

Illuminations

LBW CELEBRATING

75th

Anniversary

1943 - 2018

LBW

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

"We live by faith, not by sight"

2 Corinthians 5:7

The Holy Spirit at Work around the World

What would you do if you found a box of books on the side of the road in a language you didn't understand? Would you throw them away, or leave them sitting in the dust?

Some years ago, a man in Africa came across a box of books in a language he didn't recognize. But he took them to a missionary in a nearby village who immediately recognized the books were volumes of the Bible in Braille. After giving away the first box of Bible volumes, the missionary wrote LBW asking for more volumes of the Bible.

"Please remove some of the packaging to add another volume to the box. We have people walking from over 20 miles away to receive these, and I can use more."

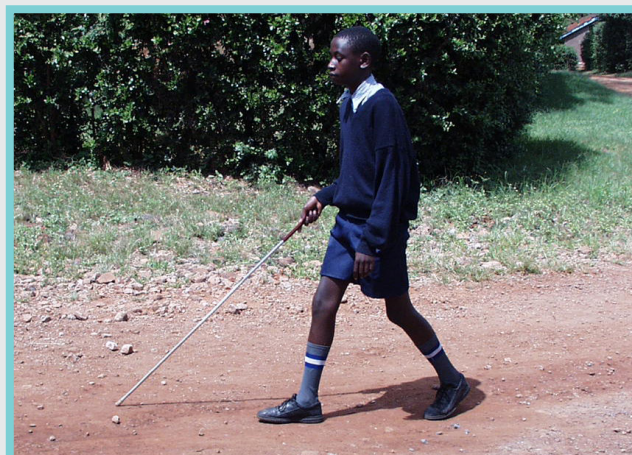
This is the environment LBW finds all around the world – people grasping for one volume of the Bible so they too can know Jesus. People in rural parts of Africa, South America, and Asia will walk 20 miles or more so they can read about Jesus. If they are willing to do so much to know Jesus, who wouldn't want to help them gain access to at least one more book of the Bible?

The Holy Spirit provides many opportunities to bring the Word of God to people who are Blind or Visually Impaired. For many of these people, they have grown up thinking their Visual Impairment is a result of something

they, or their parents, did wrong. Often they are shunned in the villages or discarded as useless. The hope found in Christ Jesus inspires them to live life to the fullest.

Your support of LBW affects people all over the world. LBW has sent materials to over 160 countries in its 75 year history. There are tens of thousands of people, who are Blind or Visually Impaired, waiting to know about Jesus and the demand for Braille and Large Print materials overseas is increasing from individuals and Bible Societies every year.

Did you know if you gave a gift of \$185 you would fund the cost of an entire set of Large Print or Braille Bible volumes to go overseas? If you have a heart for ensuring people in other parts of the world also know about Jesus, please consider supporting LBW's International Ministry with a gift today or by volunteering to put the volumes of the Bible together.



Letter From the President



Rev. Dennis Stueve
LBW President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is my last newsletter entry to you, our wonderful supporters, as the Stueve family prepares for retirement in January 2019.

I cannot thank you enough for all of your support to LBW over its 75 year history, and especially during my 15 years of serving this ministry. Your dedication to ensuring the Bible and other Christian materials can be produced in Braille, Large Print, and Audio has inspired me every day,

and has made a difference in the lives of tens of thousands of people here in the United States and abroad.

This time of year is special for Christians as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the greatest gift God has given to humanity. We celebrate Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection, as His sacrifice meant all believers will meet again in Heaven for eternity. This brings Christians hope, peace, and joy in knowing any pain we face is temporary compared to what is waiting for us in the future.

There are too many people who are Blind or Visually Impaired in the world who still need to know this message. They need to know the Christmas story, the Easter story, and the Good News waiting for them. Even as I prepare to retire, I know the ministry of LBW will continue on as long as volunteers step forward to make materials or provide outreach, and as long as supporters continue to provide financial gifts to this organization.

So thank you for all of your support to LBW over the years. May you please continue to support this amazing ministry now and in the future so everybody in the world knows about Jesus on Christmas morning! I look forward to seeing what God has in store for LBW in the years to come.

In His Service, Dennis Stueve

Reaching Out to Provide a Hand

"It's a highlight of my month. It's what I look forward to more than almost anything, other than seeing my grandchildren. The chance to study the Bible, have lunch, and enjoy the company of others for even two hours, makes me so happy."

This is the quote from Ruby*, who is Visually Impaired, regarding her monthly visits to Ministry Outreach Center 629 at Faith Lutheran Church in Detroit, Michigan.

Hundreds of people who are Blind or Visually Impaired benefit from more than 50 Ministry Outreach Centers throughout the United States and Canada. For many, this is their

opportunity once per month or week, to engage in fellowship, have a hot meal, and learn more about Jesus and the hope found in Him.

LBW's Ministry Outreach Centers also provides other services, depending on the location, to help meet the needs of the community served. Whether it's helping provide clothes for job interviews, counseling from pastors regarding life's events, or access to visual-assistance technology, the wonderful volunteers at these centers are committed to showing Christ's love through action.

Your support allows LBW to continue and expand its hands-on outreach

to people who are Blind or Visually Impaired. Every gift helps to provide Bible Studies, Christian literature, audio materials, and other services to this beautiful community. Thank you for your time and support of this ministry!

*Name changed to protect privacy



Detroit's Outreach Ministry Members

Touching the Word of God in the United States

“Thank you for helping my 10 year old daughter feel like she belongs. She received her first free Braille Bible volume this week and was able to participate in Sunday School. I was in tears when she came home from church on Sunday so filled with happiness.”

This was part of an e-mail LBW received from Michael, a father in Pennsylvania, who learned about LBW from friends and ordered a free Braille Bible for his daughter.

Imagine the relief a father must feel knowing his child can read the Word of God. Imagine the joy in his daughter's life knowing she belongs with her group of peers and friends in Sunday School. LBW provides Braille Bibles for free throughout the United States to people of all ages. Whether it is a 10 year girl getting her first Braille Bible, or a 75 year old man who receives the Portals of Prayer in Braille, everybody in need who requests Braille materials receives them for free, because of our volunteers and supporters like you.

The Braille Bible in English costs \$185 to produce, is made up of 37 volumes, and is approximately 5 feet wide. Yet,

every volume which arrives on a door step or in a mail box means the world to the recipient. Each volume is another connection between the reader and the Word of God. There are many other materials produced in Braille which also rely on volunteers and donors for their existence.

Your support allows people, both in the United States and throughout the world, who are Blind or Visually Impaired to find hope in Jesus Christ and comfort in His peace and mercy.

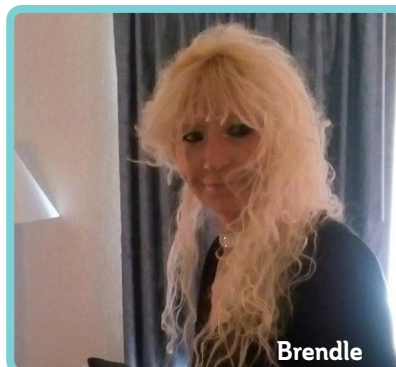


Excited to Read Again

“Thank you so much for the LBW Large Print Bible, I have barely put it down to eat or sleep. I missed reading my Bible for years, this is like an early Christmas to me!!!” - Brendle

This message, reflects the joy thousands of people receive each year when they can access the Scriptures in a format they can read.

For so many people in the world who have grown up reading the Scriptures and other materials, losing their eyesight is a terrifying experience. Losing their vision can make them feel detached from God's love, or even worse, as if they are being punished for sin. It is especially hard to lose their sight knowing what it is they are missing: the ability to see their children or grandchildren, view God's natural wonders, and to read the Word of God.



LBWs' Specialized Large Print allows tens of thousands of people in the United States and around the World the joy of opening the Bible and reading the words for themselves. LBW does not merely increase the font size. We use a special font, called APHont, developed by the American Printing House for the Blind. This font comes with proper letter and word spacing and LBW adds extra line spacing, wide margins and block style paragraphing. Printing is then done on glare reducing paper to provide a volume which is easier to read for people with limited vision.

Your support in assembling these materials is needed so people who are

Visually Impaired can continue to find hope in God's written Word. Your financial support allows LBW to produce and distribute Large Print Bibles and other Christian materials throughout the United States and around the world. Thank you for making this all possible!

Hearing the Word of God

At a conference in Texas, Judy approached the LBW table to say she appreciated all of the Large Print materials sent to her mother over the previous decade, but now it was time to cancel all of the orders. Her mother simply could not read the Specialized Large Print anymore due to macular degeneration and had switched to listening to materials through the NLS audio system provided by the Library of Congress.

As she turned to walk away, Judy mentioned her mother's disappointment in not having access to devotions or the LCMS & LWML periodicals anymore. Immediately we mentioned LBW produces these items on NLS cartridges and other mediums! Judy began crying tears of joy at the thought of her mother having access to the materials which have meant so much to her faith.

While not as well-known as Braille or Specialized Large Print, LBW produces a number of publications and materials via audio cassette, CD, or NLS cartridge. These materials continue to provide people access to God's Word and the happenings in the Christian world around them. Furthermore, thanks to the numerous volunteers who

generously donate hours each month narrating the materials for the listening pleasure of the recipients, all of the Audio materials are distributed free of charge to the listeners. Your support provides people like Judy's mother the means to know God's love and mercy through their ears, especially in today's world of rapidly advancing technology.



Providing Hope Behind Bars

On average, two letters a day are received at LBW's headquarters from prisoners throughout the country who are asking for Specialized Large Print Bibles to read while behind bars. Most of these men and women are practically begging for a Bible they can read to find hope and comfort in the midst of the difficult situations they find themselves facing. For years, LBW responded by asking the prisons for permission to send volumes of the 18 point, Specialized Large Print Bible to the prisoners. Most requests were denied by the prisons due to the plastic bindings used in the Bibles being deemed a security risk. Hundreds of prisoners (almost 95% of all requests) were denied a Bible, not because LBW did not wish to provide one, but because we were not allowed by the system.

Now, however, LBW has a new seven-volume, 14 point, Specialized Large Print Bible with a tape binding which meets most prison safety standards. Praise be to God! LBW can begin answering with a resounding "YES!" to the requests of those in jail or prison who want to know about Jesus Christ.

In fact, as news spreads about this new Bible, the requests are coming in faster than ever with prisoners excited about the chance to have their own Bible to read! Even some jail and prison directors are ordering these Bibles and other materials for their inmates in quantities of 10 at a time! The hardest part now is supplying the growing demand, despite little advertising of this new product.

LBW is looking for individuals and churches willing to start a Ministry Center to help produce these 14 point Large Print Bibles, not only for prisoners, but also for assisted living centers, churches, hospitals, and any individual needing a slightly more compact Bible. If you, or your church is interested in opening a center, please contact the headquarters of LBW directly to begin these discussions.

Your support of this new 14 point, Specialized Large Print Bible will bring hope behind bars and into the hearts of individuals who need to know the saving power of Jesus more than ever!

We Don't Want to Lose You!

In an effort to be as efficient as possible in its mailings, and to be good stewards of the resources given to this ministry, LBW is cleaning up its mailing list starting January 1, 2019. If LBW has not received a gift, have you listed on a volunteer roster, or otherwise had communication with you since January 1, 2013, you will not receive any more of LBW's mailings. If you stop receiving mailings in 2019 and would like to receive them, please contact the Home Office and LBW will add you back onto the mailing list. Thank you!

Board of Directors

Mrs. Carol M. Zemke - Chair
Mr. Ken Loeber - Vice Chair
Mrs. Deborah Rutt - Secretary
Mrs. Ruth Martin - Treasurer
Dr. Paul Dasari - Board Member
Mrs. Priscilla Newton -
Board Member
Rev. Dr. Daniel Mattson - Chaplain

Tax ID: 95-6048152

How You Can Help

If these stories of people around the world who have been impacted by the ministry of LBW has moved you, please consider how you can help support this wonderful work!

1. Please pray for LBW, its ministry, its volunteers and staff, and most importantly, the recipients of its materials. God will use this ministry as He sees fit, and your prayers provide an unending reserve of support and hope that LBW will continue to make a difference in the future.

2. Be a volunteer! There are an incredible number of ways to help the ministry of LBW. Serve in a Ministry Center by helping to put together volumes of Braille or Large Print Bibles or other materials. Join another Ministry Center and help to provide hands-on outreach to people who are Visually Impaired every month. Be a narrator and assist in reading materials for others to hear. Be an ambassador for LBW by telling others about this ministry, helping find people who need these materials, or inviting others to volunteer.

3. Provide financial support. There are so many ways to give, and every gift, no matter how large or small, makes an incredible impact on the lives of others. Your support, whether through Thrivent Choice Dollars, a donation of money, an estate gift, or gifts of assets helps people to know about Jesus Christ. Your gifts have an eternal impact on the lives of people in this world who are Blind or Visually Impaired. Please make a gift today to ensure LBW's mission continues, and every person in the world who is Blind or Visually Impaired can count on receiving Free Bibles and other Christian materials.

Please prayerfully consider Lutheran Braille Workers in your Estate Planning.

Lutheran Braille Workers

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM 502738851

Name _____	Date of first contribution: ____/____/____	Frequency of contribution (check one) ☐ Monthly on the 1st ☐ Monthly on the 15th ☐ One Time	Amount per donation \$ _____ Work Center No. (optional)
Address _____ _____			
CHECKING/SAVINGS Complete only if using checking or savings account		CREDIT / DEBIT CARD Complete only if using 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: _____	
I authorize Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. and Vanco Services, LLC to process debt entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.		Name on Card: _____	
Billing Address: _____		I authorize Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. and Vanco Services, LLC to charge my card for the above dollar amount.	
Signature on account: _____ Date: _____		Signature (as seen on the card): _____ Date: _____	

_____ \$185 for a 37 volume Braille Bible

_____ \$185 for a 26 volume Large Print Bible (18pt font)

_____ \$185 for a 7 volume Large Print Bible (14pt font) for a prisoner

_____ A gift in the amount of \$_____

_____ Volunteer Opportunities
_____ Opening a Ministry Center

Email: _____

*It is with great sadness we learned
Our Savior Lutheran Church
in Paradise, California, home
of LBWs' Ministry Center 117,
burned down during the Camp
Fire in November 2018.*

We have been in touch with members of the church and volunteer team. At this time, we are still working to confirm details, and are asking everybody to keep this church family in your prayers.

Ministry Center 117 would have celebrated its 40th anniversary on November 26 of this year. As new information comes to light it will be shared on LBWs' website, www.lbwinc.org, and on its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lutheranbrailleworkers.















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Can you read this?

Celebrating 75 years of Ministry through God's Blessings



Jonathan Howard,
Representative of
Concordia University Irvine



Jennica Stevens,
Representative of
The United Bible Society



Daphne & Carl Hester,
Volunteers of Ministry Center 152

On October 20, 2018, LBW celebrated its 75th anniversary at the Yucaipa headquarters with almost 150 volunteers, staff, board members, donors, and recipients of Braille, Large Print, and Audio materials. The entire night was filled with joy, laughter, fellowship, tears of joy, and unabashed love for the ministry of LBW.

The evening began with wonderful music from Concordia University Irvine's jazz trio at a reception, followed by tours through the warehouse and operations center of LBW.

Greetings and well-wishes were brought from representatives of Concordia University Irvine and the United Bible Societies, and followed by a delicious dinner, with wine donated by Steinbeck Wineries of Paso Robles.

After dinner, guests were treated to four amazing speakers. First was famed speaker and author Glynn Langston who, through his incredible

humor, was able to share how the ministry of LBW makes an impact into the lives of so many people throughout the world. Second was young Kaleb Ries, a 9 year old recipient of LBW's Braille materials, who thanked everybody involved with LBW for allowing him to read the Bible for himself. As Kaleb said, "Thanks to your work I can see the Word of God with my fingers." Following Kaleb was Rev. Bob Newton who told the powerful story of two mothers (his and his wife's) who were both equally impacted by LBW but in completely different ways. Finally, the President of the LWML, Mrs. Patti Ross, shared the impact of LBW throughout its history by connecting LBW with the six dots of the Braille cell. After her keynote address, Mrs. Ross made a very special presentation of a \$50,000 check, which was the first installment from a grant awarded to LBW by the National LWML at their convention in 2017. We are grateful for the long-time support of the LWML!



Glynn Langston, Founder & President of
Insight International



Kaleb with his father
Rev. Jeffrey Ries



Rev. Dr. Bob Newton
Immediate Past President, CA/NV/HI District

Celebrating 75 years of Ministry

The Delafosse Memorial Love Through Service Award (named in honor of former Executive Director Leroy Delafosse) was presented to a long time volunteer and former chairperson of the LBW Board of Directors, Mrs. Roberta Werth of Wichita, Kansas. During the celebration, it was also an honor to recognize the family members of Leroy and Marjorie Delafosse who were in attendance.

The Founder's Distinguished Service Award (named in honor of LBW's founder, Helene Loewe Koehler) was presented to Helene's brother, Mr. Norman Loeber, a partner in this ministry for over 74 years.

After taking a moment to recognize all of the recipients of LBW's

materials, volunteers, donors, staff, and board members in attendance, a special recognition was given to three members of LBW's staff who are retiring in 2019. President Dennis Stueve (January 2019), Vice President of Operations Janis Fisher (May 2019), and Large Print & Audio Administrator Roy Fisher (May 2019) will all be missed!

Finally, it was time to debut LBW's new promotional video sharing just four of the powerful stories within this ministry and organization. This 9 ½ minute video, produced by Reliant Studios, is a tremendous and incredibly moving testimonial to why the ministry of LBW is as important today as it was 75 years ago. To view this video, please go to www.facebook.com/lutheranbrailleworkers.

Finishing the night was President Dennis Stueve providing some closing thoughts regarding the future of LBW, and the need to continue to share the Gospel with people who may not otherwise know Jesus. He reminded the audience of the 240 million people in the world who are Blind or Visually Impaired, 95% of whom are unchurched.

Thank you to everybody who participated in this incredible event. For those of you who were not able to attend, next year LBW will be hosting its 2nd Annual Ministry Fundraiser on September 21, 2019 in Redlands, California. Mark your calendars now and plan on attending!



L to R: Mrs. Patti Ross, LWML President, Mrs. Carol Zemke, LBW Chair, Rev. Dennis Stueve, LBW President



L to R: Mr. Daniel Jenkins, Mr. Norman Loeber, Mrs. Kathy Loeber, Mr. Ken Loeber



L to R: Mrs. Janis Fisher, Mr. Roy Fisher, Mr. Daniel Jenkins



Center Right, Mrs. Roberta Werth, surrounded by her children and grandchildren



L to R: Mr. Ken Loeber, Mrs. Kathy Loeber, Mrs. Patti Ross, Ms. Rita Bakelaar