



LBW Ministry Memo

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

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

November 2020

Family Support from Volunteers

“Thanks to Lutheran Braille Workers, I found a family among the people I volunteer with. They provided me the love and support I needed to get through hard times, and without LBW, I don't know if I could have survived the passing of my mom and brother. I know we're supposed to be serving others when we volunteer, but I also know I have received so much by volunteering. Thank you!”—Todd, Southern California

For many years, Todd refused to go to church or discuss religion. While his mom was very devout, there were bad experiences in his past which made him give up on Christianity. When his mom became incapable of driving, Todd agreed to take her to church and her Braille work days. While she invited him inside every week, he always refused and stayed in his car the entire time.

One day, while he was waiting in the car, there was a tap on his window. His mom told him there was a shortage of volunteers and asked him to please come inside and help the team out with putting together Braille books so the session wouldn't be cancelled. Todd went inside and helped his mom for a few hours, enjoying it more than he thought, but thinking it would only be a one-time event.

However, Todd's mom kept inviting him in to help, and eventually he became a regular volunteer as he enjoyed the company of the others, and the conversations he would have with the church's pastor. One day his mom invited him to join her in church and he agreed. Soon, he became a regular member of church and began witnessing his faith to his friends and co-workers.

Shortly afterwards, Todd's mom and brother both passed away from illnesses. Todd was devastated, but immediately his fellow Braille volunteers were at his door step. They sat with him, helped him figure out the details of the funerals, and gave him the support necessary to survive the difficult times.

Todd's story isn't unique among LBW Ministry Production Centers. When you bring in new people to help volunteering, you are a witness of Christ's love to them as well. The support you provide other volunteers can be critical in their lives.

You are sharing the Gospel from your church, but you are also bringing the love of Christ to everybody on your teams. Keep up the great work as you share God's love with others!

From the President

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we approach the end of 2020 and prepare to celebrate the upcoming holiday season, I want to be very clear with you:

You are an incredibly important, necessary component of the success of this ministry.

Simply put, Lutheran Braille Workers needs you now and in the future. Your work is critical to providing God's Word to people who are Blind or Visually Impaired around the world. And without your hands, your effort, your time, this ministry isn't the same.

Looking ahead to 2021, Lutheran Braille Workers continues to focus on fulfilling our mission of placing the Bible into the hands of every person in the world who is Blind or Visually Impaired. We continue to work with our Ministry Production Centers around the country to help them reopen in a safe manner as soon as possible.

I have heard concerns from volunteers worried we are going to shut down centers who have remained closed during this pandemic, and I want to assure you this is not the case. Our goal is to have every volunteer and center come back into service when they feel comfortable.

As a ministry, Lutheran Braille Workers is continuing to expand our available titles and languages as we aim to reach more people in every part of the globe. We are working on new projects every month and will continue to do so as it makes sense. There will be new Ministry Production Centers opening in 2021, and some current centers taking on new and exciting projects.

The pandemic will still play a large part in all of our lives in the coming year, but with God's help and blessings our ministry will continue to rise above the challenges. The people we serve depend on it!

And I depend on you! Thank you for your service to this wonderful ministry. I pray you and your families remain safe as we get through the end of the year.

In His Service,



Jay Zemke
President



From Joanna & Sky's Braille Dots

Braille Department Continues Production Amid Pandemic

We are making great progress on the Braille ESV plates with our new PUMA plate embosser. There was a bit of a learning curve to the new machine but we are settling into a nice plate production schedule.

We are keeping our transcribers and proofreaders very busy getting 14 new Mustard Seed devotionals transcribed and ready for production. What an awesome team of transcribers and proofreaders we have, always ready to jump in and do whatever we need done and with a passion. Thank you Bob Langrehr for running those plates anytime we ask!

Starting soon we will have BRF files available on our coming, brand new website for those individuals that use e-readers. This material will include all our magazines, Mustard Seeds, and the English Standard Version of the Bible (as the volumes are put into production). All the material that we put on that site will be in the new Unified English Braille.

A big shout out to all of you and the awesome job that you have done setting up your centers for social distancing and dealing with the post office with foreign shipping. As always, your teams come together and overcome any issue that tries to stop your team from getting the word of God out to our Visually Impaired recipients.

We are continuing to work on a Bible Society order, which came in last year, for 200 Bibles, so we may be calling you, if your center is open, to help produce some books we are short on. We are sending many orders from the warehouse right now just to keep our recipients receiving material during this very difficult and lonely time for them.

Thanks to each of you! We could not do what we do if we did not have you.

Joanna Ervin, Braille Coordinator
Sky Ervin, Production Supervisor

Digital Talking Books Department

The Audio Department Seeing Big Changes!

I have been busy training on new procedures. Our goal is to get our materials into the Library of Congress's database which is available to everybody. In order to comply with their requirements, our narration's opening and closing scripts are needing to be changed and table of contents for each title are being created.

I'm excited to have new narrators helping with the reading of our Mustard Seeds for production.

We are looking to purchase DTB cartridges with more gigabytes on which our audio version of the ESV Old Testament books of the Bible can be placed. Stay tuned for further updates!

Due to all of these changes, production has been slightly delayed. Please know, we are still moving this ministry forward and always looking to improve how we offer materials to our recipients.

Anjanette Jordan, DTB Coordinator

Large Print Corner

I hope everyone is doing well and ready to embrace the upcoming holidays with open arms! As usual it has been wonderful talking with you, I always look forward to your calls and emails. Please know if your center is planning to close for the holidays or remain closed, this is totally okay, I just want all of you to remain safe and healthy! I simply ask if you would please let me know as soon as possible so I can plan ahead for production purposes. Thank you for all those who have already done so.

When you decide to reopen, or if you need to adjust the number of labels you are receiving, please contact me before the 10th of each month so we can ensure everything is correct for the following month.

I continue to work from home and the office, which has been a fun, different experience. Currently, I am working on finalizing both volumes of the Primary Bibles Stories, our normal monthly periodicals and formatting other new material (especially Project Connect Booklets).

Orders continue to come in, especially for 14 point Prison Bibles. This has brought a unique opportunity for growth and I would like to reach out to see if any center may be interested in possibly producing these 14 point Bibles for LBW. These materials are printed on 20lb paper, are shipped domestically, and recipients are mainly prisoners seeking the Word of the Lord. If you and your center are interested and would like more information about producing 14 point Bibles, please contact me.

Thank you for all of your support. You remain in my prayers as we all get through these uncertain times together!

Laura Jenkins, Large Print Coordinator

Ministry Advancement Update

Lutheran Braille Workers applied for grants from 30 of the 40 LWML Districts on the last cycle of district conventions. We were awarded 13 grants which will be used to support production at our centers within those districts, as well as at the national level. We are grateful for all of our volunteers who are also members of the LWML and provided their vocal support for our grant applications.

However, a major issue did arise in that some of our Ministry Production Centers submitted their own grants to the districts without notifying us at headquarters. In some cases, this led to multiple grants being on the ballot which used the Lutheran Braille Workers name. In one district, two of the centers were awarded grants while the application from our headquarters was not approved.

If your Ministry Production Center would like to seek new sources of funding, we certainly encourage this. But it is absolutely critical that your center please contact my office so we are all on the same page and ensure there are no competing applications. In addition, we need to confirm which tax IDs are being used, as well as understand who will be providing updates on awarded grants. Finally, as always, any awarded funds do need to come to headquarters so we can properly track all gifts given to support the ministry of Lutheran Braille Workers. Don't worry, your center will still receive all of the funds, but we have to track this money nationally to keep everything in-line with the IRS and to keep positive relations with the LWML districts or other foundations.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly: 909-795-8977 or by email: daniel@lbwloveworks.org.

Thank you,
Daniel Jenkins, Vice President of Ministry Advancement

Purchasing Department

Making Changes

Hello everyone! As some of you may know, we are no longer using GNC (Great Northern Corporation) as our carton vendor. With many of our centers still closed due to COVID -19, we simply were not ordering cartons for them to continue to store our boxes. As of right now, we have made room here at headquarters to have cartons shipped directly from our warehouse to your Ministry Production Center. We are still looking into different shipping alternatives due to UPS freight being so expensive. In order to save on freight charges please let us know if you are able to store large quantities of cartons, especially if you can hold onto a year's worth at a time, which would allow us to ship directly to you which will save significantly on shipping.

Also, I am now sending corrugated cardboard rolls directly to you from Staples. The price per roll is a little bit higher, but Staples delivers the rolls free of charge which saves us more money considering the high costs of UPS freight shipping. At this time we are waiting to see if recent orders have arrived safely.

I wanted to provide some more information on our updated invoice/purchase order system regarding when I receive an email, phone call, letter, or fax from a center requesting material. If the material is shipping from headquarters (tape, spirals, covers, or cartons) this material will be placed on an Invoice. If the material requested is shipped from one of our vendors, then that order will be placed on a Purchase Order. Please review these Invoices and Purchase Orders after they are e-mailed to you to ensure I ordered all requested materials. If there are any issues, please contact me directly—do not contact the vendor or anybody else at LBW. Also know, the material shipping from headquarters is not always shipped out the same day, but we do everything we can to get it out in 2 business days.

Finally, please keep an eye on your inventory. If you notice your material is getting low call me directly at 909-316-1853 or send me an email with the material being requested. The more information the better. In addition, if you wait too long to place an order, we cannot guarantee you will receive needed materials by your next meeting date without incurring rush charges.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work through new systems.

Michelle Jordan, Purchasing Agent

Volunteer Updates

We are still in the process of updating our contact management system so we can more easily update and provide rosters electronically to our Ministry Centers. Volunteer Years of Service pins will be distributed to those volunteers who reached milestones this year. You can expect your pins to be delivered to leaders for distribution before Christmas.

We are truly blessed by you, our dedicated volunteers. As we find a new normal during this pandemic we reflect on our blessings. We pray continued health and safety for all of you as we move this ministry forward into 2021 and beyond.

Julie Zemke, Marketing & Outreach Director

Volunteer Years of Service Recognition

5 Years

David Elfman	May	2015	CA	1	Pat Guedel	Sep	2015	IN	126
Ron Clausen	May	2015	CA	1	Tony Guedel	Sep	2015	IN	126
Ruth Frazen	Jun	2015	CA	5	Laurel W Davis	Sep	2015	WA	127
Shirley Alexander	Oct	2015	CA	5	Linda Salyer	Oct	2015	WA	127
Pat Lemons	Nov	2015	TX	11	Steve Salyer	Oct	2015	WA	127
Phyllis Hedstrom	Nov	2015	TX	11	Bonnie Koehn	May	2015	MS	128
Chuck Wells	Jul	2015	CA	18	Gail Jensen	Aug	2015	IN	129
Susan Wells	Jul	2015	CA	18	Karen B Kent	Apr	2015	IN	129
Sandy Sanford	Nov	2015	CA	23	Barbara Pinero	Apr	2015	TX	132
Jim Gerhardt	Sep	2015	KS	31	Erasmo Pinero	Apr	2015	TX	132
Mary Allen	May	2015	KS	31	Paula Wolff	May	2015	AR	132
Nancy Scheueman	Oct	2015	KS	31	Bruce Csaszar	Sep	2015	IN	141
Sharon Berner	Sep	2015	KS	31	Dixie Anderson	Oct	2015	IN	141
Terry Scheuerman	Oct	2015	KS	31	Amber Slater	Sep	2015	TX	148
Bonnie Joplin	Nov	2015	CA	45	Candy Schoppa	Sep	2015	TX	148
Faith Thordahl	Aug	2015	NC	51	Christine A Larson	Sep	2015	TX	148
Ally Smith	Jun	2015	FL	59	Patricia Robinson	Sep	2015	TX	148
Colton Fisher	Jun	2015	FL	59	Neva Cochran	Sep	2015	CA	152
Holly Howard	Jun	2015	FL	59	Yvonne Horn	Sep	2015	CA	152
Jay Liyah Diac	Jun	2015	FL	59	Beryl Lindley	Dec	2015	MO	161
Matthew Fryman	Jun	2015	FL	59	Doris L Young	Jul	2015	IL	164
Secret Diac	Jun	2015	FL	59	Robert Mueller	Dec	2015	IL	165
Zurasia Diac	Jun	2015	FL	59	Barb Freitag	Sep	2015	IL	167
Barbara Hughes	Jul	2015	KS	64	Barb James	Sep	2015	IL	167
Evelyn Sailor	Sep	2015	KS	64	Henry James	Sep	2015	IL	167
Jan Kleber	Aug	2015	KS	64	Anna Miller	Aug	2015	MD	173
Jan Overbeck	Jun	2015	KS	64	Janice Georg	Aug	2015	MD	173
Shirley Bergman	Sep	2015	TX	70	Ralph Miller	Aug	2015	MD	173
Carolyn J Helmer	Oct	2015	KS	71	Conrad Sinars	Sep	2015	AL	175
Ted N Helmer	Dec	2015	KS	71	Kate Duncan	Oct	2015	TX	184
DeAnna Kahre	Sep	2015	OK	73	Shirley Maloney	Jun	2015	SC	185
Marilyn A Kirk	Oct	2015	OK	73	Vicki Johnson	Jun	2015	ID	185
Teresa Nightingale	Sep	2015	OK	73	Nancy Mihich	Jun	2015	IN	186
Val Spradlin	Sep	2015	OK	73	Beverly Leu	Sep	2015	OH	191
Sharon Reinhardt	Apr	2015	TX	75	Jack Berry	Oct	2015	OH	191
Debra Schulenberg	Sep	2015	MO	79	Lisa Tobin	Sep	2015	OH	191
Al Schlichting	Nov	2015	TX	93	Jean Shuck	May	2015	MN	198
Davey Brown	Aug	2015	TX	93	Bob Porter	Oct	2015	CA	201
Georgene Schlichting	Nov	2015	TX	93	Kathy Forsythe	Oct	2015	MI	202
Ilona Josephson	Oct	2015	TX	93	David Zirpel	Aug	2015	IA	304
John Beetle	Aug	2015	TX	93					
Linda Beetle	Aug	2015	TX	93					
Linda Brown	Aug	2015	TX	93					
Loren Feast	Aug	2015	TX	93					
Margaret Goodson	Aug	2015	TX	93					
Rahn Bek	Sep	2015	TX	93					
Sandy Miller	Aug	2015	TX	93					
Marilyn Hall	May	2015	SC	118					

Volunteer Years of Service Recognition

10 Years

Dianne Siese	Apr	2010	SC	3	Carl Frankford	Jun	2010	IL	125
Lucy Becker	May	2010	CA	4	Donna Peterson	Nov	2010	IL	125
Linda Cantu	Nov	2010	CA	23	Dorothy Hachman	Nov	2010	IL	125
Linda K Lowry	Apr	2010	CA	23	Elaine Poenitske	Nov	2010	IL	125
Janet Berkowitz	Dec	2010	NY	26	JoEllen Brady	Nov	2010	IL	125
Sondra Kitzman	Nov	2010	KS	31	Mary Birdsell	Nov	2010	IL	125
Nancy Blake	Aug	2010	CA	33	Norma Deist	Jun	2010	IL	125
Dianne Lohan	Jul	2010	CA	37	Sue Koenig	Jun	2010	IL	125
Sharon Stover	Sep	2010	TX	47	Wayne Poenitske	Nov	2010	IL	125
Jan Case	Oct	2010	TX	48	William Birdsell	Nov	2010	IL	125
Ineke Dabelic	Aug	2010	TX	52	Linda Dowd	Apr	2010	CA	135
Janet Burtzclaff	Aug	2010	TX	52	Lucy A Bross	May	2010	TX	136
Karen Newhoff	Aug	2010	TX	52	Steve T Powell	Apr	2010	TX	146
Karen Kerner	Jul	2010	GA	59	Diana Schneider	Sep	2010	TX	148
Mike Gordon	May	2010	GA	59	Sue Huenergardt	Sep	2010	TX	148
Ginny Hawk	Aug	2010	KS	64	Lyle Reininger	Jan	2010	AR	160
Shirley A Schueler	Apr	2010	NM	67	Ray Mueller	Sep	2010	IL	165
Melvin Pullen	Sep	2010	TX	68	J. David Theis Jr.	Oct	2010	TX	166
Jeff Witt	Sep	2010	OK	73	Linda Franzen	Oct	2010	TX	166
Jan Kliethermes	May	2010	MO	79	Sue Theis	Oct	2010	TX	166
Linda Hart	Jun	2010	MO	79	Joyce Beatty	Jun	2010	KY	174
Roberta Engelbrecht	May	2010	MO	79	Charlotte Walker	Nov	2010	TX	184
RuthAnn Klatt	Jun	2010	MO	79	Linda Denagy	Mar	2010	ID	185
Diane Dahmann	Apr	2010	TX	93	Alicia Walton	Oct	2010	OH	191
F. James Wunderlich	May	2010	TX	93	Florence V Hafner	Sep	2010	CA	201
Fran Wolf	Sep	2010	TX	93	Wendy Lanser	Jul	2010	IL	310
Gloria Boriack	May	2010	TX	93	Nancy Shreve	Jul	2010	TX	313
Helen Strack	Aug	2010	TX	93	Eunice Witte	Dec	2010	IL	315
Karen Bridges	Apr	2010	TX	93	Trey Stevenson	Jun	2010	IL	315
Kathy Schroeder	Apr	2010	TX	93					
Kimberly Strack	Aug	2010	TX	93	15 years				
Leroy Frank	May	2010	TX	93	David Erdmann	Sep	2005	MN	2
Lydia Jordy	May	2010	TX	93	Paul Slater	Dec	2005	SC	3
Nancy Bennett	Apr	2010	TX	93	Peggy Stieve	Dec	2005	SC	3
Ralph Sackschewsky	Sep	2010	TX	93	Carol Eggen	Jun	2005	CA	13
Valeria Frank	May	2010	TX	93	Ted Eggen	Jun	2005	CA	13
Arly Millman	May	2010	AZ	102	Neil K Lindahl	Jul	2005	TX	15
Doug Baker	Mar	2010	AZ	102	Carol E Emley	Jun	2005	TX	70
Joan Scott	Oct	2010	AZ	102	Debbie Wolter	May	2005	KY	76
Mike Scott	Oct	2010	AZ	102	Barb J Haedtke	Oct	2005	CA	104
JoAnn R Ernst	Mar	2010	CA	104	Monique Dittloff	Jun	2005	TX	105
Michael McCabe	Oct	2010	OH	110	Ed Baumann	Nov	2005	TX	109
Dennis Clark	Jan	2010	SC	118	David J Ringshauser	Sep	2005	OH	110
Joan Winkelman	Jan	2010	SC	118	Anita Hischke	Dec	2005	IL	125
Melvyn Bley	Sep	2010	SC	118	Kathleen Bohnet	Sep	2005	IL	125
Sigrid Clark	Jan	2010	SC	118	Kathleen Bohnet	Sep	2005	IL	125
Virginia Bley	Sep	2010	SC	118	Kathleen Bohnet	Sep	2005	IL	125
					Kathleen Bohnet	Sep	2005	IL	125

Volunteer Years of Service Recognition

Harold Gessner	Jun	2005	ND	133
Ann Reed	Jun	2005	CA	135
Adeline Walther	May	2005	TX	146
Arlee Mach	Aug	2005	TX	146
Milton Turnipseed	May	2005	TX	146
Peggy K Turnipseed	May	2005	TX	146
Linda Mohr	Aug	2005	CA	152
Dick Mason	Dec	2005	AR	156
Ginnie Crumly	Oct	2005	AR	156
Kay Mason	Dec	2005	AR	156
Dorothy Herzog	Jun	2005	TX	163
Penny Schimank	Apr	2005	TX	163
Bobbie Firgens	Sep	2005	TX	166
Karen Fehn	Apr	2005	KY	174
Tressa Glaub	Sep	2005	AZ	182
Anita Marks	Jul	2005	OH	191
Jerine Miller	May	2005	ND	193
Mildred Burt	Feb	2005	MI	202
Mary L McQuaid	Nov	2005	IL	315
Palma Stiegman	Jun	2005	IL	315
Shirley Hanenberger	Nov	2005	IL	315

20 years

Doris L Davison	Jun	2000	CA	13
Patty Yoder	Jul	2000	TX	47
Kay Thompson	Jul	2000	TX	48
Leona Winters	Apr	2000	FL	56
JoAnne First	Jun	2000	FL	56
Doreen Stahl	Nov	2000	KS	64
Verna Linderman	Jun	2000	KS	64
Virginia Burton	Jun	2000	KS	71
Kathy Knapp	Sep	2000	OK	73
Verneta E Grohoske	Aug	2000	TX	75
Laverne Ludwick	Oct	2000	TX	105
William E Thompson	Apr	2000	OH	110
Evelyn Wheatcroft	Jun	2000	AR	156
Betty Wienberg	Aug	2000	MO	161
Carolyn Miller	Dec	2000	MO	161
Esther L Keseman	Jun	2000	MO	161
David Harrison	Dec	2000	TX	166
Dee Eisenbraun	Jun	2000	TX	166
Alice Cullen	May	2000	PA	192
Wilma Weber	Jun	2000	PA	192
Marie Mathisen	Oct	2000	ND	193
Irene Martin	Oct	2000	MN	198
Marcia A Rudzinski	Oct	2000	MI	203
Dorothy Wegner	Sep	2000	NE	306

25 Years

Lynn Klein	Sep	1995	OK	14
Martha J Glammeyer	Jul	1995	TX	48
Vonda Olson	Jul	1995	ND	133
John M Davenport	Jun	1995	TX	146
Catherine Lehmann	Oct	1995	TX	163
Donald Peters	Sep	1995	KY	174
Aggie Ferguson	May	1995	ID	185
Marilyn Horsey	Jun	1995	OH	191
Bonnie Daenzer	Jul	1995	NE	306

30 Years

Janet M Olson	Mar	1990	MN	2
Jinx Schkade	Aug	1990	TX	52
Dianne C Ehle	Nov	1990	KS	64
Norma Peine	Nov	1990	KS	64
Sharon Schiefelbein	Jul	1990	IN	98
Dorothy M Grah	Sep	1990	IL	165
Dorothy Rinne	Sep	1990	IL	165
Eunice Atchison	Sep	1990	IL	165
Ralph Kipp	Sep	1990	IL	165
Cecelia Weinkauff	Aug	1990	ID	185
Donna Hopperdietzel	Jan	1990	ID	185
Mark Stuble	Apr	1990	PA	192
Teddy Holzman	Apr	1990	PA	192
Joyce M Heinicke	Jul	1990	NE	306

35 Years

Junelle Nittsche	May	1985	TX	48
Carolyn O Englund	Aug	1985	KS	64
Dale Astrum	Apr	1985	VA	179
Hilda Meyer	Apr	1985	ID	185
Joyce Schoonover	Apr	1985	ID	185
Pam Eberle	Apr	1985	ID	185
Grenadene Harder	May	1985	IN	186
Jean Reddel	Apr	1985	IN	186

40 Years

Avonne Gessner	Sep	1980	ND	133
Marlene Erdman	Sep	1980	ND	133
Rosella Debele	Sep	1980	ND	133

60 Years

Helen Aupperle	Jul	1960	IL	310
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Please prayerfully consider Lutheran Braille Workers in your Estate Planning.