

Lutheran Braille Workers

*Helping People Touch the
Promises of Jesus*

Ministry Memo

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MEMO #396

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Dear Partners in Ministry,

This issue of the Work Center Memo has been re-named in order to reflect the growing ministry we all share. New to this publication are 25 Work Centers that have faithfully served Lutheran Blind Mission for many years, and also, 66 Outreach Centers, places of fellowship and worship, where more than 1,200 people with visual impairment meet regularly.

WELCOME ALL! With the addition of Lutheran Blind Mission, this combined ministry is now served by about 6,000 volunteers, all of whom are eager to serve our Lord Jesus, and bless the lives of people with visual impairment throughout the world.

This memo, now called the Ministry Memo, will seek to encourage you, bring you up-to-date on current ministry issues and events, and hopefully, inspire you to invite others into the great work to which we have been called.

Included in this memo are three pages on the “promise” this ministry offers. I know it’s long, but I expect it will help when people ask about who we are and what we do. I would be happy to hear from you about this promise statement, especially things that will help us improve the ministry and better serve people with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. With your help, this ministry has become the most effective ministry of its kind in the world!

May God richly bless each of you, in Christ!

Rev. Dr. Phil Pledger

MISSIONARIES OF LIGHT

WHO ARE THE LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS?

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is an organization celebrating 70 years of God's blessing by serving people who are blind and people with visual disabilities and difficulties (PVD).

Our work involves about 203 Work Centers and 66 Outreach Centers across the United States with thousands of dedicated volunteers and more than 4,500 donors who collectively heed the call to be a "Missionary of Light" with warm hearts touching the hearts of people whom Jesus clearly loved. Working collaboratively we are putting the Word of God into the hands of PVD and allowing them to touch the promises of Jesus.

Rev. Dr. Phil Pledger is the President of LBW. Dr. Phil is a compassionate leader with expertise in working with people with visual disabilities and oversees a dedicated staff at the home office including Jan, Roy, Joanna, Rose, Carlos, Dan, David, Gus, Kathy, and Charlotte. Also serving as Mission Associates are: Carol, Peggy and Barbara; they serve in their home states of Minnesota, Texas and Michigan respectively. In addition, Rev. Dave Andrus serves more than 1,200 people with visual impairment from the St. Louis office and Julia is the leader of the largest library for people who are blind in the world, located in Jacksonville, Florida. Together with the national staff at our ministry headquarters in Yucaipa, California and untold number of volunteers who serve together, LBW is a fellowship of "Missionaries of Light" by sharing the love of Christ to the more than 160,000,000 people with visual disabilities (PVD) across the globe.

Philip Meinzen works with LBW as a development consultant with the LCMS Foundation. He focuses with the President and our Mission Associates to strengthen the organization's ability to fund a surge in missionary activity.

Our three Mission Associates, Carol, Peggy and Barbara support Work Center and Outreach Center Leaders as well as donors who heed the Lord's calling to provide the greatest opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission among people with visual disability in the world.

HOW DOES LBW SERVE?

- We put the Word of God into the hands of 160,000,000 people with visual disabilities, particularly those with blindness.
- LBW provides a portal like no other ministry organization to fulfill the Great Commission to this mission field. We can bring the light of God's eternal love to people whom Jesus loved. We can help them touch the promises of Jesus!

WHAT CAN LBW DO FOR ME?

- LBW provides the greatest opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission among PVD around the world. These are people whom Jesus clearly cared about. He took time to heal them and give them hope.
- LBW partners with individuals and congregations to provide Lutheran-Christian resources and expertise that will help you flourish as a Missionary of the Gospel to people with visual disability throughout the world. Through LBW, you are connected to global outreach to people with visual disabilities.
- LBW gives donors, volunteers, and partner congregations the resources needed to meet the spiritual needs of people with visual impairment. This Missionary endeavor is made possible by prayer partners and generous financial contributions.

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- LBW gives hope to people seeking answers to difficult issues: “I’m losing my sight, what now?” “My life is over; how can I see?” LBW meets the serious need that affects roughly 4% of the world population by providing God’s Word, the message of Hope and healing found only in Jesus.
- With more than 65 Outreach Centers throughout the US and Canada, LBW seeks to support the needs of people with visual impairment offering fellowship, a Christian worldview, congregational support and a venue for discussing adaptive requirements.
- LBW provides Bibles for Bible Societies as the world’s premier printing house of Braille and Large Print volumes of God’s living word.
- LBW collaborates with other ministry organizations such as Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML), LCMS World Missions and Lutheran Hour Ministries by making Braille, Large Print, and other resources available for people with impairment.

HAS LBW DONE THIS MISSIONARY WORK FOR OTHERS?

- LBW has been putting the Word of God into people’s hands for 70 years.
- LBW has distributed more than 14,000,000 volumes (Braille/Large Print) in these years.
- LBW has 203 Work Centers, 65 Outreach Centers and more than 6,000 volunteers.
- LBW has more than 4500 donors serving as Missionaries of Light

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO JOIN LBW’S MISSIONARY WORK?

- The cost of caring for and being concerned about people whom Jesus loved
- As a volunteer in a Work Center or Outreach Center, you would be offering your time and talent to help us produce and deliver God’s Word and other Christian material in Braille and Large Print, or serving the needs of people with low vision or who are blind
- LBW offers giving options that you can select from to partner in proclaiming God’s Word to more than 160,000,000 people with vision impairment throughout the world. Give as you are able; we seek your partnership as a Missionary of Light, that all might “see” Jesus.

LBW’S BOARD STRATEGIC OUTCOMES:

Lutheran Braille Workers will not fail to:

1. Be recognized as the Lutheran-Christian ministry organization Called to serve people with visual disabilities (PVD) throughout the world, as the premier source-supplier of God’s Word, who collaboratively networks to be the “one stop resource center” for all Christian resources in Braille, large print, electronic and audio formats.
2. Establish a congregationally based ministry footprint of care, comfort, support, encouragement and be a resource for people with low vision or losing their sight, and for those who serve PVD to connect them with fellowship in, and worship of Christ.
3. Initiate a “hands on” ministry that focuses on the “whole person” for people who are blind, including outreach, discipleship and integration throughout the Christian Church.
4. Strengthen our historical value on volunteers and optimize their opportunity for involvement as “mission agents” and “mission partners” to share the Good News of Jesus among PVD worldwide.

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5. Become the world’s premier printing house for Braille and large print Christian materials, collaborating with Bible Societies and other ministries to introduce Jesus, The Word, into “difficult” environments.
6. Identify, develop and increase donors, donations, grants and other avenues of revenue to connect the Christian Church to a people group that Jesus loved, for a balanced financial margin, as the recognized Christian leader in the PVD industry, with the integrity of our mission charter.

Audience	Benefit
Visually Impaired	FREE Braille Bible and other Christian materials; Outreach Center fellowship; Library services. Each person, regardless of “ability” or “dis-ability” are highly valued.
Volunteers	A way to fulfill the Great Commission to a people group Jesus valued highly; you can do this without traveling outside your neighborhood and by spending just a few hours every week
Center Leaders	Provide leadership for a group of people who want to share the Good News with people often overlooked, but who Jesus highly valued
LCMS churches	A way to engage your congregation to share the Good News to a people group Jesus valued highly and who are under-served by The Church. Have an impact on 161 million people around the world from within the walls of your church building
Donors	No other organization is providing FREE Braille Bibles to people who are blind; so all might have equal access to the Word of God.

No other ministry provides more opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus by producing and distributing FREE Braille and Large Print Bibles to visually impaired people throughout the world.

Each of these phrases contributes to the power of our promise in an important way.

1. **No other ministry provides more opportunity**—This is not just about people writing checks and the “professional” missionaries doing the work. LBW provides the opportunity for a person to get involved personally to impact the world.
2. **Share the Good News of Jesus**—LBW is not just about producing a product. This is the means of fulfilling the Great Commission. That is why people are involved.
3. **Producing and distributing FREE Braille and Large Print Bibles; High Impact Outreach Centers**—This is what makes LBW unique in the world. No other ministry in the world serves more people or has such a broad range of services.
4. **Visually impaired people**—161 million of them around the world. If all people with visual impairment lived in one country, that country would be the 8th largest country in the world by population. Jesus valued them highly. Why would we not do that as well?
5. **Throughout the world**—this is a global ministry. You can be involved in this ministry from your local church; reach to the other side of the world from your neighborhood.

Large Print Department - A Big “Thank You” to Large Print/Audio Volunteers

During this transition period of the combined ministries, both the staff and many new LBW volunteers have had to make adjustments. Gratefully, things seem to be settling down, somewhat. Especially patient and helpful have been the Large Print Formatters, Dorothy Wegner, Zola Kafton and Ruth Dooling, not to mention printer Rolland Larson, (LWML Quarterly and the Scripture Calenders). I also want to give special thanks Dorothy Bauer, a long time LBW Work Center Leader, whose volunteers not only handled the bulk (over 20,000) of the LBW Fall “Illuminations” Newsletter, but then graciously and with little notice, took on the LBM Fall “In His Hands” Newsletter, finishing it in record time. You are all invaluable to the ministry.

Charlotte would also like to thank all of the Narrators and Work Center Leaders who have been so helpful to her while performing her duties with the Audio portion of the ministry. Like myself, she would like to encourage everyone to keep in touch with any concerns while we try to manage the newly expanded Large Print/Audio Department. We both appreciate reminders when a deadline is approaching for files, labels, materials, etc. We’re still a little uneasy, not knowing if we are neglecting to act in a timely manner on something.

The Lord’s blessings to you all! - *Roy Fisher*

Special Feature

Lutheran Braille Workers has always been a faith-based volunteer-centered ministry. Thousands of people have faithfully served this ministry since 1943. Some people are Work Center volunteers, others manufacture and repair presses, and still others contribute the financial resources that bless the people we are called to serve.

During the 1980’s, Pete and Jean Peterson served this ministry uniquely; using their own gasoline and motor-home. Pete and Jean traveled throughout the United States fixing and calibrating the Braille presses. They traveled throughout the US and Canada tirelessly. While visiting with them a few years ago, they told a number of stories of their adventures. It was obvious that they loved the ministry and fell in love with the volunteers they met while on their mission journeys.

The Lord called Pete home May 1, 2010. I have no doubt the Lord greeted Pete by saying: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant!”



Pete and Jean Peterson

Jean contacted me the other day and wanted me to express to you her deep gratitude for the tremendous hospitality you offered her and her husband. She is deeply thankful to all of you, and wants you to know how much it means to be welcomed into your homes and churches.

And, on behalf of the entire ministry, “Thank you, Jean, for your love and dedication to making the Bible available to people with visual impairment throughout the world! May God continue to bless you and fill you with joy and peace, in Christ!”

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



Pictures of Work Center volunteers
that line the halls at LBW



More Work Center pictures
hanging on the wall at LBW

Lay A Rose



Theresa Haenftling from WC# 173 has gone to be with her Lord and Savior. She served as Leader starting in its inception along with her husband, Carl, serving from 1984 – 2006.

Henrietta Heinecke from WC# 5 passed away and will be missed. Henrietta served as the original leader from 1956 - 1982.

Herbert Huse from WC# 63, has now passed. Herbert served as Leader from 1993 - 2012.

June Rose from WC# 186, has passed and will be greatly missed. June served as Leader from 1992 - 2010.

From the Purchasing Department - Volunteer Recognition Program

We have received many calls concerning the Volunteer Recognition program and apologize for the delay in getting the certificates and pins to the hundreds of volunteers who have so generously given of their time.

There will be a new Volunteer Roster sent out in January 2013. Please make changes and corrections as soon as possible and send back to the Home Office. Once we receive the corrected roster and make the changes, we will send the pins and certificates to each deserving volunteer. Since the program has not been in effect for quite sometime, it will be retroactive from November 2011.

Once again, we send our sincere apologies for the delay. It may take as long as March 2013, but please be assured that you will indeed receive your certificate or pin. - *Kathy Buss, Volunteer Historian*

Braille Department

Waiting for William?

To those Braille Centers Leaders whom received a call or notice from William LaRose scheduling a visit to your center for maintenance of your Braille Press, unfortunately his motor home had to be limped back to his home for repairs. Now that it's fall and the weather is changing he's not sure when he will be able to visit your center. He will have to reschedule.

There is good news though... William now has a helper. Bob Langrehr long time volunteer of LBM from Nashville, IL, will also be visiting Braille Centers to do maintenance on Braille Presses. Either Bob or William will call when they have a schedule set up.

If you have questions about your press please contact William at L.B.W.C.147@rochester.rr.com

Lutheran Library For The Blind (LLB) And Outreach Centers

Our thanks to the dozens of volunteers in the Jacksonville FL area who helped set up the Lutheran Library for the Blind. A big "thank you" goes out to Julia Neimes who has helped oversee the relocation of this important part of the ministry.

The Lending Library is about to start serving over 900 active blind and visually impaired readers around the country. Contact information is:

Lutheran Library for the Blind
6620 Arlington Expressway
Jacksonville, FL 32277
Email: llb@lbwinc.org

In November Pastor Dave Andrus will help set up a committee which will work with the hundreds of volunteers who have come along in the unification. These volunteers do the many steps of book production.

The relocation affords the opportunity to try 21st century things. We want to explore scanning books instead of typing and proofing, and digitally recording, by use of home computers.

Though we have some experience we are open to input and help. We also will need people to do this new form of production. If interested in helping contact Pastor Dave at: dave.andrus@blindmission.org.