is mailed directly from their homes. Other team members are training, through webinars

and Zoom, on new programs to improve and streamline operational and accounting processes. Everybody is answering e-mails and making phone calls every day.

Across the country, we have a number of Ministry Production Centers reopening slowly and have even been contacted by

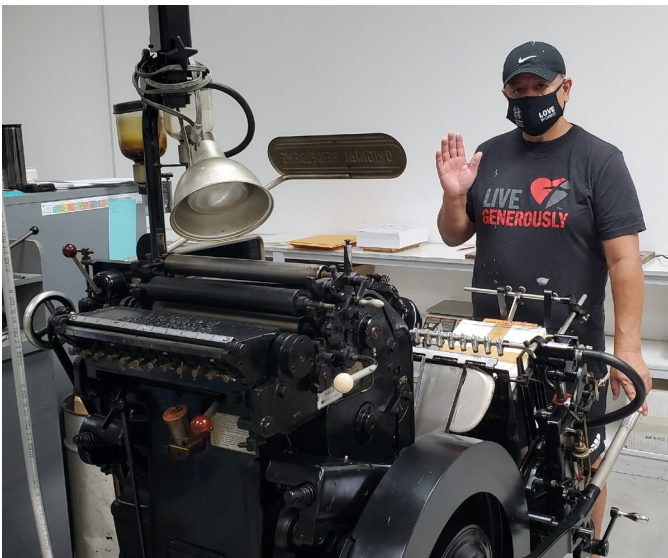
churches wanting to open new centers to assist this ministry moving forward!

During this pandemic, the phones never stopped ringing. Some recipients have left

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. *2 Corinthians. 4:16-18*

GOOD NEWS

incredibly encouraging messages for our team and our volunteers because they have been isolated for most, if not all, of their lives, and they know how to handle everything happening in the world around us. People continue to call in and send emails placing orders for Large Print and Braille books and Audio subscriptions. The number of prisoners requesting our Large Print Prison Bibles has skyrocketed. People want to find the hope, peace, and love of Christ, now more than ever.



Most importantly, we are proud to report not once has the production or distribution of Braille, Large Print, or Audio materials ever completely halted over the past six months.

Lutheran Braille Workers is determined to keep sending the Word of God to those who are Blind and Visually Impaired. Your prayers and incredible support has allowed this ministry to keep moving forward by sharing the Gospel around the world!

We had hoped to reopen the home office before now, but with the increase of COVID-19 cases, we must wait until California allows us to reopen. Still, we are available for you and our



recipients at any time, so please reach out to us if you need anything or if you would just like to check in and chat. May the Lord keep you safe and healthy!

"I appreciate the larger, easier to read version – I read front to back. I don't read magazines where they try to get as many words as possible into their magazine." K Doeden

BEING BLESSED WITH PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Moving the Word of God

Earlier this year, Lutheran Braille Workers was faced with a difficult situation. Our 40+ year old forklift was nearing the end of its career and needed to be retired. Over its lifetime, this forklift has been involved in transporting the paper, equipment, bindings, boxes, and pallets connected with over two million volumes of Braille and Specialized Large Print materials. Imagine how many people have come to know the love of Jesus because of the herculean effort of this simple forklift!

LBW applied for and was awarded a very generous grant from the James L. Stamps Foundation, based in Orange County, California, which covered a large portion of the cost of a new heavy-duty forklift. In addition, we received a wonderful outpouring of financial support from our donors and we were ready to buy this new equipment.

When LBW reached out to Doosan (manufacturer of the forklift) directly, they were impressed by the age of the previous machine, but were especially moved by this incredible ministry and what the forklift would be doing. They generously offered to donate a portion of the overall cost, equal to the sales tax, as well as provide free delivery of the equipment to our headquarters in Yucaipa. This is an even greater blessing as it allows the extra money which had been raised to go towards fuel costs and staff training certification!

We are very grateful to the James L. Stamps Foundation, Doosan, and all of you who prayed for and financially supported this campaign.

Our hope is this new forklift will continue the legacy of the last machine and help move the tens of thousands of pounds in paper, cardboard, supplies, and equipment through our warehouse every single year!

Did You Know?

Each roll of paper used in Large Print or Braille Production, at headquarters alone, weighs between 800-1000 lbs! Between 50-80 rolls of paper is used in Yucaipa every year, meaning up to 80,000 pounds (40 tons) is processed in our warehouse and print shop. This is in addition to the crates of paper sent to our Ministry Production Centers throughout the United States, and the cardboard, supplies, and pallets which are also moved around! This forklift will get its work-out in!





Reaching Prisoners During Difficult Times



One of the most amazing things to have come out of the COVID-19 pandemic has been an increased demand for Large Print Bibles in prisons around the United States. More and more prisoners, chaplains, and church groups are requesting these materials in an effort to help those in prison find comfort in God's Word.

Lutheran Braille Workers has a number of Ministry Production Centers still producing the 14 point Large Print Bible for prison ministry, but their production is not able to keep up with this increased demand. The need to place the Bible into the hands of prisoners is great, so LBW began exploring more options on what could be done to improve production numbers internally.

During a discussion with Image Source, the company which provides the large Xerox printers in our headquarters, our goal of increasing black and white print production was discussed. When we explained why we wanted to increase production, Image Source contacted us and offered to loan a heavy-duty Xerox printer to LBW at no cost to the ministry! The only costs involved will be the click-cost for each page produced. Not only is this a substantial savings to LBW, we will be able to produce hundreds of additional Large Print Bibles for prisoners each month!

We are very grateful to the wonderful team at Image Source for opening their hearts and business to support this ministry. God has blessed LBW with some incredible business partners who will allow us to share the Gospel with even more people during this difficult time. Praise be to God for opening doors and helping us create relationships with wonderful people!

"Dear LBW,

I was given your contact by Debra Jackson who encouraged prison chaplains to reach out to your organization for large print bibles. There is a great need of such bibles especially for elderly offenders and those with vision impairment. Please let me if you can send me large print bibles.

*Blessings, Watson Rugano, M.Div., CPE
Chaplain II, Luther Unit"*

Celebrating a Lifelong Volunteer

Most people will never work for one organization for over 60 years, let alone work without pay. Yet, for the 2019-2020 recipient of the Delafosse Memorial Love Through Volunteer Service Award, Mrs. Helen Aupperle, volunteering for Lutheran Braille Workers has been an important part of her life since 1960.

There were numerous nominees put forward who represented the very best of our incredible volunteers, but Mrs. Aupperle's story stood out for the longevity of her service, the dedication she has shown, and the passion she holds for bringing the Gospel to individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired. In fact, at 103 years old, Helen continues to volunteer at least two hours every single week helping to produce Braille calendars. In addition, Helen remains active with her church, Trinity Lutheran Church, in Peoria, Illinois, as well as within her social circles playing bridge and participating in other activities.

Ultimately, one of Helen's greatest traits is her simple humility. When she was presented the award by Pastor Mark Nelson, she responded by expressing surprise at receiving this honor and stated she thought there were other more deserving people out there. Yet, there is no doubt in the minds of all of LBW's employees, Helen Aupperle is a truly special volunteer and this award deserves to be in her hands.

Congratulations Helen Aupperle!

We are very grateful for the continued service of Helen and all 3,000+ volunteers around the United States. You make this ministry happen through your efforts, and we are very grateful. We look forward to learning of even more amazing volunteers on our next cycle of the Delafosse Memorial Love Through Volunteer Service Award nominations.



Helen Aupperle



Braille Workers L to R: Wendy Lanser, Helen Aupperle, Joyce Close & Betty Hohlfield



YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT FROM HOME!

Lutheran Braille Workers is looking for individuals looking to help advance this ministry. There are many ways in which you can support LBW from home, and the following are a few of the roles we are seeking to fill.

Certified Braille Transcriber/Certified Braille Proofreader:

We are looking for people who have been certified, or willing to become certified, by the Library of Congress in Braille Transcription and Proofreading. People who take on these roles are instrumental in adding new titles to our library, checking the zinc plates before they are sent to our centers, and ensuring quarterly and monthly publications are ready to go into production.

Computer-Proficient Large Print Formatter/Computer-Proficient Large Print Proofreader:

LBW is searching for individuals who are quite proficient in the use of Adobe software programs, including documents in a .pdf format, to assist in the formatting and proofing of Large Print materials.

Audio Narrator:

Do you enjoy speaking and reading books out loud? Do you have a clear voice and wish to narrate devotions and Bible studies to other individuals? We are searching for people willing

A wonderful ministry. My granddaughter uses the Braille portals of prayer and the Braille Bible. The best charity to support... they service the world for Christ. L Thompson

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to share their voice each month in the creation of new titles or quarterly publications.

Audio Editor/Processor:

We are searching for individuals who are computer proficient and are willing to help edit audio files from our narrators and place them in digital format onto Digital Talking Book cassettes. These individuals will have to work within strict guidelines as LBW is moving to have all audio files meet the Library of Congress standards.

For those living near LBW headquarters:

We are always looking for individuals who live near headquarters and are willing to help with projects from their homes. We need people to help cut cardboard, punch or bind books, or perform other tasks which are critical to getting materials distributed in a timely manner.

If you are interested in any of these positions, all of which are important to sharing the Gospel with individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired, please contact our headquarters at 909-795-8977, or by e-mail: julie@lbwloveworks.org.

Yes!!! I would like to share the Gospel with my talents and skills in the following ways:

_____ I am/would like to become a Certified Braille Transcriber/Proofreader!

_____ I am computer proficient and would like to be a Large Print Formatter/Proofreader!

_____ I have a great speaking voice and would like to be an Audio narrator!

_____ I am computer proficient and would like to be an Audio editor/processor!

_____ I live close to LBW headquarters and would like to help with any local projects as needed!

Name _____

Address

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Best method and time to contact me to discuss these opportunities _____

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

Can you read this? (Puzzle #4 of 5)

(Puzzle #4 of 5)

Please keep your newsletters through 2020 to solve the entire puzzle. Turn in the completed puzzle answer and receive a prize. Details will follow in a future newsletter.