



ILLUMINATIONS

SHARING THE GOSPEL ALWAYS | SPRING 2021

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**LETTER FROM THE
PRESIDENT**

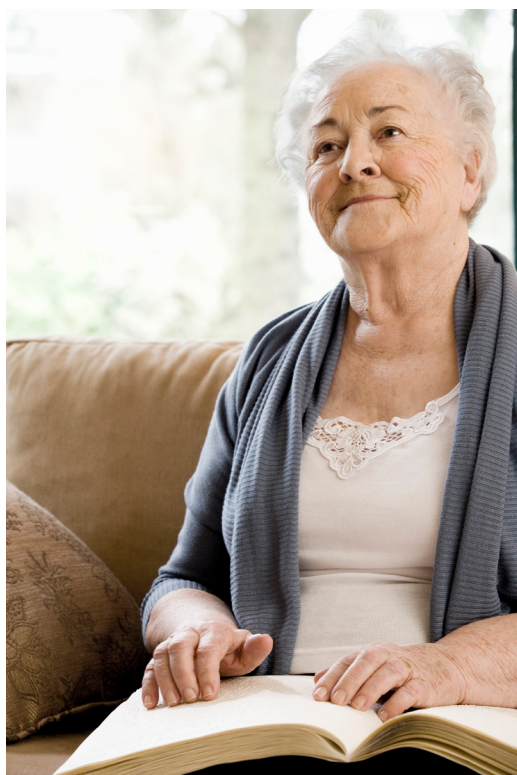
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**GOOD NEWS
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**COMING TO A SCREEN NEAR
YOU!**

BRINGING THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO RURAL AUSTRALIA



"Dear Lutheran Braille Workers,

I am very keen to write to say thank you very much for the large print Bible books you have sent me. This week I have received about half the Bible in large print and I am loving being able to read off paper again. Your poor books will find themselves prodded with highlighter and stuck with tabs and post-its. It has taken a lot for me to go forward and ask for the gift of a Bible as printing and mailing a Bible to the other side of the world is a huge undertaking. But I am very thankful for it.

When I found the New Testament all in a box I cried and smiled because of the sense of freedom.

In Dubbo [Australia] we have a long history with Braille bibles coming from the US. I am pretty certain you provided my friend Kirrily with her first Bible nearly twenty years ago. That Bible has literally been read to death and she has now ordered another Bible. She is helping one of our friends, Julie, who became Blind later in life, learn to read Braille so that she can read the Bible

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BRINGING THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO RURAL AUSTRALIA

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again. Julie has been a Christian for many years but desperately wants to be able to read God's word for herself.

More recently you provided a copy of Matthew and Mark's gospel to my friend Susie. Around that time Susie understood her sin and Jesus' redemption and learned to thank Jesus for what He did for her. Susie has complex difficulties but is growing in Christ and trusting God for her safety.

Dubbo is not a big town and we have a funny little community of Blind women. When school goes back (we are in the summer holidays now) I will do a low-key fund raiser with our Bible study. We have a pot-luck dinner when we meet and I will prepare a very simple meal and ask that people donate what they would have paid for bringing a plate. This will not make much of a contribution but it will raise awareness.

Thank you very much for all you have done for us in Dubbo.

Wishing you many blessings,

Jess, Dubbo, New South Wales, Australia"



SHARING THE GOSPEL FROM MY LIVING ROOM

"Dear Lutheran Braille Workers,

I wanted to say thank you for giving me an opportunity to begin volunteering from home. I am 79 years old, and with this COVID, I have been isolated and feeling useless. I watched a presenter from your ministry on a Zoom Bible Study at my church and he mentioned the ability to do some work for you from home. You set me up to help proofread and do narrating for your audio projects and I am incredibly grateful. You've given me purpose in my life and allowed me to feel like I am sharing the Gospel from my living room. Furthermore, as I read the materials aloud, somehow, it feels like I am more closely connected with Christ. Thank you for what you do for people who are Blind, but also to people like me." Robert, New Braunfels, TX.

Lutheran Braille Workers is always looking for men and women available to volunteer from home! If you have experience working with computers, especially with formatting software, or if you have a nice speaking voice and are interested in helping to narrate Christian audio materials, please contact our headquarters at LBW@LBWloveworks.org, or 909-795-8977.





A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Spring is an incredible time of the year to think about growth, joy, and the many blessings we have. It is the season of Easter, planting crops, and thawing out from the winter months. It is a time to look ahead to the path God has prepared for us.

This is also a time to look at what we have accomplished in the past year. In spite of the challenges which happened in 2020, there were many great things that occurred which are discussed later in this newsletter. One of the things I am most grateful for was your continued and growing support for this ministry. Your prayers and gifts allowed LBW to continue production every single month of 2020, which was especially critical due to the temporary closure of so many of our Ministry Production Centers. For the first time since our ministry's beginnings 78 years ago, the bulk of production occurred at our headquarters instead of through the hands of volunteers. Your support allowed this to happen. Thank you!



As we look forward to 2021, there are even more exciting opportunities ahead of Lutheran Braille Workers. In addition to opening new ministry centers and adding new volunteers, we continue to update our software, processes, headquarters, and warehouse. We are still adding new titles to the library every month and working on accessing new languages. Travel should be resumed at some point this year and LBW will be at the LWML National Convention in Lexington, Kentucky. Existing Ministry Production Centers will continue to reopen and the Word of God will be able to reach even more people who are Blind or Visually Impaired.

God has blessed this ministry richly, and we fervently pray He will continue to do so. Thank you for the many blessings you have given to Lutheran Braille Workers. I pray the contents of this Illuminations will excite you and help you see the impact you are having in the lives of people around the world!

In His Service,

Jay Zemke, President





GEORGIA ON MY MIND

Lutheran Braille Workers is excited to announce the opening of a new Ministry Production Center at Rivercliff Lutheran Church in Sandy Springs, Georgia, this spring!

The journey to open this center began in Fall 2019 when Rivercliff Lutheran Church's pastor, Reverend Jeffrey Jordan, heard a representative of LBW speak at the Florida-Georgia LCMS District Circuit Visitor meeting. At the time, Rivercliff Lutheran Church was considering new avenues to explore in terms of ministering to others in the community and throughout the world. Pastor Jordan felt something tug at his heart and brain as he heard about LBW, and thought his church should at least learn more about this unique opportunity to bring the Gospel to people who are Blind or Visually Impaired.

In early 2020, the church requested a representative from LBW headquarters come

to Georgia, which happened in March, right before shut-downs began to occur in the United States due to COVID. The representative spoke briefly during two church services, presented during the 45 minute Sunday School window, spoke to a Circuit meeting of the local LCMS churches, addressed a pan-Lutheran ministry organization in the North Atlanta area, visited key individual stakeholders, and met with several government and non-religious organizations which serve the Visually Impaired in north Georgia.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Over 50 people signed-up to volunteer if a Ministry Production Center was opened at Rivercliff Lutheran Church, multiple area congregations committed to sending volunteers or providing financial support, other means of financial support were identified, and most importantly, an area of great opportunity to witness to an underserved population was recognized in Atlanta. There are approximately 250,000 people in the Atlanta metropolitan area who are Blind or Severely Visually Impaired, and there is a severe shortage of religious services provided to these individuals.

The Holy Spirit was truly at work through this entire process beginning in 2019. This spring, Rivercliff Lutheran Church will be opening a Ministry Production Center which will be producing Braille, Specialized Large Print, and Prison Large Print Bibles for distribution throughout the region, country, and world! To God be the glory as the men and women of Rivercliff Lutheran Church begin this ministry! Please pray for their continued success!

Daniel pictured holding all that remained of his French Braille Bible. Keep in mind a full Braille Bible is typically 37 volumes taking up five feet of shelf space.



A MISSIONARY WITHIN A WAR ZONE

Lutheran Braille Workers recently received a request for a French Braille Bible from a U.S. based missionary group. They were planning on sending the Bible to one of their African missionaries in Liberia and shared this story with us:

"Thank you for your kind assistance. We are excited to have found a friend in you and your dedicated organization to supply Braille Bibles. By all means, please share the story of our Liberia missionary but for security reasons I cannot give out his real name.

Daniel was forced out of a war-torn area (Ivory Coast) due to civil unrest. He had to escape very quickly and left everything behind, including his French Braille Bible. When he sent back for it, the searcher only found a portion of his Bible which was mostly destroyed, and many pages were missing.

Even though he is Blind, he has been ministering to others most of his adult life. He has helped win many souls to the Lord.

We are grateful for the French Braille New Testament you are sending to Daniel as this is his joy and connection to Scriptures. It is not easy to find these materials, and the fact you are doing this for free is a blessing. Thank you!"



And now these three remain: faith, hope
and love. But the greatest of these is love.
(1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV)

GOD'S BLESSINGS IN 2020

Despite the challenges we faced in 2020, God continued to richly bless the ministry of Lutheran Braille Workers. Here are a few exciting items which occurred last year for which we are joyfully grateful!

- Production continued and Christian materials were distributed every single month in spite of closures, shut-downs, and interruptions to mail service.
- By December 2020, 38 Ministry Production Centers reopen and begin producing Braille and Specialized Large Print materials.
- New at-home volunteers were added as Audio narrators, Large Print formatters and proofreaders, and Braille Transcribers.
- Multiple new titles were added to LBW's library in Braille and Specialized Large Print.
- New partnerships were formed, and existing partnerships were strengthened, with Lutheran and Christian organizations in the U.S. and around the world which opened up new titles.
- Over 120 first-time donors were added last year alone in spite of the lack of travel to conventions, churches, or conferences.
- A new forklift was purchased for the warehouse and is being put to excellent use.
- New software and technologies have been brought into LBW headquarters which is increasing workflow and speeding up internal processes in a positive manner.
- Requests for materials from individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired continued to increase!

DELAYS IN END OF YEAR MAILINGS

Due to significant delays with the United States Postal Service around the holidays, there were some issues with mail coming to and from Lutheran Braille Workers. One major delay involved our Christmas newsletter which was sent out on December 4 but did not arrive in some mailboxes until the first week of January. In addition, there were significant delays when donations were received at our headquarters. There were some checks which were postmarked December 15 which did not arrive at the post office until January 12. Please note, if your envelope was postmarked before December 31, your gift was entered for the 2020 calendar year, even if your check was not received until 2021. We apologize if these delays created any concerns or issues, but please know we had no control over this matter. If you have any further questions, please contact our headquarters at LBW@LBWloveworks.org, or 909-795-8977.



COMING TO A SCREEN NEAR YOU!

Are you as excited by the wonderful stories from our recipients, the growth of the ministry, and the vision for the future as we are?

Would you like to share all of this wonderful news with your church, organization, group of friends, or social circles? Better yet, would you like to have somebody from Lutheran Braille Workers present this information to your intended audience?

We would love to talk to your church, Bible study, organization, or group of friends via Zoom, and when travel resumes, in person!

If you are interested in booking a speaker from Lutheran Braille Workers, please contact Daniel Jenkins at daniel@LBWloveworks.org, or by phone at 909-795-8977.

"Greetings! I am happy to say that today I received the first Bible book in the mail, Matthew in ESV. I was so thrilled when I unboxed the package. Much appreciation to you and your entire staff for bringing such tremendous project. The quality of paper and Braille printing preferences are really good. May the Lord give His grace to make such projects continue in the future. Much love to you! Joel from India"

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

braille alphabet

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

Can you read this?

A 3x10 grid of blue dots forming a stylized representation of the word "HELLO". The dots are arranged in three rows and ten columns. The first row contains 10 dots, the second row contains 10 dots, and the third row contains 10 dots. The dots are arranged in a way that they form the letters H, E, L, L, O. The first row contains the top of the H, the top of the E, the top of the first L, the top of the second L, and the top of the O. The second row contains the middle of the H, the middle of the E, the middle of the first L, the middle of the second L, and the middle of the O. The third row contains the bottom of the H, the bottom of the E, the bottom of the first L, the bottom of the second L, and the bottom of the O.