

Ministry Advancement



Toward the end of a calendar year, it is always good to take an inventory as to whether all that we do or have done this past year is being performed properly. Reminders come in handy for such purposes. May we offer a few such reminders as they relate to LBW:

Thrivent Choice Dollars – If you qualify and (1) have yet to designate or (2) still may have more Thrivent Choice Dollars to designate, please consider LBW as a recipient of those Choice Dollars. For those who have designated for LBW– thank you so much for remembering our ministry! Questions regarding this program may be directed to Lori Alonzo at the Yucaipa office (800/925-6092)

Vanco/Joyful Response/PayPal – Donors who wish to financially support LBW via electronic means can use our PayPal capability on our website. Should donors wish to have regular gifting to occur from their checking or LCEF account with relative ease, LBW is set up to handle such transactions. Please contact Kathy Buss at the Yucaipa office.

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) – Those who have programs at work encouraging employees to contribute via payroll deductions for the CFC may consider LBW which qualifies as a recognized charity with this campaign.

Gift Legacy and Illuminations – The weekly electronically delivered **Gift Legacy** newsletter is different than our quarterly mailed **Illuminations** newsletter. **Gift Legacy** is focused on finances and estate planning and may also be viewed on our LBW website. Recipients of the weekly **Gift Legacy** always have the right to unsubscribe. In contrast, **Illuminations** is always sent quarterly by surface mail. The last few editions of **Illuminations** are able to be viewed on our LBW website.

Spread the Word – If you are passionate about the ministry of LBW – spread the word! Encourage friends to find out more about our ministry and get involved by being prayer partners, volunteering at a work center and/or financially supporting our ministry to people who are visually impaired.

LBW and Will. – Have you remembered LBW in your Will or Estate Plan? For further information, please contact our Yucaipa office.

The Real Message – Finally, please join with all the LBW family in remembering the true message of this special time of the year. We know and believe that the greatest gift given to mankind was freely given for the benefit of all people. May we continue that act of love from God and support the free distribution of that wonderful life giving message to those who are visually disabled. Have a most wonderful Christmas season!



Mr. Michael N. Fischer,
V.P. of Ministry Advancement

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Lutheran Braille Workers

Helping People Touch the Promises of Jesus

Illuminations

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The Intimacy of God's Word

The Gift of Song and Scripture Make Readers Rejoice!

LBW was privileged to be present and host an exhibit at the annual American Council for the Blind Convention in Phoenix this year. More than three quarters of the attendees were blind. Interestingly, there were very many exhibits featuring computer aids or audio devices. LBW was the only entity that featured Braille materials.

Over 200 different attendees spent time visiting staff at the LBW Booth during the five day convention. A good number of visitors had many kind comments regarding the work of LBW. One familiar comment was, "Are you sure this material is FREE? What a wonderful service you provide!" Some of the attendees have various LBW products and expressed their great appreciation for our ministry.



Susie of Raleigh, NC

Susie of Raleigh, NC came by the booth asking if LBW had any more Braille song/hymn books. This effervescent woman loves to sing and wanted more songs from which to sing. In reviewing our Braille catalogue, we found one title that Susie did not have. She was so happy to know there were more hymns/songs that she could sing to her Lord. Susie claims, "People can always read to you, but there is nothing like *touching* the Word of God yourself!"

An 82 year old man has a full set of our Braille Bible which he claims is much worn. Very apologetically, Norman asked if he could have some replacement volumes. When informed that this would not be a problem, and that there was no cost, Norman's voice choked out words of sincere gratitude.

Other visitors to the booth state that they use our Braille Bible for use in church Bible studies and in worship. Again, the common theme was heard of the gratitude people had that LBW distributes these Bibles without cost to them. (See page 3 "Intimacy")

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Rev. Dr. Phillip Pledger,
President

The Blessing of the Gift Given Receiving God's Gift

"For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given" (Isaiah 9:6)

Gifts are great! Receiving and unwrapping a gift is fun, especially when it comes from someone who loves you. When it comes from someone who loves you, you know whatever the gift, that the gift was chosen just for you.

When I became an adult something changed. Receiving gifts is still great fun, but *giving* gifts is even more enjoyable. Carefully choosing a gift for someone you love is filled with excitement and joy. My father loved giving gifts to such an extent that he became a master gift-wraper. Every Christmas he would spend hours wrapping Christmas gifts. He would use colorful paper, well-chosen ribbon, and would even manufacture custom bows to place on each package. He loved giving gifts.

Our heavenly Father loves giving gifts to those He loves. The Father's Gift was given after great thought and planning. His Gift, Jesus, was chosen just for you because He loves you and wants to spend eternity with you. "For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given" (Isaiah 9:6).

Receiving God's gift is more wonderful than words can describe. Equally wonderful is giving to others that same gift of life by making it possible for people to know of the Father's Gift. Your contributions to Lutheran Braille Workers does just that. Here is one example of how you are making a difference:

Dear Warren [a certified Brailist working in LBW's Braille Department],
When I clicked "order" for the NT in braille, I thought I'd see prices. No! My order was placed already! Nothing is ever for free.... What an exception your volunteers are offering!
The first box arrived at my place (I'm a church board member, the only one speaking fluent English).
The pastor took the parcel to Nadine's place. She became blind after being beaten up once and once again and then once too roughly by her former husband. She's remarried since last year, her actual husband is very kind, but illiterate.
Yesterday in church, Nadine's husband prayed out loud, not knowing where the braille books came from, so thankful to God for finally having the Good News at his disposal, because... a blind woman is reading the New Testament to him!!!! Imagine....
This is just a detail I wanted to communicate, to let you know what a difference you make, what a blessing this is, beyond what you might have imagined. Thank you so very much.
We'll make the volumes available to all churches in the area.
If any one of you is coming to Europe, let us know! We'd be glad to have you as our guests!
Please tell all of your volunteers how grateful we are for what you're doing.
Keep up the good work - this is GOOD work!!!!
Blessings,
Lucie
Agnac, France

(Continued on page 3)

("Blessing" continued from page 2)

During this difficult economy, your prayers and financial support are most urgently needed. Your gifts, of any amount, will help place the Word of God into the hands of a person with visual disability. This is the most opportune time to make the difference in the life of a person with visual impairment like Nadine. And, there are thousands of people just like Nadine who will "see" for the first time the loving and precious gift of Jesus – because of you.

May God bless you this Christmas with many opportunities to share the wonderful gift of Jesus; the Blessing of the Gift Given. †
–Rev. Dr. Phillip Pledger

Three Clicks Away

Featured in our upcoming Spring 2011 Illuminations is a story on the amazing experience of twenty-five youth on a mission trip to Ciudad Victoria, Mexico. You will read how the high school AWANA group was inspired, after visiting a school for the blind, to locate a complete Spanish Braille Bible. Three simple clicks of the mouse led them to the Lutheran Braille Workers website and the answer to their prayers. †



Prayer Realized

New Spanish Large Print Bible Volumes San Mateo, San Lucas and Hechos

Thanks to two new volunteer Spanish Language Proofreaders, LBW has now produced three newly formatted Spanish Bible volumes.

One of these proofreaders is a local high school Spanish teacher, who also happens to be the faculty adviser to a community service youth group that has been volunteering at LBW's home office for several years. The other is Rev. Juan D. Herrera, who conducts Spanish language church services at St John's Lutheran

Church in nearby Hemet, CA. Coincidentally, St. John's is also LBW Board Member and Board Chaplain, Rev. Dennis Stueve's church, as well as home to Large Print Work Center #13.

After being proofread in the new APHont* formatting style, new zinc plates funded by the "Placas de Biblia Program" were made. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke, as well as the Book of Acts, can now be enjoyed by our visually impaired Spanish readers. †

("Intimacy" continued from page 1)



Susan of Saratoga,
CA

Susan of Saratoga, CA also has a Braille Bible from LBW. This energetic lady exclaimed that "there is an *intimacy* in carrying the Braille Bible under your arm and taking it anywhere you go – an *intimacy* that exists with God when you can *touch* His Word."

Readers of this Illuminations Newsletter should have the confidence that their support of LBW through prayer, volunteering and contributions is helping people touch the promises of Jesus. †

* PROMISE MAKERS *

Honored people who have contributed time, talent and treasure to enhance and advance the ministry of LBW

Norman and Sally Loeber	Roberta Werth
LeRoy and Marjorie Delafosse	Mel Stueve
Richard and Nancy Challis	Ida Mall
Rev. Sydney Frazen	Paul Eide
Mary Helen Kelly	Jean Peterson
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