

# Lutheran Braille Workers

## *Helping People Touch the Promises of Jesus*

### Work Center Memo

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MEMO #392

April 2012

## Remembrance

As I write this, we are all preparing for Holy Week. This is the most intense time of the Church year as we “Remember” the events surrounding the horrific suffering and death of our Lord Jesus.

When Jesus said: “Do this in Remembrance of Me” (1 Corinthians 11:24-25), He meant more than merely “recall the historical data.” Remembrance, in this sense, means to “re-live the events.” The suffering and death of Jesus is not a mere historical data-point, it is the Divinely appointed culmination of thousands of years of God’s masterful orchestration of our salvation in Christ.

God continues to orchestrate events that lead to salvation. Every day God’s Spirit touches the hearts and minds of people He loves. Although God can touch people by any means He desires, He has promised to touch people through His Word.

As mission-partners with Lutheran Braille Workers, God is touching many thousands of people each year THROUGH YOU. By making His Word available to people with visual disability, you are part of God’s orchestra, bringing His life-giving Word to people for whom Christ died.

You are all in my prayers. Please pray for one another and for those we seek to serve. May God fill each of you with joy and peace in the risen Lord Jesus!

Rev. Dr. Phil Pledger

## Thanks, Large Print Work Centers



William Cantu  
WC #39 Leader

Lately, errors have been made in some shipments to Large Print Work Centers and I want to thank all those involved for their help and understanding. Some mislabeled boxes have gone to the wrong centers and then had to be re-routed immediately, so work sessions would not be cancelled. (A special thanks to Bill Cantu, L-W/C #39 and Dorothy Sproul, L-W/C #8 for their recent help). There have also been shortages of covers and pages, leaving centers inconvenienced by having to print their own or by having to wait for the shorted items to come from Yucaipa. Please be assured, that we are striving to reduce the number of these mistakes in the future.

Roy Fisher - Large Print Administrator



Dorothy Sproul  
WC #8 Leader

## SAFETY TIP

**Stay Alert** - when performing a familiar task. Injuries often occur when you become distracted or your mind wanders. After a while, repetitive tasks can become mindless. Take a few minutes to refresh yourself, if you can - just performing a simple stretch or changing positions may do the trick. Also, when running a Braille Press machine or any other mechanical device, you should always run the machine with all covers closed as to avoid any loose articles of clothing from being caught in the machine.

Safety Around the Clock™



## MEET & GREET EVENT IN TEXAS

Work Center #166, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, in San Antonio, held a “Meet & Greet” potluck lunch with Mrs. Peggy Turnipseed, the LBW Mission Associate for Texas, on February 20, 2012. Mrs. Turnipseed presented an uplifting message concerning her worldwide trips on behalf of the Lutheran Braille Workers’ ministry.



Volunteers taking in an “uplifting message”



Peggy Turnipseed, MA

This work center, organized in July 1983, consists of approximately 88 dedicated volunteers. Twelve teams of volunteers meet at the church during the day and also in the evening on a regularly scheduled basis. These teams consist not only of Mt. Calvary members but sister congregations as well: 2 groups from King of Kings Lutheran Church, San Antonio; 1 from Concordia Lutheran Church, San Antonio; 1 from Messiah Lutheran Church, Boerne; and 1 from Cross Lutheran Church, New Braunfels. These combined groups put together approximately 95-100 books monthly (over 5600 pages), producing the following books of the Bible: Acts, Isaiah Volumes 1 and 2, 2 Samuel, Judges, Burmese 1 Corinthians-Galatians and also the Christian tract *The Spirit and Me*. All of these volunteers consider it a privilege to work in this mission of *Helping People Touch The Promise of Jesus*.

~ C. Lariosa



## THE SPOTLIGHT

Work Center #162 first opened its doors in 1983 in Albany New York under the direction of Reverend Arthur Gerhardt. They began producing *New Perspective on Life in Grade 2 Braille*; *James-Jude in Portuguese Braille*; and *Amharic Psalms Volumes 1, 2 and 3*. In 1995, Arlene Hurley took over as Leader and has been working hard in continuing to provide reading material for those with visual impairment. After almost 30 years of doing the Lord’s work, unfortunately, Work Center #162 will be closing its doors in April 2012. Lutheran Braille Workers is sad to see this happen, but has been blessed with the many years that they have given to this ministry. You all will be missed!

**Please prayerfully consider Lutheran Braille Workers in your Estate Planning.**

## FROM THE BRAILLE DEPT.

In a recent email from Houston, TX, a reader was really excited to receive a Perkins Brailier and Braille books from Lutheran Braille Workers and wrote this:

*“Hello David, All of you at Lutheran Braille Workers have brought tears of joy to my heart. A great big “thank you” from the bottom of my heart does not tell you how grateful that I am to have received such a gift from you all today... Be Blessed, Gracie” – Houston, TX*

## PREPARING FOR THE DAYS TO COME ISN'T EASY, BUT IT IS SOMETHING THAT IS NECESSARY

As Vice President of Operations, Jan Fisher, and I were driving to visit Work Center 24, Our Savior First Lutheran Church in Granada Hills, CA, we had a discussion about what makes a person in charge a good leader. We both agreed a good leader has the knowledge of planning ahead and sharing their knowledge with those around him or her. That is exactly what we experienced when we arrived at Work Center 24. Leaders Sam Dahlgren and Marlene Gannon are extremely organized. It would be easy for someone to step into their shoes without any delay of production. Sam even has spreadsheets he uses while asking for funds to help support their center (LWML sponsors the center). They've created a great succession plan. We had a wonderful visit with the volunteers, they were all so friendly. Thank you for your warm hospitality and the delicious brunch!

Rose Jaimes - Braille Administrator



L to R: Bernie Larson, Marlene, Maria Volkert, Verna Sylvester, Sam and Gloria Larson



L to R: Sylvia Smathers, Sam Dahlgren and Pik Sugandha



Leaders, Marlene Gannon and Sam Dahlgren

## MANUAL FOR OPERATING A BRALLIE WORK CENTER

Please refer to your “Manuel for Operating a Braille Work Center” page 22 for instructions on how to handle returned books. We are getting some books returned from foreign countries because they are charging a fee at that end. Possibly, the recipients are just not picking up the books, as they cannot afford to pay. Usually, your labels will have blanks on them. Please save these so that if you get returns you can use them to re-mail the books.

## ANNUAL BOOK AUDIT

Letters for our annual book audit are going out a few at a time so as not to overwhelm our auditor. Please continue to send your books in when you get your letter and if there are books listed that you do not produce, please contact Joanna or Rose at the Home Office.

## LABELS AND PLATES

We have had some work centers receive labels for books that they do not produce. If this happens to you, please contact us so we can determine who should have received them. There have been a few glitches as a result of our system conversion and hope to get those behind us soon. I have made a few calls asking if you have plates in your work center for books that you do not produce. If I have not contacted you already and you do have plates that you are not producing, please contact Joanna at the Home Office. Also, please let us know if you are having a hard time producing the number of books that we are assigning you, as we can adjust that number.

Joanna Ervin - Production Coordinator



Braille material ready to be shipped to our readers.

## “LAY A ROSE”



Bruce Austin, WC#58 Leader at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Tucson, AZ, passed away. He had been the Leader from 2002 until his passing and will be missed.