

# 2022 Annual Report

# 2022 Annual Report

## INTRODUCTION

Through your prayers the mighty hand of the Lord has made possible what was impossible in our eyes at the beginning of this year. The year 2022 has been very special in our ministry. Thanks to the support of its partners, LEI Benin was able to carry out all the activities programmed for this year. The most significant activities were the opening of literacy classes in Sunday schools, the training of women to support their children and the development of the Primers and their application in the Sola language. Other noteworthy activities were the launching and follow-up of literacy activities in the Peuhl environment and in the evangelization stations in the Lokpa and Yom environment.

## 1. THE MINISTRY IN THE LOKPA

The strategy adopted this year with the evangelical churches that use the Lokpa language was the introduction of literacy sessions in the Sunday school classes. To achieve the objectives we used the month of February to select 58 Sunday school teachers. The training of these teachers took place from 21 to 26 February 2022 in Bantoko in the Bariénou district. After the training of the teachers, the literacy sessions started in the Sunday school classes. The vacation period was used to intensify the courses. 51 classes and more than 1300 children were impacted. It should be noted that knowing how to read and write in one's mother tongue is an asset for development in the formal school and reading the Bible that exists in this language. Literate children make wonderful ambassadors of the word of God to their parents.

Following this same strategy of supporting children's education, Literacy Benin organized a women's conference from October 21-22, 2022 to build women's capacity in the education of their children. The speaker for this conference was Dr. Jennifer Edic. More than 200 women participated in this conference.



*Training of sunday school teachers*

Note that the traditional organization and opening of classes for adults continued.



*Women's Conference in Parakou with Jennifer Edic*

## 2. MINISTRY IN THE FULANI



*Literacy class in Fulani environment*

We also committed ourselves to the outreach and evangelization of the Fulani people. Before beginning our work, we knew the grave challenges of reaching the Fulani people. The Fulani are known for their involvement in an arm of Islam that is jihadist. Due to conflicts related to managing grazing points and water, many Fulani people are drawn to Jihadism. The Islamic fundamentalists exploit the illiteracy among the Fulani to achieve their violent goals, pulling them into conflicts in the Northwest region of Benin. Because of this, we have targeted 13 villages in this area for our first intervention.

To reach our goal by the end of the year, we trained 18 evangelists as master literacy teachers to cover the 13 villages.

The training workshop for these literacy teachers took place from April 12 to 16, 2022 in Danougou-Béthéléhem in the Partago district. The opening of classes in 13 villages followed the next week after the training. The evaluation of the classes showed that 408 learners participated in the courses. We thank the Lord for his protection.

### 3. MINISTRY IN THE YOM

The year 2022 was marked by the expansion of the Yom literacy program. In addition to opening classes in churches, the government and some NGOs have used our Primers with Biblical content to start classes in some villages. Thus, more than 1600 copies of our Yom Primers have been acquired by the learners with the opening of these classes.

### 4. MINISTRY IN THE SOLA

The key programming for the Miyobe/Sola language of Benin and Togo was the design of a Primers with Biblical content. The design workshop for the Primers took place from November 20 to December 5, 2022 at the SIM Parakou station. We thank the Lord for his grace and his faithfulness to our ministry and all we accomplished together in Benin and in the sub-region. As David so well affirms, “The Lord is good to all, And his mercies extend to all his works. All your works will praise you O! LORD! And thy saints shall bless thee.” Psalms 145:9-10.

We are in the process of carrying out the final publishing activities for the Miyobe/Sola primers.

A distinctive part of this project is our plan to create a digital version of book 1 of the Primers in the form of a mobile application. This is an innovative approach being used by Literacy Benin. We hope to better promote and expand the use of the Primers to the many people who now use smartphones in Africa. The encouraging results so far make us hopeful that the use of a mobile app will now be a part of the new design of primers with Biblical content.



Sola Primers Design Workshop

# 5. THE FRENCH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

French is the official language used in Benin for government and as a language of communication. In our context, it is taught in post-literacy. We had faced challenges finding the funds necessary to print the materials we have produced in large quantities. Thanks to the support of Literacy Evangelism International (LEI) Tulsa, we have these materials on their website for free download. We are happy to see that in such a short time downloads have begun.

*Table 1: Summary of refresher training for literacy teachers*

Languages	Number of trained master facilitators	Number of retrained literacy teachers	Total
Lokpa	58	20	78
Yom	0	25	25
Fulani	18	0	18
French	15	20	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>156</b>

*Table 2: Learners' participation in courses.*

Languages	Number of classes	Number of learners in classes	Observations
Lokpa	67	1650	In addition to the Sunday school classes there were also classes for adults
Yom	25	630	These are classes opened by evangelical churches. Literacy classes opened by the government are not taken into account.
Fulani	15	365	We had a lot of difficulty in engaging the learners.
French	15	347	These are the post-literacy classes
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>2992</b>	

Table 3: Financial report

Amount	Financing Structure	Purpose of the funding	Observations
\$5,000	Encounter Church	Opening of the Fulani Lokpa and Yom	Specifically <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training activities for literacy teachers (accommodation for participants, meals)</li> <li>• Purchase of material necessary for the opening of classes</li> <li>• Communication to enroll new learners</li> <li>• Support for selected literacy classes</li> <li>• Emergency</li> </ul>
\$6,500	Literacy Evangelism International	Development of the Sola Primers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$4,000 for the design workshop</li> <li>• \$2,000 for printing Primers</li> <li>• \$500 for the launch.</li> </ul>
\$7,250	From Daniel & Leocadie's ministry account	Monitoring and Evaluation of Literacy Centers	The sum of support for Daniel & Leocadie and the sale of primers

# CONCLUSION

According to John Wesley, “A people can only grow in faith if they have given themselves to reading the word of God”. Aware of this truth, Literacy Evangelism Benin has invested in the literacy of the people. Indeed, learning to read and write in local languages and French remains an undeniable trajectory for the communication of the Gospel in the French-speaking countries of Africa south of the Sahara where we witness every day the expansion of jihadism and the rise of religious fundamentalism. The literacy of Christians will allow the daily reading of the word of God and for non-Christians, literacy will facilitate the reception of the Gospel.