



LBW

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

LOVE
WORKS

The Gift of God's Love

"Lutheran Braille Workers is the only organization that we have contact [with] that has been willing to provide us with a Bible for those who are truly visually disabled . . .," writes a Mississippi Prison Chaplain.



Rev Dennis Stueve holding of the Prisoner requests for LP Bibles

Although there are some instances, like the one described above, where LBW has been able to provide a Bible to an inmate, most will never receive one. There is a common theme; the strong desire to immerse themselves in God's Word, the need for a larger print than a regular Bible and the lack of resources to purchase one. Prison Chaplains, in their letters, also describe the lack of money in their budgets to acquire suitable inmate Bibles.

Why do so few actually receive a Bible from LBW? The two main reasons are: LBW's Large Print ESV

Bible is too large at twenty-six volumes for their living space and the plastic spiral bindings are usually considered contraband by the facility.

As God's servants, dedicated to bringing the Light of Christ to those who otherwise may never receive it, it became clear that an alternative Large Print Bible was needed. The new, condensed (14 point font) ESV Bible, consisting of six volumes, with glued tape bindings was born. This version which keeps important features such as extra line spacing, wider margins and block style paragraphing, is slated to begin production by the first of next year. (cont'd on page 4)

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Light in the Midst of Darkness

One of my favorite parts of Christmas is the lights. The Magi saw the star that announced the birth of The King.

We place lights on our houses and trees, and a star is positioned above our manger scenes commemorating the divinely-given guiding star.

The Shepherds witnessed the Angels announcement and that announcement so moved the Angelic beings that they burst forth in celestial song. Today we echo that same refrain in shopping malls and churches and on doorsteps throughout the world; songs are still sung in celebration of the King's birth. We are blessed! Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is our Savior by grace through faith! He lights up our world now and forever!

More than 300 million people are severely visually impaired or completely blind. For a vast majority, Christmas is just another day; they do not yet know Jesus.

Blindness does not keep people from knowing Jesus, but access to His Word often does. But you can make the difference!

Because of your positive attitudes and gift-giving joy, you have made the difference in the lives of many thousands of people with visual disability.

You have made the Word of God accessible in Braille, Large Print, and in Audio through your prayers, labor, and gift-giving joy. THANK YOU!

But our mission is not yet complete. Many people still live in spiritual darkness, and LBW remains committed to bringing the Gospel of Jesus to EVERY PERSON WITH VISUAL DISABILITY IN THE WORLD!

Your gift will bless thousands of people with visual disability. Your gifts will bless people with visual impairment allowing many to "see" Jesus for the first time. And they too join the celebration of the birth of Jesus, and forever, along with the whole Church on earth and in heaven, join in the hymn of celebration and praise of Jesus.

The Christmas season is a wonderful time of the year. May God grant that our Christmas joy continues to translate into mission zeal, that by God's grace and through His power, many people with visual disability will soon know Jesus!



Rev. Dennis Stueve

Charitable IRA Rollover

LBW donors have discovered the benefits of making a gift using their Individual Retirement Account (IRA). If you are 70½ or older, you may be interested in this way to make a significant gift while lowering the income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals.

Benefits of an IRA charitable rollover

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Lutheran Braille Workers
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Make a gift that is not subject to the 50%

deduction limits on charitable gifts

- Help further the mission of Lutheran Braille Workers

How do I proceed?

1. Check with your tax advisor to see if a gift from your IRA is appropriate for your situation.
2. Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to Lutheran Braille Workers.
3. Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to Lutheran Braille Workers, and you will receive our acknowledgement.

The ESV Bible...It's all in His plan

Who would have thought prisoners could help people who are Blind receive their Bibles!

In 1999 I was attending my first California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CTEBVI, formerly CTEVH) Conference in Sacramento, CA. While there I visited, Evelyn Cook, one of over forty of LBW's volunteer transcribers. She was not just a transcriber, she was a Library of Congress Certified (LOC) Instructor of Braille.

As I arrived at Evelyn's home, her husband Everett welcomed me into their living room. Evelyn poked her head around the kitchen doorway, a phone was to her ear with a cord dangling, she smiled at me. I heard her giving instruction on Braille codes and formatting. Everett stated, "It may be a few minutes, she is talking to one of her students." Once Evelyn got off the phone she said, "I apologize, I was talking to a student of mine; prisoners only have certain times of the day when they can make phone calls. He needed help with his Braille lesson."

This was new to me...prisoners learning Braille? Evelyn shared with me that she had been teaching prisoners to become transcribers for years. Why?...I figured this was just a way of keeping them busy.

It was a blessing to be able to spend time with such a dedicated volunteer, who had helped me almost daily with managing Braille projects.

Prisoners learning Braille?

Over the years the number of transcribers have declined, it has become more challenging to find organizations or people who are able to transcribe print into Braille. LBW has been no exception to this trend. For the past two years we've been working on transcribing the English Standard Version Bible with the new Unified English Braille codes. With now only three dedicated LBW transcribers, we had to find help.

Since that first meeting with Evelyn, I hadn't thought much about the prison in Vacaville having LOC transcribers. After numerous calls and not finding help, Vacaville came to mind. They were contacted and asked if they could help LBW with the transcription of the ESV Bible.

Within two weeks of sending the first text file to Vacaville, we received a Braille file ready for production. We always hear sayings such as; "It's all in the Lord's timing" or "It's the Lord's plan." Maybe this was His plan for the ESV and why I was sent to Sacramento eighteen years ago.

I love that He trusts us, our volunteers, you the donor, prisoners and staff, to help further this ministry! He trusts us to provide Braille and Large Print Bibles to Blind and Vision Impaired people who need them, who want them.

You can help, by giving the gift of a Bible this Christmas to a person who is Blind or Vision Impaired. It's all in His plan. --Rose Jaimes

"My name is Angelene, I am an inmate currently incarcerated in the Texas Dept of corrections, I am a born again Christian. I am wanting a Bible in large print due to my bad vision, I am currently on the waiting list for glasses, I want to be in my Bible studies, I need the word of my Saviour, as he is what keeps me going knowing that someday I will be free. I hope and pray that this is the answer I have been looking for. God bless, Angelene."

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In 2018 LBW will be celebrating seventy-five years of reaching out to people who are blind with braille publications. In reality, you too should be celebrating – because it is only through your support of this ministry that people who are blind throughout the world are able to read the story of our Savior, Jesus.

The above message is a sample of Braille in sim dots. You could figure out what the message says by going to the computer and printing out a copy of the Braille Alphabet. It might take some time, but you could do it. However, if you were blind and received a printed Bible you would not be able to read it. You would miss the message “For to us a child is born.” Isaiah 9:6

As Christians we know the importance of that Scripture. LBW in 2018 will be working diligently to ensure people who are blind or visually impaired will have access to the Scriptures. We are transcribing

the English Standard Version of the Bible (ESV) into Braille, and for the first time we are working on a large print 14 point ESV Bible for people who are incarcerated. A prison Chaplain wrote, “we will definitely be able to facilitate more copies for our offenders, and hopefully spread the Gospel to those who simply can’t see it right now.”

Can you help? Yes! You have been helping for seventy-five years. We need to reach all people who are blind or visually impaired with God’s Word. We need to be sure that they have the opportunity to pick up their Bible in their media and read His Word. We need to be sure that when they read “For to us a child is born” they know that the child was born for them.

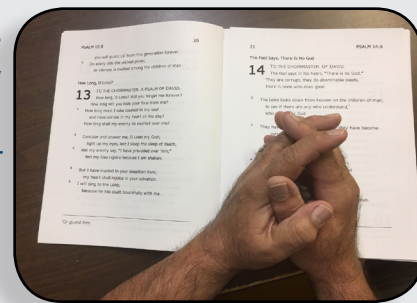
Please continue to keep our ministry in your prayers as we partner together to further the kingdom of God. --Jan Fisher

The Gift of God’s Love (cont’d from page 1)

Praise the Lord for opening the door for LBW to bring the gift of hope and love to people who are in the greatest need of both. Lutheran Braille Workers is uniquely suited to create these Large Print Bibles that will be allowed into prisons en masse. Your prayers and generous gifts are instrumental in

allowing LBW’s Prison Ministry to grow and move forward!

--Roy Fisher



LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

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Name _____		Date of first contribution: _____	Frequency of contribution (check one): ☐ Monthly on the 1 st ☐ Monthly on the 15 th ☐ One Time	Amount per donation: \$ _____
Address _____				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 #: _____		Credit Card Number: _____		Expiration Date: _____
Account #: _____		Name on Card: _____		
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.		Billing Address: _____		
Signature on bank account: _____ Date: _____		I authorize Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. and Vanco Services, LLC to charge my card for the above dollar amount. Signature (as seen on the card): _____ Date: _____		

Please prayerfully consider Lutheran Braille Workers in your Estate Planning.