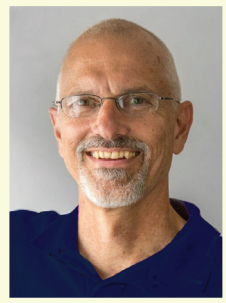




“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.”
Psalm 78:4b NIV

SID RICE: LEI PRESIDENT



The gospel of Mark records that “Jesus sent the disciples to the east and to the west with his sacred and everlasting message” (Mark 16:10 CEV). Over the last 50 years, literacy workers across the African continent have faithfully shared the “sacred and everlasting message” of the love of Jesus Christ, through the gift of reading.

A significant portion of the work of sharing the message has been accomplished through partners that LEI has trained and empowered. As an organization we take great joy in the fact that we are an interdenominational mission, working with over 300 mission agencies and denominations globally.

Within the last few years a new type of “partner” has emerged in Africa. One example is Literacy & Evangelism Ghana (L&E Ghana) who has embraced our mission and vision and has co-opted the name of Literacy and Evangelism. In Andrew Pink’s book, *Drive, The Surprising Truth about What Motivates Us*, Pink articulates that true motivation comes from autonomy, mastery, and purpose.

Newly-created partners such as L&E Ghana, L&E Nigeria, L&E Malawi, Literacy International Benin/Togo and Literacy Sierra Leone have found this new motivation. They have total operational autonomy from North America, with fully-functioning oversight boards. They have mastered LEI’s teaching and training methodologies. Some, such as L&E Ghana, have even mastered the ability to craft LEI-formatted primers/basic readers. Lastly, each of these partners has embraced a unifying purpose to share the sacred, everlasting message through the gift of reading.

I am very confident that God will do an even greater work in the next 50 years as LEI’s global fellowship of partners continues to emerge.

Thank you for partnering with LEI to equip the Church to share the message of Jesus Christ.

Your brother in Christ,

DR. JAMES C. KIGAMWA



Over the past fifty years, LEI has worked in more than 35 out of Africa’s 54 nations. According to data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 195 million non-readers reside in Africa. These represent 26% of the world’s 758 million adults who do not know how to read; a large majority (two-thirds) are women. Despite these statistics, we declare, Africa shall be literate!

LEI’s work in Africa has been ongoing since the early 1970s when a missionary veterinary doctor, working among the Maasai tribe of Kenya, invited the founder of LEI, the late Rev. Dr. Robert Rice, to assist in developing a literacy primer in the Maasai language. The vet was concerned that many in this pastoral community were not able to read instructions that were intended to help better care for their animals. This initial start gave rise to Literacy and Evangelism Fellowship of Kenya (1978). In 2006, this organization was renamed Partners in Literacy Ministries (PALM), a Kenyan ministry that spearheaded work in the region by partnering with local churches in more than fifteen countries across east, central, and southern Africa. The LEFK/PALM team has trained thousands of literacy tutors and trainers and printed more than 250,000 copies of LEI primers in different languages over the years.

Notable mentions for work in Africa include local missionary Nzongo Sila-Ndunda in the D.R. Congo (formerly Zaire) who has graduated more than 100,000 learners, trained more than 8,200 teachers since 1986, and has printed more than 381,000 LEI primers. Vibrant ministry in other countries includes Pastor Maxwell Mpitanyanga’s work in Malawi and Mozambique, and Rev. Martin Ntahnkiriye’s work in Burundi. In West Africa, LEI Director Rev. Gregory Bangura and his wife Agnes, who are based in Sierra Leone, show continued passion for literacy ministries and church planting by training hundreds of pastors and lay leaders to use Bible-content primers; developing primers in what they identified as three strategic languages - Themne, Mende, and Krio; and launching literacy classes in these languages.



Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry

SUCCESSION PLAN: WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE MENTORED BY DR. BOB RICE?



*Rev. Robert F. Rice, teaching at Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1996-1997
Photo courtesy the ORU Archives*

A wise leader has a succession plan. Dr. Robert F. Rice was a wise leader. He invited many young people to travel the world with him to catch the literacy evangelism vision, and a select few accepted the challenge.

Chris Jenkins, Carey Jo (Wallace) Johnston, Bob Biederman, Tedd Lodes, Sid Rice - these are just a few of those who were mentored by Dr. Rice and who have had a significant impact on the world through this strategic ministry that draws thousands to eternal salvation in Jesus Christ each year.

Dr. Chris Jenkins got to know Dr. Rice when Jenkins was a college student at ORU in the 70s. He was assigned a project that allowed him to interview Dr. Rice and learn about Rice's literacy ministry. The friendship continued and Jenkins' interest grew. He liked the idea of using this practical evangelistic tool to reach non-reading, non-Christian adults. Teaching adults to read using Bible-based literacy materials offered a skill to benefit their daily lives while sharing the life-giving story of Jesus Christ with truth that would impact their spiritual lives. Teaching illiterate Christian adults how to read would allow them the opportunity to read the Bible for themselves, becoming a tool to build and strengthen the Church. Dr. Rice's ministry vision grabbed Jenkins' heart. Jenkins went on a seven-week mission trip with Rice and saw the world's literacy deficiency and how LEI's literacy tools opened doors to both

Christians and non-Christians alike. As Jenkins traveled with Dr. Rice, he saw Rice's disciplined Christian lifestyle, his unencumbered mode of travel, his selfless way of ministering, his single-minded focus and call to carry out the literacy vision. Jenkins worked with Literacy & Evangelism for nearly six years, becoming a skilled LEI literacy consultant who trained others in LEI's methods.

Though Jenkins is now a medical doctor and medical education consultant, he is still influenced by the principles learned from Dr. Rice. He remembers, Dr. Rice's "whole life was built around his ministry. That focus, that drive, that motivation is what kept the ministry going in those years. I think this is what sustained him and made it a viable self-sustaining ministry, one that continues decades after he left this world. He left a very high standard to follow, an example of faithfulness, finishing the race, fulfilling his call."

Rev. Carey Jo (Wallace) Johnston is Managing Director of Literacy & Evangelism International - Canada. Johnston first heard Chris Jenkins speak about LEI at a time when Johnston was seeking opportunity to do outreach ministry. She did not think of herself as an evangelist, but she loved to read. She loved the idea of helping teach others to read while helping others understand who Christ is through reading His story. A volunteer position at LEI grew into a full-time ministry opportunity. In between, Johnston spent time at Fuller Seminary. One "thing that kept drawing me back to Literacy & Evangelism was the Bible content in the materials, and the other was its foundation of prayer," Johnston recalled. "There were daily prayer times in the office as well as the day of prayer and fasting each month. There is a covenant commitment where we covenant to have some personal prayer and Bible reading devotional each day. There was a daily commitment to personal development and growth in relationship with God that appealed to me."

With Rice as her supervisor, Johnston had the privilege of traveling to Africa with Dr. Rice for two months in 1988 as part of a field study for her seminary training. She traveled along with Dr. Rice's wife, Alice Rice, and LEI missionary Kay Brekke. Johnston and Rice developed a really good rapport during the trip. After graduation, Johnston attended LEI's nine-week Fall Literacy Institute in Tulsa. When students got to the primer construction class, Dr. Rice said to Johnston, "Oh, by the way, you're going to teach that week with another trainee, Vicki (Shaw) Ivester." So Vicki and Carey Jo co-taught the course without formal training, just apprenticeship on the job. "The rest," she says, "is history."

Johnston recalls, "We realized that everything about developing these materials was in Rev. Rice's head or in a little black notebook with just notes in it, nothing formalized.

"I think one of the reasons that God brought me to LEI was that I was able to work with him. I love English. I love technical writing, so I worked with him to develop the Bible-content literacy material *A Guide to Bible-Content Primer Construction*. We were able to take what was all in his head and put it in a format that will continue to be used for many years to come." In this way, Johnston explained, "I count it a privilege being able to do that with him and for him.

"I learned a lot about how to travel internationally with Rev. Rice. He traveled with carry-on luggage only, and he would go for four weeks with basically one suitcase. On one half-side of this little carry-on was his clothes, and the other half had all the stuff he needed for primer construction. Every night he washed out his shirts then periodically he would get someone to wash his slacks. He knew how to travel light and fast on his feet. He was the first on and the first off a plane."

He knew how to move through obstacles. Johnston recalls, "We were going to Zaire, now Democratic Republic of Congo." (Continued on page 3)

A WISE LEADER HAS A SUCCESSION PLAN

MENTORED BY DR. BOB RICE

(Continued from page 2)

“We arrived at the airport and there was nobody to meet us. Zaire is a francophone country meaning the main language is French. None of us spoke French. With military men patrolling the airport we were feeling a little uncertain about what was going on. It was about the third week of our eight-week trip. Eventually we were able to radio our contact, but the missionary did not realize we were coming. Nothing was prepared for us to create the Lingala primers. Very quickly accommodations were arranged at the Navigator Guest House and a couple of guys were pulled together to create a primer construction team. One of the team members, Sila, a very gifted linguist who speaks English, Lingala, French and several other languages, is an LEI missionary to this day. Since then we have done multiple primers with Sila, and a tremendous literacy ministry has grown out of that first introduction. Though the powers of evil did not want that first Lingala book to be created, we see the amazing results of how, through perseverance and God’s intervention, people’s hearts and lives have changed.”

The fruitful ministry of LEI continues today because of the vision of and intentional mentoring by its founder, Dr. Rice.



Rev. Carey Jo Johnston

DR. JAMES KIGAMWA

(Continued from page 1)

In Benin and Togo, partners Daniel Awolou and David Nabine have shown resilience in tutor training and materials development with their work among the Yom language group and other communities. LEI missionary Pat Lindsay has also returned to serve in Benin.

Our latest member nation entrant, L&E Ghana, hosted a regional literacy training institute in Accra, Ghana, this fall. L&E Ghana deserves special commendation for this development of the international training. Such International Literacy Training Institutes have previously been held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Our conservative estimate of learners reached over the years in Africa stands at close to 750,000. This is a small figure compared to the 195 million who still cannot draw hope from the world’s greatest book, the Bible, because they cannot read in any language. From Cape Town to Cairo, Djibouti to Dakar, we declare again, Africa shall be literate!

From Dr. James C. Kigamwa, Managing Director, Africa & the Middle East, and Global Research Director.

The LEI Messenger: The Africa Edition 2017

REVEREND SILA REMEMBERS DR. RICE

Rev. Rice was dedicated to his work and was a disciple of excellence. I remember how he conducted the workshop when I was writing the Kikongo primer. He wanted everything neat, clear and well done. He did not want any compromise.

When we had to test the primer in my church, Bob and many of us were lodging far away. It had been raining since 5:00 a.m., but when I arrived much later, there was Rev. Rice teaching an old woman. He was a symbol of integrity. He wanted to follow the policies of LEI always. But his integrity was also seen in his words. He did not use hard or unpleasant words to address people despite the matter in question. He used loving words and would repent when his words sounded unloving or hurtful. He showed that he loved God and he loved people. He was focused and did not give up easily when he made a decision, but this was part of his integrity.

I will never forget the two times we were together. Rev. Robert Rice and Mam Alice Rice treated me like their own child. They gave me pieces of advice for my future and encouragement to continue serving the Lord and be useful to people. They were also interested in my family and said words of blessing over us all.

In 2002, when I announced Rev. Rice’s death to our learners, teachers, and board members, all of them showed their sympathies. One 27-year-old man said this: “I have known just a few good people—Rev. Rice must be the first of them and you the second because thanks to both of you, I can read and write. I was blind but now I see.”

From Rev. Nzongo Sila-Ndunda

Now, 27 years later, Pastor Sila has five literacy language primers available for use in Lingala, Kikongo, Congo Swahili, Kituba, and Tshiluba. He has also helped construct primers for other African countries. He has instructed thousands of new readers, literacy teachers, supervisors, and coordinators, 82% of whom have become Christians involved in their local church ministries. The harvest inspired by Dr. Rice and attended to by Pastor Sila is plentiful.



LEI MISSIONARIES SERVING IN AFRICA

James & Susan Kigamwa
Gregory & Agnes Bangura - Sierra Leone
Pat Lindsay - Benin
Daniel & Leocadie Awolou - Benin
Ademola & Grace Abimbola - Nigeria
Titus & Rebecca Turaki - Nigeria
Martin & Esther Ntahnkiriye - Burundi
Nzongo Sila-Ndunda & Martha - DR Congo
Maxwell & Joyce Mpitanyanga - Malawi

LEI'S Literacy Primers Creation Timeline

1967

Literacy & Evangelism is founded...

1970s

Tswana - Botswana '72
Luchazi - Angola '75
Xhosa - South Africa '75
Zulu - South Africa '75
Lozi - Zambia '76
Urhobo - Nigeria '76
Nyanja - Zambia '79

Total = 7

1980s

Kalenjin - Kenya '80
Bemba - Zambia '81
Kirundi - Burundi '82
Siswati - Swaziland '83
Maasai - Kenya '84
Tonga - Zambia '84
Afrikaans - South Africa '85
Nkoya - Zambia '85

Total = 8

1990s

Luganda - Uganda '90
Kaonde - Zambia '91
Rutoro - Uganda '91
Yoruba - Nigeria '91
Ateso - Uganda '92
Ekajuk - Nigeria '92
Kikuyu - Kenya '92
Nkem - Nigeria '92
Tshiluba - DR Congo '92
Standard Akan - Ghana '93
Kuria - Kenya '93
Lingala - DR Congo '93
Malagasy - Madagascar '93
Shona - Zimbabwe '93
Turkana - Kenya '93
Hausa - Nigeria '94
Baoulé - Ivory Coast '95
Chewa - Malawi '95
Ewe - Ghana '95
Kikongo - DR Congo '95
Kituba - DR Congo '95
Orma - Kenya '95
Pedi - South Africa '95
Pokoot - Kenya '95
Southern Sotho - South Africa '95
Swahili - Kenya '95
Tsonga - South Africa '95
Acholi - Uganda '96
Makhuwa - Mozambique '96
Nafaanra - Ghana '96
Bura - Nigeria '99
French - Benin '99
Fulfulde - Nigeria '99
Kiemba - Tanzania '99
Kimashami - Tanzania '99
Kimochi - Tanzania '99
Kivunjo - Tanzania '99
Lumasaba - Uganda '99
Nyakyusa - Tanzania '99
Sukuma - Tanzania '99
Yao (C) - Malawi '99
Yao (M) - Malawi '99

Total = 42

THE LORD HEARS THE HEART CRY OF A NON-READER, A YOUNG PASTOR'S WIFE IN DR CONGO, AFRICA

During teacher training classes non-literate individuals are invited, to allow the trainers to get firsthand experience in teaching non-readers to read using LEI's Bible-based primers. At the end of one training class in DR Congo, in which 62 literacy teacher candidates were being trained, Pastor Sila asked one of the literacy learners - who had never had the opportunity to go to school - to pray. This young woman, the wife of a student pastor, stood up and prayed:

"Lord God, we thank you! We understand now that you are good to anyone, and you care for everyone. We have lived in darkness all our lives to this day; we have suffered internally every day; we have been humiliated, scorned and insulted publicly; we have been treated like sub-humans and we had no right to respond because we were limited, but, today and now, you have put an end to all that. We have begun to read and write. We are becoming like others. Bless and equip all the teachers who are being trained here and who will continue to teach us so that they get all of us who are in this situation, out of darkness. In the name of Jesus! Amen!"

The leaders wept. A prayer such as this is the heart of why we do what we do at Literacy & Evangelism International.



AFRICA Primers 1967-2017

2000s

Kupsabiny - Uganda '00
Borana - Ethiopia '01
Congo Swahili - DR Congo '01
Gumuz - Ethiopia '01
Kabiye - Togo '01
Limba - Sierra Leone '01
Luo - Kenya '01
Mooré - Burkina Faso '01
Aari - Ethiopia '03
Banna - Ethiopia '03
Gun - Benin '04
Lokpa - Benin '04
Ngambai - Chad '04
Runyankore - Uganda '04
Songhai - Mali '04
ChiSena - Malawi '05
ChiTumbuka - Malawi '05
Dangme - Ghana '05
Ewe - Togo '05
Fulani - Benin '05
Kikamba - Kenya '05
Mina - Togo '05
Sereer - Senegal '05
Tsuva'di - Nigeria '05
Wolof - Senegal '05
Igbo - Nigeria '06
Mandinka - The Gambia '06
Marba - Chad '06
Nigerian Pidgin - Nigeria '07
Twi - Ghana '07
Fon - Benin '08
Kinyarwanda - Rwanda '08
Lambya - Malawi '09
Total = 33

2010s

Ga - Ghana '10
Ila - Zambia '10
Mende - Sierra Leone '10
Themne - Sierra Leone '10
Vidunda - Tanzania '10
Tamberma - Togo '11
Yoruba - Benin '11
Krio - Sierra Leone '13
Efik - Nigeria '14
Yom - Benin '16
Total = 10

Total

100 Primers for Africa

2017

The future
holds endless
opportunities...



Africa Primers and more are available for free download from our website. For more information about all of our free online literacy primers, please visit

[HTTPS://WWW.LITERACYEVANGELISM.ORG/PRIMERS](https://www.literacyevangelism.org/primers)

For a 4-minute video about how primers are constructed, please visit

[HTTPS://WWW.LITERACYEVANGELISM.ORG/MEDIA](https://www.literacyevangelism.org/media)

WE INVITE YOU TO VIEW TWO VIDEOS BY KENYON GERBRANDT

[HTTPS://WWW.LITERACYEVANGELISM.ORG/MISSION/HISTORY](https://www.literacyevangelism.org/mission/history)

LEI ORIGIN STORY

SHARES THE HISTORY OF LEI AND WAS PREMIERED AT
LEI'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

KENYA PARTNERS

TELLS HOW LEI BEGAN ITS WORK IN AFRICA



Created by Icon Fair
from Noun Project



Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry

ALTI: AFRICA LITERACY TRAINING INSTITUTE



A three-week Africa Literacy Training Institute was held in Ghana, September 24 - October 14, 2017. Hosted by L&E Ghana's team (headed by Samuel Lawerteh) and supported by LEI missionaries Nzongo Sila-Ndunda, Kenyon Gerbrandt, Tedd Lodes, James Kigamwa, Pat Lindsay, and Carey Jo Johnston, this inspiring event drew pastors, missionaries, and church leaders from across Africa. With the monumental challenges now present in obtaining visas and paying the high cost of air travel to the United States, this Africa Literacy Training Institute (ALTI) offered many literacy champions the long-awaited training they desired. ALTI offered intensive instruction that introduced attendees to the needs, issues, programs, and methods available for ministering to those in their communities who cannot read or write. Participants learned how to use simple Bible-based materials that have proven to be effective for teaching Christians and non-Christians alike who desire to improve their literacy skills. Literacy champions learned how to multiply their effectiveness by conducting workshops to train basic literacy tutors and program facilitators; how to incorporate project management skills to initiate and supervise literacy classes; how to report to and work within ministry teams; and the steps necessary to create a literacy evangelism primer. Daily participation in small group Bible studies edified attendees and demonstrated how literacy and Bible studies can be used to foster future church planting and discipleship.

With such a wide variety of classes, the three-week training event was jam-packed with activity, and the new graduates are well-prepared to take literacy evangelism tools back to their communities to share the gift of reading to elevate individuals' life skills while sharing the message and love of Jesus Christ. We congratulate L&E Ghana for taking on this significant leadership role, and we thank our Lord for the Africa Literacy Training Institute's success.

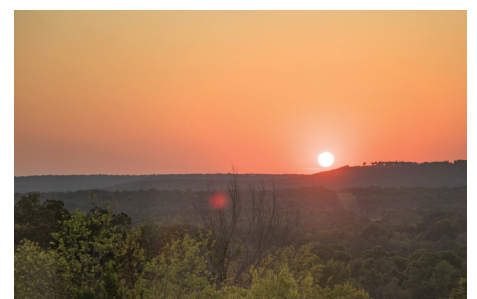
Above: ALTI instructors and participants. Below: ALTI participant instructs (left); Participants gather for some fun and much laughter (middle); Pastor Samuel instructs (right). Photos by Kenyon Gerbrandt & Tedd Lodes.



LEI'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!



Thursday evening, September 14, 2017, Literacy & Evangelism International's 50th Anniversary Celebration was held in the Vista Room of the iconic Gilcrease Museum, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The magnanimous evening commenced with docent-led museum tours. The irony of the venue did not escape Willis Rice, oldest son of the late Dr. Robert Rice. Celebrating LEI's 50th anniversary at Gilcrease, a landmark museum well known for its Native American art collection, was a fitting setting since Dr. Rice's first official literacy ministry trip was to the Navajos of Arizona in the fall of 1967. The *Restaurant at Gilcrease* staff served a delicious dinner as Dr. Jim Miller, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa, and Dr. William (Hess) Hester, Pastor of Southern Hills Baptist Church, Tulsa, acted as emcees for the evening's entertainment. Special appreciation was expressed to the Helmerich family who arranged for the use of the Vista Room. Special guests, Rev. John Taylor, former LEI President, and Dr. Chris Jenkins, former LEI missionary, were recognized. Philip Rice led in worship reminding us from Psalm 119:105 that the Lord's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Dr. James Kigamwa, LEI's Managing Director of Africa and the Middle East, gave a prayer of thanksgiving. Rev. Sid Rice, LEI's President, shared the strategic mission purpose and the three-fold ministry strategy. Dr. Wayne Hardy, Pastor of Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, Tulsa, highlighted the Kirk's rich 50-year partnership with LEI. LEI's Communications and Media Director Kenyon Gerbrandt shared three moving documentaries he produced. The *LEI Origin Story* chronicled the history of LEI, and two video testimonies emphasized how LEI's valuable ministry transforms people's lives. The dinner was closed with the Doxology of praise. Nearly 200 guests came from across the US to share in this special once-in-a-lifetime celebration. We are grateful to the Lord for all the amazing things He has done through the LEI ministry in the past 50 years, and we thank each one who has had a part in this ministry that has touched the lives of millions of Christians and non-Christians, readers and non-readers, across the globe. We continue to ask the Lord's blessing upon the many years ahead for Literacy & Evangelism International's viable ministry.



Photos by Kenyon Gerbrandt: 1. Panorama of the Vista Room at Gilcrease Museum. Guests were entertained by emcees Dr. Hess Hester & Dr. Jim Miller. 2. Worship led by Philip Rice: "Thy Word." 3. Literacy primer placemats created by Patty Hickman, and salad by the Restaurant at Gilcrease. 4. Sunset view outside the Vista Room. 5. Photo by James Kigamwa: Rice family siblings and spouses who were able to attend the celebration event.



Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry

“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 (NASB)

PLEASE PRAY:

- MON** For Daniel Awolou, David Nabine & Pat Lindsay in Benin/Togo, Africa. Yom Primers are complete with 4,000 copies printed. Pray for training of literacy teachers, opening of literacy classes, and lives changed.
- TUES** Blessings upon the literacy work of Martin Ntahonkiriye in Burundi. Thank the Lord for the more than 6,000 new readers since Martin began and that 9,500 Bibles have been distributed.
- WED** For Nzongo Sila-Ndunda and his work in DR Congo, especially the five different language primers that need printing. Thank the Lord for the 66 participants trained in Kikwit, and all trainers.
- THURS** For LEI’s Managing Director of Africa and the Middle East, Dr. James Kigamwa, his oversight of the work in Africa, and the LEI missionaries who traveled to Ghana to be part of the Africa Literacy Training Institute.
- FRI** For LEI missionaries Gregory & Agnes Bangura (Sierra Leone), Titus Turaki & Ademola Abimbola (Nigeria), and Maxwell Mpitanyanga (Malawi).
- SAT** Thank the Lord for LEI’s 50-year heritage of literacy and evangelism ministry, and ask for wisdom and blessing regarding future endeavors such as the International Literacy Training Institute 2018.
- SUN** Ask the Lord if He is calling you to love the illiterate by sharing the gift of literacy to help alleviate the suffering of those in the U.S. and around the globe. You can make an impact by praying, giving, and/or going.

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY TRAINING INSTITUTE 2018

Tulsa, OK, USA - LEI Tutor Place

June 9 - July 14, 2018 (5 weeks)

For more detailed information about Literacy Trainings and Digital Resources, please see our website.

<https://www.literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training>

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Would your church like someone to make a mission presentation?

Please contact our President: SidRice@LiteracyInternational.net



Enhancing Trust



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

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.