

**I'm Interested in Providing a Bible(s) for a Person Who is Blind or Vision Impaired**

- ☐ \$100 which could provide 20 audio cartridges for the Visually Impaired
☐ \$200 which could fund a complete Bible in Braille or Large Print
☐ \$1000 which could produce five complete Bibles in Braille or Large Print
☐ A gift in the amount of \$_____

Please contact me with information on:

- ☐ Volunteer Opportunities
☐ Free Assistance with Estate Planning

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State & Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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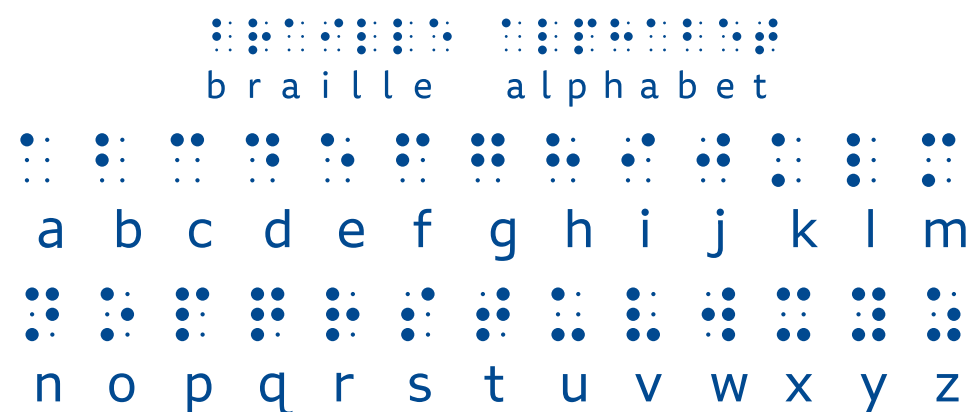
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**Puzzle #1 of 5: Can you read this?**

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.



ILLUMINATIONS

SHARING THE GOSPEL ALWAYS | WINTER 2019

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**JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN
TO SHARE GOD'S WORD****A FATHER'S THANKS**

Thank you SO much for sending the Braille New Testament to my blind son, Jeff. A month ago I ordered this for my son, who is 38, totally blind, and had been struggling recently with depression and loneliness. He always resisted church and anything related to it for some reason.

Praise God, he received his first two books, Matthew and Mark, and became a new man. They have brought him to Christ, which is an amazing blessing in his life and for our family. He is now a member of a great local church and church community group.

Currently he also reads his Braille Bible every Wednesday as a volunteer at a local hospice, comforting dying patients. He also works with local children and tutors them in reading and math. His life is changed! Our prayers are being answered, and LBW is a big part of this. Your work is simply amazing.

Tom B- Lake Wylie, SC



A complete Braille Bible costs approximately \$200 to produce and distribute. Your gift allows people like Jeff the opportunity to receive the hope and love found in God's Word today and share this with others in the world.

PO Box 5000 Yucaipa, CA 92399 800-925-6092 www.LBWloveworks.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas is such a magical time of year. As we celebrate the coming birth of Jesus, I am overjoyed by what this season means: our eternal salvation has been born on Earth!

While for some, Christmas is a time of stress, busy stores, and hectic schedules, I view Christmas as a time of renewal, joy, peace, hope, and love. We feel God's love through His Son's birth. We relish in the knowledge our sins are forgiven and we will one day be with Jesus in Heaven, perfectly happy, forever!

This year I also celebrate being with an organization which shares this incredible Good News with people who are Blind or Visually Impaired. I thank God every day for you, our supporters, and for your gifts of time, talents, and treasure to bring the Bible to people in a format they can utilize, whether Braille, Large Print, or Audio.

As you read through the incredible thank you letters we have received from recipients of our materials, keep in mind—because of you they are now blessed with the Word of God in their lives. They now understand the true meaning of Christmas, and they know the great joy awaiting them in heaven.

As we look to the coming year, Lutheran Braille Workers will continue to strategically grow and become more pronounced throughout the congregations within the LCMS and in every denomination worldwide. We recognize that we have a lot of internal work to do to be on the hearts and minds of our fellow Lutherans and Christians. We are now, more than ever becoming more efficient with our marketing and communication materials. We have one of the most talented Creative agencies carving out a years' worth of work for LBW, because of the belief in our Ministry and Mission.

You will start seeing some of these changes starting with the new format of Illuminations. You will read about how we are looking to modernize our technology, appearance, and organization to bring in new supporters in an effort to share the Gospel with all of the 253 million people in the world who are Blind and Visually Impaired.

To do this, we will need your support every step of the way. We will need your continued prayers, volunteer hours, and your prayerful gifts.

Thank you for all you do! Merry Christmas! Happy Advent! Happy New Year!

In His Service,

Jay Zemke, President



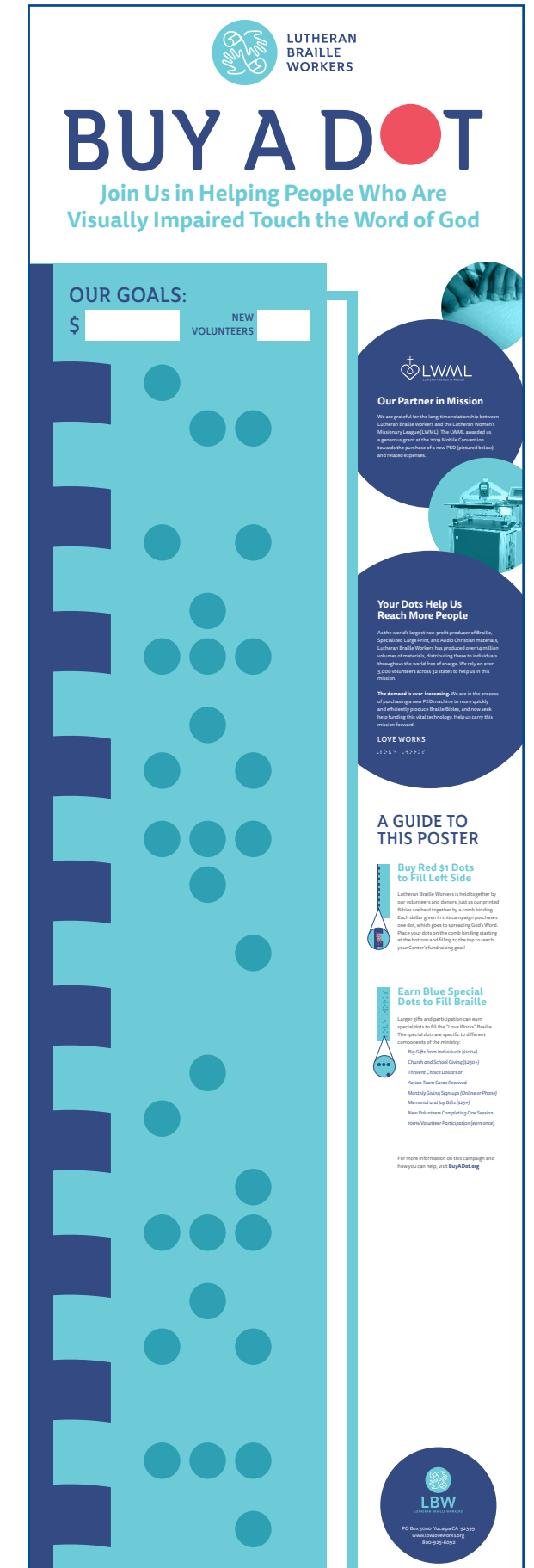
BUY A DOT AND SHARE GOD'S WORD

If you haven't heard, Lutheran Braille Workers has developed an exciting campaign called Buy-A-Dot. This campaign started with the Ministry Production Center leaders and their teams of volunteers. We are creating an exciting avenue to talk about Lutheran Braille Workers and what has been done for the last 76 years. How wonderful is it that we are able to raise awareness of LBW and increase the understanding of what each ministry center does at over 150 churches in 32 states?

Buy-A-Dot drives revenue by having people purchase an actual dot and create a visual impact by placing these dots on a door size poster provided to each work center. With this program Lutheran Braille Workers is also looking to increase volunteerism and bring others to know the joy in serving through this ministry.

As always, your prayers are appreciated as we look to expand our Braille capabilities with a new machine called a Plate Embossing Device (PED). This PED will help us grow our ministry in the US and around the world. We are currently looking to raise over \$260K for this PED and associated expenses to expand our ministry's reach. This is all possible by purchasing a simple little dot.

If you are interested in learning more, or would like to support this project, please feel free to go online at BuyADot.org or we have a dedicated person that you can call: Julie Zemke (800) 925-6092.





REMEMBER THE REASON

The stores are all prepared
for the shoppers to come their way.
Buying all of sorts of presents
to be opened on Christmas Day.

Spending all kinds of money
to buy all the newest toys.
Waiting in the lines for Santa
to talk to little girls and boys.

But in the quiet of the evening,
at the close of a hectic day,
you stop and remember the reason
that we celebrate Christmas Day.

You remember it's about the Christ child
and the day that He was born.
The day He came to the earth
to give us life like never before.

Christmas is the time to celebrate
the birth of our Lord and King.
It's a time to gather together
and let praises to Him ring.

By
Charlotte M Wilson
Christmas 2019



LBW AUDIO MATERIALS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Dear Lutheran Braille Workers,

Thank you for continuing to do so much with
the Audio materials. My adult daughter is
completely blind and while she does read
Braille, it is much easier for her to listen to
devotions on her Digital Talking Book (DTB).

Recently another church [denomination]
stopped producing all of the audio tapes she
used to get for DTB and I was scared she would
have nothing left. We found your organization,
and we are so grateful these materials are free.
She also goes to a local Lutheran church to
meet with other blind people, and the people
at the church physically go and check up on her
when bad weather is in the area because she
lives alone. They take care of her and it is a huge
peace of mind for me.

Thank you for everything you do! God bless you
and the Lutheran church!

Rebecca B., Springfield, MO



*Rebecca's daughter visits LBW's Ministry
Outreach Center at Redeemer Lutheran Church
in Springfield, MO.

**Recipients of LBW's audio materials receive
approximately \$150 per year in cartridges for
their Digital Talking Books. Your gift allows
LBW to expand our audio library, and help even
more people connect with the Scriptures in a
meaningful way.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

It gives me much pleasure to write to you at this
moment.

Since we started receiving your English, Large
Print Bibles, a lot of handicapped and blind are
now understanding the need to serve God. The
word of God really touched their hearts and
lives are changing for the better.

Also, a lot of our communities are benefiting
from your and our programs. People over here

appreciated your efforts and are saying a big
thank to you. We hoped you would continue
supporting us with your books in order to reach
the other communities.

Send our greetings to all your Lutheran Braille
Workers throughout USA who made their
efforts in supporting us with their books. I sign
off here and wishing you all the best.

Yours in Christ,
Matthew K.



A LETTER FROM LAGOS, NIGERIA

Hello!

My name is Babatunde Harry Osibote, writing from Lagos Nigeria.

First, I feel most grateful and overjoyed to acknowledge that I have been one of the teeming beneficiaries worldwide of your organization's almost century-old Christian service of helping the blind touch and be touched by the promises of God!

Between the years 1995 and 2000, I enjoyed the singularly fortunate state of receiving the complete books of the Bible in Braille, as well as various other Christian literature, from you!

As the years have passed, I find it practically impossible to describe, to estimate, how much life-defining influence your work has had on me, not to mention that my first exposure to truth actually happened only when I began reading the Bible you provided. The Braille Bible and other Christian literature obtained from you in those years, remain among my most prized assets today. Indeed, only God and the

complete yielding of a people like you to His cause could have accomplished such amazing things!

Every time I think about my life in the context of God-consciousness, and how this God-consciousness represents the sole factor that makes my life hold together, my heart groans with prayers for you: that more and more souls are brought to the light through you, that the sweet fragrance of your faith expressing itself in love is caught and imbibed by many more all over the world as a culture, and that every individual involved in this Christ-birth project remain in the center of The Master's will as you occupy till He returns.

Thank you for being an enduring proof that it pays to serve The Lord! Thank you for putting your lives and resources on the line for Christ's use to engineer my salvation and that of countless more. Please, I have a request to make.

One of my Bible volumes: the book of Romans, recently went missing. I had lent it to a friend, but my friend had been unable to return it to me. I want to request that you kindly send me a replacement for that volume.

God's abundant blessings to the entire LBW team.

Best regards,
Babatunde

There are approximately 3,000 zinc plates required to produce Braille Bibles. The cost to produce these plates is approximately \$12,000. Each language requires its own set of unique plates, in addition to the \$200 cost per each Bible produced. Your gift allows LBW to produce 15 languages in Braille and reach tens of thousands of individuals in dozens of countries every single year!

THE MINISTRY OF LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

Lutheran Braille Workers is the ministry which lovingly reaches out to the margins and invites people who are Blind or Visually Impaired into God's Word and His church by diligently making the human connections and the material resources needed to help them draw nearer to Jesus and to His promise of life everlasting.



WAYS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY

Hopefully your heart has been filled with joy upon reading these wonderful thank-you letters we have received from our recipients.

If you are moved to continue to support the ministry of Lutheran Braille Workers, I ask you to please consider the following ways to do so:

1. Prayer
2. Volunteering
3. Sharing your heart and passion for the ministry of Lutheran Braille Workers with people you know.
4. Continuing financial support.

Please make a gift through cash, check, or credit card today via the enclosed envelope or by going to our website www.lbwloveworks.org, or consider creating a monthly automatic gift by debit or credit card through the website as well.

Finally, please consider other ways to give including through gifts of stock, life insurance, IRA mandatory distributions, Thrivent Choice Dollars, Thrivent Action Team grants. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us directly.





THE STORY OF OUR LOGO

We are often asked by new volunteers and supporters what the logo of Lutheran Braille Workers represents. Hopefully this explanation will provide some guidance regarding the fairly new logo of this wonderful ministry.



The open hands speak to both our origins in reaching people through their fingers, as well as reaching out to people through God's Word and His church.

These hands also represents our future outreach as well as the hands of the volunteers who help produce these materials.

The scrolls represent our printing heritage as well as guides the mind to the old scrolls off of which Scripture was read.



I'm in tears as I write this. You don't know how much of a blessing you are to me and others like me. To be able to sit down and actually be able to see the words to read without the pain of eye-strain and complex migraines is a true miracle and blessing.

I can't even begin to thank you enough for the books of the Holy Bible that you send in Large Print. Today I received books of the Old Testament and I'm so excited to sit down and start reading them.

Thank you so much. God bless you and thank you again.

Lea H. U.S.A.

Millions of people in the United States struggle with worsening vision problems each year due to aging, illness, accidents, or chronic medical issues. Each Large Print Bible costs over \$200 to produce, and these costs continue to rise each and every year. Your gift allows thousands of people the opportunity to remain connected to the love of Christ each year.



A SERIES OF ICONS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO MORE CLOSELY ENGAGE SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THIS MINISTRY



Sharing the Gospel always and the power of Christ's love



Love Works and the Word brings knowledge of Jesus



Love is expressed through actions and the service of our volunteers



The community of believers supports this ministry and reflects the love of God to all



Just wanted to send you a photo and a little video of Pastor Raúl who lives in northern Guatemala receiving the Braille Bible you donated.

Thank you so much on his behalf. He was thrilled with this gift. We had been given two trunks that the Bible fit perfectly in.

Eileen & Denis N. Seeds to Harvest Ministries

Missionaries and churches of all denominations utilize the materials of Lutheran Braille Workers to reach all parts of the world with the Bible. A gift of \$1,000 can put hundreds of volumes of the Bible into the hands of men, women, children, families, and churches who otherwise would not have access to Scriptures in a format they can understand.



WHAT IS GOING ON AT LBW?

As you can see, a lot of change is happening, even in these pages of Illuminations. As a good Lutheran organization, it is natural to ask — what does this mean?

- 1. Modernization.** Lutheran Braille Workers is not only celebrating 76 years of ministry, but celebrating the fact God continues to bless this organization with relevancy in today's world. Our mission is still important to millions of people around the globe. We want the organization to continue to be modern in our technology, means of production, and in how we appear to our supporters and recipients alike, both at our headquarters and in our resources. Our ministry has not changed, but how our website and materials look to the outside world will continue to be updated!
- 2. New Support.** Lutheran Braille Workers has been blessed with the support of new agencies who are assisting in the modernization of our methods and materials. We continue to work with incredible organizations throughout the United States, such as Fast Horse and Dolan Printing, to help produce new materials and templates. In addition, there are new sources of support who are ensuring a substantial portion of this work is being performed at no cost to the organization, allowing your dollars to continue to go towards the operation of this ministry!

- 3. New Technology.** Lutheran Braille Workers is in the middle of ordering a new Plate Embossing Device, through the generous support of the national LWML, as well as through the generous support of volunteers, churches, and donors around the country in our new Buy-A-Dot campaign. This new machine will allow us to more efficiently produce thousands more of the zinc plates required for the production of Braille Bibles and other materials. We also continue to explore ways to become even more efficient in the production and distribution of Braille, Large Print, and Audio materials so we can share Jesus with as many people as possible!
- 4. New Direction, Same Mission.** No matter what happens, the mission of Lutheran Braille Workers does not change. We will continue to share the Good News of God's love to people who are Blind or Visually Impaired, free of charge, throughout the world. We will still rely on the love and efforts of volunteers, the generosity of donors, and the blessings of God to move forward. We will look at reaching new countries, new audiences, and new languages, but ultimately, we will always remain a Gospel-proclamation and sharing organization!

If you have any questions regarding the changes you see in these pages, please feel free to contact us at 800-925-6092 or LBW@LBWloveworks.org.

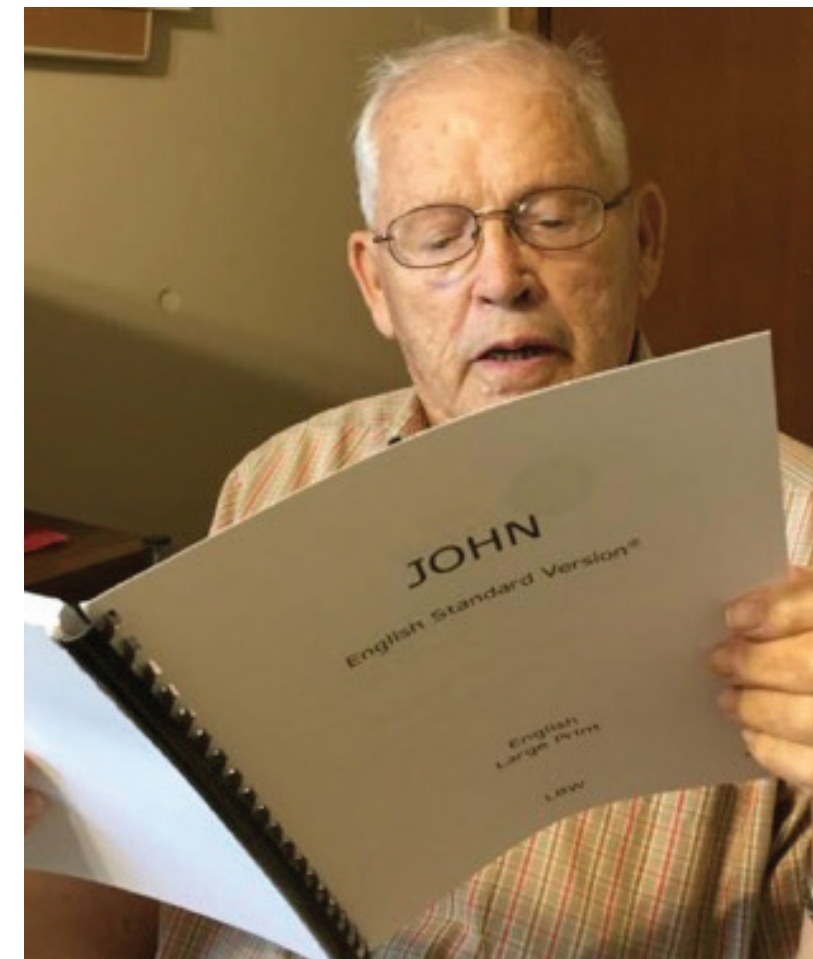
BLESSINGS IN MILFORD, NEBRASKA

Don E. Baldwin of Milford, NE, has had detached retinas in both eyes and surgeries on them resulting in very limited vision and his wife had macular degeneration. His wife's cousins, Al and Betty Herzberg of Spring, TX, who volunteer at Large Print Ministry Center #93 in Klein, TX, were visiting the Baldwins this summer. They realized that both of them would be able to read the LBW Large Print Bible which they help produce.

A Bible was ordered but unfortunately Mrs. Baldwin passed away before it was received. Don, however, has been enjoying the Bible tremendously. He says, "It's just what I can read. The pages are heavy, they turn easily, and due to the spacing the lines don't run together. It's very convenient and easier to find the chapters. I attend a Bible study and we're studying the book of John, so I can take my copy of John with me."

He reads a great deal of theological literature. Since he is on the Evangelism Committee at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Milford, he was quick to request a copy of the Bible for the church.

Don has had a very diverse life. His father was a Methodist supply pastor who was instrumental in forming the Open Door Mission in Omaha, NE. Don served in the Army and attended Nebraska Wesleyan University. He worked on farms, worked as a fry cook, worked in a spaghetti and macaroni factory, and in a mobile home factory. His most interesting job was assembling dolls at the Terri Lee Doll Factory in Lincoln, NE, working alongside Latvian and Lithuanian refugees. These dolls are now



collectibles! He and his wife had a huge garden, canning and selling products at farmers' markets. They also served as janitors at Christ Lutheran Church in Falls City, NE, for 49 years.

It is a blessing to supply our Bibles to people like Don who otherwise would not be able to read it so easily.

Jean Webber, MC #93, Leader

Your gift today, of any amount, brings the independence and hope found in Jesus, to individuals throughout the world who are seeking the love of God in their own lives. Please continue to support this ministry knowing your gifts are directly benefiting people every single day of the year!

To watch videos, see photos, and keep current with happenings at Lutheran Braille Workers, please follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LutheranBrailleWorkers.