



October 2018

Devotion

Lutheran Braille Workers Laborers of Love- \$100,000

Dear Lord, We pray You would equip and encourage us with Your Word as we engage in this devotion. We ask that the knowledge of salvation through Your Son be shared with the world, and all come to know Him as Lord and Savior. We ask that all we do be to Your glory and for our good. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Sing or Recite in unison: *I Love to Tell the Story* by Arabella K Hankey (public domain)

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true; it satisfies my longing as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story 'twill be my theme in glory; to tell the old, old story, of Jesus and His love.**

Who first shared the Gospel with you? How did you come to trust in Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior? *Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God* (Romans 10:17). Did you know that of the 11 million visually impaired or blind people in the United States, 95 % of those are unchurched? What would be your response to someone telling you that your blindness was a punishment for your sin, or that if you only believed enough, you would be healed of your visual impairment? This grant provides a means to encourage and share the true and inerrant words of God with those who don't know Jesus as Savior. *...to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me* (Acts 26:18).

Misinformation and isolation are challenges that Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is striving to overcome with the publishing of over 20,000 English Standard Version (ESV) Bibles. These braille or large print Bibles consist of 37 volumes, at a cost of \$185 each. With the equipping of \$100,000, from Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) to LBW's Laborers of Love Grant, these Bibles will be free to visually disabled recipients, helping equip with the Word those who need to "see" Jesus with the "eyes of faith." This grant provides exciting opportunities to become personally engaged with this evangelistic ministry by keeping the Laborers of Love Grant in our prayers for its success in reaching visually challenged persons with the true message of the love of Jesus and by "feeding your mite box." *Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father but through me.'* (John 14:6).

I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat, what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet. I love to tell the story, for some have never heard, the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story, of Jesus and His love.

Since 1943 Lutheran Braille Workers have been sharing the Gospel with the visually impaired; in 2012 Lutheran Blind Mission Society joined with LBW to more effectively serve the visually challenged. This ministry not only supplies many with God's Word, but also serves to interact in 60 Outreach Centers throughout 23 states to provide spiritual and emotional support to persons with visual disabilities. This effective ministry makes available the Law and Gospel, so many learn that we are forgiven sinners through the blood of Jesus which cleanses us from our sin, and that He is always with us, equipping, encouraging, and providing for us. *I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep* (John 10:14-15).

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best, seem hungry and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

Dear Lord, Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this mission outreach. Please use our prayers and mite gifts to enable the saving knowledge of Jesus to be shared with many visually impaired through the free ESV Bibles, so together, equipped in Christ, we join in celebrating the true God and Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

