



Newsletter 2015

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Pardon my intrusion one more time into your private world! Over the past months I have been thinking about this and I felt that I needed or wanted to share it with you. I don't know if there has been some new revelation recently in my life or just because I am now almost 77 years old and spend a little more time reflecting on the promises of God and how my life might have or have not replicated His love. I think, maybe, it all started at my last LBW Board of Directors' meeting in September out in California as I led the devotions for that series of meetings.

At the closing devotions I asked everyone "Is there still some great adventure, something else, some act of service that God wants from you? The answer to that question for all of us ought to be a resounding "Yes!"

God is not done with us yet. God is out there preparing someone or something for each of us. He is doing all the hard work and as soon as He is ready He is going to whistle and call us over to do our part to get involved in something new.

I like the words of Max Lucado in his book, [*Traveling Light*](#). Max Lucado says in his book: "God has a great race for you to run. Under His care you'll go where you have never been and serve in ways you've never dreamed. But you have to drop some stuff.

How can you share grace if you're full of guilt? How can you offer comfort if you're disheartened? How can you lift someone else's load if your arms are full with your own? For the sake of those you love—travel light. For the sake of the God you serve, travel light. For the sake of your own joy, travel light.

There are weights in life you simply cannot carry. Set them down and trust Him. I can't overstate God's promise in 1 Peter 5:7: 'Unload all your worries onto Him, since He is looking after you.'

We might find ourselves energized and becoming alive and wanting to get involved in God's ministry! So, I want to share a few thoughts with you. If you think they are worthwhile, you might share them with someone else.

Pastor Norman Finke

Pass It On!

When was the last time you played tag? Let's see, I am 76, will be 77 in 12 days. I would guess the last time I played tag was probably something like 65 or 70 years ago. Can't be! But probably true. Running, chasing each other, finally catching someone, and yelling, "You're it!"

There is a new form of tag which I have not quite mastered yet. On Facebook I get a message that I have been tagged by someone. I don't remember running from anyone or even being part of a game but nevertheless I have been tagged. My grandson, Jordan, also taught me that if I don't know something I can just "google" it. So I did and here is what I got, "When you tag someone, you create a link to their profile. The post you tag the person in may also be added to that person's [Timeline](#). For example, you can tag a photo to show who's in the photo or post a status update and say who you're with. If you tag a friend in your status update, anyone who sees that update can click on your friend's name and go to their profile. Your status update may also show up on that friend's Timeline." Oh, now, I get it! Not really.

Somehow, I would guess, these two forms of tag are very remotely related -- I was "it" and now you are "it". The ball was in my court and now it is in your court. I had it

and now I pass it on to you; same word, different meaning, but same outcome. Something has been passed on!

Sometimes things are right in front of us and we don't see them, maybe see them but don't want to see them. I think of the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:31-46 when He separates the sheep from the goats and puts some at His right hand and some at His left hand. He says to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed by My Father" and to those who are on His left He says, "Away with you, you cursed ones." Neither group seems to know what they did to deserve this kind of treatment when they say, "Who, me? When did we see you ---?"

In the game of tag or in life, we have been tagged, chosen; we are no longer without excuse, or ignorant; we need to get on with it and do something!

You may be thinking, "Where is he going with this?" Well, let me tell you! Stay with me!

KIMA --- LBW

Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency --- Lutheran Braille Workers

How do these tie together?

Somewhere around 1997, God called me to be a part of

establishing an organization, setting up goals, strategies, and guidelines for KIMA, a mission agency whose aim became to seek opportunities to assist individuals, congregations, and synods in extending and strengthening the Lord's Kingdom among Hispanics and Mexicans, locally, along our southern border, and into Mexico. I won't spend a lot of time explaining more about KIMA. If you get this you have probably heard more from me about KIMA than you thought was possible. If you need more information, please go to www.kimamission.org or to KIMA organization on Facebook.

In 2006, I was invited, called by God, to be a part of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Braille Workers, the largest Christian ministry in the world that provides Braille and specialized Large Print Bibles, free of charge, for the visually impaired. I served on that Board until December 31, 2014.

LBW is an organization that I had heard about because of my mother and father's involvement with it almost since its inception in 1943. I had not paid a whole lot of attention to it since the time I was a kid playing tag out on the playground of Zion Lutheran Church & School in Maywood, California.

So, I had been tagged! I knew I was "it" and the words of St. Paul kept going through my mind, "Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

God had a plan for me and He was going to show me what part I was to have in it.

The purpose of both ministries was not to sell a product but to join Jesus in His mission of giving away the free gifts that God is providing through His Word -- Love, assurance, forgiveness, adoption, becoming sons and daughters (hijos e hijas), eternal life with God in heaven, joy, peace, overwhelming love, no pain, no sorrow, no frustrations, just joy of Oneness, caring, protection, etc.

One of the recent goals of Lutheran Braille Workers was to make an impact on our Spanish speaking "neighbors." LBW has the equipment, volunteer missionaries in the Work Centers who are making Bibles, devotional materials in Spanish, Braille and specialized large print. Now LBW needs to develop strategies for making contact with the Spanish speaking people who are blind and visually impaired so that we can share the Love and promises of God through His Son Jesus Christ.

I don't think it strange or surprising that God called me, tagged me, to be a part of KIMA & LBW. It was/is His plan. And now I am "chasing you down" and I tag you. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for

us to do. (Ephesians 2:10) What works has He prepared for you to do?

You are now “it,” tagged to carry on joining Jesus on His mission. Your talents, interests may be centered, “focusing,” on a different area or part of His ministry but don’t pretend you haven’t been tagged, because you have -- I did it and God has done it from eternity!

Opportunities:

KIMA:

- Providing funding and praying for the training of new leaders
- Establishing new missions
- Strengthening the base by praying for the parishes and for the Synod
- Assisting in publicizing
- Volunteer to help on the Website or Facebook
- Contacting individuals, church groups, and congregations about adopting KIMA’s ministry or parts of it
- Prayer, prayer, prayer!

LBW:

- Pray for the over 5,000 volunteer missionaries at the Work Centers who print and put together the Bibles and devotionals
- Becoming a volunteer missionary at one of the over 150 Work Centers

- Help LBW meet the \$20,000 cost of introducing the new English translation of the Bible, English Standard Version (ESV), in both Braille and Specialized Large Print
- Support through prayer and/or financial contributions the production of Braille and Large Print 2016 Calendars
- Pray for and/or contribute towards the \$24,000 needed to convert, at the Lutheran Library for the Blind, the current cassette tape books to the newer NLS digital cartridges
- Donate a Braille Bible
- Pray, pray, pray

No more excuses -- you have been tagged -- you have God’s love -- share it -- Yes, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” (1 Samuel 3:9).

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Donations and volunteering your services to **KIMA** may be sent to:

KIMA
109 Noel
Waxahachie, Texas
75165

Information about KIMA may be found about KIMA at:
www.kimamission.org or on **Facebook** under **KIMA**

If you want to talk call: 972-935-8017 or send an email to nfinke_kima@sbcglobal.net

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Donations and volunteering your services to **Lutheran Braille Workers** may be sent to:

Lutheran Braille Workers

**13471 California St.
P.O. Box 5000
Yucaipa, CA 92399**

Toll Free: (800) 925-6092
(continental United States only)

Phone: (909) 795-8977

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E-mail: lbw@lbwinc.org

Website: <http://www.lbwinc.org>