



CHRISTIAN RECORD

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

and NATIONAL *Camps for Blind* CHILDREN

March 14, 2019

The emphasis for the World Budget offering on Sabbath, April 13, 2019, is Christian Record Services, Inc. Our members, donors, employees, and volunteers are what has made Christian Record successful all of these years. To all of you, we say a hearty "thank you." And we invite those who are just now learning about who we are and what we do to join our community, you'll be in great company!

Here are a few quick facts. At the very beginning, "Christian Record" was the name of our Braille magazine. It was the only Christian-focused Braille magazine published in 1899. The name carried over to the nonprofit that now also provides many services for the blind along with its magazines (and, yes, we still publish the "Christian Record" in Braille).

Christian Record led the way for many other innovations and services that together inspire and transform lives. We were the first organization to offer a blind camp, beginning in the '60s. The camps give individuals an opportunity to be themselves and freely create and engage with the community. A couple of decades later we were the first to pioneer a new kind of book that provides Braille along with images, print, and an audio disc for the entire family to enjoy.

Today, Christian Record is still continually looking for the best way to serve its members. In 2017, we launched our online library of nearly 2,000 titles. Members can request many of these titles in formats specifically for them, including refreshable Braille, large print, audio streaming and downloading, and on National Library Service's digital cartridges. Through this system our members can request Bibles, the new Discover Bible Study Guides in Braille and large print through our Bible School, select the next books they wish to read or listen to, and much more.

Since the '80s, Christian Record has awarded college scholarships to blind students who demonstrate academic promise. The program was initially endowed by a former employee and continues to grow through gifts by people interested in the program. In 2018, a total of eight scholarships were awarded.

The Lord has blessed our ministry over the past 120 years through all of you. Thank you. We have much to look forward to as we continue our work to share the Blessed Hope with all of His people.

I invite you to join our community, you truly will be in great company!

Sincerely,

Diane Thurber, President