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Assemblies of God

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What is the greatest challenge to managing the Center for the Blind of the Assemblies of God?

Occasionally Paul finds himself pondering that thought. The answer changes from time to time. Finances are always a challenge, sometimes more than others. More volunteers for various tasks such as office help and volunteer reading are always needed. The digital age makes keeping delivery formats contemporary a constant challenge, as is keeping content relative.

Every service offered involves multiple processes. Some are especially challenging to learn and require significant practice. This limits the number of people who can perform certain crucial steps. Preparing services for an on-time delivery is a complex challenge involving many staff members and volunteers. *(See next page for list of steps.)*

Probably the greatest challenge that continues to dodge a solution is reaching people who should be benefiting from this ministry. Many obstacles exist that keep thousands of visually impaired people in the Assemblies of God from receiving services that are available for their edification. For example, only a few AG ministers with diminished vision know the Influence magazine is available in audio!

Please pray! It truly is sad that so many people in the AG fellowship who should be blessed by a Sunday school quarterly or a daily devotional are passed over because of their lack of vision.

Thank you for your continued volunteer labor, prayers and faithful support.

Paul and Caryl Weingartner and the Center for the Blind Staff

## Steps to turn print into audio. How hard could it be?

It seems simple enough. But it's actually quite an involved process to produce a quarterly audio cartridge of Sunday school material, devotionals and periodicals.

First, digital copies of each print publication are gathered by the editorial staff of Gospel Publishing House and sent to the us on a CD.

The CD is copied to the Center for the Blind network.

According to each volunteer reader's preference, Sharron prints or emails copies of the materials and, with the help of Carolyn and Ann, the materials are mailed to the volunteer readers along with instructions and a flash drive.

Volunteer readers record the audio on their own computer, store the files on the flash drive, and return the drive to our office.

The audio is checked in and copied to the Center for the Blind network.

Sarah reviews the audio files. She enhances the audio files and, with Sharron's help, records front matter and missing information.

Some files are passed on to Will who helps prepare the files for the final conversion process.

Sarah then uses Obi, a special program for converting standard mp3 audio to DAISY, to add navigation markers for sections, units, articles, etc. in this final conversion step for the audio.

The final audio for each publication is stored in a folder on the network.

When all the audio is finalized, the contents of the entire folder, almost 20 publications, are copied to one cartridge per subscriber. These cartridges are then mailed "free matter for the blind" to registered members of the Center for the Blind.

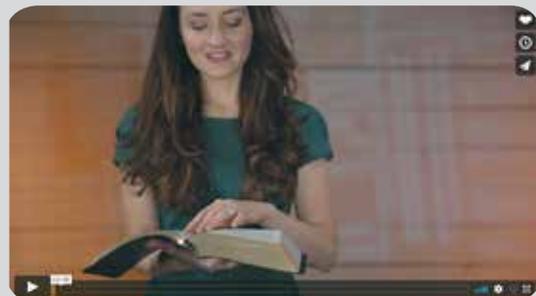
### Picture 1:

Audacity is a program used by most volunteer readers. It is also used by Center for the Blind staff for editing audio. Obi is the program used to convert audio files to the DAISY format for use on digital players available free through the National Library Services for the Blind. Both Audacity and Obi are open source software available as free downloads from the Internet.



***Please feel free to share!***

**Center for the Blind [video](#):**





**Picture 2:**

Will spends many hours listening to audio recordings preparing them to be converted to DAISY.

**Picture 3:**

Sharron supervises shipping printed quarterlies to readers, checks in completed assignments, and even reads quarterlies herself when the we are short on readers.

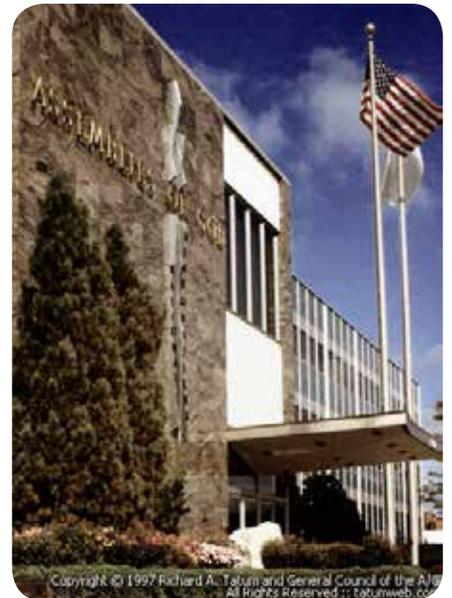


**Picture 4:**

After many hours of enhancing audio, recording front matter and adding meta data, Sarah is ready for the easy step, copying the audio files to cartridges. When the quarterly contents are ready to upload to a DAISY digital cartridge, it takes comparatively little extra effort to add another 100 or 200 recipients!

**Picture 5:**

The success of offering audio to those with reading impairments begins with the editorial staff of GPH. Editorial staff gather files from their network for the Center for the Blind. They never see the reward of their sacrificial efforts.



**To make a donation to Center for the Blind, click [here](#).**