

Literacy & Evangelism International

THE MESSENGER

LATIN AMERICA EDITION

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“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.”

PSALM 119:18 NIV

FROM THE PRESIDENT: SID RICE

“As Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside... And when he came near, he asked him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ He said, ‘Lord, let me recover my sight.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Recover your sight; your faith has made you well.’ And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God.” (Luke 18, ESV)

Literacy and Evangelism International (LEI) missionaries are following in the footsteps of Jesus. Across Latin America, LEI missionaries and partners are equipping the church to share the message of Jesus through the gift of reading, and in doing so, they are opening the eyes of those who were once blind to God’s word. Those who were blind are now able to see and read the truths that are found in the scriptures.

Eyes are being opened through the efforts of dedicated LEI missionaries.

Throughout this edition of *The Messenger* you will read stories of lives that are being transformed through receiving the gift of reading. Eyes are being opened through the efforts of dedicated LEI missionaries in Peru, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Guyana, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

To God be the Glory.



The LEI Messenger: Latin America Edition 2013

LATIN AMERICA DIRECTOR: TEDD LODES

The first literacy class my wife, Emily, and I taught was at a little church in rural Nicaragua where most adults never had access to schools. About six months after graduating the class, we went back and interviewed our former students to see how reading had changed their lives. As we listened to the different interviews, we were struck by how nearly all of them mentioned how, as illiterates, they felt like they were blind, but as readers they could finally SEE! What a horrible feeling to wake up each day seeing fine but feeling blind. Illiteracy is a form of spiritual blindness as one is effectively cut off from reading, studying, meditating on, and praying back the Scriptures. Jesus declared that He would give “recovery of sight to the blind” (Luke 4:18 NASB) and He challenges us to do the same

for those who can’t read His story. I applaud all of our missionaries and partners in Latin America who are working, day in and day out, to open the eyes of the blind so that they may read the written Word and in turn be transformed by Jesus Christ, the Living Word.



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CENTRAL AMERICA

PARTNERS: LEI CANADA & LAMP



Missionaries Byron and Maria bring literacy and the knowledge of Jesus Christ to the Mam people of Guatemala. LAMP (LÁMPARA A MIS PIES) is currently running eleven literacy classes. Three of the groups are students of the first, basic literacy phase, and the others are students in the second, reading to understand phase. Many of these groups are working towards being able to participate in Bible studies taught totally in their native language. Carey Jo Johnston, Managing Director of LEI Canada, shares, “LAMP is a ministry outreach to the Mam language group in Comitancillo, Guatemala. While Spanish is the official language of Guatemala, there are 53 indigenous languages as well. There are approximately 500,000 Mam speakers with a literacy rate between 25% and 55%.”

“The Central Mam are a Mayan people group numbering over 60,000 who live in the northwest highlands of Guatemala in the Department of San Marcos. Translator Wes Collins from Ohio spent 20 years living with the Mam people learning their language and translating the New Testament for them. The translation was completed and dedicated in 1998, but only a few Mam people could read. The LAMP Literacy Ministry Project began in 2003 under the leadership of Wycliffe Canada missionaries, Andy and Karen Vaters. The purpose for the project was to teach Mayan adults to read and write in their native language to enable them to read their New Testament and access the truth within.”

“In October 2012, Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI) and LAMP formed a partnership to strengthen the work of literacy and discipleship in Guatemala and Central America.”

Byron, LAMP’s local director, and Maria, his co-worker, have a desire to share the message of Jesus Christ through sharing the gift of literacy with their fellow Mam speakers. Byron is convinced “that literacy is the key to development and the only hope of freeing (his) people from the chains of legalism.”

For more information please visit <http://www.lampliteracy.org>.

CENTRAL AMERICA

GUATEMALA



Sunday service in Cabricán, Guatemala, where Phil Truesdale presented certificates to the 29 people who completed tutor training for *Nuevos Caminos*, LEI's basic literacy Spanish primer.

“Those symbols on a page and sounds in the ear just don't make any sense at all until you have a kind and patient teacher to help and the right materials to use.”

~Mary Douglas



Rebecca is one of the tutors trained in a Tutor Training Workshop led by Mary Douglas in Ixobel, Guatemala.

NICARAGUA



High school students at Colegio Mark in Cantel, Guatemala, have also been trained by Phil Truesdale to use *Nuevos Caminos*. “They have taken the training home and are teaching members of their families how to read,” Phil says. “Since they are together every day this is a highly effective and productive means of teaching literacy.” Students are giving the gift of literacy to family members who are unable to read the Bible for themselves.

The LEI Messenger: Latin America Edition 2013



Heydy Rayo Colindres is the new National Director for AEN (Literacy Evangelism Nicaragua). This is a brand new mission under the covering of the Hosanna Sur Church in Managua. Heydy is currently pastoring a small church in Rio Blanco, Nicaragua, and is working on her support raising so that she will be free to work full-time in literacy ministry. This is no small task in a country and culture that is not accustomed to volunteerism or support raising. We applaud Heydy for her efforts to depend fully on God and his people for her support. In addition to support raising, she is teaching her own students and traveling to different parts of the country to recruit other literacy coordinators. Please join us in praying for Heydy and the team that she is currently forming.

THE HANSENS & ROSALIAS

BOB & ANA BIEDERMAN



Over the past ten years, Bruce and Jaye Hansen (pictured fifth from the left), LEI Coordinators for the Caribbean, have worked in several areas in Haiti and have supported Haitian immigrants through teaching ESL and Kreyòl literacy in Florida. A program started in Aux Porteau, Haiti, is just one of their success stories. There, 25 tutors were trained and several ongoing classes are scattered throughout the area. A representative from a U.S. ministry travels to Haiti regularly to see that the literacy work continues.

Ana Biederman gives Raquel Reis Franco a literacy medal signifying her long-term work with literacy evangelism.

By Ana Biederman - Founder of Alfabetização e Evangelização Internacional (AEI)

Nineteen years ago, AEI Brazil was born. With photocopied primers and a vision, I returned to Brazil with a strong word from Dr. Robert F. Rice, founder of LEI. "Pray, work hard, seek first God's kingdom."

Now, Bilda (pictured far right), who serves with Bible League International (BLI) and who took ILTI training in 2013, is partnering with LEI in literacy training in Haiti. LEI's Kreyòl primers have been freshly edited. Workbooks have been newly created by the Hansens and their friends, Leopold Jean-Bart and Saurel Lafume, with help from Patty Hickman. With these materials and people willing to serve in Haiti, the possibilities are endless.

With intercessors, supporters and volunteers, the ministry continues to grow, reaching the whole country with the Portuguese primers. The long-range vision for AEI is not just literacy for Brazil, but for Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and Latin America, changing lives for the better. New primers are being created for Brazil's indigenous-language speakers, through the work of Helsa de Almeida.

It is no secret that lives are changed through literacy. Dijalma was going to lose his job because he could not keep up with his work in the big city of São Paulo. He heard about AEI classes, and his boss gave him permission to attend. Dijalma was eager, learned fast, and not only kept his job but also became the manager of the store.



Ivan Rosalia, Dominican Republic, says, "We continue to have much joy and fun going out from Tuesday to Friday to teach the non-reading Dominicans how to read and write. I concentrate particularly in one community called Palo Blanco where I have eight students... (We hosted) a

We (Bob and Ana Biederman) visited Brazil this summer to present award medals to several literacy workers, but we know their real reward will be in Heaven. God is working at AEI Brazil, doing wonderful things and giving victories everyday. Today, Christiano Pena leads the work with a vision to take the ministry forward for the glory of God. Please, lift up the Brazilian workers for daily victories in Portuguese and native languages, that eyes and hearts may be opened to see the wonders of God through reading his Word.

Purdue Campus House mission team in May together with Jacinda Melson. They helped me with literacy, discipling of youth, and did work in and around our house."

PERU

JERRY & KATHY MANUS



Left to right: Manuedi, one of the Bible translators, holding his copy of the Urarina New Testament; Ethan, Emma, Jerry, and Kathy Manus.

By Jerry Manus

Two massive rivers converge in Northeastern Peru. One is the Ucayali, starting from melting snows near the ancient Inca capital of Cusco and running north. The other is the Marañon, its muddy waters gathered from Peru's northern mountains and flowing east. At the point where these two rivers meet they form another river, the Amazon.

Some twenty miles west of the point where these rivers meet, at Camp Aurora, Emma Manus waded into the brown waters of the Marañon River.

Rites of Passage What is a rite of passage? It is an event, perhaps a ceremony, which declares that the life of a person thereafter will be different in some way, that they are passing from one part of their life to another. Tribal cultures often have rites of passage to show that a child is becoming an adult. A wedding is another rite of passage.

Fifteen-year-old Emma was also going through a rite of passage on that afternoon in early March. Pastor Marcos Costa stood waiting waist-deep in the river. Friends and family stood on the bank and sang, "I have decided to follow Jesus."

Baptism is a rite of passage commanded by Jesus for those who have decided to follow him. It is part of the "Great Commission" in Matthew 28. It is part of what Jesus' disciples are to do to make disciples, along with teaching to obey Christ's commands.

"Why are you being baptized?" Pastor Marcos asked Emma.

"In obedience to God," Emma answered. Her immersion and coming up again identified her with Christ's burial and resurrection.



Erlinda and Zoyla received their certificates for finishing *Firm Foundations, Book 1*, in Urarina. They both read publicly from the Urarina New Testament.

Graduation That evening I helped in another rite of passage. This one was a graduation. Two Urarina women whom Kathy was teaching, Zoyla and Erlinda, had finished studying *Book 1* of LEI's two-book primer series. After I gave them their certificates, they each read a passage from the Urarina New Testament. People from several villages looked on and listened.

Zoyla and Erlinda are among a growing number of Urarina women who are learning to read. In most of the cases we know of, the motivation for learning to read has been the influence of the Church of Jesus Christ and the desire to read the Bible in their own language.

AUGUSTO & CAROLYN PECHO



In August, Augusto, Carolyn, and Chaska Pecho returned to Santa Maria, Peru, an agricultural community with many people living in extreme poverty, 11,000 feet above sea level.

I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. Acts 26:17b-18 NIV

PRAYER REQUESTS

MONDAY: Please pray for LEI missionaries in Central America especially those with LAMP and AEM and those students in Guatemala and Nicaragua who are learning to read so they can read God's Word.

TUESDAY: Please pray for LEI missionaries in the Caribbean, especially the Hansens and the Rosalias, and those students who are learning to read in Haiti, the U.S., and the Dominican Republic.

WEDNESDAY: Please pray for LEI missionaries in Brazil, especially those serving with AEI, and those students who are learning to read in Portuguese and other indigenous languages.

THURSDAY: Please pray for LEI missionaries in Peru, especially the Manuses and Pechos, and Juliet Hinds in Guyana. Pray for their students who are learning to read their Bibles in their native languages.

FRIDAY: Please pray for Tedd Lodes, our Latin America Director, his wife Emily, and their family as they serve tirelessly doing the work the Lord has planned for them to accomplish.

WEEKENDS: Please thank our LORD for LEI missionaries serving throughout the world as they share the message of Jesus through the gift of reading, improving the social and economic situations of the poor, but most importantly enabling others to read the Bible for themselves. Thank our Lord for all who support LEI.

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www.literacyevangelism.org/resources/training

IRA Tax-Saving Benefits for 2013

IRA Rollover Legislation provides tax-saving benefits for required withdrawal when given directly to a charity such as LEI. Please contact your broker for more information.



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Would your church like someone to make a mission presentation?

Please contact our President: SidRice@LiteracyInternational.net



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.