



Lutheran Braille Workers

Helping People Touch the Promises of Jesus

ILLUMINATIONS

FALL 2011

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

LWML Grants Lutheran Braille Workers \$100,000 Toward Purchase Of A New “Plate Embossing Device” (PED)



New PED 30 (Plate Embossing Device)

“Being With Jesus — Living on the Edge” was the Convention theme for LWML’s 2011 convention. More than 4,600 women from throughout the United States gathered in Peoria, Illinois June 23rd through the 26th, in celebration of God’s grace and in re-commitment to service to Him. The Scripture verse that set the tone for the convention was from Acts chapter 4: “They realized

that they had been with Jesus. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:13b and 20).

Each year the LWML chooses a number of ministries with which they partner by providing mission dollars. Lutheran Braille Workers is honored to have been given a grant of \$100,000 toward the purchase of a new Plate Embossing Device. Through this generous partnership, untold thousands of people throughout the world will be blessed by being able to “see” Jesus with their fingers through the production of Braille.

The Plate Embossing Device (PED) Lutheran Braille Workers currently has is more than 15 years old, and the manufacturer now refuses to repair it or manufacture new parts for it. The PED makes the Braille “masters,” the zinc plates used in our manufacturing process. The PED is, therefore, central to our ministry. This generous grant

from the LWML will go a long way toward the purchasing of a new PED (the total price being \$125,000). With this wonderful gift from the LWML, Lutheran Braille Workers is 4/5th of the way to purchasing the desperately needed PED.

Your prayers and gifts will bring this project “over the top,” and allow LBW to place the order for this PED soon. Through the many prayers, labor, and financial resources offered by the LWML and by people such as you, people without sight will be given the opportunity to know Jesus, grow in their faith, and tell others of His love. Due to the partnership with the LWML and LBW’s volunteers, donors, prayer-partners and staff, lives are being changed and the Kingdom of God continues to grow. Together we are helping people touch the promises of Jesus.

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LWML Convention Exhibit Hall

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) exhibited in Peoria, IL at the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention June 23-26, 2011. During those three days, the exhibit was open a total of only about 20 hours, half of which were on Thursday as people were arriving. With a convention attendance of close to 4,000 people we talked to thousands in that short time. Many knew at least one person in their lives that was totally blind or visually impaired and were very much interested in being able to know where they could get Christian material and Bibles in Braille and large print. Many took information, and many signed up for a chance to win one of three Amazon Kindles. One of the winners was so excited and impressed with LBW and her new Kindle, she sent a check two weeks later for \$144.00 to purchase and donate a Braille Bible for someone in need. To God be the Glory!

Written By - Carol Zemke



Dr. Phil Pledger with Mission Associate Carol Zemke at LWML Exhibit Booth

Delicious Breakfast

A delicious, plated breakfast was served to over 70 attendees on an early Saturday morning of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention in Peoria, IL. Dr. Phil Pledger, President of Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW), Jan Fisher, and Rose Jaimes were present from the LBW Home Office in Yucaipa, California and coordinated the morning activities. Others who assisted were Barbara Hoffmeier, Peggy Turnipseed, and Carol Zemke, the LBW Mission Associates who represent Lutheran Braille Workers in Michigan, Texas, and Minnesota/Wisconsin/Illinois respectively.

It was exciting to see people from all over the United States participating in a great event. Rose and Jan were able to meet some people that they have talked with from the home office in the past. Pastor Pledger shared information on the ministry of Lutheran Braille Workers, Peggy talked about submitting Mission Grants to your District LWML, Barbara mentioned how "every dollar counts" toward the LBW ministry, and details were shared about "Dining in the Dark."



Peggy Turnipseed at the LWML Convention in Peoria, IL.



LBW's Newest Work Center Volunteers from Baldwin IL. attending their first Appreciation Breakfast

We are truly blessed to have many dedicated volunteers who serve the Lord through Lutheran Braille Workers. All glory to God!

Written By - Peggy Turnipseed

God Willing and the Creek Don't Rise

Have you ever heard the phrase “God willing and the creek don't rise”? It is a statement of intent. Understood properly, it is a statement of faith.

Lutheran Braille Workers has been sent into a very particular mission field. Instead of being sent to a country such as India or a continent such as Africa, Lutheran Braille Workers has been sent “non-geographically,” to meet the needs of people with severe visual impairment WHERE-EVER THEY MIGHT LIVE and address their needs in WHATEVER LANGUAGE THEY MIGHT NEED.

LBW's home office is in a small town called Yucaipa. No matter what we do, it will never be possible to bring everyone in the world with visual impairment to this small town and into this relatively small office space. We ARE called, therefore, to GO TO WHERE PEOPLE LIVE, to meet their needs in their homes, places of worship, at their schools, town halls, into their social groups, and where decisions by and for people with low/no vision are made.

“We Are Called, Therefore, To Go To Where People Live,”

This September (by the time many of you receive this newsletter) God willing and the creek don't rise, I plan on being in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and perhaps Poland. To be the leader in providing the Bible and other Christian books to people with visual impairment, we need to go to the places our Readers live and work, pray and learn. This trip to the Baltic States will seek to accomplish the following:

- To reestablish a once strong relationship with several mission agencies so that LBW might better serve them with products needed in the mission field.
- Reestablishing a good relationship with some of the 99 schools, orphanages, churches, and ministries LBW once sent volumes of materials to; creating more orders – serving more people.
- Being introduced (and re-introduced) to leaders and decision-makers of organizations that serve the needs of people with visual impairment.

(See **God Willing**, page 6)

New Order Received From UBS 74 Braille Bibles make way to Nigeria

The United Bibles Society (UBS) has requested 74 complete New International Version Braille Bibles for a Bible Study directed by the Bible Society of Nigeria. The Bible Society's request included the Bibles to be sent as full sets. It will take production from our Braille Centers and the Braillo to fulfill this order of 2,738 volumes. It's a blessing to be able to partner with the UBS. This may be a gateway for LBW to serve those who we would not have been able to reach without their help.



Volunteers at the Work Center in Yucaipa, CA preparing Bibles.

Helping Veterans

“On behalf of the Veterans at the Erie, VA Medical Center, we would like to thank you for the twenty Books of “Favorite Hymns” that you have provided for our chapel. We have begun using the books during our Sunday morning service and the larger print is a great benefit to our Veterans. We have also found that our older volunteers that assist us with our music ministry, appreciate the larger print. We are thankful that your ministry helps those with visual impairments to continue to sing the great songs of their faith. Our best wishes and prayers for your ongoing work.”

- Bruce A., Chief Chaplain, David F., Staff Chaplain

A Life To Celebrate

At Work Center #59, we have celebrated many firsts: our first day of training, first day of production, first book completed, first mailing sent out, first visit from headquarters, first year, etc. Each celebrated with the joy reflective of a family celebrating a birthday, baptism, confirmation, graduation, and so forth. Today was a whole new first for our work center. God chose Bob Anderson to be the first called home and it is a reason for us to celebrate. We celebrate his dedicated life of service to God and His people. In the two years since our work center began, Bob would drive himself and his wife, Delores, an hour from their home in Blackshear, Georgia to their church, Trinity Lutheran, in Kingsland, Georgia.



Bob and Delores Anderson (sitting) at Work Center #59 in Jacksonville, Florida

From there they would carpool with other members for the additional hour drive to Work Center #59 at Holy Cross Lutheran in Jacksonville, Florida. They would then volunteer at our work center for four hours before starting their additional two hour drive to return home again. Their church family attests to their equally faithful service at Trinity Lutheran as well. Recently, Bob was given not one, but two grim medical diagnoses that usually leads to a progressive and certain decline in health. We celebrate

God's gift of life to Bob, for sparing him further pain and suffering, and for the blessing and inspiration he was, and still is to us all.

Written By - Julia Neimes

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?"
1 John 3:17

PROMISE MAKERS

Honored people who have contributed time, talent and treasure to enhance and advance the ministry of Lutheran Braille Workers.

Norman & Sally Loeber LeRoy & Marjorie Delafosse Richard & Nancy Challis Rev. Sidney Frazen Mary Helen Kelly Ane Ertzner	Roberta Werth Mel Stueve Ida Mall Paul Eide Jean Peterson
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LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

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Name _____ Address _____ _____	Date of first contribution: ____/____/____	Frequency of contribution (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> One Time	Amount per donation: \$ _____ Work Center Number (optional)
CHECKING / SAVINGS Complete only if using checking or savings account.		CREDIT / DEBIT CARD Complete only if using your credit or debit card.	
Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (<i>attach voided check</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Savings account		Please charge my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express	
Routing #: _____	Account #: _____	Credit Card Number: _____	Expiration Date: _____
Name on Card: _____		Billing Address: _____	
I authorize Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.		I authorize Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. and Vanco Services, LLC to charge my card for the above dollar amount.	
Signature on bank account: _____ Date: _____		Signature (as seen on the card): _____ Date: _____	

Prisoners Benefitting from LBW Large Print

In July, we received a letter from the North Central Correctional Institution in Marion, Ohio. It reads in part: *"We have received your gracious donation [of Christian material] that you were so kind as to have sent us. The men here are truly blessed by your charitable act. We would like to thank you and extend our warmest gratitude for the love you have toward us. We pray that you will continue to be mindful of our ministry and donate materials to us as you see fit. Once again, thank you for your time and assistance in helping us spread the Good News of Jesus Christ."*

Signed - Chaplain Warren B. & Chaplain Jackie B.



NEWSLETTER STAFF

Rev. Dr. Phillip M. Pledger - President
Jan Fisher - VP of Ministry Operations
Carlos Fierro - Print Shop Supervisor
Rose Jaimes - Braille Administrator
Roy Fisher - Large Print Administrator
Kathy Buss - Donor Relations
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LWML and Valparaiso University Help Bring Psalms to Africa 48 Volumes Produced at Service Connection

Clapping, cheering, pounding on the tables, these are the jovial sounds that filled the large room at the LWML Service Connection in Peoria, IL when the volunteers completed a Braille book of Kiswahili Psalms. They took their work seriously making sure no mistakes were made during production. Even those who had never worked with Braille before were adamant about keeping the production at a fast pace.



LBW Ambassador Jane Harwart running New Braille Press engineered by Valparaiso University

Items needed for the Service Connection were shipped from Yucaipa or other locations. Two new Braille presses designed and manufactured by the Engineering Department at Valparaiso University (VU) were driven in by Doty Wodrich of Valparaiso, IN; Marilyn Schaefer brought Braille paper on the bus with her from Effingham,

IL; zinc plates that were used to emboss the paper were delivered from Joliet, IL.

A 54 year long volunteer, Jane Harwart, made it a point to attend the "Service Connection." She was excited to try out the new Braille presses. Many positive comments and requests were given about these Braille presses. The Valparaiso Alumni were also excited to see the Engineering Department providing new equipment for LBW.

All the ladies who participated in producing forty-eight Braille books of Psalms were proud to be providing them for those in need in Africa. Our appreciation goes out to those who delivered supplies for the event and to those who chose to produce the books of Psalms in Kiswahili. Thank you for making Lutheran Braille Workers' "service connection" a huge success!

IL; zinc plates that were used to emboss the paper were delivered from Joliet, IL.

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Written By - Barbara Hoffmeir (MA) (standing center)

LWML Grant to LBW, Texas Update!

In the Summer Illuminations issue when we gave the Lutheran Women's Missionary League the list of Work Centers in Texas that were to be included in their grant, we were remiss in mentioning the two Braille Centers located in Houston and the one Large Print Center in Temple. We truly apologize. As with all of our Work Centers we really appreciate all the work they do for the ministry of Lutheran Braille Workers.

A Student's Appreciation

"I write to tender my profound appreciation to your organization for donating a Perkins Braille and Braille Bibles to me through Mr. and Mrs. Valentine.

I am a student at the Evangelical College of Theology, Jui in Freetown. The receipt of this machine and books will go a long way in enhancing my studies.

May the good Lord continue to bless your organization as you continue to help less privileged in Africa."

- Rev. M.R. Turray

God Willing (Continued from page 3)

- To connect with readers of our materials, to learn the reader's needs regarding language usage, translations, and technological preferences (Braille/paper standards, formatting, etc.).
- To better understand LBW's mission impact, discover ways in which we can be more effective, and to better understand people with visual impairment throughout the world.
- Raise awareness among partner Lutheran Churches and missionary groups (a) of the needs of people with visual impairment and (b) of LBW and our vision to supply visually impaired people with the Gospel of Jesus.
- To bring back stories, pictures, and perhaps video of the work being done in order to share with our mission partners the impact of their prayers, labor, and financial contributions.

As prayer partners, volunteers, and donors, THIS IS YOUR MISSION TRIP. Please keep this mission trip in your prayers. Consider helping make this mission endeavor possible through your generous special gifts. Sponsor a "Dining in the Dark" event in your congregation or Work Center to help raise mission dollars so that the people in LBW's "non-geographical" mission field will be able to one day "see" Jesus through Braille and specialized Large Print.

God is willing: He is willing to seek and to save those lost; we are one of the vehicles through which God delivers His Word. God is willing: He is willing to pour out His Spirit and attract people to His Gospel message and to His Son, Jesus. God is willing: to send out His Disciples to the ends of the earth, that those who have not heard, will hear of Jesus. God is willing: He is willing to make you a partner in these mission endeavors through your prayers and generous financial support.

Finally, God is willing: He blesses all who touch His Word. Your help and prayers will make it possible for thousands to touch the words of Jesus, and one day see His face.

Please consider hosting a Lutheran Braille Workers' Dining in the Dark event at your church or home. Contact LBW's home office at 800-925-6092 or email Lori @LBWinc.org.



Please prayerfully consider Lutheran Braille Workers in your Estate Planning.

