

Lutheran Braille Workers

Helping People Touch the Promises of Jesus



ILLUMINATIONS

Fall 2013

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Discovering New Worlds

Meeting July 4th through the 12th, members of the American Council of the Blind (ACB) met in Columbus, Ohio for their 52nd annual conference and convention. This year's theme: "Discovering New Worlds." The mission of ACB: "The American Council of the Blind strives to increase the independence, security, equality of opportunity, and quality of life, for all blind and visually-impaired people."

Both Rev. Dave Andrus and Dr. Phil Pledger attended the ACB convention and spoke with hundreds of people, gave out Bible volumes, order forms, and other Christ-centered materials. Scores of orders for Bibles, hymnals, and other materials were taken. LBW helped many people "Discover New Worlds," especially the "world" of the Gospel of Jesus and life in His name.

The mission of LBW is "to provide the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ to people who are blind or visually impaired throughout the world." LBW introduces people to Jesus and helps people grow in their Christian faith. For many people, becoming a Christian is like coming to a new world and for the first time discovering love and acceptance.

At the convention, "Ruth" told us how important her Braille Bible was. She reads her Bible every day because it gives her comfort and assurance that she is loved. "Tom" told the story of how he was saved and said that the first time he ever touched the precious words of Jesus was from a Bible made by LBW volunteers. "Mary" wanted us to know that her LBW Bible "kept her going" through cancer treatments, and wanted me to tell everyone how much it means that people would offer her God's Word without charge.

To all of you who pray, labor, and generously give, thank you! You help thousands of people each year "Discover New Worlds." -- Rev. Dr. Phil Pledger



Rev. Dave Andrus and Rev. Dr. Phil Pledger stop for a few minutes at the American Council of the Blind Convention for a quick photo shoot.

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Large Print a “Big Hit” in Pittsburgh



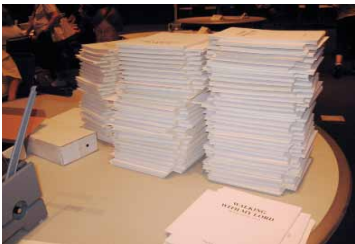
Large Print Administrator, Roy Fisher, meeting with formatter Zola and her husband Wayne.

While the hometown Pittsburgh Pirates were away on a road trip, Lutheran Braille Workers and the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League came to town and connected on a home run at our Large Print “Servant Event.” For the first time at an LWML National Convention, LBW chose to include Large Print production. Two-hundred Mustard Seed, “Walking With My Lord” volumes were ready to be produced. The exuberant crowd gathered around four large, round tables that had been set up with the stacks of pages and began collating by “circling the bases.” As books were finished, covers were placed on them and they were then stacked up for eager punchers and binders to go to work. The last step

was for volunteers sitting at the checking table to insure that the completed books were ready to be shipped back to the Home Office. Many of the participants told of how a friend or family member was a “Braille volunteer” or that their home church has a “Braille Center.”

This Servant Event was set up to show attendees how an LBW Large Print Work Center operates. The participants experienced, first hand, the reward of seeing the stacks of sheets becoming Christian Books for those with vision impairment. They also enjoyed the fellowship that is such an integral part of our Work Center experience. There was great joy in “Steel Town” as the combined “team” of the LWML and LBW definitely scored a big win for the Lord that day. — Roy Fisher

Mission Associates Interact With The LWML



Two hundred Large Print books were assembled in an hour and a half at the LWML Convention Servant Connection in Pittsburgh the last week of June. It was a great experience to assemble the Mustard Seed devotions that LWML has been putting out for years and knowing they’re being sent to those who need Large Print and can receive them without any

charge. There were many joyful sounds as the group followed each other through the assembly line and worked together to accomplish the task so quickly. The only complaint was that there wasn’t more to do!

Thirty Spanish Braille books were assembled for South America. There were several Work Center volunteers that helped with quality control, but there were many first-timers that wanted to experience what it was like to make something that will be sent to “help people touch the promises of Jesus.” There was a new appreciation for the zinc plates that are needed for this production and an awareness of how their Mite money purchased the new plate embossing device.



Volunteers experiencing eating their breakfast as if they were blind.

On Saturday morning LBW hosted a breakfast for the WC volunteers that attended the convention. Seventy people attended and some met the challenge of wearing a blindfold while they ate. Hopefully there will be more LWML groups that will sponsor a “Dining In the Dark” event in their communities as a fund-raiser for LBW.



“Servant Event” at the LWML Convention. Top picture are of LWML Volunteers. The bottom picture are of “Walking With My Lord” books.

Mission Associates Continued

Our Mission Associates were busy: Barbara Hoffmeier, Peggy Turnipseed, and Carol Zemke (all former District Presidents for LWML) worked at the Servant Event and the exhibit area, along with Dr. Pledger and Pastor Dave Andrus. We couldn't have accomplished everything if it weren't for the Yucaipa staff that set things up for us. -- *Barbara Hoffmeier*



LWML National Convention:
 Volunteers producing the Spanish book of Revelation in Braille. "I am doing this for him." -- *Jan Fisher*

A note from a grateful reader:
I use the Large Print Lutheran Hymnal on Sunday. What a blessing for those like myself that have impaired vision. So nice to be able to sing hymns again. Best Regards, Caroline Member of Trinity Lutheran St. Francis, MN.



Barbara Hoffmeier & Young LWML Ladies with the book of Revelation in Spanish Braille

I'm Doing This for Him

One volunteer assigned to help LBW sat at the punch and binder machines for hours. Working diligently punching and binding the books (both Braille and Large Print). When asked if she was familiar with Lutheran Braille Workers, she replied, "Yes, my father volunteered at a Braille Center for years. He is going blind and I am doing this for him." -- *Jan Fisher*



L to R: Rose Jaimes, Volunteer, Jan Fisher

25,000 Young Lutherans Invade S.A.

San Antonio, TX was the gathering place for 25,000 LCMS Youth. Everywhere you looked there was a sea of Aqua Blue backpacks throughout the city. It was quite impressive to see so many Young Adults walking the street with pride, exchanging greetings to one another and sharing information about their Home Church.

On the first day of the Gathering they put together over 200,000 boxed meals for needy families.

Special Needs Youth were encouraged to attend the Gathering. In New Orleans, LA in 2010 approximately 27 attended; in San Antonio the number nearly doubled, 49 attended. Many of them stopped by Lutheran Braille Workers booth. They were happy to share their Braille talents with the staff. -- *Rose Jaimes*



1st time Attendee of the Youth Gathering was excited to show her sister & staff her Braille Skills.



Embossing John 3:16

Walking Together

There are many kinds of walking. There is a fast walk; brisk walk; strong walk; and determined walk. In contrast to these there is a slow walk; leisurely walk; plodding walk; and aimless walk. This summer our family learned of still another type of walk.

My daughter Tori went with the church's youth group in July to the Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX. There were about 25,000 kids from all over the country, gathering for fun, fellowship, Bible study, singing and service. The main events were at the Alamadome with smaller activities in various places around the city. With that many kids they were scattered throughout the San Antonio metro. There was a lot of walking.

While there, Tori cut the bottom of her left foot pretty bad. The emergency clinic stopped the bleeding and gave her a boot to wear. The boot provided padding and protection. Needless to say Tori had to come home early from the youth gathering. Even though she flew home, painful walking was ensued.

Perhaps you understand this type of walk: a painful walk; timid walk; uncertain walk; undesirable walk. Yet life is

full of this type of walk. Thankfully for many it does not last. Yet for millions this walk exists their whole life: emotionally; mentally; socially; spiritually.

When Tori cut her foot, her friends and whole youth group rallied around her. Literally she leaned on Amanda to walk to the car, to get to the clinic. Evan carried her. Others pushed her in a wheel chair. Her friends slowed down their walk and matched Tori's painful walk.

Jesus changed his walk to match humanity's walk. Though he was not hurt, injured, tainted or effected with sin he was wounded for our transgressions. He walked our walk that we might dwell with him. He doesn't call us a servant or slave, but a friend.

Now as his friend, we walk together, befriending others in their walk of life. At Lutheran Braille Workers we do this with Bibles and materials in Braille, Large Print and Audio. We also walk with people who are blind at the Outreach Centers; showing kindness and compassion.

You walk with us through your generous gifts and many prayers. Thank you! --Pastor Dave Andrus

"I found you on the web and noticed that you provide devotionals in Braille. My friend, Helen, is blind. She treasures God's word. Please send her Portals of Prayer in Braille." - Dolores



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®

Thriven Choice Dollars has Changed

In the past, you have been able to set up recurring direction of dollars to Lutheran Braille Workers each time they were available. Currently, the recurring direction to Choice Dollars is no longer possible. This means that members need to manually direct their gift to LBW.

This can be done with a phone call to (800) 847-4836 or visit their Website at www.thrivent.com. The internet option gives you full access to your balances, all available recipient organizations, and a simple way to direct your dollars at any time.

Lutheran Braille Workers would like to thank those of you who remember us each month with Thrivent Choice Dollars. Your generosity is helping people touch the promises of Jesus!

An email from Natalina :

"My daughter is 9, and is learning to read English Braille, but isn't quite there yet. Plus she will be learning uncontracted Braille first, before we progress into contractions as soon as she is reading well. She carries a very strong faith from her orphanage upbringing, and we want to keep that strong by providing her with Braille materials that she can "read along" with, as we read to her. (whether uncontracted or contracted.)"

Please prayerfully consider Lutheran Braille Workers in your Estate Planning.