

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

*Then the book will be given to the one who is illiterate, saying,
"Please read this." And he will say, "I cannot read." | ISAIAH 29:12 NASB*



Literacy & Evangelism
INTERNATIONAL

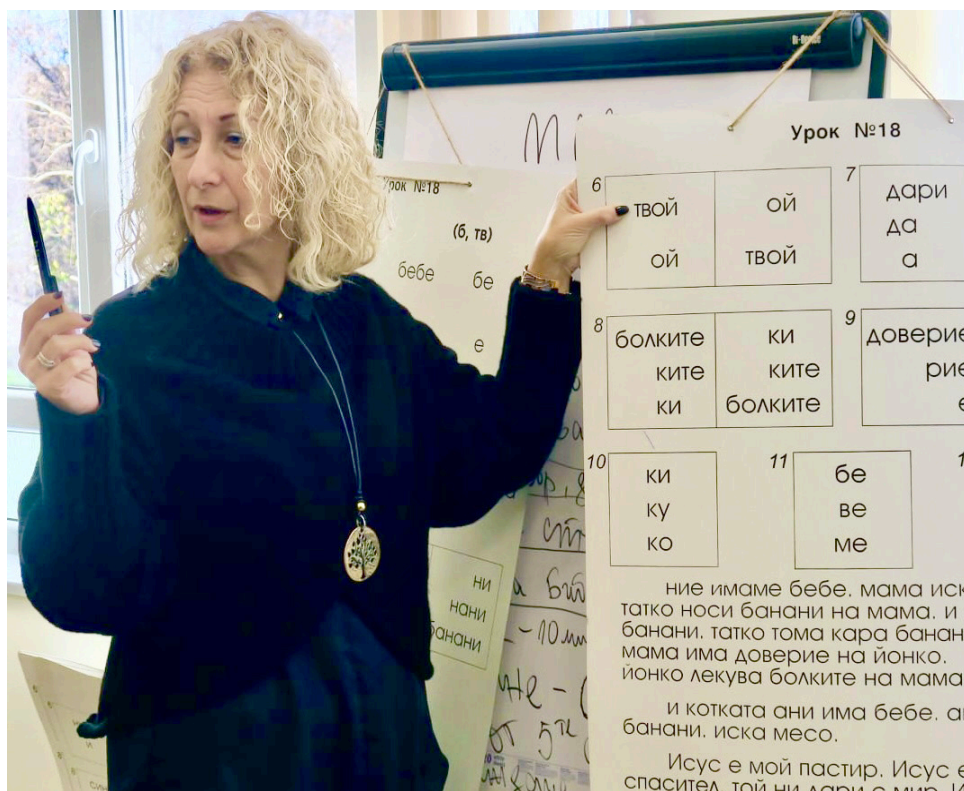
- Established 1967 -

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.
- 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.



Tania K. (who was trained in LEI's Tulsa, Oklahoma, Institute) leading a Tutor Training Workshop in Bulgaria.

LEI President

DR. SID RICE



Dear Ministry Partners:

The psalmist writes, “Open my eyes, that I may see wonderful things in your law... do not hide your commandments from me!” (Psalm 119:18-19 NIV).

Literacy and Evangelism International's workers and partners around the world continue to open the eyes of the illiterate, those blind to God's word. By God's grace new readers are created with the ability to “see wonderful things,” the most wondrous being the opportunity to experience a new journey with Christ.

LEI continues to expand globally through its network of Member Nation partners, now 17 in number. We celebrate the addition of L&E Congo-Brazzaville and L&E Guatemala. These partnerships represent entire countries/nations that have embraced the Mission, Vision, and Name of Literacy and Evangelism, representing the expansion of autonomous, indigenous, self-governing organizations, growing the ministry and its effectiveness around the world.

We also celebrated the birth of “Light of the World Learning” (LOTW) under the extremely capable leadership of Dr. Melina Gallo. LOTW has become our preferred ESL partner. Giving breath to this new ministry has allowed LEI to fully focus on our core mission of literacy.

I personally want to thank you for helping to open the eyes of the illiterate. Your investment has provided new readers with the ability to “see wonderful things.”

May God bless you for your faithful support and prayers as together we expand God's kingdom by bringing the Living Word, Jesus Christ, to new readers through enabling them to read God's written Word for themselves.

I am honored to serve with you in God's kingdom work.

"LEI continues to expand globally through its network of Member Nation partners, now 17 in number."

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

"Read the Bible every day, and pray for those who cannot."

LEI's Resources For The Nations

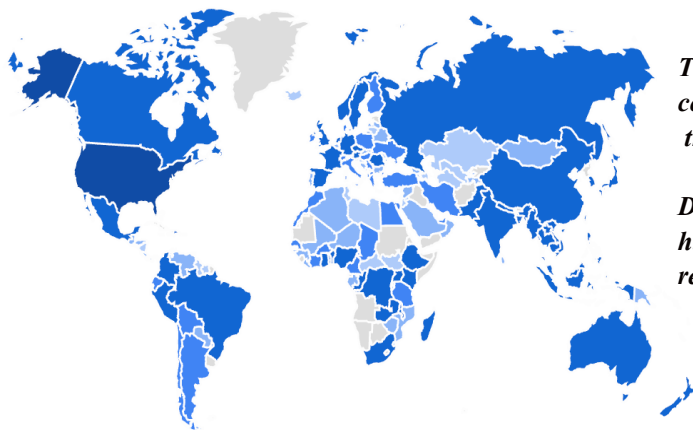
Online Distance-Learning Courses and Curriculum

In 2024

LEI Recorded

Individuals from 151 countries and territories
visited LEI's website.

546 PRIMERS in 148 LANGUAGES
were downloaded from the
LEI website at NO CHARGE.



*This map depicts
countries visiting
the LEI website in 2024.*

*Dark blue represents
higher usage. Light blue
represents lower usage.*

View All Of LEI's Online Trainings

literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training

Primers Available For Free Download

literacyevangelism.org/resources/primers

17 Member Nations

AFRICA

LITERACY BENIN

L&E CONGO-

BRAZZAVILLE

L&E DR CONGO

L&E GHANA

L&E KENYA

L&E MALAWI

L&E NIGERIA

L&E TOGO

L&E BURKINA

FASO

ASIA

LEI SOUTH KOREA

LI INDIA

EUROPE

L&E MACEDONIA

L&E UKRAINE

NORTH AMERICA

LEI CANADA

LEI USA

SOUTH AMERICA

AEI (LEI) BRAZIL

L&E GUATEMALA

New Member Nation Partners - 2024

L&E Congo- Brazzaville



Located on the western coast of Central Africa, Congo-Brazzaville joins other Africa, French-speaking countries as a new Member Nation. Director Rev. Pierre Manguinga pioneers the ministry, sharing the message of Jesus through literacy.

With more than 25 years of literacy ministry experience, Rev. Manguinga has witnessed the transforming joy in hundreds of new readers when they are able to read the Bible and accept Jesus as LORD and Savior.

L&E Guatemala



Since 2014, Rev. Yovany Hernandez and his wife Esmeralda have been pointing people to Jesus through the blessing of reading. Organizing the L&E Guatemala Member Nation was the logical next step. As a pastor, Rev. Hernandez witnessed that people could not read their Bibles, so he and Esmeralda are using LEI's Spanish primers to train literacy tutors to teach others to read, making "disciples of all nations," while sharing the gift of literacy.

Literacy Impact

New Readers

Planting Seeds

The seeds of literacy ministry in Europe are sprouting! From the USA to Ukraine, Georg and Martha Ort's efforts continue to foster people and primers, especially for the Roma people.

The Ort's long-time encouragement in Ukraine has nurtured and supported Vika (L&E Ukraine) whose multifaceted compassion serves her country with literacy training and classes.

Vika has led workshops in the Odesa region where Roma people have settled.

A local Roma pastor desires salvation for his people. He and his youngest son took the training to lead and inspire others who are interested in helping the Roma know Jesus through learning to read and write.

A few of these trained literacy tutors have provided classes for Roma children living in the area. The Orts planted, Vika waters, and God is causing the growth.



The 5-Step Bridge

Jesus' command to love your neighbor is not hindered by language or abilities.

Recently an English-speaking tutor in California reached out to help her Spanish-speaking neighbor.

Trusting Jesus' sufficiency and the five instructional steps designed by Dr. Robert Rice, tutor and new reader, Rosario, work through the Spanish primer, *Nuevos Caminos*. Despite the tutor's beginning Spanish skills and Rosario's lifetime of illiteracy, Rosario is determined to read God's Word.

By the fifth lesson, Rosario exclaimed, "Estoy leyendo!" (I am reading.) She is not simply repeating the tutor's words. She is reading the sound combinations to form words which bring understanding to sentences and stories! The learning relationship of the two who come with trusting hearts is doubly blessed, for both are learning Spanish albeit one for reading and writing and the other for listening and speaking.

Maravilloso! (Marvelous!)



Stories by Tanya Griffin

PRIMERS

Printing Financed

EUROPE

Albanian (N. Macedonia)

AFRICA

Anufo (Togo)

Chichewa (Malawi)

Dendi (Benin)

Dioula (Burkina Faso)

Hausa (Nigeria)

Kabiye (Togo)

Kikongo (DR Congo)

Kituba (Congo-Brazzaville)

Lingala (Congo-Brazzaville)

Sena (Malawi)

Swahili (Kenya)

Added to the Website

Gurune (Ghana)

Esahie (Ghana)



Tefik, Managing Director, L&E Macedonia, shares an array of available LEI Primers at a Roma conference in Albania.

LEI Online Training



This past December, instructors and guests celebrated the accomplishments of the trainees of Literacy & Evangelism International's 2024 Online Training with a special virtual graduation ceremony.

Dr. Rebecca Foote presented the program's student "vision" videos, and Dr. James Kigamwa gave an inspiring graduates' challenge. Thirty-eight graduates, representing 14 countries: Australia, Canada, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Macedonia, Malawi, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Slovakia, Thailand, Uganda, and the USA, completed online

courses from January to November.

A list of courses offered during this time follows.

We congratulate Dr. Foote, the instructors, and the participants in their many achievements. We look forward to hearing how the gift of literacy instruction is used to share the loving message of Jesus Christ and change the face of Heaven.

Classes Offered 2024

Literacy Tutor Training: Local Language

January through March

Literacy Tutor Training: English

January through March

English as a Second Language Tutor Training

April - May

Developing a Literacy Ministry

May through June

Leadership

On Demand

Primer Construction: An Introduction

June through July

Primer Construction: Nuts & Bolts

July through August

Desktop Publishing: An Introduction

September through October

Facilitating LEI Training Courses Online

October

Dates for LEI's **2025** online training events can be found at
literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training.

Impact

AFRICA

New Bible Readers: 22,784

SOUTH AMERICA

New Bible Readers: 857

ASIA

New Bible Readers: 34,140

NORTH AMERICA

New Bible Readers: 9

UNDISCLOSED REGIONS

New Bible Readers: 380

**TOTAL NEW BIBLE
READERS: 58,170**

**TOTAL TEACHERS
TRAINED: 1,220**

TEACHERS TRAINED

Africa: 425

Asia: 759

Europe: 5

The Americas: 31

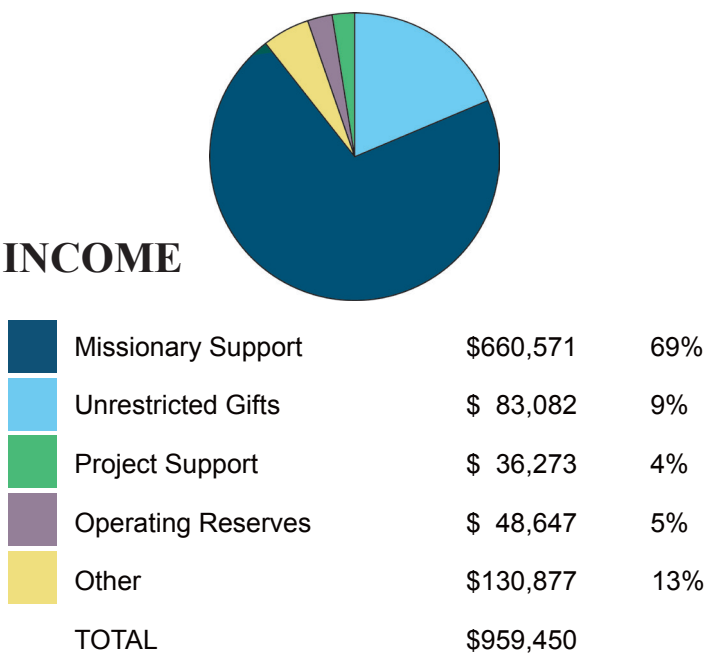
ESL TOTAL TEACHERS TRAINED: 72

ESL NEW ENGLISH SPEAKERS: 142

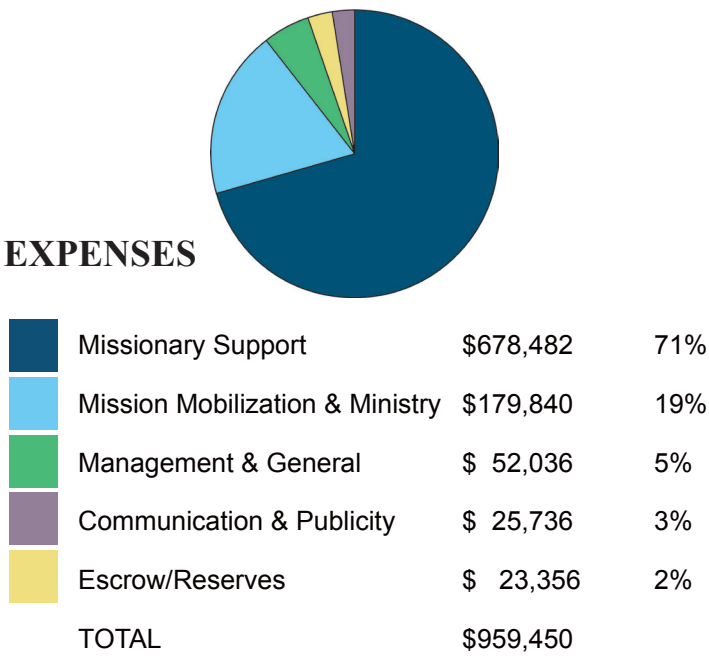
Statistics represent a fraction of those learning to read with LEI's materials. Since our materials are shared freely online, the total eternal and global impact is impossible to determine.

Financial Report 2024*

INCOME



EXPENSES



Board of Trustees 2025



Angela Fleming, Janice Blankenship, Roland Rice, Faith Wambugu, James Estes, Jim Davis, Ford Brett / Vice Chair, Sid Rice / Chair, and Hess Hester (not pictured).

2025 Ministry Directors

Rev. Robert Biederman
Managing Director:
North America & Europe

Dr. Rebecca Foote
Director: Distance Learning

Dr. James Kigamwa
Managing Director:
Africa & Middle East

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

Rev. Robert Mulloy
Director:
Philippines & Refugees

Mr. David Nabine
Director:
Francophone Africa

Mr. Roland Rice
Chief Financial Officer

Rev. Dr. Sid Rice
President & C.E.O.



Benin - Aissatou, New Reader



Ana Biederman celebrates
30 Years with LEI.
Story p. 12

Martha & Georg Ort Finishing Strong



"Immersed in the joys and challenges of literacy missions, teaching reading to illiterate people, sharing the Gospel message, training literacy teachers and enabling those unable to read to access God's Word, the Bible, by themselves" for 27 years with Literacy & Evangelism International, valued missionaries Georg and Martha Ort have officially retired. Countless lives have been changed by

their faithful service to the Lord.

But wait! Georg and Martha will not remain idle. Committed to finishing strong, they continue to inspire literacy workers and teams throughout Europe.

Plans are in the works to construct another Bible-based reading primer in the Serbian language in Belgrade, Serbia, in the spring of 2025.

Please continue to pray for the Orts as they team up with others to create this important primer that will serve the Roma people of Serbia.

Ana Biederman Literacy Trailblazer | 30 Years

Ana Biederman's influence and inspiration extend across continents and beyond classrooms. Since playing the vital role of launching AEI Brazil in 1994, Ana celebrates 30 years of LEI ministry, and continues to serve as LEI's Coordinator for Brazil.

Ana came to LEI in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1994 for training in literacy ministry, with the help of an interpreter. She then returned to her home country to plant the seeds that would allow AEI Brazil to take root.

After meeting Rev. Bob Biederman at the training (LEI's Managing Director for N. America

and Europe), they were married in Brazil and lived there for nine months while nurturing AEI Brazil.

Returning to the US, Ana and Bob continued to participate in primer construction and tutor training events overseas.

As a leukemia survivor, Ana enthusiastically witnesses to her faith in Jesus and of her passion for literacy.

Now fluent in English, Ana pursues a PhD in Educational Administration and Leadership. She continues to testify to the Good News of Jesus and share the LEI vision so all may receive the gift of reading God's Word.

AEI BRAZIL 30 YEARS OF LITERACY IMPACT

On November 25, AEI (LEI) Brazil celebrated 30 years of continuous ministry in that populous South American country.

In November 1994, Ana Biederman returned from Literacy & Evangelism training in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to become an LEI missionary to her home country.

She left her job as a teacher and assistant principal with a conviction from God to help people learn to read the Bible and share the Good News of salvation through Jesus.

It was not easy at first as she supported herself teaching Portuguese and English to seminary students. Some of them volunteered to do office work and then a small church gave money for a secretary.

As the work grew, First Presbyterian Church in Belo Horizonte embraced the vision. Seminarians studying at the seminary there became pastors who realized the people's need for literacy and invited Ana to conduct trainings in

their churches.

For over 50 years, LEI has taught people to read using Bible-content primers so Christians can become daily readers of God's Word, and non-Christians can hear the Gospel. For the past 30 years, AEI Brazil's program has become a model of LEI work for other countries to emulate, becoming a forerunner of the current 17 Member Nation partners.

Elder Anderson Fleming gave a tribute to Ana Biederman and LEI's work in the morning worship service in November, and other key workers were recognized.

First Presbyterian Church continues to provide an office and support for this work. Ana and Bob were privileged to attend the anniversary through YouTube, thankful they could participate in the special celebration. What a joy to celebrate three decades of LEI ministry in Brazil.

Story by Bob Biederman

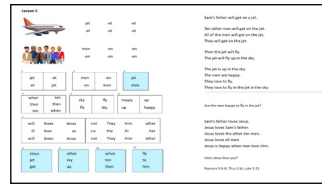
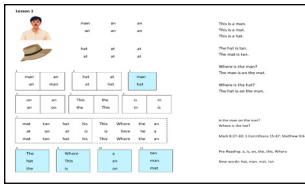


Refreshing Update for Firm Foundations

Since 1976, Literacy & Evangelism International's Firm Foundations (FF) has been improving new readers' lives by sharing the message of Jesus Christ through the gift of reading and writing in the English language. Understandably, much has changed culturally, since FF was last revised in 1989, with the late Dr. Robert F. Rice as Editor in Chief.

Recently, a team of Literacy & Evangelism (LEI) directors and missionaries has met online to review, revise, and refresh the FF's three reading books (primers), their workbooks, and the Pre-reader. This revision team is

assessing and updating the English literacy lessons for cultural variety as well as lesson relevance and unity for today's literacy-evangelism impact. With updates such as the addition of culturally diverse, color pictures and ten new Bible-story lessons, the team upholds the signature, tried-and-true, easy-to-use Literacy & Evangelism method and lesson format so that the teaching is simple, and the students' success is prioritized. We look forward with eager anticipation to the completion of this Firm Foundations curriculum revision.



Maman Celine | Madagascar

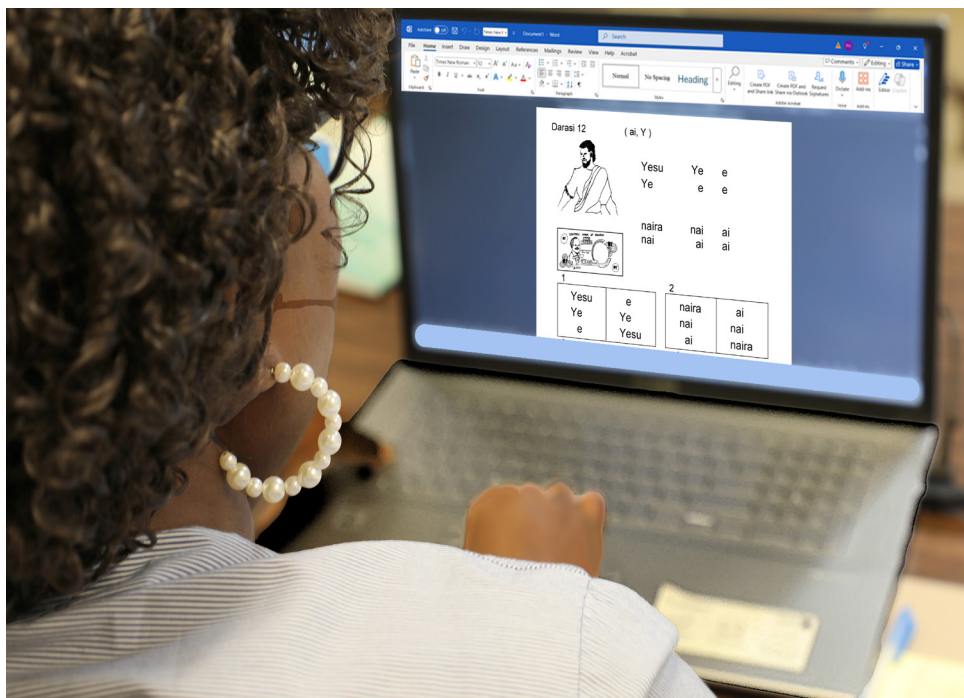
(Cover Story)



Celine is 80 years old and was one of 23 participants in LEI Director of Francophone Africa, David Nabine's Tutor Training Workshop in Madagascar. At the end of the training and after receiving her certificate of participation, she was asked: Why, at your age, did you decide to take part in this Literacy Tutor Training Workshop? She confidently replied, "It's true that I'm 80 years old, and I can read my Bible. But given the illiteracy rate in my country, I'm very moved, which is why I want to make my contribution. With my age, I won't be able to train others, but I can still raise awareness and encourage men and women to enroll in literacy classes to learn to read and write. They'll be able to read the Bible, write their names and so on. I think that in this way, I too will have contributed to the development of my country."

Well said, faithful servant of the Lord.

Story by David Nabine



Literacy & Evangelism
INTERNATIONAL

Online Training

January through September 2025

For information:

literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training



[Instagram.com/Literacy_Evangelism](https://www.instagram.com/Literacy_Evangelism) | [Facebook.com/LEIUSA](https://www.facebook.com/LEIUSA)

Attention Donors!

To initiate Electronic Fund Transfers for making donations to LEI, please contact our Tulsa office. You can also donate to individual missionaries, partners, and projects through our website. If you would like an email receipt instead of a paper one, please let us know by emailing

info@literacyinternational.net

Literacy & Evangelism INTERNATIONAL



Transcribing a literacy lesson by hand, Fort Dauphin, Madagascar.

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