



ILLUMINATIONS

SHARING THE GOSPEL ALWAYS | SUMMER 2022

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NEW HIRES & UPDATED ROLES

HELPING A COMMUNITY

We recently learned about a powerful story involving a young lady named Sara who received a Spanish Braille Bible for her brother, Luis, in Mexico. She shared:

"My brother has been blind his entire life and has struggled with issues because of it. We are very poor, and our parents could not afford to send him to special schools to help him learn how to overcome his blindness. We were blessed somebody in our town was able to teach him how to read Braille, but even then, it was always a struggle finding books for him to read. As we got

older, I tried to find him a Braille Bible, but they are extremely expensive, and it would take our family years to save enough money to buy one, if we ever could afford it.

One day I was visiting friends who work at an orphanage near my town. I met the pastor and told him about my family, including my brother. I shared how hard it was for my brother, and how much we simply wanted a Bible for him to read. The pastor's face immediately lit up and he told me he knew how to get a Braille Bible for my brother; when I said we couldn't pay for it, he told me it was free. I didn't believe it at all,

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but he told me to come back the following week. When I returned, he greeted me immediately and put several boxes in my car. He opened one box and pulled out Genesis in Spanish Braille and I couldn't believe my eyes.

When I made it home and shared the boxes with my brother, he became incredibly excited. He pulled out every single book and began touching the dots on the cover and the pages. Luis kept asking, "Is this real? Is this real?" Actually, his greatest worry was that he would have to give the Bible back, and when we told him it was his to keep, he broke down in tears. Our entire family was in tears because this was an answer to our prayers, and we still cannot believe we didn't have to pay for the Bible.

I want to thank everybody who makes these Bibles possible for people like my brother. We couldn't afford one on our own, but now my brother can read about Jesus with the rest of us."

Your gifts of prayer, time, service, and money put the Word of God into the hands of Luis and benefitted Sara and their entire family. Thank you for what you do!



Dear madam/sir:

The large print volumes of the English Bible arrived today. I just cannot express in words how happy and thankful I am to you. This will make a big difference to my brother, and our Bible study time. I cannot thank you enough for this kind gesture. Every time I read this Bible I will thank

God for people like you. May God richly bless you and this ministry. With kind regards.

The last box of the large print of Biblical books arrived today. Thank you so very much. It is such a relief to be able to read, without having to strain the eyes. This is the best gift I ever received.

Immensely grateful to you and the organization.

With a grateful heart, Neville D.

Thank You:

Several years ago, you were kind enough to send a large print Bible for use by my mother, who had lost much of her sight to AMD. We lost her in 2015, and I have been looking for opportunities to pass this gift along to someone else who might use it. As it turns out, my mom's brother, Uncle "Skip", who is a retired minister who is now in his mid-80s, physically frail, and still giving all he's got to anyone in his presence, had been looking for a large print Bible, preferably split into separate volumes for weight and portability sake, due to his own failing eyesight, not quite as bad as my mom's, but quite bad nonetheless. This week I loaded Mom's Bible into my car and took a road trip up to see Uncle Skip. I told you that he is a minister, but that doesn't begin to describe the man that he is. In addition to guiding his church for decades, he has provided counseling to scores of people, been on the city council in his town, was instrumental in building affordable elderly housing on the grounds of the church, developing a hospice organization in his area (which now provides him and my aunt with services), and many acts of love and kindness in God's name. These are only the things I know about. Anyway, now this beautiful man is being blessed by your work. You have given him his Bible back. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for blessing two of my loved ones with the labors of your hearts.

With love, Rachel



INTERIM PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

Recently I was on a call with two representatives of the United Bible Society, an organization which helps to facilitate the order and delivery of Braille and specialized

Large Print Bibles throughout the world. We were discussing several of our projects including the significant order of Spanish Braille Bibles to Latin America, as well as the growth of our Large Print ministry, including in prisons. When asked who else provides Spanish Braille or Large Print Bibles for mass orders, especially to Bible societies in Central or South America, they responded, "Nobody else in the world does this work." When asked who else provides "giant-print Bibles" (their description of specialized Large Print) in multiple languages throughout the world, they answered, "We are not aware of another organization doing that work either." In fact, as they shared with us on the call, there are fewer options available now than ever before for people who are Blind or Visually Impaired to order Braille or Specialized Large Print Bibles and Christian material, especially for free. Wow, what a humbling announcement from an international leader in Bible distribution.

What a powerful reminder to all of us that God is in control of our ministry and has plans for our future. The demand for Braille and Large Print is growing, not shrinking, and our goal is to figure out how we will bring the Word of God to even more people who are Blind or Visually Impaired

throughout the world. Nobody else is doing this work, and so it is up to all of us to keep moving forward with the incredible ministry opportunity given to us.

Our Board of Directors and executive leadership is going through Strategic Planning, and many of you have participated already, for which we are grateful. As we build a plan for the future, relying on God to light the path for us, we will share the updates as they occur. The presidential search committee has been built, and it is the Board's intention to have the next President of LBW hired before the end of the year so the transition continues in a smooth manner. Combined with the hiring of some incredible new staff whom you will read about in the following pages, the future of LBW is looking very bright, thanks to the love of Christ and the strength of God.

Your support continues to bring the hope found in our Savior to the fingers and eyes of people who are Blind or Visually Impaired. Hopefully you are as excited by our coming journey as we are and I look forward to working and walking alongside of you in the coming months and years.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Jenkins".

Daniel Jenkins,

Interim President and

Vice President of Ministry Advancement



PAPER SHORTAGE

Unfortunately, the number one hindrance to growth within the ministry is the severe shortage of paper for both Braille and Large Print production. This is an international issue facing all print production companies and LBW is not alone in struggling to acquire and receive paper, a problem which we have been told will continue until at least 2023. To give a small idea of the challenges being faced, an order placed last August for rolls of Braille paper has still not been fulfilled ten months later. Unfortunately, this is a worldwide problem, and despite the use of multiple vendors and suppliers, there are limited solutions at this time. We are asking for your support- if you have any connections into the paper industry, whether production or distribution, please contact us at headquarters at 909-795-8977.

UPDATING MAILING RECORDS

We are asking for your help in updating our mailing records. Conversions to two different software programs in the past three years have led to some issues with some of our mailings. We ask for your patience and support in keeping the cleanest information possible at headquarters. If you have asked not to receive the mailings and are still getting them in the mail, please call

us and we will remove you again. If you have a family member still receiving our mail despite being deceased, please contact us so we can update the system immediately. We apologize for any issues and look forward to moving forward each day with better records.

ONGOING PROJECTS UPDATE

In addition to the dozens of orders which come in every single week, LBW has been focused on two major projects supporting Bible Societies in Latin America and in Africa.

NIGERIA BIBLE SOCIETY PROJECT: Currently, the staff is finishing production of the remaining 25 complete English Braille Bibles for the Bible Society of Nigeria. 100 total Bibles were ordered (3,700 volumes) and through the incredible work of volunteers and staff, as well as the financial support of donors, this project will shortly be completed, ahead of schedule! These Bibles often find their way to schools for the Blind and serve both children and adults in many villages and communities.

SPANISH BRAILLE BIBLE PROJECT: The project is going extremely well, when paper is available! While still approximately a year from completing the significant orders, including over 300 remaining Spanish Braille Bibles for Argentina (over 12,000 volumes) alone, more Bible Societies are lining up for large orders as well. Praise the Lord for the opportunity to serve His people in incredible ways!

NEW HIRES AND UPDATED ROLES

We are excited to share with you an update regarding our staff. While a few of these names are familiar, many are new in 2022, and almost everybody is taking on a new role. For more info about our staff, or to see their photos, please feel free to visit the staff directory on our website.



DEANNA COBB > *Donor Relations and Accounts Payable/Receivable*

Deanna started with LBW in January 2013. She has primarily served in Donor Relations and Accounting with work in bookkeeping and payroll as well. Her heart for the ministry is well known and she loves that LBW is a Christian organization and one big family. Her favorite verse is 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.



SKY ERVIN > *Production Specialist*

Sky has been working at LBW since May 2016 and primarily has been involved in the production of Braille, Large Print, and even Audio formats! Currently he operates the three Braillo Digital Embossers at headquarters as well as the PUMA Plate Embossing Device. He likes that everything LBW produces is free for people who are Blind or Visually Impaired and his favorite verse is Luke 6:31.



CARLOS FIERRO > *Ministry Production*

Carlos is the second longest tenured employee at LBW having worked here for 26 years starting in 1996. Previously serving as the Print Shop coordinator, he currently works in all areas of Ministry Support and Large Print production. He loves giving away God's Word for free to the Visually Impaired and his favorite verse is John 3:16.



JERMAINE FORTUNE > *Warehouse Coordinator*

Jermaine began with LBW in April 2022 and brings over 9 years of significant warehouse work and coordination experience to the ministry. His favorite part of working at LBW is that we are giving away Bibles to people who may have never even had the chance to read God's Word for themselves before receiving a free Braille or Large Print Bible. His favorite verse is Isaiah 54:17.



DANIEL JENKINS > *Interim President and Vice President Ministry Advancement*

Daniel began with LBW in January 2018 as Vice President Ministry Advancement and has traveled the country visiting donors, churches, Ministry Production Centers, and partner ministries. Each volunteer, recipient, donor, and potential partner he meets reinforces his love for this ministry and the incredible work being done. The Bible verse which reminds him of the volunteers and donors the most is Matthew 5:16.



RILEY JOHNSON > *Braille Coordinator*

Riley started with LBW in June 2022 and recently graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a B.A. in Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resources Management. She is excited to come work for LBW because she believes the Lord is calling her to demonstrate both her faith and His love to the community and world by sharing the Bible with people who are Blind or Visually Impaired. Her favorite verse is Romans 12:2.



ABBY JORDAN > *Large Print Formatter*

Abby began working with LBW in April 2022 and brings significant experience from the fields of education and childcare. She also has a lot of experience working with computers and technology bringing experience to the world of Large Print formatting. Her heart for serving people who are Blind or Visually Impaired comes from the fact she has dealt with her own vision issues throughout her life. Her favorite verse is Matthew 7:7-8.



CYNTHIA KEH > *Large Print Coordinator*

Cynthia began with LBW in May 2022. She holds a B.S. degree in Ecology from UC Santa Cruz and also holds significant experience in customer service leadership and retail over the past few years. She loves that LBW is home to staff, volunteers, and recipients who are incredibly friendly and welcoming, working together to accomplish something great. She is also excited to be a part of something bigger than herself. Her favorite verse is 1 John 4:18.



GRISEL LOPEZ > *Purchasing and Operations Agent*

Grisel started with LBW in January 2022 and years of valuable experience in the fields of finance and government service. She loves that the ministry is about helping and serving others, especially people who are Blind and Visually Impaired. She also appreciates that all the staff, volunteers, and donors are working together in service of others. Her favorite verse is Romans 12:18.



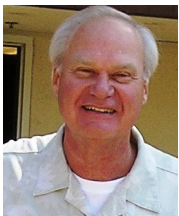
NATE PAREDES > *Director of Finance*

Nate began working for LBW in January 2022. A Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Nate has over 15 years of experience in the financial and accounting fields in the government, for-profit, and non-profit sectors. He is excited to work for LBW as he feels this is the best opportunity he has had to align his faith and desire to use the gifts God has given him in his professional career to work with others. His favorite verse is 1 Chronicles 28:20.



MARY POWELL > *Director of Production*

Mary also began working at LBW in January of 2022. Her background is in the administrative fields, primarily in healthcare sectors, including at Loma Linda University. She is incredibly excited to work at LBW because she loves doing God's work and getting the Gospel out to people who are Blind or Visually Impaired. Her favorite verse is Philippians 4:8.



CHUCK WELLS > *Warehouse and Community Support*

Chuck has been a volunteer for LBW since 2014, including serving as a Ministry Production Center leader for a few years before stepping into a part-time role in January 2022 in support of the ministry's recovery from the pandemic. Chuck believes the most important part of the ministry is giving Scripture away, especially to populations who may not otherwise have access to God's Word. His favorite Scripture verse is John 3:16.



JULIE ZEMKE > *Director of Marketing and Outreach*

Julie began with LBW in October 2019 and brings ministry experience as a life-long member of the LCMS, working with other international non-profits, and serving with Lutheran schools in multiple capacities. Her favorite part of the ministry is working with volunteers who have an incredible heart and desire for service. Her favorite Scripture verse is Proverbs 3:5-6.

EMPLOYEES SHIFTING TO PART-TIME AND RETIREMENT



JOANNA ERVIN

After 10 years of service to the ministry, Joanna is transitioning to retirement, though she will remain around the office as a volunteer. Her love for the ministry, the recipients, and for all of our centers and volunteers remains as strong as ever, and her favorite verse is John 14:2. As she heads into retirement, she looks forward to having time off to explore other hobbies and passion, traveling with her recently retired husband, and seeing what the Lord has in store for her. Joanna's knowledge of Braille, her passion for sharing the Gospel, and her faith-filled desire to fulfill the Great Commission will be missed, but we praise God for her next journey in life! We are grateful for her service as Braille Coordinator and for the hard work put in during the past few years with the pandemic.



ROSE JAIMES

After 26 years of service and occupying every role except for those of President and Director of Finance, Rose is looking forward to stepping into a part-time role in support of conventions, volunteer recruitment, and visiting our Ministry Production Centers. She has been an incredible asset to the ministry of LBW, even though when she started she believed she would only stay for five years. Her time at LBW has allowed her faith to grow and expand and her favorite verse is Romans 1:8. She especially loves the people she works with every day, whether staff, volunteers, donors, partner ministries, and especially the recipients we serve. While not yet ready for full retirement, Rose is looking forward to a slower pace of life with less stress, volunteering with the community, and is especially looking forward to spending time with her family throughout the country, especially her grandchildren!



LWML CONNECTION OPENS DOOR FOR NEW MINISTRY CENTER

In February of 2019 LBW staff received a phone call from one of our LWML friends. Marlyce had been at our servant event at the National LWML Convention. The experience touched her heart, and she knew this was something she wanted at her church in Ortonville, Minnesota. Through Covid interruptions and many conversations we were finally able to schedule a servant event at Trinity Lutheran Church in November of 2021. This event was filled with hands-on participation from congregation members, including the youth of Trinity. We were able to share the wonderful ministry of LBW and answer all of their questions as they prayerfully considered opening a Ministry Center.

January 2022 we received the wonderful news that Trinity Lutheran in Ortonville, Minnesota was committed to partnering with LBW and would become our newest Ministry Center. In



April our Director of Marketing and Outreach was able to spend the weekend in Ortonville sharing the ministry. Saturday the Appleton Zone of the LWML experienced a servant event and learned about the new Ministry Center opening at Trinity. The LWML ladies were very excited about the new volunteer opportunity and hope to eventually bring their local LWML chapters to volunteer in Ortonville. Saturday afternoon the Trinity volunteers were trained and Sunday morning the dedication of Ministry Center 326 in Ortonville, Minnesota was held during the church service.

We are blessed by the relationship we have with LWML and what it has brought to LBW. This first connection with Marlyce through the National LWML Convention has blossomed into a new partnership that will be fruitful in bringing the Word of God to those in need for many years to come.



LBW
LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS



LBW

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