

# LITERACY & EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL

50  
1967 - 2017



*“We will tell the next generation the  
praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power,  
and the wonders he has done.”*

PSALM 78:4B NIV

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017



## **The Mission**

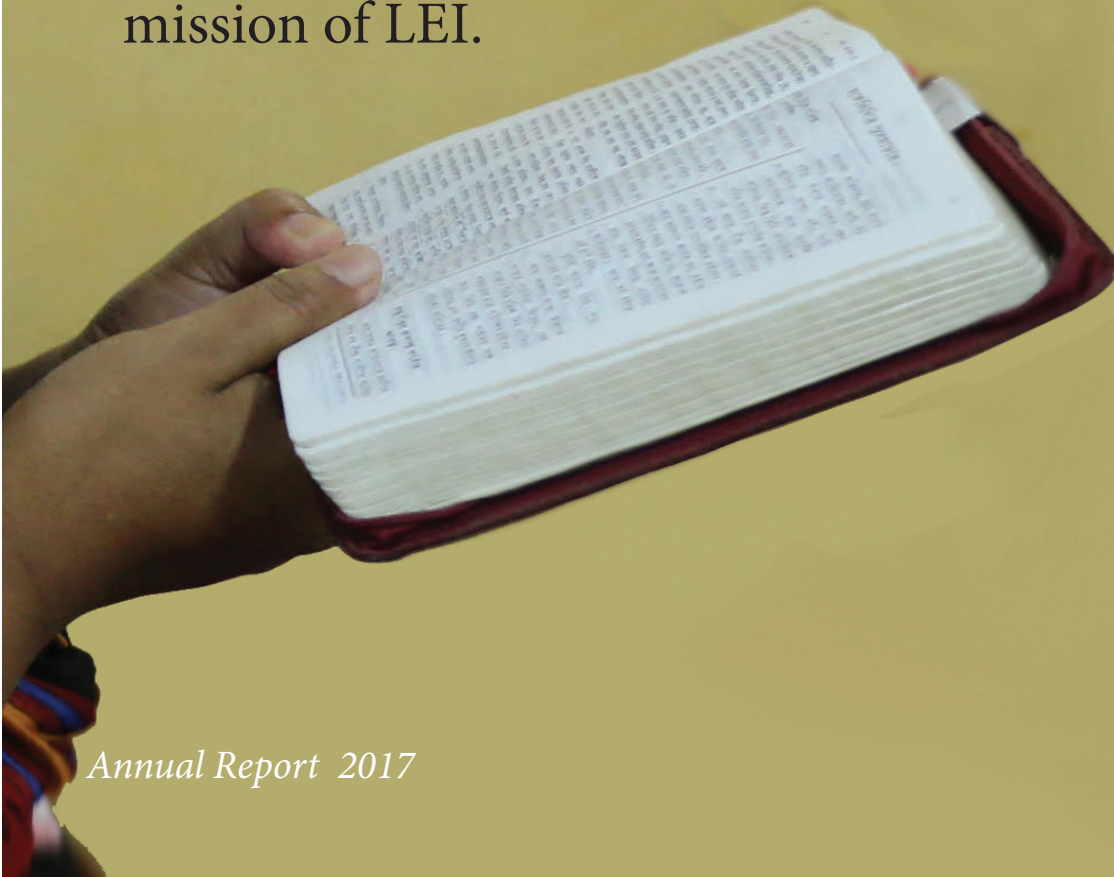
Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI) equips the Church to share the message of Jesus Christ through the gift of reading.

## **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 LEI Shareholders:

It has been my privilege over the past decade to travel and share the amazing story of the strategically critical ministry of Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI). Our mission's purpose is encapsulated in our name. LITERACY: LEI produces curriculum and then uses it to teach non-readers to read and write. Our target market is the billion who are functionally illiterate. EVANGELISM: LEI proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ by weaving the story of Jesus through its materials. INTERNATIONAL: LEI has become a global resource with materials in 250 languages.

I also love to define the word evangelism as I travel and talk about LEI. The word is found at the beginning of the gospel story, when the angel spoke to the shepherds saying, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy..." In the original Greek, "I bring you good news" is one word, "euangellion." This is where we get the word evangelism, or evangelical. At the core of this word we find "ANGEL", the messenger from God who brings great news. It is this news that LEI has been proclaiming boldly for 50 years.

This annual report highlights 50 years of the amazing work that has been accomplished through the grace of God and dedicated messengers - the missionaries of LEI. It is a work that has lifted millions of individuals around the world out of the depths of abject poverty and spiritual darkness.

Thank you for journeying with us, and investing in LEI, as together we act as messengers proclaiming the life-transforming story of Jesus.

Always your grateful brother in Christ,



# Worldwide Impact: New Bible Reader Testimony



## KENYA, AFRICA

Simon (pictured front, left) is a student pastor as well as a literacy learner at Bisset Bible College. Patrick Malasi from Partners in Literacy Ministries (PALM) shares this story.

Simon yearned to be literate especially since he was the pastor of his church. So how does an illiterate pastor lead a church? He asks one of the literate members of the congregation to read the Scriptures, then the pastor elaborates. Simon told Patrick, “I really wanted to become literate. I fell sick and went to a local hospital; while I waited to be attended to, I requested a nurse help me read just a few words.” She helped a little. Simon continued, “Then I got one of your (LEI) primers in my language (*Sidai Enkisoma* - meaning *Reading is Good*).” Simon tried to read the primer by himself and then joined the Bible College where he is being assisted further. Simon can now read and write in his native language, Maasai. Literacy skills empower Pastor Simon to be effective in his ministry.



Tutoring Session, Africa. Vintage photo from the LEI historical archives.

# NEW MISSIONARIES



## **DR. MELINA GALLO** **Director of Distance Learning - Candidate**

Dr. Melina Gallo recently joined the LEI team as a missionary candidate. Inspired when serving on the Digital Task Force, Dr. Gallo felt called to serve LEI full time. She has already “worked diligently to put the Overseas Method/Literacy Teacher Training Workshop into a form that students around the world can access and utilize,” says Bob Biederman, Managing Director of North America and Europe.

A follower of Jesus since her youth, Dr. Gallo says, “I have taught ESL, Communication, Train the Trainer, and Leadership at Northern Illinois University and University of Illinois for 22 years and am excited to be working on LEI’s new online learning program.”

We are so grateful that Dr. Gallo has joined the worldwide LEI family.

## **DR. REBECCA FOOTE** **Tulsa Literacy & ESL Coordinator**

Dr. Rebecca Foote, LEI’s new Tulsa Literacy and ESL Coordinator, has a wide array of teaching experiences. Opportunities at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Michigan State University; and Rice University have expanded the wealth of expertise she brings to her position.

Dr. Foote shares, “I have had an interest in literacy and English as a Second Language for several years, both in a general context and as a ministry opportunity.” Serving as a volunteer reading, writing, and math tutor at the Urbana Adult Education Center in Urbana, Illinois, furthered her interest in working with adults who have basic education needs.

“After attending one of LEI’s ESL training workshops and meeting with LEI staff, I was very happy to take on the role of LEI’s Tulsa Literacy and ESL Coordinator.”

We expect the Lord to accomplish much through Dr. Foote’s literacy ministry.

*Literacy & Evangelism International*



# Expanding Resources TO THE NATIONS

This past year LEI's organizational structure was redesigned to increase capacity by creating Managing Director positions to oversee global ministry activities in four geographical regions: Robert Biederman, Managing Director: North America & Europe; James Kigamwa, Managing Director: Africa & Middle East; Nam-Hyeon Kim, Managing Director: Central & Southeast Asia; and T. L., Managing Director: Latin America & India.

Access was increased with our Spanish language website launch - <https://www.alfabetizacióninternacional.org>.

A growing library of digital and online training materials can be accessed through our website <https://vimeo.com/lei/channels>. An interactive pilot program was created for our Teacher Training Workshop (TTW). The plan is to eventually develop online modules for all the International Literacy Training Institute.

In 2016...



**206** Primers are digitally available for free download from our website - a 9.6% increase.

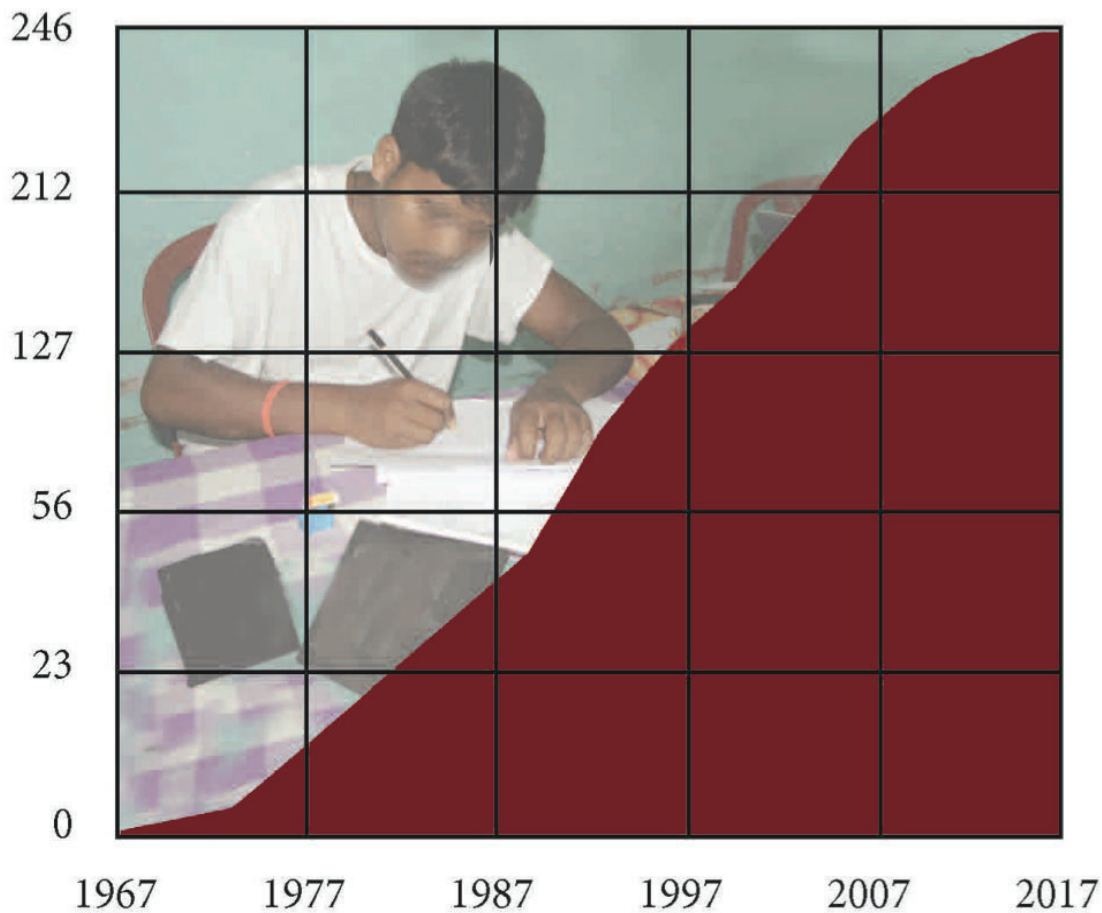
**565** Primers were downloaded this past year.



# Primer Construction

AFRICA	ASIA
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Igbo (Nigeria)	Printed	Rajbanshi (India) Final Edit
Kagulu (Tanzania)	Primer Construction Completed	<p><b>7</b> New post-primer booklets, called shell books, are available in English for translation into other languages.</p>
LuSamia (Uganda)	Primer Construction Completed	
Tangale (Nigeria)	Final Edit	
Yom (Benin)	Completed	



Languages in which LEI has completed Bible-content primers/basic readers.





Yom language speakers inhabit northwestern Benin Republic and northeastern Togo, Africa. The Yom Language Primer Development Project (Togo/Benin) was launched in the beginning of July 2016 in Benin, with its population of 300,000 Yom speakers and their 65% illiteracy rate in mind. The New Testament in the Yom language was printed in 1985 with printing of the entire Bible planned for 2017. Literacy & Evangelism International in cooperation with Literacy International Benin/Togo and the Union of Evangelical Churches of Benin, under the direction of LEI's Daniel Awolou and David Nabine, managed the project. Preliminary studies, in particular linguistic analyses, translation work, and the preparation for the Primer Construction Workshop were completed. The workshop took place in Djougou, Benin, from October 3rd - 19th, 2016. Daniel Awolou, LEI's missionary from Benin, reports, "The Yom people (Yowa) are waiting for the Bible to be printed in the Yom language, and there was an urgent need to develop primers to accompany this great event. God blessed this activity. He provided a good team and finances for the organization of the designing workshop. Patty Hickman from Tulsa finished the layout of the two books. Reverend Carey Jo Johnston from Canada checked the technical standards of these books. The last step, as important as the first step, will be the printing of the primers." The project's plan forward is to train teachers to use the new primers to open basic literacy classes to enable the Yom people to learn to read the Bible, disciple believers, share the Gospel with non-believers, strengthen existing churches, and establish new churches.



Yom Primer Construction Team hard at work

<https://www.literacyevangelism.org/give/yom-primer-project>

# LITERACY TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

## EUROPE

Egypt  
Lebanon  
Romania



**Total Teachers Trained: 36**

## AFRICA

Burundi Malawi  
Benin/Togo Mozambique  
Cabo Verde Nigeria  
DR Congo Zambia

**Total Teachers Trained: 1,010**

## ASIA

India  
Mongolia  
Pakistan  
Philippines  
Vietnam



**Total Teachers Trained: 5,318**

## THE AMERICAS

Brazil  
Dominican Republic  
Haiti  
Peru  
USA



**Total Teachers Trained: 1,320**

**Undisclosed Regions - Total Teachers Trained: 7,838**

# NEW BIBLE READERS

## EUROPE

New Readers: 638

## AFRICA

New Readers: 7,688

## ASIA

New Readers: 17,980

## THE AMERICAS

New Readers: 543

**WORLDWIDE** { **TOTAL TEACHERS TRAINED: 15,522**  
**TOTAL NEW BIBLE READERS: 26,849**

These statistics come from our LEI missionaries and partners and represent only a fraction of all who are learning to read using LEI's methodology and materials worldwide. Our trainings and materials are shared freely online and the full global impact is impossible to determine.

## NORTH AMERICA

62 Teachers Trained

## AFRICA

18 ESL Graduates

## ASIA

10 Teachers Trained

14 Graduates

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE MINISTRY WORKSHOPS

## WORLDWIDE

TOTAL TEACHERS TRAINED: 72

TOTAL GRADUATES: 32



## DON EDIC CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Dr. Chris Jenkins introduced Don Edic to Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI) over 30 years ago. An interview at LEI's headquarters in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in April 1986 defined God's call. Don officially joined LEI in June 1986; then he spent 11 weeks attending LEI's Fall Literacy Institute.

Returning to California in 1988, Don began a Bible-based literacy ministry to immigrants. In 1995, Don attend Marti Lane's first ESL Tutor Training Workshop (TTW) in which Marti introduced her new *Passport to the World of English (PWE)* curriculum. Using this tool, Don's ministry exploded. Don spent the next 20 years traveling the world giving ESL training to Church leaders who desired to use the teaching and ministry tools of LEI's Bible-based ESL curriculum.

Don also developed ESL materials: a supplemental workbook for *PWE*; *Nation to Nations*; and *Using Everyday English (UEE)*. Most recently, the Lord opened the door for Don and a team of LEI missionaries to go to Cuba.

We congratulate Don Edic on his 30 plus years of ministry and thank the Lord for all He has done through His faithful literacy evangelism servant.

# INTERNATIONAL LITERACY TRAINING INSTITUTE



## ILTI 2016

Each summer, Christian leaders from around the world gather at LEI's training center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA, for the International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI). Initiated by Reverend Bob Rice, these training opportunities have shared a wealth of information regarding best practices in literacy evangelism. Starting as the Fall Literacy Institute, these training sessions were originally 11 weeks long, running from early September through mid-November. About the year 2000, Fall Literacy Institutes were compacted into a five or six-week program, becoming the International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI). To this day participants are inspired by the worship, prayer, Bible study, instruction, and fellowship experienced in the loving multi-cultural setting of ILTI in which life-long friendships are forged.

This past year, nine Christian leaders from six different countries - Angola, Chile, Ghana, Malawi, Myanmar, and the United States (Arkansas, Indiana, and Texas) gathered in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to take our International Literacy Training Institute. Our guest instructors represented Benin, Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malaysia, and the United States. After this past summer's intensive training, these Christian leaders are prepared to return to their spheres of influence to share the loving message of Jesus Christ while sharing the gift of literacy.



Kim (ILTI 2015) fled Vietnam in 1978 as Communists took over Phu-Quoc Island. She and her family sailed by boat to the safety of Thailand only to be turned back by authorities. Pursued by pirates, facing storms at sea, and while still a long way from the Thai shoreline, the group jumped overboard as their ship sank. Thankfully, the police came to their rescue bringing a Vietnamese translator. The translator turned out to be Kim's cousin! Everyone who left Vietnam on that boat arrived safely at his or her destination in Thailand.

Kim's family was taken to Song Khla, a refugee camp where American missionaries often brought food, clothing, and Bibles. Kim helped translate for the pastors who came to help. Though she did not know God, she tried to read the Bibles they brought. Hearing about Jesus for the first time in her life, she struggled to understand.

Eventually Kim found her way to America. Though she visited Vietnamese churches she did not understand the Gospel message. In 2000, she came to Tulsa, Oklahoma, and while attending a service at Victory Christian Center, the Lord touched her heart, and she became a new believer in Christ.

After being introduced to LEI missionaries at a local conference, Kim enrolled in the 2015 ILTI, successfully completing Modules 1 and 2. She then traveled to Vietnam to utilize her new ESL and literacy skills for ministry.

Kim taught an English class using *Passport to the World of English (PWE)*. Twenty-six learners came to class three times a week. The students completed the entire *PWE* book in several months. All 26 of them professed faith in Christ before the classes ended. Kim also taught five elderly men and women using the Bible-content Vietnamese primer. They finished Book 1 and half of Book 2. Because of the Bible-based literacy materials, the men and women in her literacy class were introduced to Jesus; they too decided to trust in the Lord.

This year, Kim plans to take the primer construction class at our 2017 ILTI. She wants to increase her knowledge of LEI primers to become even more effective in her work in Vietnam.

Kim knows what it's like to leave everything behind in fleeing a Communist takeover. She has faced unspeakable dangers and uncertainties. But she also knows the grace and security of God and wants people everywhere, especially in Vietnam, to know the Savior she has come to love and serve.



# DR. NAM-HYEON KIM



Each time Dr. Bob Rice made an around-the-world tour to help missionaries set up literacy programs, he always stopped in South Korea. In 1999, upon meeting Dr. Rice for a second time, Dr. Nam-Hyeon Kim experienced a spiritual awakening and a call to literacy evangelism work. Thereafter, whenever he had time

off from his teaching job at Keymyung University, Dr. Kim would fly to meet Bob Rice to help construct Asian primers. Having the ability to read Mandarin and providing funds to support the primer construction project, in 2000 Dr. Kim joined Dr. Rice in China to create the Mandarin primer (available on LEI's website). Then in 2002, Dr. Kim and others were part of a Mongolian primer construction team. This turned out to be the last primer Dr. Rice constructed. Upon retiring from his university job in 2005, Dr. Kim joined Literacy & Evangelism International and constructed primers in several more languages: Lahu in Thailand; Vietnamese in Vietnam; Lao in Laos; and Inner Mongolian in China. He also led Tutor Training Workshops to teach others how to use these LEI Bible-based materials.

After many years of planning, Dr. Kim's vision to have an LEI Southeast Asia Center was fulfilled. LEI President, the Reverend Sid Rice, was with Dr. Kim in Chiang Mai, Thailand, this past year to dedicate the center, which is an outreach of Global Literacy Mission of South Korea. The new center is located in Chiang Mai at the Yedam Korean Church. Also during his visit, Reverend Rice had the distinct honor of presenting Dr. Kim, now LEI's Managing Director of Central and Southeast Asia, with LEI's Distinguished Missionary Award.

# TULSA LITERACY CENTER



Della is a highly motivated literacy student. Though she attended public school in her childhood, she moved around a lot. This and her need for glasses at an early age made it difficult for her to learn to read. She had books at home, but her parents worked a lot and could not spend time reading with her. Of her seven siblings, only two finished high school.

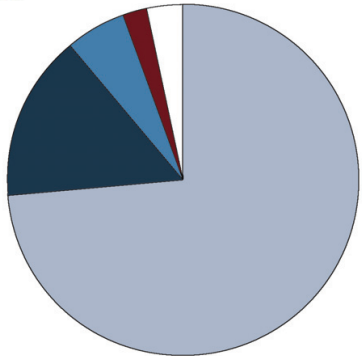
Della began tutoring with LEI in April of 2015. With a beginning understanding of reading, she was able to start her individual reading program with *Firm Foundations Book 2*. Working on two lessons per week with determination, and with her homework always complete for each lesson, she completed *Firm Foundations Book 2* in January 2016. That summer, Della completed *Book 3* of *Firm Foundations* with much celebration. One example of her determination shows in that she took a two-hour bus ride to reach the Tulsa Literacy Center for each of her literacy lessons. She proudly shared, “I can read and understand the Bible more than before.” Others at her church have noticed her improved reading and are pleased with her progress. This makes Della “feel real good.” Now she can take her turn with reading her Bible in Sunday school, reading and understanding what she reads. Her favorite part of her reading lessons was when her tutor, Larry (pictured at left), showed her how to read with enthusiasm and expression.

Larry praises Della, one of his first students, for being so faithful in her lessons and learning the routine easily. Larry remarks he enjoyed his time tutoring Della and admired her patience. She never complained and got right to work. He also said it was an honor to work with someone with such faithfulness. “When we keep striving for what we want, only then will we accomplish what we set out to accomplish.”

Reverend Bob Biederman, LEI Managing Director of North America & Europe (pictured at right) said, “Della has been a model student. We are grateful that she has been a part of the LEI program.”

# FINANCIAL REPORT\*

## 2016



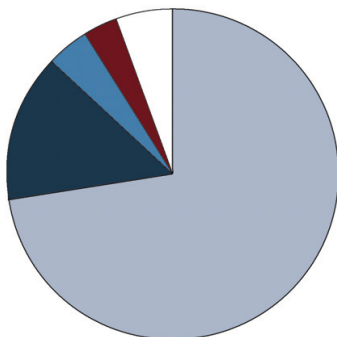
- Missionary Support 73.8%
- Unrestricted Gifts 15.1%
- Project Support 5.6%
- Tuition & Materials 2.4%
- Other 3.1%

### INCOME

\$146,208 Unrestricted Gifts  
 \$712,306 Missionary Support  
 \$53,686 Project Support  
 \$22,945 Tuition & Materials  
\$29,929 Other  
  
 \$965,074 Total

### EXPENSES

\$699,852 Missionary Support  
 \$141,429 Mission Mobilization & Ministry  
 \$40,292 Management & General  
 \$30,549 Communication & Publicity  
\$52,952 Escrow/Reserves  
  
 \$965,074 Total



- Mission Mobilization & Ministry 14.6%
- Management & General 4.2%
- Communication & Publicity 3.2%
- Missionary Support 72.5%
- Escrow/Reserves 5.5%

\*unaudited



# LITERACY & EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL

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## Short-Term Mission Team



T. L. led a short-term mission team from Arkansas to work with LEI people in Southeast Asia.

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 and Evangelism ministry?

## INTERNS: Grove City College, PA & Oral Roberts University, OK

**Kaitlyn Scully**



**Derrick Houston**



College students Kaitlyn Scully (Grove City College, PA) and Derrick Houston (Oral Roberts University, OK) served as LEI interns during our International Literacy Training Institute 2016. Though their time with us was too short, we enjoyed having both of these capable people join the LEI team.



*Tutoring Session, Africa. Vintage photo from the LEI historical archives*

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



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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 through our website.



*Enhancing Trust*

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

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Teacher Training Workshop, Asia