



Lutheran Braille Workers

Helping People Touch the Promises of Jesus



ILLUMINATIONS

Spring 2011

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

Three Organizations Connecting With Three Simple Clicks

The faces of Blind Youth light up when surprised with a Spanish Bible



(The following is a letter from Rachel D of Rockwall, TX)

In March 2010, I had the opportunity as a high school leader of the AWANA program at my church (Lakepointe in Rockwall, TX) to join about 25 of our youth on a mission trip to Ciudad Victoria, Mexico. We have a partnership with a church there called Juventud Por Cristo which is comprised entirely of Mexican youth! The youth there started a partnership with a local school for the blind called Destellos. Destellos is a government funded school, thus making the opportunity even more of a miracle!

While this was my second trip to work with these incredible youth, it was my first time to visit the school for the blind. It

was an amazing experience in which God was fully at work! Several of the students from Destellos now attend Juventud Por Cristo and we learned they did not even have a full copy of the Gospels in Spanish Braille, much less the entire Bible. After we left the school, we continued in prayer and discussion. This prompted us to search for a full Spanish Braille Bible that we could provide for them. We were not sure if the entire Bible was available or how much it could possibly cost or how we would get it, but once again, we have seen God provide!

It was with three simple clicks of the mouse that I came across your incredible ministry. After receiving the first shipment of five books of the Spanish Braille Bible, almost an entire month went by before I emailed to thank you. We honestly felt that if we got nothing else, God had provided in ways beyond what we ever could have expected. However, He was not done! In a reply from you, I learned that the Bible would continue to come AND that you all wanted to provide the school and church with a couple of Perkins Braille.

(See Three Clicks, page 3)

WHAT'S INSIDE

- What's the Connection? 2
- Thank You from Singapore 2
- Three Clicks (cont.) 3
- Promise Makers 3
- The Resurrection 4
- Thank You, Lord 4
- Simply Giving 4

What's the Connection?



*Rev. Dr. Phillip Pledger
President*

Once in a while a person who is blind might benefit from a sighted guide. There is a specific way to guide someone who is blind. For one thing, never assume a person needs to be guided just because they are blind. Also, remember that a person skilled with the cane or a seeing eye dog

is usually quite independent. But one of the most basic aspects of guiding someone involves allowing the person to grasp the back of your upper left arm, then walk at a normal pace. (For more detailed instructions on safely being a guide for a person who is blind, visit: www.ehow.com/how_2054567_act-as-sighted-guide-blind.html)

When helping a person with visual impairment you are making a connection. Connecting in such a meaningful way shows Christ-like concern and makes a positive difference in a person's life. There is another way to make a meaningful connection with someone; guide them to Jesus. There are more than 161 million people in the world with severe vision issues. The goal of Lutheran Braille Workers is to help these people "see" Jesus by providing God's Word in Braille and specialized Large Print.

Thank You from Singapore

In September, we received a website order from Lisa in Singapore. She was requesting a large print Bible and other materials and asked that we rush the shipment. Later, she wrote the following in an email:

"Just to let you know that the 3 boxes you sent arrived by 29 Sep just in time for me to transport them to a home for senior citizens in Johor Baru, Malaysia, the next day. What perfect timing! The residents are delighted with the extra large text from which each can read on their own or follow the passages read to them by the home's volunteers. Thanks and praise be to God for LBW's ministry in making it possible for the visually impaired to read Scriptures and be richly blessed."

signed -- Lisa

Your help is urgently needed, for the need for God's Word in Braille has never been greater. Through your continued prayers, financial support and volunteer help, you will be one of the very few in the world giving millions of often-forgotten people with visual impairment the opportunity to connect with Jesus. Although Lutheran Braille Workers offers the message of Christ in 30 languages and delivers more than 250,000 volumes of God's Word each year, the harvest is indeed plentiful. Our desire is to connect with millions more each year, that all might discover the blessings of connecting with God. People who read Hindi desire to connect with Jesus; Russians who are blind seek connection with the God of grace; the millions of readers of Tamil want to know the hope and connect with the promises of God.

Your gift of any amount will be an outstretched arm for a person looking for guidance. Your offerings of prayer will help connect beloved children of God to the outstretched arms of Jesus, who on the cross gave us the very image of our loving God and commissioned His Church to be "Connecting Guides" of Light.

For more information about Lutheran Braille Workers and how you can become involved with this vital ministry, look us up on the world-wide-web at: www.LBWinc.org. Your partnership is important to our mission of helping people touch the promises of Jesus.



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
Denise Ufkes - IT Specialist

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Walter Loeber - Chair	Rev. Norman Finke
Dr. George Locke - Vice Chair	Mr. Kenneth Loeber
Dr. Werner Essig - Secretary	Mr. Tom Martin
Rev. Dennis Stueve - Chaplain	Mrs. Julia Neimes
Mr. J. Kelly Tripp	Mr. Hubert Noack

Tax ID: 95-6048152

Three Clicks *(continued from page 1)*

Since our last trip in July, the school for the blind was out for summer break so we were unable to actually go to Destellos. However, Juventud Por Cristo contacted some of their students, inviting them to the church for a gathering. It was the first time a couple of them had ever been to the church and we had the opportunity to worship, share testimonies and present the Spanish Braille Bible to them! I was asked to share God's story of how He "connected" our three ministries before I presented the Bible to them, which I did.

As I placed the books of the Spanish Braille Bible in front of them, their faces lit up! One of the ladies grabbed my arm, thanking me and began telling me her story. She shared with me that she had lost her sight three years ago after finding out she had diabetes. Her husband left her because his friends kept telling him that she was of no use to him now, and she was forced to live with her daughter who did not take care of her. She explained to me that she had been unable to go to church since she lost her sight because no one would take her, and that she had been struggling with thoughts of suicide. However, she recently started going to the school and now found herself for the first time in years being able to SEE her God! She said she knew that He still cared, had not forgotten her and that He loved her! She said that she knew it could only be Him that brought us there with your Bible. She informed me that while they were learning Braille, they really didn't have anything to practice reading, but now they would have the best thing possible to read!

None of this would have been possible without "connecting" with your ministry and God orchestrating it all in His



AWANA students delivering a Perkins Brailier from LBW

perfect manner! He has "connected" three different ministries for His single purpose and is using it all for the glory of His Kingdom. From the youth in Mexico, to us in Texas, to finding you in 3 clicks, to His provision of the Spanish Braille Bible, to a woman living in the dark seeing the Light again, to the open doors of a government run school for the blind where His Word is opening eyes, to a Brailier enabling a ministry to reach a forgotten group of people, for all of this:

TO HIS NAME BE THE GLORY FOREVER!

As we were saying our goodbyes at the end of our trip, my dear friend, the pastor of Juventud Por Cristo, again thanked us for the Spanish Braille Bible and Brailier because of what they really meant for their ministry. We can't thank you enough for what you are doing and your obedience to Him to reach the nations! We praise Him for your ministry!



Destellos students receive Spanish Braille books at Juventud Por Cristo church in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico

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. Sydney Frazen
Mary Helen Kelly
Ane Ertzner

Roberta Werth
Mel Stueve
Ida Mall
Paul Eide
Jean Peterson

The Resurrection, A Touching Story

“THANK YOU, LORD!”

“It is so amazing how the Lord is working in His Ministry through you, LBW. I received the copies I ordered and even my friends could not believe it. Books and magazines here in my country are so expensive. That is why my children cannot have their own Bibles. Now, I can read the Bible anytime because of its large print. Thank you, and God bless you more abundantly for you are worthy servants!”

Sarah -- the Philippines

“Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes.” (Matthew 20:34)

Touch is very important to people. When something stirs our emotions we often say we’re “touched.” Some might remember an old telephone commercial slogan: “Reach out and touch somebody.” And when we want to emphasize our deep concern or love for someone, we touch them with an embrace or a hand on a shoulder.

The Resurrection of Jesus deeply touches us all. That Jesus would willingly submit Himself to suffering and death on our behalf deeply touches us emotionally. Jesus certainly reached out from beyond time and space and touched people with love and forgiveness. And His living Word is our guiding hand upon our shoulder that keeps us safe and guides us into everlasting life.

During this Easter season, please consider reaching out and touching a person with visual impairment with the life-giving gift of the Word of God. A Braille Bible allows a person to touch the very promises of Jesus. For more information about LBW, check out our web site at: www.LBWinc.org.

Simply Giving

For a growing number of our supporters, giving is more consistent and convenient because we now have a system in which their gifts are regularly and automatically made by credit card or through electronic funds transfer (EFT) from their checking or savings account. You may already be taking advantage of the convenience and simplicity of automatic payments to make your mortgage, utility payments or offerings to your church. Now you can use this same convenient, reliable method to make your gifts to Lutheran Braille Workers.

If you would like to implement your giving plan through this program, please complete the enrollment form below, then cut it out and return it to LBW in the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions about the program or the enrollment form, please call our office at 1-800-925-6092.

Whether you choose to participate in this program or continue to give as you have in the past, thank you for your dedication to our ministry and those we serve.

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM 502738851

Name _____		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: \$ _____
Email Address _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Please send my statements via email.				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 (attach voided check) <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: _____		