

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Literacy & Evangelism
INTERNATIONAL

1967 - 2019

*"The book will be given to the one who cannot read, saying,
"Read this, please." And he will say, "I cannot read." | ISAIAH 29:12 AMP*



Literacy work in Southern Asia with G.M.



THE MISSION

Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI) equips the Church to share the message of Jesus Christ through the gift of reading.

THE STRATEGY

- We develop Bible-content materials to teach basic reading in local languages and conversational English.
- We train church leaders and missionaries to use LEI materials for evangelism, discipleship, and church planting.
- We develop partnerships to expand the mission of LEI.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Shareholders:

As I reflect on this past year I'm reminded of the prophetic word from Isaiah, "I am doing a new thing!" (43:19) We at Literacy and Evangelism International (LEI) celebrate an array of new things that God is doing in and through the strategic mission of LEI.

We celebrated an historic first-time gathering of L&E Member Nations partners in September. We met in Ghana, West Africa, to share successes, best practices and challenges. Strategic initiatives for 2019 and beyond received valuable input from our global partners. We formed the first-ever Member Nation Council that will be responsible for integrating new L&E members into the expanding network. We are confident there will be a larger group of partners when we meet together for our next global gathering in Europe, 2022.



As is our general practice, we added new languages to our collection of over 260 primers/basic readers. This past year we had eight (8) new initial primer constructions.

We celebrated our annual International Literacy Training Institute on our Tulsa campus with 18 participants from 12 countries. But even more exciting are new online courses that expand our distance learning capabilities.

With all these new things, we have remained true to our core mission. I trust you enjoy reading the contents of this report and the new things that God is doing at LEI. It is by your faithful prayers and financial support that all these things are possible.

Joining you in His service; always your grateful brother in Christ,

Dr. Sid Rice

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sid Rice". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

MEMBER NATIONS GATHERING



*Bob Biederman, Chair
of the Member Nations
Task Force.*

In September 2018, over 35 people attended the global Literacy & Evangelism “Member Nations Gathering.” This significant event was hosted by Literacy & Evangelism Ghana at the Pentecost Conference Center, a venue outside the capital city of Accra.

LEI Member Nations expand the mission of LEI by promoting the creation and growth of indigenous, autonomous, country-specific organizations that embrace the mission and vision of LEI. They are partners in other countries organized to do literacy/ ESL ministry.

Each group develops its own organization, board and funding. Over the past half dozen years, seven L&E partners have been accepted to expand the worldwide work of LEI. The current Member Nations are L&E: Benin/Togo, Brazil, Canada, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria and USA. Attendees came from Benin, Canada, DR Congo, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Togo, and the US.

The Ghana gathering was an amazing time of celebrating achievements, practical training, sharing prayer needs, fellowship, and strategic planning. Each morning began with Bible study followed by business meetings. Those meetings were often interspersed with joyful singing and fervent prayer. Many comments were shared about how much encouragement the gathering brought to leaders of the Member Nations. Many serve in dangerous, difficult places. Most work sacrificially with limited human and financial resources, yet there was much evidence of God working in and through these brothers and sisters. The event was a resounding success. Plans are already underway for a Member Nations Gathering in 2022.

CELEBRATING NEW STAFF MEMBERS

EMILY PERSSON - PROMOTED TO OFFICE COORDINATOR

LEI is pleased to announce the promotion of Emily Persson to Office Coordinator. Emily has been working with LEI for the past year and is incredibly gifted in the area of administration. Her expanded responsibilities will include financial tasks, formerly provided by Patty Hickman (to allow Patty more time with desktop publishing), and assistance to the director of the International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI). Emily is already organizing ILTI applications, sending acceptance letters, doing phone interviews and preparing logistics for this summer's institute. Emily is an invaluable member and blessing to the LEI team!



TONY CLYBURN - MANAGER OF HUMAN RESOURCES



LEI is pleased to announce that Tony Clyburn has accepted the position of Manager of Human Resources. Tony has a heart for the Lord and others. He comes to serve at LEI with an extensive background in human resources both in military and corporate business. We are excited that God has brought Tony to LEI and joyfully welcome him into the LEI family!

EXPANDING RESOURCES TO THE NATIONS WITH NEW ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY LEADERSHIP (ONLINE)

literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training/inductive-bible-study-leadership-online

INTRODUCTION TO PRIMER CONSTRUCTION (ONLINE)

literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training/introduction-primer-construction-online

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE TUTOR TRAINING (ONLINE)

literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training/english-second-language-tutor-training-online

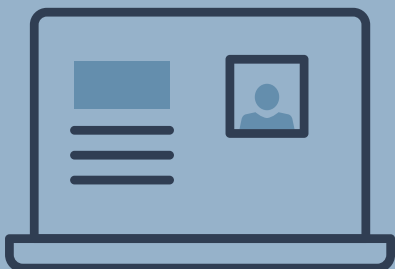
ENGLISH LITERACY TUTOR TRAINING (ONLINE)

literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training/english-literacy-tutor-training-online

TO VIEW ALL OF LEI'S ONLINE TRAININGS, PLEASE VISIT

literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training

THE LEI WEBSITE IS OUR "FRONT DOOR."



PEOPLE from **138 countries** visited LEI's website, where patrons found **209 primers** digitally available. **442 primers** were downloaded for free.

PRIMER CONSTRUCTION

AFRICA

A. (Ethiopia)	Final Edit
Asante Twi (Ghana)	Final Edit
Epie (Nigeria)	Final Edit
Esahie (Ghana)	Final Edit
Ewe (Ghana)	Revision
Fon (Benin)	Revision
Fula (Guinea Bissau)	Book 1 Complete
Kagulu (Tanzania)	Final Edit
Kupsabiny (Uganda)	Complete
Luganda (Uganda)	Revision
LuSamia (Uganda)	Final Edit
Mfantse (Ghana)	Book 1 Complete
Samburu (Kenya)	Final Edit
Tangale (Nigeria)	Complete

ASIA

Magahi (India)	Book 1 Complete
Korean (Korea)	Revision

EUROPE

Greek (Greece)	Complete
Ukrainian (Ukraine)	Complete

90 LEI post-primer booklets, called shell books, are available in English for translation into other languages. LEI's shell books are available and hosted on bloombibrary.org/browse.

Pictured here is the cover of the shell book *Fathers* by Allen and Joan Lovekin.

FATHERS



© Literacy International, info@literacyinternational.net

PRIMER CONSTRUCTION EPIE LANGUAGE - SOUTHERN NIGERIA

The Epie - Atissa Christians of Bayelsa State, southern Nigeria, are eagerly awaiting the launch of the Epie language Bible being developed by the Bible Society of Nigeria. In preparation for this Bible's availability, LEI Managing Director for Africa, Dr. James Kigamwa, was recently invited to present a two-week primer construction event, attended by a team of regional literacy experts. The team constructed the two-book Bible-content literacy primers needed to teach illiterate Epie - Atissa people to read the new Bible written in their heart language.

To keep the primer lessons simple, the LEI method carefully controls the introduction of new words and letters beginning with Lesson 1. "Starting with the twelfth lesson, we introduce the name of Jesus and allow the writers to create short stories about Jesus until we get to the end of Book 1," explains Dr. Kigamwa. "The second book comprises translations of 36 carefully selected easy-to-read Bible stories."

After the primer construction team finished Book 1, non-readers were invited to test the new Epie primer. Two of the writers from the team taught from the first lesson as others on the team observed learners' responses, evaluated feedback, and considered options for Book 1's refinement.

Bible translation and literacy instruction go hand in hand. Once a Bible translation is completed in an indigenous language, the next step is to teach the illiterate how to read it. This need creates a great opportunity for discipleship and evangelism. This is the foundational principal of Literacy & Evangelism's mission to equip the Church to share the gift of reading while sharing the message of Christ.



Epie Language Primer Construction

LITERACY TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS



EUROPE

Total Teachers Trained: 30

Greece
North Macedonia

AFRICA

Total Teachers Trained: 753

Benin Kenya
DR Congo Sierra Leone
Ghana Uganda
Guinea Bissau Zambia

ASIA

Total Teachers Trained: 5,769

India Nepal
Indonesia Philippines
Malaysia

AMERICAS

Total Teachers Trained: 214

Brazil Peru
Guatemala USA
Haiti

UNDISCLOSED REGIONS

Total Teachers Trained: 106

NEW BIBLE READERS

AFRICA - 870
ASIA - 8,401
EUROPE - 375
THE AMERICAS - 980
UNDISCLOSED LOCATIONS - 151

WORLDWIDE

TOTAL TEACHERS
TRAINED - 6,872

TOTAL NEW BIBLE
READERS - 10,777

Statistics represent a fraction of those learning to read with LEI's materials. Since our materials are shared freely online, the global impact is impossible to determine.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

EUROPE

Total Teachers Trained: 8

AFRICA

Total Teachers Trained: 11

ASIA

Total Teachers Trained: 16

AMERICAS

Total Teachers Trained: 44

AUSTRALIA

Total Teachers Trained: 1

WORLDWIDE

TOTAL TEACHERS
TRAINED: **80**



FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

NEW French as a Second Language Book 1, written by **Daniel Awolou** in collaboration with **Don Edic** (LEI-US English Language Ministry Consultant) is being field tested.



INTERNATIONAL LITERACY TRAINING INSTITUTE | ILTI 2018

Each summer, literacy champions from around the world gather at LEI's training headquarters in Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA, for five weeks of intensive instruction at the International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI).

This past summer, 18 Christian leaders from 12 different countries - Colombia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Philippines, Poland, South Korea, Sudan, Ukraine, an "undisclosed" country in Asia, and the United States - gathered to strengthen their leadership, andragogy (the method and practice of teaching adult learners), and literacy training skills. Guest instructors came from Arkansas, Canada, Chicago, Ghana, Indiana, Kenya, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and the Philippines.

Directed by Dr. Rebecca Foote and cared for by Sharon Hopson and her hospitality team, participants were inspired by the fellowship, instruction, prayer, Bible study, and worship experienced in the loving, multi-cultural setting of ILTI in which life-long friendships are forged. Upon completion, these literacy evangelism leaders returned to their mission fields to implement what they have learned.



A new, more concise, three-week format will be offered for ILTI in 2019, reports Bob Biederman, LEI Managing Director for North America. This will provide opportunity for even more people to attend. In this way, more people can be trained to share the love of Jesus through the gift of literacy.

For information about the International Literacy Training Institute, June 8 - June 28, 2019, please visit the LEI website. literacyevangelism.org/ILTI

ILTI IMPACT

MULIKO LITERACY PROJECT - CHANCY GONDWE AND WALES GEOFFREY SAWALI

Chancy Gondwe graduated from LEI's International Literacy Training Institute in 2013. Wales Geoffrey Sawali graduated in 2017. Both are transforming their Malawi, Africa, community through the Muliko Literacy Project, established by Chancy and Miriam Gondwe in 2014.

Gondwe shares, "The Literacy and Evangelism programme is aimed at leading adults to Christ while teaching them to read and write so that they can be functionally literate. We use Bible-based primers. We have six classes in five different villages including Mangochi Town. So far we have graduated twenty-one learners who successfully completed the programme.



"Among the six classes, one has newly started at Mangochi Prison with a total of thirty-six learners. In April this year, we trained three inmates as literacy teachers from the prison. Since then, the prison migrated from the government literacy programme and started teaching using our Bible-based primers. Barely after three months since the programme started, the Prison Education Coordinator testified (in a letter written to us) that the programme has made reformation easy for them and that learners are now able to read and write."

The Muliko Literacy Project also includes a school programme "aimed at providing a holistic Christian foundation education for children." Tutoring support for children attending public schools and a "Good News Club" are also made available to the community. The Lord is busy in Malawi, using the Muliko Literacy Project and its servant leaders to transform lives.



DR. MELINA GALLO

Taking Literacy to the Nations

For many people the dream of coming to Oklahoma for LEI's International Literacy Training Institute is impossible. Raising travel funds, securing visas, and taking weeks off work are not feasible for all the believers who would like to share the message of Jesus through the gift of reading. But LEI's online class offerings now allow anyone with a smart phone or computer and internet connection to participate in high-quality online training programs.

Our growing roster of online classes allows us to reach out and train more tutors around the world. In 2018, we offered more new classes including Inductive Bible Study Leadership, Introduction to Mother Tongue Literacy, English Literacy Tutor Training, and Introduction to Primer Construction. We also developed the English as a Second Language Tutor Training which will be offered this spring and Adult Education which will be available later this year.

Learners can take classes from the comfort of their own homes or workplaces. One student in Pakistan even participated in class discussions by mobile phone while driving his taxi (though this is not recommended)!

During 2018, LEI's online classes reached out to train new teachers in Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines and the USA. Our Non-English Literacy class had three graduates who will be serving in Colombia and Argentina, and we also trained fourteen tutors in our How to Tutor with Video Calls webinars.

If you are interested in learning more about our online training, please visit literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training or contact MelinaGallo@LiteracyInternational.net.



Twelve participants from five countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, and DR Congo) attended the Regional Literacy Training Institute hosted in Nairobi, Kenya, by L&E Kenya. LEI missionaries Don Edic, Pat Lindsay, and Dr. James Kigamwa also came to help facilitate the training.

REGIONAL LITERACY TRAINING INSTITUTE

Too often, literacy leaders miss out on LEI's premium literacy training opportunities in the United States because of ongoing challenges incurred in trying to get US visas and the prohibitive cost of airfare. Regional literacy organizations in Kenya, Africa, and India found a solution to this dilemma. Each organization hosted a premium Regional Literacy Training Institute in 2018, presented in its own country. Though arriving at training sites is still difficult for many (some participants travel several days over rough terrain and long distances), they discover the experience is worth the effort. After completing the training, participants are even better equipped to share the love of Jesus and the skill of literacy in their mission fields.

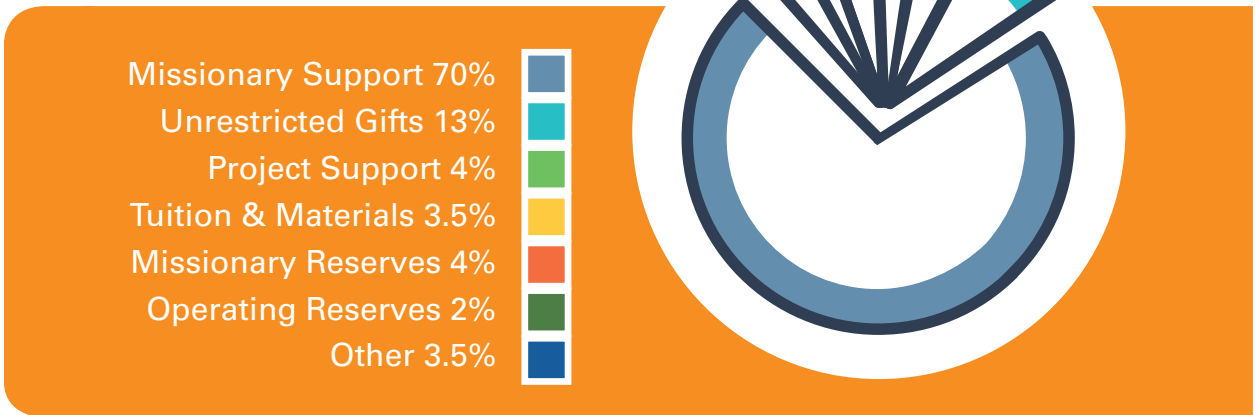
A Regional Literacy Training Institute took place in Southern Asia, coordinated by regional sponsors U. P. and G. M. (LEI); with assistance from LEI's Don Edic, Pat Lindsay and T. L. and L&E Ghana's Helena Amoako. Sixteen attended the Conversational English Module and twelve attended the Basic Literacy Module.



FINANCIAL REPORT | 2018*

INCOME

\$132,810	Unrestricted Gifts
\$714,548	Missionary Support
\$42,264	Project Support
\$36,150	Tuition & Materials
\$41,738	Missionary Reserves
\$17,284	Operating Reserves
\$37,827	Other
\$1,022,621	TOTAL



EXPENSES

\$733,794	Missionary Support
\$202,778	Mission Mobilization & Ministry
\$49,767	Management & General
\$36,282	Communication & Publicity
\$1,022,621	TOTAL



LITERACY & EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019

Ford Brett

Jim Davis

Ms. K.T.

Max Deardorff

Hess Hester

Jim Miller

Richard Reinking, Chair

Sid Rice, Vice Chair



MINISTRY DIRECTORS | 2019

Rev. Robert Biederman, Managing Director: North America & Europe

Rev. Dr. Gregory Bangura, Director: West Africa (in memoriam)

Dr. Rebecca Foote, Director: International Literacy Training Institute

Dr. Melina Gallo, Director: Global Distance Learning

Mr. Kenyon Gerbrandt, Director: Communication & Media

Rev. Carey Jo Johnston, Managing Director: LEI-Canada

Dr. James Kigamwa, Managing Director: Africa, Middle East & Research

Mr. Gamaliel Kim, Director: Central Asia

Dr. Nam-Hyeon Kim, Managing Director: Central & Southeast Asia

Mr. T. L., Managing Director: Latin America & Southern Asia

Rev. Robert Mulloy, Director: Philippines & Refugees

Mr. Georg Ort, Director: Europe

Mr. Roland Rice, Chief Financial Officer

Rev. Dr. Sid Rice, President & Chief Executive Officer

SHORT-TERM MISSION TEAM



Short-term mission team from Beach Haven, New Jersey, with Island Baptist Church in Guatemala

These and countless others have shared the message of Jesus Christ by sharing the gift of reading - locally, nationally, and internationally. Is our Lord calling you to Literacy & Evangelism ministry?

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY TRAINING INSTITUTE 2019 Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA June 8 - 28, 2019

Two simultaneous tracks will occur over these three weeks. For more detailed information about Literacy Trainings and Digital Resources, please see our website.

literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training



T. L. Teaching a Basic Literacy Class in Spanish

LEI's latest news can be accessed through our twitter and facebook accounts and by signing up for LEI's newsletters.



[Twitter.com/LEIUSA](https://twitter.com/LEIUSA)

[Facebook.com/LEIUSA](https://facebook.com/LEIUSA)



LEI is equipped to receive donations through Electronic Fund Transfers. Please contact our Tulsa office to request a form to initiate this service. You can also donate to individual missionaries, partners, and projects through our website.

LEI is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. Attention Donors: If you would like an email receipt instead of a paper one, please let us know by emailing info@literacyinternational.net.



Cover Photo: A literacy learner from Nigeria field-tests the Epie language primer Lesson 1.



Literacy & Evangelism INTERNATIONAL



*Happy faces, happy graduates of
Rev. Nzongo Sila-Ndunda's Teacher Training Workshop
Tshikapa, Kasai Province, DR Congo, Africa*

Rev. Dr. Sid V. Rice, President
Literacy & Evangelism International
1800 S. Jackson Avenue
Tulsa OK 74107-1857

Phone: 918-585-3826
Fax: 918-585-3224

E-mail: info@LiteracyInternational.net
www.LiteracyEvangelism.org

*To save on postage costs, this summer's LEI Messenger will be digital only.
If you aren't on our email distribution list & want to receive this "email only"
publication, please send your email address to info@literacyinternational.net.*