

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS — \$100,000

The mission of Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is to passionately reach out to people who are blind and visually impaired with the Good News of their Savior, Jesus Christ. There are over 36 million people in the world who are blind or visually impaired, with an estimate of over 94 percent of that population being unchurched. Many have not had access to reading the Word of God by themselves. Since their founding in 1943, LBW has shared the Gospel with individuals who are blind or visually impaired. They have produced over 14 million volumes of braille, large print, and audio materials. Work started in a single language, and currently, materials are produced in over 30 languages. The volunteer force has grown from one in 1943, to over 3,000 volunteers working in 170 work centers across the United States today. LBW is one of the largest producers of braille Bibles in the world, and they are daily approached to send God's Word to people who are blind or visually impaired. Bibles are sent to people in many countries around the world, and all materials are free. Volunteers help to produce the Bible and other Christian materials in braille using zinc plates, braille presses, specialized paper,

covers, and spiral bindings.

The complete braille Bible consists of 37 volumes and is over five feet in length. Each volume contains up to 90 pages on which braille is printed on both sides. Each page requires production of a separate zinc plate, via a plate embossing device (PED). Multiple plates of each page of the Bible are needed in every language. Production of zinc plates is critical to the printing of the Bible and other materials. Currently, a large workload is placed on the existing PEDs. New technology now exists that makes the embossing of these plates, and the development of plates in different languages easier. The purchase of the new PUMA-brand plate embossing device is critical to meeting the demand.

The new Puma plate embossing device, manufactured in Norway, will allow more zinc plates to be developed, and the Bible can be printed in additional languages. The saving news of God's grace can then be spread to more people throughout the world. Funds from this mission grant will help LBW purchase the machine and pay for shipping, installation, and staff training.

www.lwml.org/mission-grants