

# LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

*Helping People Touch the Promises of Jesus*

**WORK CENTER MEMO #386**

September 30, 2010

## **From the Desk of the President**

*“We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us”*  
-- (2 Corinthians 5:20).

When St. Paul wrote these words, I suspect the Church in Corinth sat back in their pews and thought, “Wow! Me?!” St. Paul’s letter makes it clear that God trusts His people to bring Christ to the nations. In fact, God’s plan centers on the “priesthood of all believers;” every Christian working toward the same objective of introducing every person to Jesus.

Dear fellow Ambassadors, your work as Lutheran Braille Workers is a valuable and effective means through which God is making His appeal for His Son, through us. Without you, millions of people throughout the world would not know Jesus, would not be growing in faith, would not have a good message to share with their family and their friends. God continues to make His appeal through us. Through your time at the Work Center, through your prayers for one another and for those whom we serve, through embossing, punching, collating, binding, boxing and shipping, God is making His appeal through you. You are all in my prayers, for I thank God for each of you often. May God continue to fill you with great joy and peace in knowing that your work as His Ambassador will be blessed and that you are a wonderful blessing to millions of people with visual impairment throughout the world.

*–Rev. Dr. Phil Pledger*

## **News from the Vice President – Ministry Advancement**

### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

A wonderful funding opportunity has been given LBW and we are compelled to encourage you to inform your volunteers that may be Thrivent Financial members!

Certain Thrivent Financial members are allocated *Thrivent Choice Dollars* to distribute based on three factors:

1. Having a minimum of \$800 a year in qualifying insurance contract premiums or,
2. Having a minimum of \$30,000 in qualifying investments or,
3. Serving as a Thrivent volunteer leader

Potential designated Choice Dollar amounts range from \$25 to \$500.

Thrivent Financial members should either visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800/847-4836 (Thrivent Home Office) to determine their eligibility and if eligible, the amount of *Thrivent Choice Dollars* which that member may distribute to ministries such as LBW. Each qualified member’s designated amount of *Thrivent Choice Dollars* could increase over the next few months (through March of 2011– the end of the program) should contracts/investments be kept in force or increased. It is good for Thrivent members to regularly monitor their *Thrivent Choice Dollars* account to determine current gifting and future potential gifting. Do note that

there is no individual charitable deduction assigned with *Thrivent Choice Dollars*.

Due to privacy issues, Thrivent will not inform recipients, such as LBW, as to the amount that members designate. Your work center can be “credited” the amount designated by the volunteer Thrivent member, if that member supplies the Yucaipa office with documentation for the amount that they designated. (Please reference the form at the end of this Memo.)

Please encourage your volunteers who are Thrivent members to check out this great opportunity and if they qualify – to remember LBW with their designated *Thrivent Choice Dollars*.

**Thank You!**

### **Thrivent Choice National List**

1. Thrivent is “rolling out” a second Choice program, not to be confused with **Thrivent Choice Dollars**, which involves voting for a charity to be included on a national list set to receive a share of \$3 million later this fall.
2. **Thrivent Choice National List** is just a voting program over the next six weeks in which **ALL** Thrivent members are invited to participate in determining this final national list of charities/ministries.
3. LBW encourages you to vote for LBW as a charity to be included on this **National List**. Please also encourage all friends/family members who are Thrivent members to vote for LBW.
4. Watch for voting instructions in your upcoming Thrivent magazine or mailings. You may also go ahead and contact Thrivent or go online to place your vote.
5. Let us all work hard to get LBW on this **Thrivent Choice National List!** Please vote.
6. Any questions, please contact Lori Alonzo at 800.925.6092.

–Mike Fischer

### **News from the Vice President – Ministry Operations**

Once you designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars for LBW please fill out the enclosed form and return it to the home office so we can credit your work center with the Thrivent Choice Dollars gift. This form may be reproduced or you can request additional copies from the home office. Another option is to email Kathy Buss ([kathy@lbwinc.org](mailto:kathy@lbwinc.org)) with the information provided on the form and she will apply the amount to your work center.

–Jan Fisher

### **News from the Braille Department**

We would like to thank all work centers for your positive actions towards becoming self-supporting. It’s amazing so many of you are dedicated to this ministry and want to see it continue to exist and grow into the future. God bless you for all you do for LBW, you are a blessing to those we serve!

PS: coming soon, new window decals offered by LBW. You will be able to show your pride as a Lutheran Braille Worker.

–Rose Jaimes

## News from the Large Print/Print Shop Department

### LARGE PRINT WORK CENTER SLOWDOWN

Due to the budget shortfall described in the recent W/C Leader letter from Dr. Pledger, it has become necessary for the Large Print Department to make severe reductions in printing. The Christmas & Easter Devotions and the monthly German Devotions have been cancelled indefinitely. Also, except to cover back-orders, Bible production is now being limited to the New Testament along with Psalms and Proverbs. Favorite Hymns will be printed as needed but stapled publications are being limited to small quantities of the Gems for the Golden Years Bible Lessons.

This reduction along with the added time necessary to convert the volumes into APHont means there will be times when work is delayed. Please notify me if you would like to schedule a non-shipment. Thank you all for your cooperation and prayers for the ministry.

–Roy Fisher

### In Loving Memory

Plaques will be placed on our Memorial Wall in memory of two Work Center Leaders who realized their life long dream when they entered the arms of their Heavenly Father.

† Hal Schimke was called home in July 2010. He was the leader of Work Center #69, Freistatt, Missouri since 1997.

† Betty Susina was called home in August 2010. She was the leader of Work Center #175, Birmingham, Alabama since 2005.

### Thank You's

“Dear Sirs, I just received this wonderful Bible from you last week. I've been legally blind now for five years, but this is large enough for me to read. What a pleasure it is to be able to hi lite and write notes on a Bible again. I've been surviving by blowing things up on my 32" computer monitor. This new Bible will help me for personal devotions as well as help me in my sermon preparations each week at the Washington State Soldier's Home in Orting, WA.

“I showed what you sent me to a few of the legally blind retired vets who live and worship here. Some were excited and hoped that they could receive the Bible. They are in their 70s, 80s, and 90s. Is there any way that these forgotten heroes can be served?”

--Rev. D.L.S., Orting, WA

Hi, I am more than grateful for this service! I was saved back in high school and re dedicated myself to Jesus in July 2010 at a Via De Cristo for Men. I am now in a Bible study that requires reviewing several verses in various books of the Bible. I have the audio versions but they don't tell the verse numbers (which is actually very good) it would drive one crazy hearing those numbers during reading.

Anyway, I wasn't sure how I was going to manage doing the studies and getting the most out of them. But a fellow blind friend told me about this service. God bless you and all the many people who put so much time in granting our wishes for Bibles and readings about Jesus. Have a great year and THANK THANK YOU AGAIN!!!!

--D.T.

I

*Please remember LBW in your Will/Estate Plan*



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***Growing***

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I have designated my *Thrivent Choice Dollars* in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for Lutheran Braille Workers.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & State: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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