

It is as Simple as A... B... C... Funding and Operation



Mr. Michael N. Fischer
Director of Ministry
Advancement

In a recent visit with a work center, a volunteer asked how LBW is funded. It struck me that perhaps this important concept regarding how our ministry operates has not been properly communicated. My brief answer to the volunteer was that LBW does not charge recipients for the Braille and Large Print materials we distribute. LBW depends on volunteer labor as well as gifts from individuals (current and estates), churches and organizations, including grants from granting entities.

After thinking about this a bit, in the whole scheme of things, the funding and operation of LBW is as simple as "A..B..C."

A ☸ Over 5100 plus volunteers provide much appreciated and significant "in kind" gifts through their dedicated time and effort. Yet, despite all the hours donated by our volunteers, there still remains a "cost of doing ministry."

B ☸ Instead of charging recipients the suggested retail cost of \$1200 for a Braille Bible, LBW gives them a Bible. Rather than incurring a production cost of \$800-1000 per Bible, LBW only incurs a cost of \$270. Despite the fact that volunteers provide a "labor cost savings" of \$500-700 per Bible for LBW, funding (\$270 per Bible) is still needed for materials and support.

C ☸ Donors to LBW are just as valuable to our ministry as our volunteers. Gifts from Bible Book Club members, occasional donors, memorial/joy remembrances as well as from estates are all important and benefit the recipients of the Braille and Large Print materials that are sent them.

It is as simple as **A...B...C...** The end result is that our recipients are being blessed to *touch the promises of Jesus*.

As for the volunteer in that work center - he was nodding in agreement to my answer. Most of the fourteen members of his work group also nodded in agreement. So did the passerby standing in the doorway.

If you would like to know the various ways to support people with visual impairment with your financial gifts or by volunteering your time, please contact our home office 800/925-6092. ☮

Lutheran Braille Workers

Helping People Touch the Promises of Jesus

Illuminations

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Boundless Growth



Rev. Dr. Phillip Pledger
Executive Director

"Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you."
- 2 Corinthians 10:15b-16

A child born blind, living in an orphanage in Rudensk, Belarus, is told the story of Jesus and sings "Jesus Loves Me" in Russian. As this child grows up, he wants to know more about Jesus, wants to *touch for himself* the precious promises that offer him hope, forgiveness, and life.

Who will supply this brave child the Word of God in Braille?

Given a beaten up cup and told to shout out "please help" in the marketplace in the city of Nagpur, India, a blind teenager is offered food and clothing from a Christian missionary, and hears about Jesus, the healer, Savior, and friend. As she becomes a young woman, she wants to learn more and teach other blind children about the love of Jesus.

How will she learn the "deep things" of God without His Word in Tamil Braille? Who will supply a book that would cost more than this young adult could possibly earn even after many years of hard work?

In Southern India, in the Province of Tamil Nadu, a former factory worker, blinded in an industrial accident, depends on the charity of a Christian mission for help. Being well schooled, she is asked to teach blind children, but the school has no books and no budget for books, especially something expensive as Braille books. If only she could receive a few copies of the Braille Bible in the language of Tamil, she could teach students how to read which helps prepare them for meaningful employment, and she could share the Good News of Jesus with her students.

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**New Believers
Kenya, Africa**

Ten Souls Give Life to Jesus Believe on The Hero

Recently we received a “Thank You” from a pastor in Kenya, Africa. It reads:

“Thanks a lot for your free packets of books, God bless your

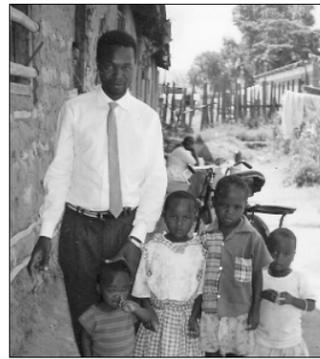
volunteers. We did not believe on the hero but after reading we realized that Jesus Christ is the one.

Dear saint your books have been of much help to us all. Only thing we did not get is one Bible. We are glad that 10 souls gave their life to Jesus after our sharing. Please

always send us all the necessary things that can help us. Rev. Pledger, is good to share with your team, can one be a member?

There is no language to express, but only God bless you for the good materials. Pray for our children we are caring for.”

Yours Faithful,
P.K., Overseer, Kenya, Africa †



**Pastor P.K.
Kenya, Africa**

A New and Improved Large Print

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Pledger, the Board of Directors has adopted a policy changing our large print font style to that of one researched and developed by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). Known as “APHont,” it consists of bolder, more distinctive, properly spaced characters and punctuation. “It embodies characteristics that have been shown to enhance reading speed, literacy, comprehension, and usability for large print users.” (APH)

Also adopted were the APH Large Print Guidelines, which include one inch margins and block style paragraphs. Graciously, APHont, along with assistance from research scientist and low vision project leader, Elaine Kitchel, was provided free of charge. Currently, our German Devotions, Lutheran Hour Sermons and the Bible Volume Galatians-2 Thessalonians have this “new and improved look.” – Roy Fisher †

(“Boundless,” continued from page 1)

Who would provide such a miracle?

You are the means to the miraculous offering of God’s Word to this school in Tamil Nadu.

You are the answer to the prayers of people who are blind in Nagpur, India. You make it possible for orphaned children in Rudensk, Belarus to *touch the promises of Jesus* and grow in their faith.

If everyone could see the desperate need, gaze upon the eager faces, witness the deep gratitude of blind people who receive God’s Word in Braille, the home office would receive an avalanche of contributions – YOU ARE

THE ANSWER TO MANY PRAYERS, for you make it possible for people to *touch the promises of Jesus*. Your gifts allow people with visual impairment to SEE Jesus for themselves! You are the key to Boundless Growth of God’s Word to people with visual impairment throughout the world.

Lutheran Braille Workers wants what St. Paul speaks about in 2 Corinthians 10; our hope is that faith would grow, the ministry would expand, and God’s Kingdom would see growth beyond all boundaries, and that Jesus would be honored in all our activities. Please consider a generous contribution that means so much to people with visual impairment. Please prayerfully consider helping LBW’s mission experience Boundless Growth, in Christ. †

Looking for the Truth I Know the Real Jesus Christ

Five years ago, a friend and co-worker of Linda Tucker, of Chesterton, IN, saw an article in the local newspaper about Lutheran Braille Workers’ work center at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, in Valparaiso, IN. She gave the article to Linda Tucker who was going blind at the age of 48.

Diagnosed with macular degeneration in 2000, Linda started vocational rehabilitation and a teacher came to her home to assist her in learning Braille twice a week for four years. Linda said, “I didn’t want to live in the dark. I wanted to keep working. I had to do something.” Instead of giving up, Linda remained very positive and patient. She has received six laser treatments to both eyes thus far and will continue to receive them. In 2000, the medical staff told her she’d be completely blind by 2005. Nine years have passed and she can still see. Linda received the help she needed at a stressful time in her life and now wanted to “give back” by helping others.

Linda had been given a Braille Bible by a cousin. Because she could still read her printed Bible she wanted to give the Braille Bible to someone who would need it. Remembering the LBW article her co-worker had given her, Linda called a transcriber for Lutheran Braille Workers in Valparaiso for advice. The transcriber knew of an organization, Opportunity Enterprise, that provides work, guidance, and every day living for people with disabilities. Opportunity Enterprise gratefully accepted Linda’s Braille Bible gift.

When Linda brought the Brailled Bible to the transcriber to deliver to Opportunity Enterprise, she met Rev. William Foy. Linda, who was questioning her own religious beliefs, felt comfortable asking Rev. Foy questions “looking for the truth,” she said. She took classes and became a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod on November 8, 2009. Linda said, “I’m home and know the real Jesus Christ.” Linda is still positive, still has a beautiful smile and truly knows the power of prayer. She trusts the Lord in her life.

Prince of Peace is blessed to have Linda as a member of their church, and Lutheran Braille Workers is blessed to have her as a volunteer.

Submitted by Work Center #129 Leader, Linda Kavalunas †

Easter Joy and Mission Zeal

“He has risen, just as he said . . . go quickly and tell . . .” – Matthew 28:6, 7

Easter is always a happy time because Jesus did what He said He would do, rise from the dead victorious over sin, death, and evil.

With the joy we have in Christ, it is easy to “go quickly and tell” the Good News to people with visual impairment throughout the world. May God fill you with Easter joy and mission zeal!

Chapel Offerings Touch the Promises of Jesus

Dear Rev. Pledger,

“Enclosed find a check for \$3,510 which represents one semester of chapel offerings from our Day School. The students have been very interested in the Braille Bible project the whole semester, thanks to all the free items you sent us that we passed on to them. They especially

enjoyed Mr. Fischer’s presentation in November. We pray that God would continue to bless your ministry to the blind and sight-impaired people in the world as they are able to touch the promises of Jesus.”

P.H., Chapel Coordinator †