

Annual Report

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 -

The Mission

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

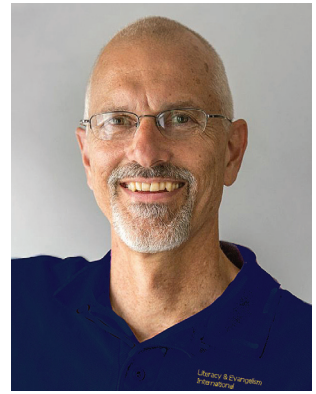
The Strategy

- 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.



Pastor Jacques, Sola Primer Construction, L&E Benin, Member Nation, Africa

LEI President
Dr. Sid Rice



Dear Ministry Partners,

God's word through the prophet Isaiah reminds us to: "Enlarge the place of your (our) tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes" (Isaiah 54:2 NIV). We at Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI) have been actively doing exactly that. We are strategically stretching out our tent curtains and lengthening our cords both in the US and globally.

Our LEI US ministry team began over 50 years ago in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Decades later, direction for our global effort continues its presence in Tulsa. However, our ministry has expanded across North America and the world. Direction for our critical online training resides in Texas under the skill and management of Dr. Rebecca Foote. Accounting ministry is provided by Marcia Crutchfield in Illinois. Refugee efforts are led from Georgia by Rev. & Mrs. Bob & Mary Mulloy. English as a Second Language (ESL) development is led by Dr. Melina Gallo from Illinois. Direction for primer (basic reader) construction comes from Rev. Carey Jo Johnston in Canada. Latin America & Southern Asia ministries are directed by T.L. in Arkansas. Oversight of ministry in Africa is provided by Dr. James Kigamwa living in Connecticut. Our "curtains" are stretching out across the US.

Globally, LEI has strengthened our stakes by encouraging the formation of L&E organizations in countries around the world. We are honored to call them L&E Member Nations. They comprise a network of autonomous, indigenous mission agencies. As I write this letter we are represented in 15 nations with each L&E organization doing amazing work for the Kingdom.

As we lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes, the mission of LEI has never been more robust. I trust you are inspired by the stories of Good News in this Annual Report that testify to God's faithfulness and the ever-expanding mission of LEI in the US and abroad. Thank you for your partnership as together we share the message of Jesus Christ through the gift of reading.

Your grateful brother in Christ,

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

***"As our ministry
expands across North
America and the world,
our mission has never
been more robust."***

- Dr. Sid Rice

LEI Continues to Provide Resources For The Nations

With Online Distance-Learning Courses and Curriculum.

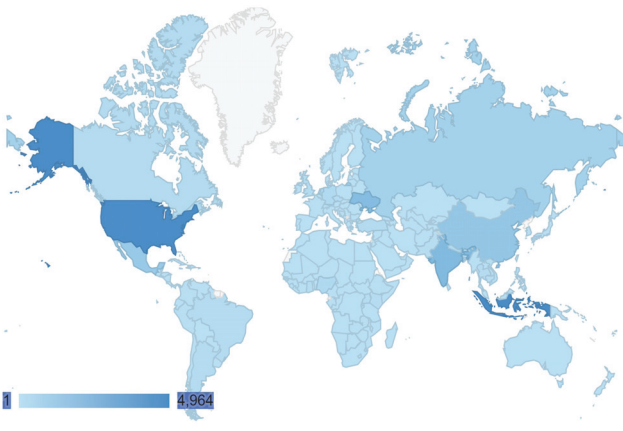
In 2022 LEI Recorded...

Individuals from 181 countries and territories visited LEI's website.

In 2022 Patrons Found...

222 Primers digitally-available for FREE.

651 Primers were downloaded at NO CHARGE.



This global map depicts people from 181 countries around the world visited the LEI website January 1 through December 31, 2022.

Dark blue represents higher usage. Light blue represents lower usage.

View All Of LEI's Online Trainings

literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training

Primers Available For Free Download

literacyevangelism.org/resources/primers

David Nabine

New LEI Director for French-speaking Africa

Bienvenue! Welcome David Nabine, LEI's new Director for French-speaking Africa! David is the husband of Rose, father of three adult children, and a missionary after the heart of God. David joined Literacy and Evangelism International in 2012 with a desire to meet the literacy needs of the non-reading people of his home country, Togo, in Africa.

David's previous study and work experiences include accounting/informatics IT and civil law.

After serving the LORD at the department of Bible translation in Togo and Benin, he became interested in linguistics. His later translation work for the Bible Society caused him to grieve the great number of Christians in the churches in Africa who cannot read the Word of God in their local languages.

David's completion of the International Literacy Training Institute at LEI's Oklahoma campus in 2012 led him to translate LEI's Teacher Training Workshop Leader's Guide from English to French. Since achieving this goal, David has not stopped striving to help people read God's Word in their heart language. David has trained countless teachers to use LEI literacy methods and materials.

Recently, David accepted the role of LEI's Director for French-speaking African countries. This role will lead him to connect with people in 21 countries including Senegal, Benin, Burkina Faso, DR Congo, and a host of others where he will support, connect, develop, and encourage churches and mission organizations to meet literacy needs in their communities.

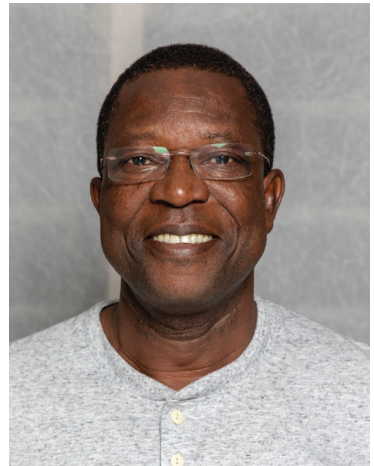
David credits American missionaries who visited his area when he was a youth for the impact they made that inspired him and others to know the LORD. David is enthusiastic about bringing the light of God to the hearts of many through reading the Word of God.

David and his wife, Rose, currently live in the US where he continues to refine his English-speaking skills with LEI missionary and tutor Tanya Griffin. Tanya and David meet online using LEI's *Light of the World* materials.

His recent return visits to Togo have afforded David the opportunity to train many literacy teachers who can reach out to neighboring towns.

1 Timothy 4:13-16 (ESV) inspires David's ministry. "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers."

David hopes to help LEI design more literacy primers in French-speaking African countries where many other languages are spoken. Please pray that the LORD will grant grace to continue the work until HE comes again.



Jennifer Edic Bryant

New LEI Missionary



Strike up an applause of praise to the Lord for our new USA missionary Jennifer Edic Bryant. Cultivated in Southern California, Jennifer's thirty years of teaching and administration experience along with her childhood in a missionary family magnify her expertise. Jennifer traces her missionary purpose and vision back to her late father, the Rev. Don Edic, a 35-year veteran LEI missionary. She was inspired when her father invited her to lead a mission team to support literacy and ESL growth in Benin.

Since then she has worked with Benin as an LEI literacy and ESL champion. Jennifer's LEI outreach continues to advance learning communities for the Gospel through meeting the literacy needs and inspiring God-granted gifts in others.

Amoi Blake-Amaro

New LEI Social Media Specialist



Amoi Blake-Amaro, LEI's new Social Media Specialist, served as an LEI media team intern on our Tulsa, Oklahoma, campus in the fall of 2015 when she was attending Oral Roberts University. She comes to serve LEI with a degree and substantial experience in marketing. We are so pleased that God has brought Amoi back to LEI to rejoin the media team.

Georg and Martha Ort

Celebrating 25 Years with LEI



God's leadership and faithfulness are evident in the Orts' ministry of 25 years with Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI). In 1972, God redeemed Georg's seriously injured ankle with a turn of his heart to Christ that eventually brought him to LEI.

Born and raised in Germany, Georg first met Martha in 1977 in a German hospital where they both served as nurses to missionaries who suffered from tropical diseases while serving on the mission field. Although their friendship flourished during their break-time conversations, the Orts parted ways until God brought them together again while serving for two years in the same Cambodian refugee camp. After several relational twists and turns, they married and then raised their family of three children first in Thailand, then in Germany, and eventually in the US. While in the US, they home schooled their children through graduation.

In 1997, Georg was invited to Tulsa for a "visit" to LEI. Since then, he and Martha have faithfully honored the LORD at LEI for 25 years. Over the years, Georg has served as assistant to the Director for Africa, as Director of Administration, and since 2012, as the Director for Europe. In this position, Georg and Martha have ministered to, nurtured, and expanded LEI in Europe. With twice-a-year trips to European countries such as Bulgaria, N. Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Ukraine, Georg and Martha continue to connect, motivate, and train people to meet local literacy and ESL needs.

Dear to their hearts are the Roma people, who are gypsies with up to 98% illiteracy in some communities. Georg and Martha's adventurous travels to Europe have not only led them through a host of uncertainties and challenging experiences, but have, most importantly, opened doors to literacy ministries for the disregarded and oppressed people of less-developed countries and villages. Their loyal and encouraging hearts bring hope and endurance to teachers and missionaries serving in Europe. They hope to see an increased awareness of the literacy needs of others in Christian communities and pray for more missionaries to serve in Europe.

Psalm 119:105 inspires Georg. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (ESV). He considers, "If people cannot read, how can God guide them?" Martha prays John 8:32 for all, that "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

13 Member Nations in 2022

AFRICA

L&E BENIN
L&E DR CONGO
L&E GHANA
L&E KENYA
L&E MALAWI
L&E NIGERIA
L&E TOGO

ASIA

LEI SOUTH KOREA

EUROPE

L&E MACEDONIA
L&E UKRAINE

NORTH AMERICA

L&E CANADA
LEI USA

SOUTH AMERICA

AEI (LEI) BRAZIL

Thanks to the ongoing development endeavors of LEI missionaries Martha and Georg Ort, Director for Europe, our thirteenth L&E Member Nation partner, L&E Macedonia, was created in 2022. Rev. Tefik, Managing Director of L&E Macedonia, is developing literacy materials in the Macedonian language, training literacy teachers and serving particularly the Roma and deaf communities in North Macedonia. L&E Macedonia is also developing a reading primer geared towards other communities.



Primer Construction

Africa

"A" (Ethiopia)	Printed
Akuapem (Ghana) & Workbooks	Printed
Anufo (Togo)	Printed
Asante (Ghana)	Printed
Dangme (Benin) & Workbooks	Printed
Dagaare (Ghana) & Workbooks	Printed
Dendi (Benin)	Printed
Ébembe (DR Congo)	Printed
Ewe (Ghana) & Workbooks	Printed
Fon (Benin)	Printed
Ga (Ghana)	Printed
Gonja (Ghana) & Workbooks	Printed
Kagulu (Tanzania)	Printed
Konkomba (Ghana)	Printed
Kuria (Kenya)	Final Edit
Lokpa (Benin)	Printed
Maasai (Kenya)	Printed
Meru Bk 1 (Kenya)	Final Edit
Samburu (Kenya)	Final Edit
Swahili Bk 1 (Kenya)	Printed

America

Huambisa (Peru)	Final Edit
Light of the World Level 2	Final Edit
Urarina (Peru)	Printed
"X" Bk 2 (Brazil)	Final Edit

Europe

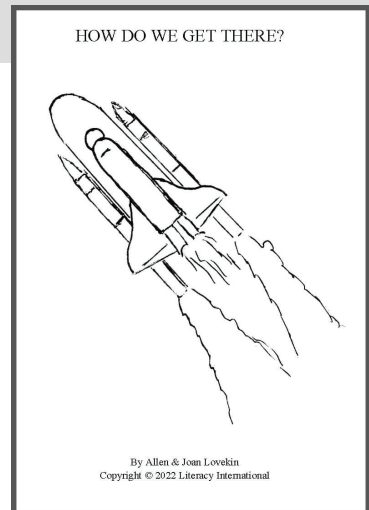
Russian (Russia)	Revision
Ukrainian (Ukraine)	Revision
Macedonian (N. Macedonia)	Revision



David Nabine, Patty Hickman, and James Kigamwa.
Patty is LEI's Primer Desktop Publishing Expert.

92 LEI post-primer booklets, called shell books, are available in English for translation into other languages. LEI shell books are hosted on www.bloomlibrary.org/browse. All LEI-produced titles start with "Literacy International" to make them easier to find when searching.

Pictured here is the cover of Allen and Joan Lovekins' latest shell book, *How Do We Get There?*



Primer Development and Printing

LEI distributed over \$100,000 in 2021-22 for primer printing and development. This budget was, in large part, due to estate gifts.

BENIN, AFRICA

FULANI

MIYOBE

GHANA, AFRICA

AKUAPEM TWI

DANGME

DYSON TRAINING MANUAL

ESAHIE

HAUSA

KONKOMBA

TANGALE

KENYA, AFRICA

KURIA

MAASAI

MALAWI, AFRICA

CHEWA

MOZAMBIQUE, AFRICA

PORTUGUESE

TOGO, AFRICA

ANUFO

FRENCH

KABIYE

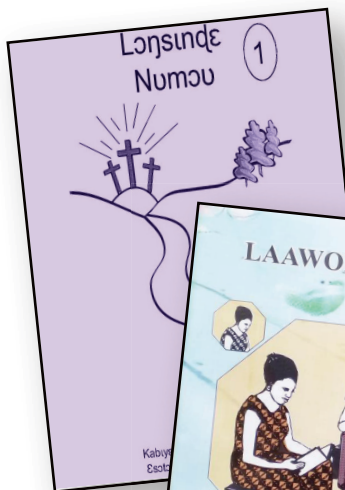
TAMBERMA

BRAZIL, S. AMERICA

GUARANI

MAXAKALI

PORTUGUESE



Primer Printing Impact

MAASAI - L&E KENYA

"We are grateful to LEI USA for the grant to print our Maasai primers in 2022," writes Joseph Matheka, President of L&E Kenya. "The printing of the Maasai primers has opened many doors for L&E Kenya in literacy ministry.

"The most outstanding outcome of the Maasai printing was the graduation of 104 New Readers (women and men) in 2022. The class was conducted by one of our partners, Tirrim, in Northern Kenya."



Each of the graduating women and men received a Bible, a certificate, and a female goat for breeding purposes. Joseph Matheka adds, "This program is unique in that elders in the village have permitted (for the first time) female graduates of the literacy program to own livestock (goats). This is normally reserved for men."

One student, 19-year-old Swari, who is married and a mother of two children, can now, after taking literacy classes, read in both the Maasai and Rendille languages.

Lkuul, one of two male graduates from the literacy program, was recruited by a local animal conservation organization to study the habitats of Grey's Zebras. At first, he could only use the phone he was given for this project to receive calls. Now, after taking the literacy classes, he can use the phone to take photos of what the zebras are feeding on, record the numbers of zebras he has spotted each day, and collect other important data. Pleased with Lkuul's performance, a local administrator came to witness Lkuul's graduation ceremony.

Literacy

Teacher-Training Workshops

AFRICA

Total Teachers Trained: 843

LATIN AMERICA

Total Teachers Trained: 129

ASIA

Total Teachers Trained: 3,075

NORTH AMERICA

Total Teachers Trained: 14

UNDISCLOSED REGIONS

Total Teachers Trained: 254

**TOTAL TEACHERS
TRAINED: 4,315**

**TOTAL NEW BIBLE
READERS: 18,642**

NEW BIBLE READERS

AFRICA: 9,173

ASIA: 8,680

THE AMERICAS: 697

UNDISCLOSED LOCATIONS: 92

Statistics represent a fraction of those learning to read with LEI's materials. Since our materials are shared freely online, the global impact is impossible to determine.

English Language Ministry

ASIA	<i>Total Teachers Trained: 23</i>
NORTH AMERICA	<i>Total Teachers Trained: 31</i>
UNDISCLOSED REGIONS	<i>Total Teachers Trained: 47</i>
WORLDWIDE	<i>Total Teachers Trained: 101</i>



Dr. Melina Gallo, LEI ESL Director, shares, "For many years, Anderson has been a leader in our literacy program in Brazil, and now he is starting an English as a Second Language (ESL) program there for young people."

LEI Online Training 2022



This past December, instructors and guests celebrated the accomplishments of the participants of Literacy & Evangelism International's 2022 Online Training with a special virtual graduation ceremony.

Bob Biederman, LEI's Managing Director for North America and Europe reported, "Dr. Rebecca Foote guided the virtual program with special music, three student 'vision' videos, and an inspiring message by Dr. James Kigamwa." Thirty-four students, representing the 15 countries of Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, India,

Nigeria, Senegal, Thailand, Togo, Zambia, and the US completed online courses from January to November.

To share the magnitude of this program, a list of instructors and available courses offered during this time follows.

We congratulate Dr. Foote, the instructors, and the participants in their many achievements. We look forward to hearing all about how the gifts of literacy and ESL instruction are used to share the loving message of Jesus Christ with others.

English Literacy Tutor Training
*January - February 2022
Bob Biederman & Larry Buell

Local Language Literacy
Tutor Training
*January - March 2022
*June - August 2022
Bruce & Jaye Hansen

Introduction to Primer Construction
*April - May 2022
James Kigamwa,
Carey Jo Johnston, G.M.

English as a Second Language
Tutor Training
*April - June 2022
*September - November 2022
Melina Gallo, P.C. Giri, H.
Davidson, Jean Ato, Tanya Griffin

Primer Construction:
Nuts & Bolts
*May - June 2022
Nathaniel Nunoo, James
Kigamwa, Carey Jo Johnston

Inductive Bible Study
*July - August 2022
Carey Jo Johnston, Penny
Fetters, H. Davidson

Leadership
*September 2022
Sid Rice & Greg Bennett

Facilitating Online Tutor Training
*September 2022
Melina Gallo & Rebecca Foote

Dwight Wallace

A Tulsa Literacy Center Success Story



Recently a former literacy student stopped at LEI's Tulsa, Oklahoma, headquarters. Dwight started in *Firm Foundations Book 1* several years ago. He and his tutor, Jan Miles, worked through Books 1, 2 & 3 as well as Workbooks 1, 2 & 3. Afterward they concentrated on reading the Bible. Dwight's desire was to read well enough to read the KJV Bible (12th

grade reading level). Dwight and Jan came regularly for the tutoring sessions. As Dwight improved in his ability to read, he was appointed a Deacon in his church. Now he reads the Scriptures out loud on Sunday mornings. Recently, the pastor asked him to teach a men's Bible class on Wednesday evenings. That motivated Dwight to stop at LEI again to pick up some brochures. He wanted his class to know where he learned to read and where others can find help and hope. We are so proud of Dwight and the accomplishments he has made thanks to a dedicated tutor, his own diligence, and God's grace.

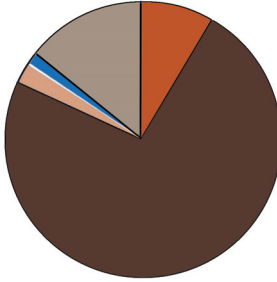
Jay, Oklahoma

Local Literacy Success Story

This past summer, Bob and Ana Biederman conducted the first in-person Tutor Training Workshop for LEI's *Firm Foundations* curriculum since COVID. They were invited to Jay, Oklahoma, to conduct this training that ended October 23rd. Most of those trained had a student ready to begin learning to read using LEI's Bible-content literacy curriculum. As Jay is only an hour and a half from Tulsa, Bob and Ana plan to continue to be in touch, to answer questions and provide guidance as the new tutors assess and begin teaching non-readers. Thanks to video calls, this follow-up can also be done online.

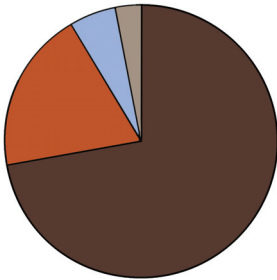


Financial Report 2022*







INCOME

	Missionary Support	\$675,633	73.4%
	Unrestricted Gifts	\$78,662	8.56%
	Project Support	\$20,580	2.24%
	Tuition & Materials	\$2,645	.3%
	Operating Reserves	\$12,563	1.4%
	Other	\$129,111	14.1%
	TOTAL	\$919,194	



EXPENSES

	Missionary Support	\$666,076	72.5%
	Mission Mobilization & Ministry	\$176,343	19.2%
	Management & General	\$49,726	5.4%
	Communication & Publicity	\$27,049	2.9%
	TOTAL	\$919,194	

* Unaudited

Board of Trustees 2023



Sid Rice/Chair, Ford Brett/Vice Chair, Jim Davis, Angela Fleming, Hess Hester, Ms. K.T. and Faith Wambugu

Ministry Directors

Rev. Robert Biederman
Managing Director: North America & Europe

Dr. Rebecca Foote
Director: Distance Learning

Dr. Melina Gallo
Director: ESL

Rev. Carey Jo Johnston
Managing Director: LEI Canada

Dr. James Kigamwa
Managing Director: Africa & Middle East

Mr. Gamaliel Kim
Director: Central Asia

Mr. T.L.
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Rev. Robert Mulloy
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Mr. David Nabine
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Mr. Georg Ort
Director: Europe

Mr. Roland Rice
Chief Financial Officer

Rev. Dr. Sid Rice
President & C.E.O.



Primer Construction, L&E Kenya, Africa



Tutor Training, Oklahoma, USA



Creating Literacy Online Training Videos



ESL Workshop Indiana, USA

Allen & Joan Lovekin

Missionaries Emeriti

At a recent LEI Board of Trustees meeting, Bob Biederman, LEI Managing Director for North America and Europe, recognized Allen and Joan Lovekin Missionaries Emeriti, for their dedication, hard work, and long-time missionary service.

Rev. Biederman shares, "The Lovekins pioneered literacy evangelism work in Zaire, Africa (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), for over 4 1/2 years from 1990 - 1996. This period was interrupted by war limiting their ability to remain in the country.



"Allen and Joan mentored two influential literacy teachers: Rev. Sila-Ndunda Nzongo and Rigobert Kobele, to use LEI methods and materials in Zaire and neighboring countries. The impact of the late Sila Nzongo is tremendous in his training of teachers who in turn taught over 1 million people to read and write. Rigo trained teachers and pioneered the use of television to broadcast literacy lessons to non-readers. He continues to use his LEI training and materials in DRC, especially in teaching English.

"The Lovekins assisted and/or led 13 primer constructions in languages of Zaire, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Ethiopia, Peru, and Bulgaria, and have nurtured and encouraged LEI missionaries in DRC, Kenya, and Uganda through correspondence and emails.

"They have created 59 'shell books' (easy-to-read illustrated books that can be translated into other languages) on a variety of biblical subjects as well as other topics to encourage new readers to continue reading.

"In recognition of their fruitful service, we recognize Allen and Joan Lovekin as Missionaries Emeriti by Literacy & Evangelism International."



[Instagram.com/Literacy_Evangelism](https://www.instagram.com/Literacy_Evangelism) ■ [Facebook.com/LEIUSA](https://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



Jeremie Awolou, L&E Benin

Online Training

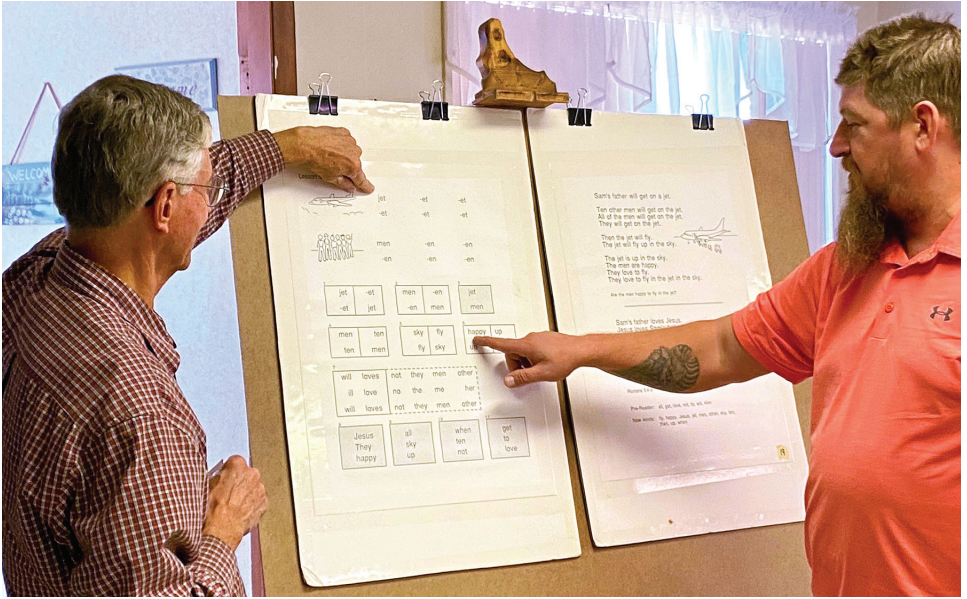
January through September 2023

For information:
literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training



Literacy & Evangelism
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Literacy & Evangelism INTERNATIONAL



Thankful for the flexibility of in-person and online training, Bob Biederman and Tony practice Firm Foundations methodologies at a Tutor-Training event in Jay, Oklahoma.

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