

LEI Messenger

Primer Edition 2023

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 -

LEI President

Dr. Sid Rice

In 2005, having just graduated from seminary, I was looking for a church to serve. Then Chairman of the Board John Haley invited me to consider Literacy & Evangelism (LEI) as an option for pastoral service. So, as I looked at churches, I also looked at what LEI was doing.

I joined LEI missionary Bob Biederman and a primer construction team in Ghana, West Africa, where an LEI primer (basic reader) was being developed for the Dangme (Dong-may) people. This population includes a high percentage of non-readers.

The most gripping part of our two-plus weeks' stay came at the end of the primer construction workshop as we sat in a circle with seven Ghanaian team members and debriefed. Participants expressed their appreciation through tears, thanking us for bringing the linguistic expertise that would allow their brothers and sisters to learn to read the Bible for themselves in their own language.

A beautiful thing has occurred over the past several years. Literacy & Evangelism organizations have been formed in 14 other countries. Many of these have the linguistic capacity and skill needed to create new primers independently of North America. They have been trained and can now replicate and multiply the work by themselves.

Our effort to equip autonomous, indigenous L&E organizations around the world has led us into the most robust season in our history.

May our God continue to bless the efforts of LEI's growing network of organizations.



Your brother in Christ,

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

"Our effort to equip autonomous, indigenous L&E organizations around the world has led us into the most robust season in our history." - Dr. Sid Rice

What Are LEI Literacy Primers?

Literacy & Evangelism's Bible-content primers are basic readers that can be easily used to help teach people to read in their heart language. For over 55 years, LEI missionaries and partners have constructed literacy primers in more than **275** languages. Because LEI primers are shared freely for download from the LEI website, we will never know how many lives the Lord has transformed in using these powerful tools to share the message of Jesus Christ while sharing the gift of reading.

LEI primers are:


- Culture-specific - not translated from English materials.
- Consistent in lesson format.
- Written by speakers of the language.
- Illustrated by a local artist.
- Designed to be taught by non-professional volunteers.
- Accompanied by a detailed teacher's guidebook.

- Dr. James Kigamwa


LEI primer lessons:

- Build on the vocabulary introduced in previous lessons.
- Usually introduce the name of Jesus by Lesson 12.
- Include Scripture verses for teacher and student to read and discuss.

Lesson 5



jet -et -et
-et -et -et




men -en -en
-en -en -en

1 jet -et -et jet	2 men -en -en men	3 jet men	
4 men ten ten men	5 sky fly fly sky	6 happy up up happy	
7 will loves not They men other ill love no The me her will loves not They men other			
8 Jesus They happy	9 all sky up	10 when then ten	11 get to love

18

Sam's father will get on a jet.

Ten other men will get on the jet.
All of the men will get on the jet.
They will get on the jet.



Then the jet will fly.
The jet will fly up in the sky.

The jet is up in the sky.
The men are happy.
They love to fly.
They love to fly in the jet in the sky.

Are the men happy to fly in the jet?

Sam's father loves Jesus.
Jesus loves Sam's father.
Jesus loves the other ten men.
Jesus loves all men.
Jesus is happy when men love Him.

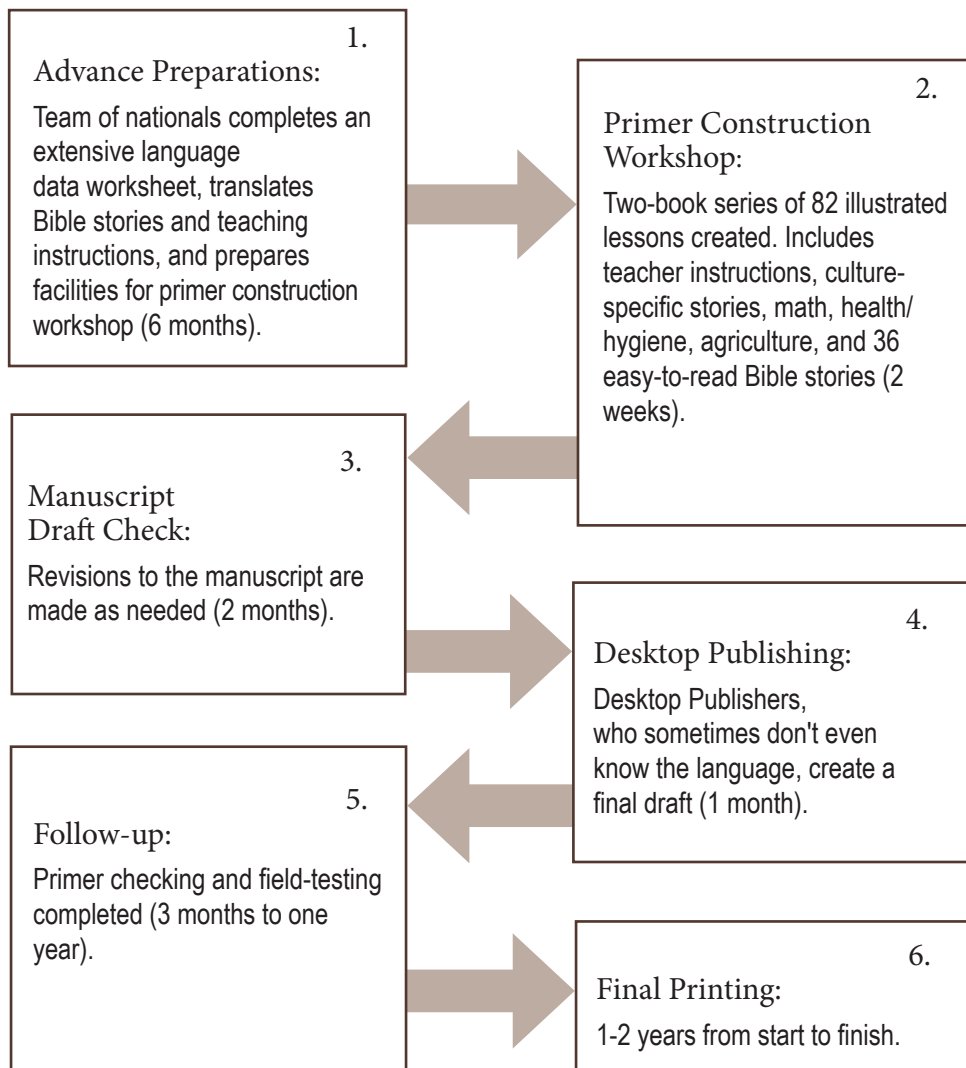
Does Jesus love you?

Romans 5:6-8

Pre-Reading: all, get, love, not, to, will, Him
New words: fly, happy, Jesus, jet, men, other, sky, ten, then, up, when

19

LEI Primer Construction



Primer construction demands knowledge and skill, yet the final product is easy for teacher and student to use.

Teamwork Produces Primers

Nzema Primer - LEI Ghana, Africa

To date, L&E Ghana has published 16 primers for its literacy library. These have been skillfully created and used to teach numerous new readers about God's love and His abundant compassion.

Recently, by supplying the consulting and technical staff, L&E Ghana worked with the Bible Society of Ghana to complete the Nzema primer's books and workbooks. The Nzema people comprise one of the largest undying tribes in Ghana with over 325,000 speakers. Nzema is not only spoken in southwestern Ghana but also in southeastern Ivory Coast.

As the Bible Society of Ghana mobilizes churches to get involved, L&E Ghana prepares its staff to train Christian volunteer teachers during Tutor Training Workshops. L&E Ghana will also assist with launching Nzema literacy classes in the area.

The gift of being able to read adds value to people's lives, but more importantly it illuminates the Lord and His plan and purpose. How precious it is that the Lord will speak to the Nzema more intimately while they read their Bibles in their mother tongue. In Nzema, we say, "Mo somaa" - "Thank you."



Nzema Primer Construction Workshop

Will God Provide?

Rev. Samuel Lawerteh, Director of L&E Ghana, stated, "Doing missions in Ghana's economic difficulties is challenging and daunting." But God is faithful. Not only has L&E Ghana built its own literacy library, it also has assisted L&E Nigeria with several primer projects. Most recently, the Hausa primer has been revised with the addition of 10 Bible story lessons making 82 total. Moreover, they have collaborated in Nigeria's Tangale primer's final editing. Both primers are in use in literacy classes, having been printed and sent to Nigeria.

Concurrently L&E Ghana, working with the Church of Pentecost, finalized the Konkomba primer which is ready for printing and use.

The Body of Christ is not deterred by economic hardship. YES, God does provide all that is needed to share His message of Jesus through the gift of literacy in one's heart language. So "Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end." (Hebrews 12:2a, GNT)

Mooré Primers - Burkina Faso

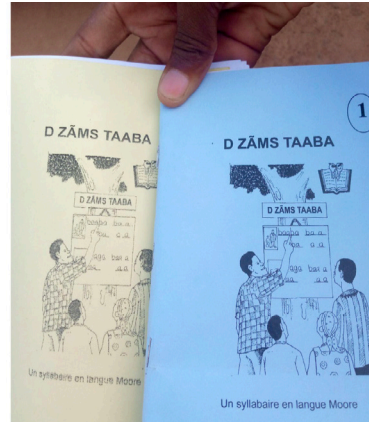
Once upon a time, in the African country called Burkina Faso, the Burkinabè people were passionate about learning to read and write in the Mooré language, a local language spoken by the majority of people in their country. They struggled to find resources to learn and deepen their language skills until the day God remembered them, sending help from Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI-US). This organization graciously financed the printing of 2,000 literacy primers, Books 1 and 2 in the Mooré language.

Filled with hope, the learners waited eagerly to receive these books to begin their journey into the world of the Mooré language's alphabet, words, and phrases. When the long-awaited books arrived, learners were overwhelmed with joy and gratitude to all those who had generously donated support to make their learning possible.

Students gathered in a small classroom where a local teacher, also passionate about the Mooré language, joined them. Learners threw themselves into their studies with enthusiasm, following the lessons and exercises in the textbooks. Each page became a new discovery, a new victory in their quest to master this precious written language. Making remarkable progress, beginning to understand the Mooré language script with confidence, they were very grateful to LEI-US and its benevolent donors. Thanks to them, they will be able to access the resources necessary to improve their lives and their relationship with their community.

Learners believe the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ accompanies them throughout their journey of learning. In their prayers, they ask God to bless the ministry of LEI-US so that others in Burkina Faso can also benefit from the opportunity to learn to read and write in their mother tongue.

Thanks to the students' determination, the help of LEI-US, and the blessing of God, learners will continue to learn and use the Mooré language in their daily lives becoming true disciple-making ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ through literacy in their language. LEI-US's Mooré language literacy Books 1 and 2 are the keys that will unlock the doors of learning for these passionate students, allowing them to thrive and share the love of Christ through their language with pride and gratitude. ~ *from Boro Ibrahim, Executive Director L&E Burkina Faso*





Lively learners
complete lessons
in Benin, Africa

Primer Construction Prevails Despite Pandemic Restrictions

Rev. Carey Jo Johnston, Director of LEI Canada, continues to explore new and innovative ways to make LEI's materials and methodologies accessible to the world. Carey Jo has led or assisted in numerous international, in-person primer construction workshops that have produced dozens of indigenous, Bible-based, literacy primers.

Yet, recent worldwide circumstances have challenged Carey Jo to try something new. She and the primer construction team have prevailed in creating a new LEI primer despite Covid pandemic restrictions that made in-person meetings impossible. Though it has taken years rather than the typical three weeks to create, this primer was constructed entirely online via Facebook video chat meetings. This necessary alternative allowed the work to move forward despite obstacles beyond anyone's control.

Carey Jo, Penny Fetters, Ana Biederman, a local Member Nation partner, and a number of other language experts were instrumental in developing this invaluable Bible-content literacy tool. Carey Jo reports, "70 lessons of the primer, including 24 easy-to-read Bible stories are complete." Presently, a final primer edit is being done with the help of local language speakers. Soon this primer will be ready for printing, distribution, and use.

*Name and location of this literacy primer have been omitted for security reasons.

Desktop Primer Publishing

New Online Course

An LEI online course has been developed that focuses on teaching desktop publishing techniques unique to the creation of Literacy & Evangelism's primers. Each primer lesson contains custom pictures with new words and syllables distinctively aligned on a page in specialized text boxes.

Now that Patty Hickman, LEI's desktop publishing expert, has officially though not completely "retired," others need to be trained to do the exacting work that Patty has done for nearly 40 years.

Patty says, "Desktop publishing is the computer work of putting text and graphics (photos, illustrations, or other elements) together to create a professional-looking, interesting, high-quality publication."

"You can easily put text in a document," Patty continues, "and you can get illustrations in various ways, but putting them together to make a useful and eye-pleasing product is a little more difficult. The success and ease of the process is mainly the result of two different factors: the software used and the skill, knowledge, and experience of the worker.

"For me personally, I find desktop publishing to be a lot of fun. I think God created my brain to be detail-oriented. I enjoy spending hours doing what might seem tedious to some people, but to me it is like working interesting puzzles all day long."

Patty shares how she was once asked to select picture words to go with a Bible story included in a primer. "I cried when I selected two picture words for the story of Jesus dying on the cross. The first word meant 'He died for us.' The second picture word meant 'This is love.'"

We are thankful that all the expertise Patty has gathered is readily available for all who want to learn LEI's desktop publishing techniques. We appreciate the diligence of the primer development team and for Patty's many years of service with LEI.



Patty Hickman's face glows as she teaches the desktop publishing class.

LEI Primer Development

If only there were room to share the success stories of all of LEI's recently developed primers. Here is a snapshot of a few of the primers being used around the world.

222 LEI Primers are easily accessible and available for free download at

literacyevangelism.org/resources/primers

BENIN, AFRICA

FRENCH

FULANI

BURKINA FASO, AFRICA

MOORÉ

GHANA, AFRICA

ESAHIE

KONKOMBA

NZEMA

KENYA, AFRICA

MAASAI

MALAWI, AFRICA

CHISENA

MOZAMBIQUE, AFRICA

MAKHUWA

NIGERIA, AFRICA

HAUSA

TANGALE

TOGO, AFRICA

ANUFO

TAMBERMA

KOREA, ASIA

PYUNGYANG

PERU, S. AMERICA

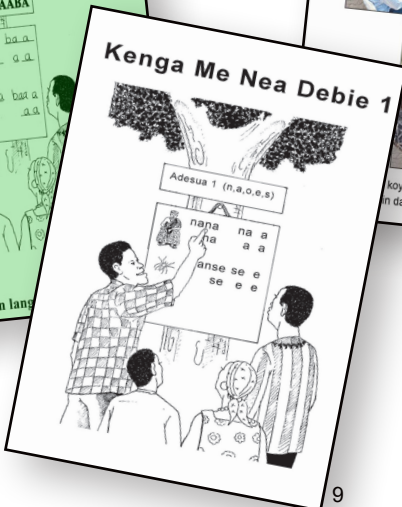
URARINA



*Mooré
Burkina
Faso*



*Hausa
Ghana &
Nigeria*

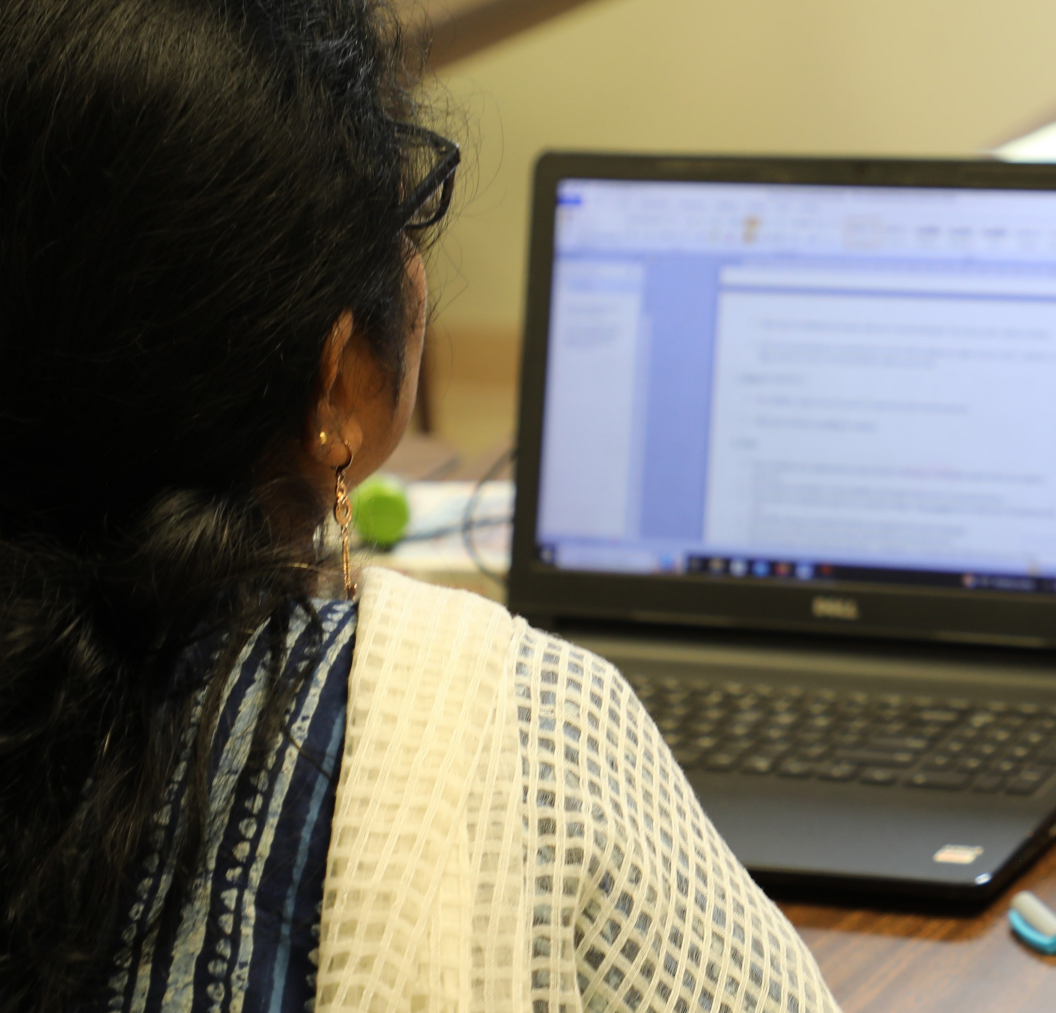


*Nzema
Ghana*



*Pyungyang
Korea*





Virtual Literacy Training

January through September 2024

For information

www.literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training

LITERACY & EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL

Pray for Literacy & Evangelism, Int.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ASV

MON	Please thank the Lord for ongoing literacy evangelism primer construction work despite unexpected challenges.
TUE	Please pray for Patty Hickman as she implements LEI's new online desktop publishing course.
WED	Please pray for Rev. Carey Jo Johnston, Penny Fetters, Ana Biederman and others as they teach and develop LEI materials for Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America.
THU	Please pray for L&E Member Nation partners around the world as we create and use LEI primers.
FRI	Please pray for learners being taught in mother-tongue literacy, that they would persevere, being dedicated in their learning so they can reach the goal of reading God's Word for themselves.
SAT	Please pray for those being strengthened in their relationship with our Lord Jesus because they can read God's Word and for those who are meeting and accepting Jesus for the first time.
SUN	Thank the Lord for literacy evangelism opportunities to share the loving message of Jesus Christ through sharing the gift of reading.

Literacy & Evangelism International

Website: www.LiteracyEvangelism.org



www.instagram.com/Literacy_Evangelism ■ www.facebook.com/LEIUSA

LEI is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

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



Jerry Manus LEI Missionary, Peru, shares, "Urarinas graduated from a training course held at the Baptist Training Center in Nauta, Feb. 27 - March 1. The bags contain all the materials needed to prepare classroom-size lessons." Jerry is standing, top row, 2nd from the left.

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<https://www.literacyevangelism.org/>

Graphic Design: Duane Blankenship

Cover photo by Jerry Manus: Urarina men are learning to teach from the Urarina Primer in Peru.