

LBW CELEBRATING

75th

Anniversary

1943 - 2018

LBW

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

"We live by faith, not by sight"

2 Corinthians 5:7

Once again, I had Hope!

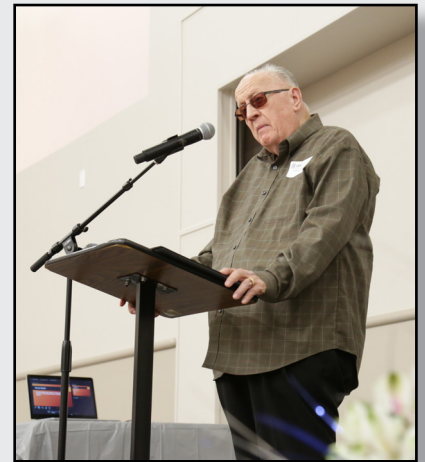
Imagine hearing the doctor say you have a disease which will eliminate your eyesight. At first, you might think the doctor is wrong. But as time passes by, you notice the changes. Your center vision slowly disappears. Reading cursive is impossible, people become blobs, and then one day, the Large Print Bible your daughter purchased for you is impossible to see, even with an LED lit, magnifying glass. You try to live your life as normally as possible, going out to eat and attending your normal men's Bible study, but nothing is the same.

For Mr. Robert Harrigan, this IS his life story which he shared with the audience at the 75th anniversary celebration at Trinity-Klein Lutheran Church in Spring, Texas. He described his frustrations, especially with his inability to read, due to his passion for the printed word. Yet, Robert said, "the greatest loss was no longer being able to read the Bible."

One day after church, a few ladies stopped Robert and his wife, Marilyn. They approached with a large canvas bag containing a Specialized Large Print Bible from Lutheran Braille Workers. Robert reached in, unsure of what to expect, and pulled out the Gospel of Luke. He opened the volume, and with his magnifier in hand, realized he could once again read God's Word. Robert described the moment, "I was so excited I could read the Bible. Once again, I had hope!"



Marilyn Harrigan giving support to husband Robert Harrigan



Mr. Robert Harrigan,
Recipient of LBW's Large Print Bible

This is why Lutheran Braille Workers exists: to bring the Gospel into the hands of people who are Blind or Visually Impaired. In 75 years of existence, it isn't about the number of volumes distributed around the world or the dozens of Work and Outreach Centers across the country. God has used this organization, its volunteers, and its supporters, to bring the Good News to those in need; men, women, and children like Robert Harrigan, all of whom are in need of the hope found through Jesus Christ. (cont'd inside)

Thoughts from the President



**Reverend Dennis Stueve,
President, Lutheran Braille Workers**

Have you ever had difficult times! Let's be honest, we all have had hard times. Hardships darken our days and drain our hope and joy. Simon Pereyng was someone who faced hard times, yet he retained his hope and joy. He was arrested and thrown into a dungeon during the 17th century, which was the time of the Inquisition. That was tantamount to being guilty. And being guilty meant the end of your life. The very best you could do was to linger on in a cell that was dark, damp, and full of bugs. Sooner or later you died.

What would you do if you were Simon? Simon mixed paint. He took clay from the floor of the cell, some of his food, and stirred it into paint. Then he took fragments of cloth, strings and some of the straw that stuck to his clothes and the blanket on the floor and made them into a paint brush. He used his cell door as a canvas.

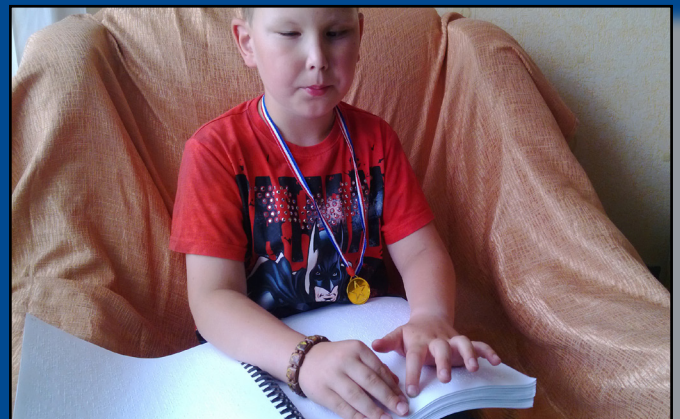
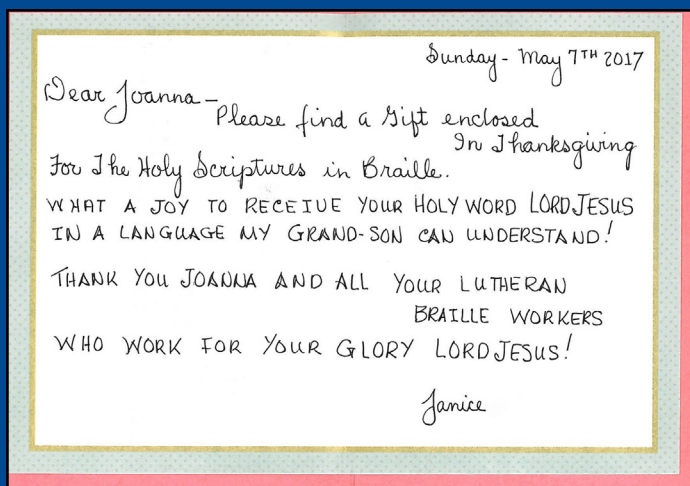
What did he paint with such crude materials? He created a beautiful painting that still exists today. It was so striking that the inquisitors were convinced that Simon saw a heavenly vision, and they set him free. Today that painting is called the Altar of Pardon. It's a painting of Jesus and the Virgin Mary.

What's important about this story is not that the inquisitors set Pereyng free, but that Pereyng knew he was already free while in prison. He knew that no matter what the inquisitors did to him, he was free of fear, even if they killed him.

What gave him that freedom? How could he have such hope? He trusted the words of a man who lived 2,000 years ago and is still alive, a man who said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies"* (John 11:25). That man is Jesus Christ. He walked out of his tomb on Easter morning. He proved he is God. And he promised, *"Because I live, you also will live"* (John 14:19). When hardships darken your days, there is hope. When sorrow drains you, you can find joy. Jesus is that hope. Jesus is that joy.

For 75 years Lutheran Braille Workers has been bringing that message of hope, life, joy, and freedom in the resurrected Jesus in the midst of hard times to those who are visually impaired. So many who are visually impaired find themselves in a prison of darkness. (Ninety-five percent of people who are visually impaired are un-churched.) Your partnership in this Gospel ministry brings them Jesus and the freedom that only He can give.

--Rev. Dennis Stueve



**This young man is happy to be able to read
the Gospel of John**

Gala for Giving

A few staff members and I attended Concordia University Irvine's Gala this past weekend. It was a wonderful evening of alumni and supporters who were there to contribute to the University's Scholarship Fund. The night's emphasis was on furthering education in a Christ-centered atmosphere.

LBW has a similar emphasis. In fact, the book we provide to students, young and old, is the Bible.

Although public schools do not provide Bibles or Bible Studies, it is necessary for us to provide Bibles to all people so they can learn to live in a Christ-centered atmosphere through the love of Jesus.

When you give of your time or financial support you are doing just that; you are providing a Braille Bible for someone who may not have the privilege of touching the Word of God.

You or I don't have to go to a Gala to supply a Braille Bible for a student, we have the privilege of providing a Bible as soon as today. --Rose Jaimes

- Dear Braille Workers in the Lord Jesus,

I wanted to demonstrate my gratitude for this ministry. I work with a child who has been blind since birth, in a public school setting. I believe that Jesus is needed everywhere and to everyone.

You all have made this possible for an elementary school child through your passion, commitment, and love for God. ☺

I pray that God will bless this ministry above and beyond you could ever ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).

- Thank you for the Children's Gospels in Braille!

With Love and Sincerity
in Christ Jesus,
Amber

Your kindness in a special way
brought God's blessing to my day.

Thank You!

P.S. = I pray that the Lord will multiply your finances and efforts. We are all a part of something Holy, and we are in this together.



Sydney is excited to receive the Gospel of Luke

Exciting News about Going Digital!

The audio department of LBW is pleased to announce that all of the magazines that are offered on cassette are now offered in digital format. Yes, The Lutheran Witness, Portals of Prayer, Lutheran Woman's Quarterly and Illuminations are now available in the DTB (digital talking book) format which is compatible with the NLS player. Also, the two year

Bible study, "Helping Blind People See Jesus," is now available in the DTB format. If you wish to receive your audio materials in this new format please contact Charlotte by calling the office 800-925-6092, email: charlotte@lbwinc.org or by going to our website www.lbwinc.org and order from English Audio.

--Charlotte Wilson

Celebrating God's Blessings in Texas

On April 21, 2018, over 120 people came together at Trinity-Klein Lutheran Church in Spring, Texas, to celebrate 75 years of service for Lutheran Braille Workers. In addition to an outstanding lunch, attendees were treated to a fantastic line-up of speakers, all of whom provided a motivational message. Reverend Jon Braunersreuther, Houston area Mission Facilitator of the Texas District of the LCMS, and Reverend J. Brown, Director of Church Relations, provided greetings and gracious words from their respective institutions. Mr. Robert Harrigan shared his inspirational connection to the Large Print Bible produced by LBW. The event's keynote speaker, Reverend Doctor Gregory Seltz, Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, provided a tremendous address to the audience reminding all present about the blessings God has given to the organization and its supporters. President Dennis Stueve then shared Lutheran Braille Workers' vision for the future as well as the organization's continued commitment to keeping up with advances in technology. Finally, Vice President

Daniel Jenkins shared a video provided by the LCMS Foundation regarding a new partnership between the organizations to assist donors and volunteers of LBW (see back page). He also invited all people to continue to support Lutheran Braille Workers through time, talents, and gifts to ensure this wonderful organization would be around 75 years from now.

During the event, Mr. Norman Loeber, brother to Helene Loewe Koehler, and an eyewitness to the tremendous history of LBW, was recognized for being in attendance! There was also recognition of all of the volunteers, donors, board members (past and present), and staff members in attendance.

If you were not able to attend, but would like to see and listen to the speakers, video of the entire line-up of speakers is available on LBW's Facebook page—www.facebook.com/lutheranbrailleworkers.

We hope everybody will be able to attend our Gala Event on October 20, 2018 in Southern California.



Reverend J. Brown
Director of Church Relations



Reverend Doctor Gregory Seltz,
Executive Director of LCRL



Mr. Norman Loeber
Brother of Founder, Helene Loewe Koehler

Once again, I had Hope! (cont'd from page 1)

Mr. Harrigan shared that the following Saturday, during the men's Bible study, joy filled his heart as he was once again able to read, follow-along, and participate with others. He didn't know LBW existed, or that people like our volunteers even were in this world. But now, reading Scripture one letter at time, he thanks God that LBW is around to produce Christian materials for people who are Blind or Visually Impaired.

His story inspired those in attendance at the 75th celebration, but let it be an encouragement of why Lutheran Braille Workers exists, as well as a reminder our mission is not yet fulfilled!

"Do I Make a Difference?"

This is a question I hear from donors, volunteers, and supporters wondering if their support of Lutheran Braille Workers actually matters. Far too often I hear people voice concerns their gifts are too small, they won't have enough to give in an estate plan, or their volunteer contributions aren't enough. Yet, we are reminded in 2 Corinthians 9:7, *"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* Indeed, every gift is cherished by the organization, and is significant because it is given from the heart through faith in order to see the ministry succeed and grow. In 75 years, not one person has ever been charged to receive materials from Lutheran Braille Workers. This only happens because of hours of the labor given by

volunteers, the dollars donated today, and the gifts made through supporter's estates.

While standing next to Mr. Robert Harrigan in Texas (see cover story), hearing how even one volume of a Large Print Bible gave him hope, was a tremendous reminder of how your support matters. Every hour of service, dollar of cash, or gift in a will or trust, when combined with all other prayerful support, puts a Bible into the hands of somebody who needs the hope found in Christ Jesus. So in answer to the question, "Do I make a difference," know the answer is a resounding YES! Thank you for all of the help you have given. Please continue to support knowing *YOU* make a difference! --Daniel Jenkins

Mark Your Calendars Celebration of 75 years

Lutheran Braille Workers will celebrate 75 years of service throughout 2018 and invites you to join the staff and volunteers in the upcoming festivities and gatherings.

LBW's second celebration is scheduled for Saturday October 20, 2018, in Southern California. Details to be announced.

Please pray for the continued success of LBW. More opportunities to support LBW through your time, talent, and treasures will arrive in your mailbox throughout the year!



LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

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Name _____ Address _____		Date of first contribution: ____/____/____	Frequency of contribution (check one): ☐ Monthly on the 1 st ☐ Monthly on the 15 th ☐ One Time	Amount per donation: \$ _____ Work Center Number (optional) _____
CHECKING / SAVINGS Complete only if using checking or savings account.		CREDIT / DEBIT CARD Complete only if using your credit or debit card.		
Please debit my donation from my (check one): ☐ Checking Account (attach voided check) ☐ Savings account		Please charge my (check one): ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express		
Routing #: _____ Account #: _____		Credit Card Number: _____		Expiration Date: _____
Name on Card: _____		Billing Address: _____		
I authorize Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.		I authorize Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. and Vanco Services, LLC to charge my card for the above dollar amount.		
Signature on bank account: _____ Date: _____		Signature (as seen on the card): _____ Date: _____		

A Partnership to Serve YOU, Our Supporters

Lutheran Braille Workers is excited to announce a partnership agreement with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) Foundation to serve its volunteers and supporters.

Many people wish to support their family and ministries through their will or estate, but are unsure of how to make this happen. If you have questions about leaving a gift to Lutheran Braille Workers through your estate plan, wish to review your estate plan to ensure it is current, or wish to let us know that you plan on making a gift through your estate, please contact our office. You will be contacted by Daniel Jenkins, Vice President of Ministry Advancement

and a Certified Development Executive (CDE), who will identify your needs. Afterwards, Daniel will either work with you directly, or introduce you to one of the professionals of the LCMS Foundation located throughout the United States who will assist you at absolutely no charge to you.

Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to ask questions about estate plans, or have a professional review yours with you. Your support matters, and we hope to be here for you, now with the expertise and professionalism of the LCMS Foundation as an invaluable resource.



Diagram illustrating the Braille alphabet, showing the letters 'b r a i l l e' and 'a l p h a b e t' in Braille characters.















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?

Please prayerfully consider Lutheran Braille Workers in your Estate Planning.