



LBW-Ministry Memo

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

"We live by faith, not by sight" - 2 Corinthians 5:7

October-December 2019

Sharing the Gospel

Lutheran Braille Workers recently received a phone call from Pam*, a lady from West Virginia, who had a simple question: can we ship a Spanish Braille Bible directly to another country? When we answered YES!, she became incredibly excited and shared with us the story behind why she was asking.

Pam had recently returned from a mission trip to Nicaragua where her church's team had been handing out Bibles to a congregation. As they were preparing to leave, she was approached by a 17 year old young man who was Blind. He burst into tears and asked, almost begged, for a Braille Bible he could have for himself. She was heartbroken because they did not have anything in Braille, nor did they know where to locate this, but she promised this young man she would do everything she could to find him one. Once Pam got home, she began searching on Amazon for a Spanish Braille Bible, but also decided to do a random internet search for free Braille Bibles. LBW's website came up, and she knew God had answered her prayers.

Not being Lutheran, Pam had never heard about Lutheran Braille Workers before, but now she is extremely excited we will be able to send a Spanish Braille Bible to this young man so he can experience the joy of reading God's Word for himself. She will continue to share with the world what LBW is doing, and she looks forward to sharing our resources with more people on future mission trips.

Dining In the Dark

On October 18, 2019, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Warrensburg, Missouri hosted a Dining in the Dark event. It was an incredible event with over 70 volunteers and members of the community in attendance, including local chaplains and pastors of other church bodies. This event was organized by members of the church who volunteer at Ministry Production Center 161 in St. Paul Lutheran Church, Concordia, Missouri.

The leaders of this event sold tickets for the event in the community, utilized Thrivent Action Teams to cover the cost of the dinner, engaged volunteers to bring the desserts, and raised a tremendous amount of awareness and financial support for Lutheran Braille Workers. In addition, they had a sign-up sheet available and were able to add new volunteers for their group, while also raising interest from other churches in the community in participating with Lutheran Braille Workers.



We encourage you to host a Dining in the Dark event at your church or center! Lutheran Braille Workers will provide the blindfolds, help you with ideas on how to run the event, and provide promotional materials, videos, and handouts for you to distribute. If you would like to learn more about a Dining in the Dark event, please email Julie@LBWloveworks.org for more info.

Helping a Goddaughter Grow in Faith

Recently, a member of Lutheran Braille Workers was speaking at a conference in San Diego. After the session was complete, two ladies approached him. One of the ladies was listening to his presentation and actually left early to find her friend. The friend explained her 17 year old goddaughter, who lives in the United States, was completely Blind and desperately looking for Christian Braille materials as she wanted to go into church work. They had never heard of Lutheran Braille Workers before, but now the friend was extremely excited she would be able to orders these materials for her goddaughter. Talk about reaching a young person with the Word of God in a way which will impact lives of others in the future!

.....

Giving People Hope Through Lyft and Layovers

On a recent trip to the airport, an LBW staff member encountered a very friendly Lyft driver who asked what the staff member did for a living. Upon explaining what Lutheran Braille Workers does, the driver became quiet before explaining he was a chaplain at a number of nursing homes in the community. He explained there were a couple of people he was visiting later in the day who were asking for Large Print Christian materials. The staff member happened to have a couple of volumes of Large Print items in his suitcase and was able to provide them to the driver along with information on how to order more resources in the future.

Later on the same day, the staff member was sitting in the Las Vegas airport on a layover, and as he was digging through his carry-on, placed a Large Print copy of Favorite Hymns on the seat next to him. A lady saw the copy and asked if she could see it. Upon opening the volume, she immediately became excited and shared how her mother was losing her vision and was bitter about not being able to read the Bible, hymnal, or other materials. The mother happened to be at the airport, and upon seeing the volume was overwhelmed at finding a Large Print resource she could read! The staff member gave her the copy of Favorite Hymns for her to have on the airplane and take home.

These are wonderful reminders of how people continue to rely on the Large Print resources LBW offers. We are constantly amazed and reminded how God places people in the right places with the right resources at the exact time they are needed! To God be the glory!

.....

Adding Volunteers

Looking for new volunteers should be a constant on-going process for every Ministry Production Center. Find ways to engage new people in the wonderful work being done, especially as we seek to replace volunteers who retire or are unable to work anymore. We would like to share some ideas on how to identify and engage new people in volunteering:

1. Make multiple announcements at church over a multi-week period. Invite people to attend your group sessions and allow them to participate!
2. Invite people of all ages! From high school age through 102, volunteers come in all forms and we welcome their assistance.
3. Ask your current volunteers to bring one new person twice a year. Encourage them to think of friends, neighbors, coworkers, doctors, or people they know who might have interest.
4. Engage the community. Reach out to other churches (including non-Lutheran churches), senior living facilities, senior centers, high schools, colleges, and civic organizations and invite them to bring groups to volunteer. Many high schools and colleges require community service hours before students can graduate. It is ok to look for support outside your church!

Hopefully these tips can spark some new ideas! Please contact Julie@LBWloveworks.org for further assistance.

From The President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a year! 2019 has been full of transition, growth, and excitement. In addition to my coming on board in April, there have been new staff members hired, new volunteers starting, Ministry Production Centers being opened, and new recipients being blessed with the Bible in a format they can read or listen to and understand.

You, our volunteers, continue to step forward every day to help produce the materials we distribute as an organization. You are all amazing!

Each of you understands how important this ministry is in the lives of people who are Blind or Visually Impaired. You know what it means in their lives to receive God's Word in Braille, Large Print, and Audio formats. You know the joy and love communicated through Scriptures and the Holy Spirit.

You also know how strong of a fellowship is found in the volunteer groups in Centers around the United States. You know the strength, love, and support found in each other in times of pain and in times of celebration. So many volunteers have already communicated to me how they love what they do because 1) they're sharing the Gospel in a manner in which they can still participate, and 2) they love meeting with other Braille or Large Print workers and sharing recipes, praying together, laughing, and building one another up.

Within the last month we received an amazing story from one of our Ministry Production Centers in which a young man invited his parents to join him as his high school group did Braille production. The family enjoyed the work so much, they became members of the church, were baptized, and continued to volunteer. Unfortunately, the father passed away a couple of months later, but we can celebrate knowing he is in Heaven with Jesus. Furthermore, the family has a support network of all the other volunteers at the Center, as well as the church home. There is power in the teams of volunteers around the United States both in the Gospel-sharing work being done, as well as in the Christian fellowship created!

In October, we launched the Buy-A-Dot campaign. One of the most important aspects of this campaign is to encourage all of our Ministry Production Centers to reach out to their church and community to raise awareness of Lutheran Braille Workers and invite new individuals to experience the joy of volunteering. I know how much this ministry means to you.

I ask you to share this amazing opportunity with others. Invite them to join your fellowship while also becoming part of the national family of Lutheran Braille Workers. Allow them the chance to be able to spread the Gospel through the world with people living in physical and spiritual darkness. Invite them to know the joy you find every time you volunteer and assemble these Braille and Large Print materials.

Thank you for all you do! You are the backbone of success for Lutheran Braille Workers. Will you help us continue to grow and expand this ministry so we can serve for another 76 years?

Have a joyous and Happy Advent, and a Merry Christmas!

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay Zemke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "Z".

Jay Zemke, President

From Julie, your Buy A Dot Ministry Support Leader!

We are in full swing with our Buy A Dot Campaign and couldn't be more excited about the enthusiasm being generated. I am receiving many calls about our first ever campaign of this kind. You all have great questions and insights on how we can work together to share the Good News of Jesus!

I'd like to challenge each of you to share your best ideas and what's working for each of you with Buy A Dot. I will forward those suggestions and best practices via email each month to our leaders. Let's help each other recruit more volunteers, reach more people in your congregations, and spread the love of Jesus to those who need Him!

May you all have a blessed Christmas season!

Julie Julie@LBWloveworks.org



From Joanna's Braille Corner

Thanks to all of you for your patience these past six months as I filled in for the Braille Tech who retired in May. We now have Sky absorbing that position so I will be more readily available to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have.

We continue to be busy in Braille, getting new books ready for production. We are also preparing for the new Plate Embosser which will allow us to complete the English Standard Version of the Bible plates and get those volumes into production. Many of you are also working with plates which may need to be replaced, so please let me know after the first of the year if this is the case.

Please remember to notify me when your monthly production is done so I know if you will be ready for the next month's labels. Also, please notify me when you get returned packages as this allows me to get an account placed on hold quicker, which prevents sending labels for material which will get returned and sometimes damaged.

Please also let me know if your center will be closed any full months in 2020 in which you do not want labels sent. If you do not have a set time that you take off just remember I do labels the middle of the month so let me know by the 5th of each month if you don't want labels for the next month.

Thank you for the awesome job that all of you do. I really appreciate each of you.

Blessings,
Joanna

Audio

We have some HUGE projects being undertaken on the Audio side as we continue to expand our offerings on the Digital Talking Book cassettes.

We have partnered with faculty, staff, and student volunteers from Concordia University Irvine who are completing the narration of the complete ESV translation of the New Testament for the Digital Talking Book. In addition, we have new volunteers from CUI who will begin the narration of the Old Testament in the coming months! We recently gained four new audio narrating volunteers from a church in Indiana. A friend of LBW's made a brief presentation and asked for narrators, and each of these individuals immediately signed up! We are grateful for these wonderful men and women!

Large Print

We have a lot of exciting projects that are being worked on, and we continue to add new materials to our library. Currently we are working with the LCMS in formatting their Disaster Relief materials in both English and Spanish. We are continuing to partner with Lutheran Hour Ministries and adding their Project Connect booklets into our Large Print library as they are formatted.

I am currently looking for formatters to help bring materials into our Specialized Large Print. If you have extensive experience with Word Perfect, especially if you have done formatting for Lutheran Braille Workers in the past, and are interested in volunteering, please contact me directly via e-mail: laura@lbwloveworks.org or by phone: 800.925.6092 I am grateful for all of our Large Print and Audio volunteers. You are amazing! Happy Advent and Happy New Year!

Laura

Purchasing and Supplies

Hi everybody! We have been having some small issues with our e-mail where people have not been receiving everything I'm sending out. If you feel you have not received a timely response from me, please check your SPAM or Junk folders, and please add lbwinc.org and lbwloveworks.org to your Safe Senders list for your e-mail. Please call me directly if you think I haven't responded to you!

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Michelle

Continued Position Changes

As we have experienced retirements, new staff hires, and leadership changes, we continue to strive to be the most efficient and effective staff as possible. There have been a number of changes of responsibilities, so we wanted to provide a quick update on who to contact with your questions, comments, or concerns. Please contact:

Joanna Ervin- if you are a Braille Center and need assistance with labels or orders. ext. 1854

Laura Jenkins- if you are a Large Print or Audio Center and need assistance with labels or orders, formatting, or audio needs. ext. 1856

Julie Zemke- if you have questions about the Buy-A-Dot campaign, starting new Ministry Production Centers, Ministry Outreach Centers, volunteer recognition, or if you need to request a speaker or servant events. Please send any photos or amazing stories of your volunteers or church to Julie for future Ministry Memos. ext. 1857

Michelle Jordan- if you need to order supplies, or if you would like to request promotional materials. ext. 1853

Sky Ervin- if you need assistance with technical or maintenance issues. Sky will also be supervising all in-house Braille production and supervising the new PED and future zinc plate creation. ext. 1855

Deanna Bowles- if you have questions regarding gifts your center or church has made to LBW or ways to give in the future. ext. 1852

Daniel Jenkins- if you have questions about the endowment, estate planning, or large gifts for the ministry. ext. 1851

Jay Zemke, President ext. 1849

Rose Jaimes, VP Ministry Operations ext 1850

New Ministry Production Center opening in Las Vegas

We are excited to announce a new 14-point Large Print Ministry Production Center will be opening at Faith Community Lutheran Church in Las Vegas, Nevada. They will be producing the 14-point Large Print Bibles which are primarily sent into prisons and jails around the United States. We are especially grateful that a majority of the funds used to purchase the equipment for this center have come from LWML District grants. We will be hosting a dedication at Faith Community Lutheran Church on the evening of February 1 and the morning of February 2, 2020 during all four of their services. We are grateful for their support and please keep them in your prayers!

.....

Greetings to all of you in our Lutheran Braille Workers family!

My name is Julie Zemke and I come to you from Minnesota. I'm grateful and humbled to be part of this amazing ministry and can't wait to dive into this newly created role as Director of Marketing and Outreach.

I was born and raised in Minnesota where I attended Concordia University and met my husband. After college I pursued a career in the non-profit world working for both the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the American Cancer Society. My recent calling was working for St. John's Lutheran School in Maple Grove, MN as the Director of their extended school program. Although I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the children and my role at St. John's I'm thrilled to be working with volunteers again!

My husband and I have two adult children. Our son is a recent graduate of Concordia University St. Paul and is enjoying his new career as an Orthotic and Prosthetic Assistant. He will be pursuing his Master's degree in the future to become a Certified Orthotist/Prosthetist. Our daughter is a freshman at Concordia University St. Paul, is playing softball for the Golden Bears and pursuing a Communication degree. We are enjoying this beautiful California weather and are trying not to make our children too jealous with the daily Southern California weather updates!

I'm looking forward to working with each of you in your Ministry Centers and expanding our mission of sharing God's love. I pray God's blessings on each of you and thank you for continuing to do His work.



Please prayerfully consider Lutheran Braille Workers in your Estate Planning.

Holy Time is on Its Way

As the Holy Season approaches, we will all be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. This also means time for family. Staff will be celebrating with their families this season with the following office schedule,; the office will be closed from Tuesday, December 24th through Wednesday, January 2nd. May each of you have a blessed and joyous Christmas season!!

Thank You For Your Years of Service

January

5 Years of Service

		MC#
Dale Adams	MS	204
Barbara Bell	CA	33
Bernice L Bjork	CA	33
Kathy Chandler	TX	119
Bob Dick	CA	33
Lois C Eckert	IL	29
Marjorie Fulton	TX	47
Alice Gamble	MS	204
Janet Gardiner	FL	59
Kelly-Ann Hathcock	FL	56
Rose Healy	FL	59
Betty Howell	FL	59
Gwyn Hughes	CA	5
Cookie Lucille Kasch	IL	167
Evelyn Landon	FL	59
Irma Morris	CA	33
Jillian Roettiger	MI	184
Carol Schultz	NC	51
Ronnie Shelton	TX	70
Emily Skyles	FL	59
Nelda E Troutman	CA	13

10 Years of Service

		MC#
Nancy Altoff	SC	118
Robin Armer	OK	73
Connie Austin	MO	69
Dennis Clark	SC	118
Sigrid Clark	SC	118
Jeannie Collier	OR	176
Michael Cowen	CA	85
Allen R Eberle	ID	185
Jutamas Fackler	CA	45
Carol Fiedler	AL	175
Keri Findley	CA	45
Karen Gerhold	OH	191
Lucille Gropp	TX	184
Cheryl Kriewall	OK	73
Bruce McAlexander	MO	69
Ruth Medack	TX	163

Del Peterson	MN	198
Lyle Reininger	AR	160
Curtis D Schoenfeld	CA	7
Larry Smith	AL	175
Madelyn Smith	AL	175
Denise Ufkes	CA	1
Myrna Urban	TX	119
Sharon Wilson	TX	184
Joan Winkelman	SC	118

15 Years of Service

		MC#
Linda Beals	IL	317
Lois Belshe	MO	79
John Breyer	WA	127
Donna J Dalager	MN	198
Nola DeLoach	TX	68
Robyn B Goodson	TX	163
Eunice Morris	TX	166
Betty Rettig	OH	191
Frank Rettig	OH	191
Elizabeth Taipale	OH	191

20 Years of Service

		MC#
Dale Adams	MS	205
Glen Butler	CA	104
Sandra Fultz	TX	184
Lucille Kniggendorf	IN	98
Dorothy V Lay	MI	203
Mark Menzel	MI	203
Jane Schimank	TX	163
Jeannette Weber	IL	125
Darleen Zude	IL	125

25 Years of Service

		MC#
Beatrice Kirchner	OR	176
Jeanelle M Lee	TX	48
Lela Lotz	IL	164
Sandra I Pecard	TX	184

30 Years of Service

		MC#
Ruby Bohot	TX	163
Alfred Boriack	TX	163

Bernice Boriack	TX	163
Shirley Drager	TX	67
Ellie Heintz	CA	23
Donna Hopperdietzel	ID	185
Thelma Sinnen	VA	179
Mildred L Wiest	TX	47

35 Years of Service

		MC#
Carolyn Fritsche	TX	163

40 Years of Service

		MC#
Loree Gardner	KS	64

55 Years of Service

		MC#
Anita Graef	IN	129

February

5 Years of Service

		MC#
Connie Baggesen	AZ	182
Rebecca Barrette	TX	148
Sue Boyd	GA	59
Connie Clayton	ID	185
Cindy Davis	CA	5
Alaina Dougall	TX	184
Angela L Dougall	TX	184
Graham Dougall	TX	184
Pat Foye	WA	314
Tudy Fundling	TX	52
Betty Kunze	TX	75
Connie Mincher	ID	185
Lee Morse	ID	185
Bettie Scheffer	TX	52
Kathy Stephen	OK	73
Eric Tourtillott	CA	197
Tess Walker	CA	10

Thank You For Your Years of Service

February cont.

10 Years of Service **MC#**

Barbara Campbell	OR	123
Diane E Cutsinger	CA	151
Glenora K Goser	MO	79
Diane Griego	CA	151
Diane Harris	MI	202
Jim Harris	MI	202
Rosina Herrmann	TX	47
Everett Hinck	MO	161
Mel Keith	KS	64
Lloyd Larshus	ND	133
Karla Mattson	TX	93
Katrina Mohr	TX	47
Glenn Moretz	TX	184
Mary Moretz	TX	184
Joyce Reising	IL	125
Sandra Townend	TX	47
Reta Vahrenberg	MO	161
Sharon Yowell	MO	79

15 Years of Service **MC#**

Mildred Burt	MI	202
Norma Haeker	KS	64
Roy Kierstead	FL	56
Ed McCarthy	CA	4
Mary McCarthy	CA	4
Shirley Miller	TX	146
Lois E Moore	KS	64
Kristin Nelson	TX	47
Duane Rankin	IL	125
Ruth Rankin	IL	125
Wendy Trueblood	KS	64
Shirley Walker	KS	64
Ann K Ziehe	TX	47

20 Years of Service **MC#**

Luther Bengelsdorf	MI	203
Jacqueline Theune	PA	192
Kevin Weilnau	MI	203
Linda Weilnau	MI	203

30 Years of Service **MC#**

Shirley Duensing	OK	73
------------------	----	----

40 Years of Service

Judy Arldt	TX	109
Joan Sanders	TX	109
Sophie R Werchan	TX	109

March

5 Years of Service **MC#**

Lea Bailey	TX	184
Jim Cozzetto	AR	160
Eugene DeFord	MI	6
Linda Delzer	TX	313
Carol Dennett	TX	313
Diane Dodt	MI	6
Carmen Encizo	NY	26
Manuel Encizo	NY	26
Janice Fogg	MI	6
Annette Frank	MI	6
Phillip Frank	MI	6
Al Herzberg	TX	93
Betty Herzberg	TX	93
Rosemary Hubing	TX	313
Carla Knolhoff		315
Bill Mobley	KS	64
Linda Mobley	KS	64
Joan Nilmeier	TX	313
Sumita Saha	TX	313
Fay Schroeder	MI	6
Jennifer Taglauer	MI	6
Rosie M Taglauer	MI	6
Gayle Wood	MI	6

10 Years of Service **MC#**

Doug Baker	AZ	102
Wanda Coward	TX	166
Linda Denagy	ID	185
JoAnn R Ernst	CA	104
Delsine Fuehring	MO	161
Earl Herman	FL	59
Jan Howard	NC	51
Harland Mieser	MO	161
Freddie Mulsow	TX	75
Karen Schuette	MO	161
Kathleen M Spatola	TX	166
Cheryl Spiegelhalter	MO	161

15 Years of Service **MC#**

Flo Davis	TX	67
Ruby Marie Kraft	CA	197
Suzy Langhorne	CA	197
Shirley McCormick	AR	160
Alice Richards	OH	191
Frank Rizzotto	CA	197
Welma Voelk	KS	64
Shirley VonBehren	IL	125

25 Years of Service

Ruth Westring	MO	156
---------------	----	-----

30 Years of Service

Janet Olson	MN	2
-------------	----	---

40 Years of Service

Louise Hohle	TX	109
--------------	----	-----