

ILLUMI NATIONS

Spring 2009 Newsletter



Lutheran Braille Workers

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DEDICATED SERVANT RETIRES AFTER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

“... to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to obey His commands, to hold fast to Him and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul.” - Joshua 22:5



Mrs. Viola E. Wolter
Office Manager, Dedicated Servant

Many of you have never heard of Vi Wolter. You most likely have read countless articles written by her while she served as Managing Editor of our quarterly newsletter, *Illuminations*. Vi has been the most faithful, hard working employee one could ever meet. She is the epitome of the servant's heart, for every task she undertakes is done with missionary passion.

In 1958, Vi started to volunteer for LBW at Trinity Lutheran Church in Whittier, California where her husband, The Reverend Robert Wolter, was the pastor. After volunteering for 19 years, Vi was asked to join the staff in 1977. She worked under the supervision of Helene Loewe Koehler, founder of LBW, and quickly became Office Manager. We can only imagine the changes that Vi has seen over the past 50 years . . . new

languages, the opening of numerous work centers, new equipment that revolutionized the production of Braille, and the growth of this awesome ministry - *65 years to be exact!*

We commend Vi for a job well done and know that she will continue to serve the Lord in all that she does. As her confirmation verse reads “. . . *Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.*” (Revelation 2:10) Truly, Vi has touched the promises of Jesus with her life, her example, and her devotion to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. While we will miss her gracious, gentle spirit and infinite wisdom, we pray for Vi, that God will shower down on her His richest blessing in Christ.

- *Kathleen Buss*

Helping People Touch the Promises of Jesus

What Does This Slogan Mean - *Pastor Phil Pledger*

This past year LBW started using the slogan “*Helping People Touch the Promises of Jesus.*” A slogan is used to keep everyone focused on what is most important to the organization. For Lutheran Braille Workers, helping people touch the promises of Jesus is our highest priority.

Helping People Touch . . . Braille is a “tactile” language, it is designed to be read with fingers skilled in the Braille language. Lutheran Braille Workers help blind people get in touch with Jesus. For Braille readers, getting in touch with Jesus is more than figurative, touching the Word of God is literal. Those bumps on the paper connect the Braille reader with the wonderful words of life, God’s Word of hope and life and peace. Lutheran Braille Workers is honored to make the precious Word of God available to blind and visually impaired people throughout the world.

The Promises of Jesus. There is nothing more precious to the people of God than knowing all are included in His promise of salvation. Male or female, blind or sighted, rich or poor, the promises of Jesus are for everyone. Because of Lutheran Braille Workers, untold thousands of people now know from God’s own Word that Jesus died and arose for them, that their sins are forgiven, and heaven is their home.

Lutheran Braille Workers is a ministry partnership focused on *Helping People Touch the Promises of Jesus.* Ministry partners include the *workers*, volunteers who spend many hours each month manufacturing Braille and Large Print volumes. Ministry partners include *contributors*, generous people who supply the finances for paper, boxes, binding spirals, tape, and other supplies. And, ministry partners include *prayer warriors*, people who keep Lutheran Braille Workers in their prayers, asking for God’s protection and blessing. Together we serve our Lord and Savior, by *Helping People Touch the Promises of Jesus.*

Would you like to become a Lutheran Braille Partner? Please contact the home office for details.

The Dunklau Foundation and American Bible Society Partner with LBW

The Purchase of New Technology Serves the Needs of Blind People - *Pastor Phil Pledger*

Through the generosity of the Dunklau Foundation and many faithful contributors, LBW is pleased to install a Braillo 400SR, which is a Braille embossing machine. Embossing is the process of creating raised Braille text on paper. Think of this machine as a printer for Braille text.

At times Bible Societies ask for a few volumes or a few Bibles in a particular language or dialect. With the Braillo, small numbers of volumes or “short runs” can be produced easily and cost-effectively. This technology allows LBW to serve more people.

On November 19, 2008 volunteers and staff gathered in the Braille production room to dedicate the Braillo 400SR to be used for the ministry of LBW.

“*Experimenting with a desktop embosser...*”

The American Bible Society deserves our thanks for their donation for the purchase of a new Everest embossing machine, along with paper and supplies necessary to produce 45 complete Bibles.



Staff member, Andy Culmer, embossing a Lutheran Hour Sermon on our first Everest

An Everest, like the Braillo, produces Braille directly onto paper. LBW is experimenting with this desktop embosser for possible deployment into certain “speciality” Work Centers. It can be used in small Work Centers, Universities, High Schools, and other sites, to produce Braille volumes. By connecting the Everest to a computer and utilizing the proper software, this desktop embosser is very versatile and will help LBW meet more of the needs of blind people.

We thank God for the generosity of our ministry partners, including contributors and ministries such as the Dunklau Foundation and the American Bible Society. Together we are *Helping People Touch the Promises of Jesus.*

Pastors’ Class has Need for Bibles

Spreading the Word in Nigeria - *Roy Fisher*

In September, LBW received an order via our website from Rev. Godstime Evbota of Spread the Word Ministries, in Benin City, Nigeria. It was for 10 Large Print Bibles for his Pastors’ Class, which has many elderly students. LBW honored his initial request and soon after, received another. “It will be a great blessing to receive more Large Print Bibles soon

for the Pastors and Church Leaders and individuals who have eye-sight problems, who are very poor and greatly need your Large Print Bibles.” He added, “Please feel free to send tracts, pamphlets or Christian/Children’s Books for the poor in need.” Rev. Evbota also called from Nigeria wanting to thank LBW in person for our support.



Rev. Godstime Evbota handing out our Large Print Bibles

Children’s Power of Prayer

Students Pray for Recipients of Bibles

- *Rose Jaimes*

Each month the fourth grade class at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ft. Worth, TX carries volumes of Braille books from the upstairs of our center out to the vehicle which will take the books to the post office. Each student notes where the box will go and they pray for the person who will receive it. In the attached photos you can see children carrying the boxes and also raising their hands to pray over the scriptures before it is mailed.



Pictured to the left, Mrs. Katherine Dobbins’ fourth grade class carrying Braille Bibles to the car.



Pictured to the right, children praying for the recipients of the Braille Bibles

Delivery of new Braillo 400SR



Dedication of the Braillo 400SR

Thank you all who contributed to the purchase of the Braillo!

Development Services

- Michael Fischer



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Bible Book Club

Since its inception in 1943, the focus of LBW has been to produce Braille Bibles and distribute them to recipients free of charge. While there is no cost to the recipient, there is a cost to LBW. With the help of more than 5,000 volunteers in nearly 200 work centers, the actual production cost of a Braille Bible is \$270. This means that LBW must depend on gifts to cover this cost.

The Bible Book Club was started a good number of years ago to allow supporters of LBW to become members of a faithful group of people that focus their financial gifts to the core product of our ministry: Braille and Large Print Bibles. There are different levels of participation in the Club and members are encouraged to commemorate their inception into the Club by renewing their commitments annually.

The different levels of participating are:

- 4 complete Bibles per year at \$90 each month, or a one time gift of \$1,080, *Platinum Level*
- 2 complete Bibles per year at \$45 each month, or a one time gift of \$540, *Gold Level*
- 1 complete Bible per year at \$22.50 each month, or a one time gift of \$270, *Silver Level*
- 1 New Testament, Psalms & Proverbs at \$8 each month, or a one time gift of \$96, *Bronze Level*
- A flat rate of _____ per month, or a one time gift of _____, *Patron Level*

If you are not a member but would like to be, please contact Kathy Buss at the home office, 1-800-925-6092. She will be happy to enroll you as a member.

To current Bible Book Club members – THANK YOU. You are valued partners in our joint efforts of *Helping People Touch the Promises of Jesus*.

Combined Federal Campaign If your work environments participate in CFC, please consider Lutheran Braille Workers as a designee of your participation. Our CFC number is 10300. Should you have any questions about this, please contact our home office.

Gift Planning LBW is pleased to offer a free, confidential service to any member of our LBW family! As we travel life's path, there are moments and times where decisions need to be made regarding the use and dispensation of the earthly blessings given us by God. For those times it is helpful to have a trusted friend or consultant to provide sound advice regarding how best to achieve desired goals. Michael Fischer, a new member of the LBW staff, is able to provide free, confidential counsel for times such as these. He brings over 16 years of experience in this area having served with The LCMS Foundation and with LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund). If interested in Michael's services or to find out more about this free service, please contact the home office at 1-800-925-6092.