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“For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (NLT)

Joyous Easter Greetings!

Could there be a greater reason to encourage each other than with the anticipation of an eternity with our Savior? March has given the Center for the Blind many reasons to be encouraged but none compare with the promise of eternity.

Thank you so much for your constant encouragement, prayers and support!

In the hope of seeing many folks who are blind on Earth alive with Christ in Heaven,

*Paul & Caryl Weingartner*

Paul and Caryl Weingartner  
and the Center for the Blind Staff



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# A Few March Encouragements

The Center for the Blind staff was invited to address the issues of blindness effecting the rapidly growing 50+ population of the U.S.

The Center for the Blind was asked to emboss the Springfield Braille bus schedules because of a broken machine. It was a great opportunity to serve our community.

The children's department of Mt. Sinai Beth Israel Hospital requested materials for blind children and families. Also, literature was requested by the NFB for their annual Braille Book Fair. We sent as much as the current budget would allow.

The Center for the Blind was requested to be represented at some upcoming community events. Local recognition is always a welcomed privilege. We'll be sharing the results in future letters.

Plans are moving forward to produce a new promotional video, thanks to a gift from a Center for the Blind friend.

AGUSM MAPS ran a request for volunteers to help in processing audio file conversions. The response was encouraging, especially with some files completed in record time. This will greatly speed up the long conversion process.

The Center for the Blind will be featured in the May-June Vital magazine. Articles will also be published in upcoming issues of the PENews and the Messenger.

Thirty-nine NLT cartridge Bibles were sent by request to people who cannot read the printed Word.

## Other News

Sarah Sykes carries a full load in the office and she is preparing for her wedding. She is asking for your prayers as she feels the pressure of handling responsibility with a hard deadline. Watch for her name to change to Sarah Weingartner!



**Picture 1:** Paul and Caryl are filled with joy as they anticipate the wedding of Sarah Sykes to their son, Joseph Weingartner, on April 16. Your prayers for all of the wedding events, including the safety of those traveling, are appreciated.

**Picutres 2 & 3:** Reformatting a cassette library to digital DAISY audio will take thousands of hours. Thanks to volunteers like Faith and Barry (AGUSM MAPS volunteer) the process is moving forward!

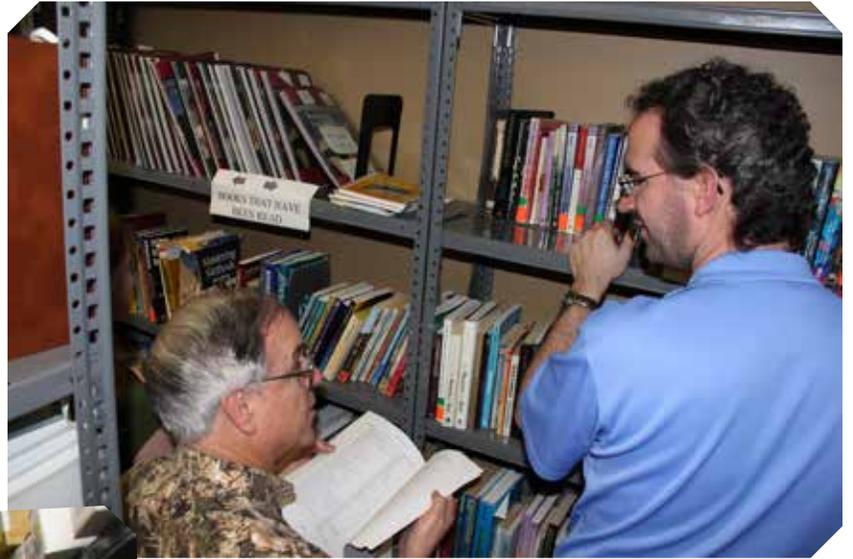
Training volunteers in Audacity and Obi is a new part of Sarah's portfolio.



**Picture 4:** Book Clearing Party. The Center for the Blind team worked together for an afternoon and removed printed books that will never be recorded or transcribed into Braille, books from the audio library that will never be reformatted to digital text, and others that have already been transferred to digital. It was a fun afternoon that helped get a handle on the conversion process. It takes 24 cassettes to store a book but just a mere blip as a digital file on a network drive.



*Picture 5, 6, & 7:* More photos from the book clearing party.



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