

# Annual Report 2024

*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.



LEI President

# Dr. Sid Rice



Dear Ministry Partners,

A woman began training with Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI) to become a literacy teacher. After the first session she shared that she could not continue because of the biblical content. The incident broke my heart, but it crystallizes the call of LEI.

LEI has always understood the purpose of our anointing, our blessing.

"He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free" (Luke 4:18 NIV).

LEI reaches into the darkness of the non-reader's world to give hope. We give the ability to function in a literate world, but we also give hope for the world to come by sharing the message of Jesus Christ.

Who gets the glory?

By proclaiming the message, we fulfill the ultimate purpose of our anointing. We don't simply share the gift of reading. We share literacy as a platform to share Christ so that God receives the glory.

Throughout this report, you will be encouraged by stories of how God is receiving glory through LEI's missionaries and Bible-content curriculum. We are the largest Bible-content literacy resource in the world, with visits to our website from 143 countries last year. Partnerships are being strengthened and expanded through the formation of new L&E organizations that we call Member Nations.

Thank you for partnering with us. May God continue to receive glory through the literacy and evangelism network of mission organizations around the world.

Always your grateful brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sid Rice". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**LEI doesn't simply share the gift of reading. We share literacy as a platform to share Christ so that God receives the glory.**

"We can best read and understand God's love and message to us in our heart language!"

LEI Missionary Mary Mulloy

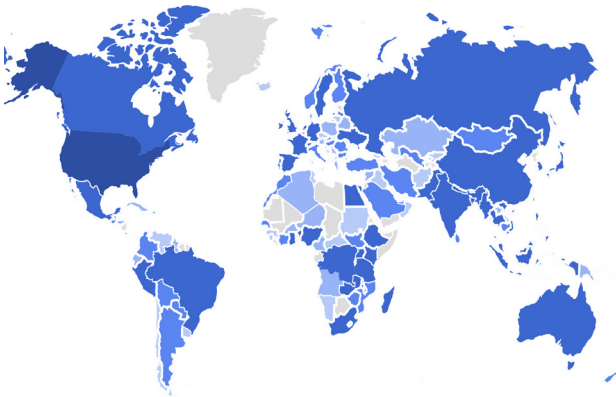
# LEI Continues to Provide Resources For The Nations

With Online Distance-Learning Courses and Curriculum.

In 2023  
LEI Recorded

Individuals from **143** countries and territories  
visited LEI's website.

In 2023  
**615** Primers were downloaded at **NO CHARGE**.



*This global map depicts people from 143 countries around the world visited the LEI website January 1 through December 31, 2023.*

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

View All Of LEI's Online Trainings  
[literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training](https://literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training)

Primers Available For Free Download  
[literacyevangelism.org/resources/primers](https://literacyevangelism.org/resources/primers)

# Rev. Dr. Robert F. Rice

Words from LEI Founder - October 1995

## Comparisons

### ADULT LITERACY

The students:

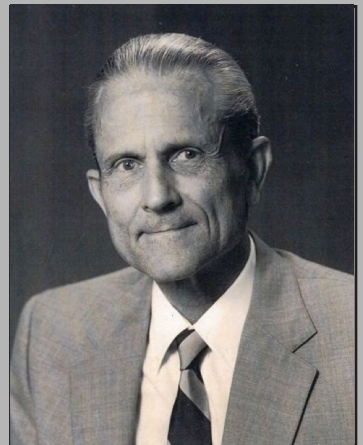
1. Illiterate, cannot read.
2. Generally from lower classes, or bottom of the ladder.
3. Motivation for Christians: primarily to be able to read the Bible.
4. Known as the "silent disability," there is little or no outside pressure helping the illiterate.
5. Students can master reading and writing skills in the language they speak. Within 10 weeks to 10 months, they can be reading Scripture by themselves.

### ESL (English as a Second Language)

The students:

1. Literate, can read, usually in the mother tongue.
2. Generally from the middle or upper class.
3. Motivation: occupational and educational, mainly monetary.
4. ESL is better known and practiced worldwide because of the universal pressure to obtain English.
5. To master oral English, an English-speaking community is normally needed. The student needs to live in an English-speaking country.

The above comparison was presented to the LEI Board of Trustees by Rev. Dr. Robert F. Rice in 1995 in a paper entitled "World Literacy, Teaching to Read in the 21st Century, The Silent Disability." In this paper, Dr. Rice quotes Dr. Frank Laubach the Father of Literacy. "The most bruised people on this planet, the naked, the hungry, the fallen among thieves, the sick, the imprisoned in mind and soul, are the 1,200 million illiterates."



# New Staff Members

## Rose Nabine

Building Manager

Fluent in French, English, and two other languages, and conversational in five more, Rose Nabine is a lawyer by training, a language teacher with TESOL certification, and a senior program manager with over 30 years' experience.

When Rose retired from serving in the U.S. Peace Corps in Togo, Africa, after 32 years, she and her husband David came to visit LEI-US. About that time, David accepted the job as Literacy & Evangelism's Director of French-speaking Africa, and Rose took on the important responsibility as LEI's 1802 Tutor Place Building Manager.

Simultaneously, Rose serves as a French tutor at the college level and teaches English and Citizenship classes at the YWCA. We are so very blessed to have Rose taking on the significant role of keeping the 1802 building running smoothly and the residents content.



## Stuart Turner

Financial Administrator



With university majors in Finance, Risk Management, Computer Science, and Mathematics; experience in computer software development - architecture, financial reporting, and serving as a leader in his church, Stuart Turner also serves as Literacy & Evangelism's Financial Administrator. In this regard, Stuart provides a separation of accounting function and responsibility. We are pleased to have Stuart's oversight.

# Literacy Impact

## New Readers in Togo, Africa



"My name is **Afi**. I am 42 years old. I converted to Christianity not long ago. I can neither read nor write in French. So after my conversion in Christ, I had difficulties to understand the Bible well. I could only hear the word of God on Sundays or Bible study days. I really suffer from this handicap. So, when I heard that the people in charge of literacy came to train the teachers, and the classes started in my church, I decided to join the class to learn to read in my mother tongue. Two months ago we started and now I can read

the texts in the literacy booklet; if I see the billboards written in my language, I can know some words. Sometimes I'm busy with my job at the market, but I always make the effort to go. I thank God very much for LEI and for the teachers who train us. May the Lord bless you."



"My name is **Mary**. I'm 65. From my childhood I have never been to school. I can't even read in French. Naider, my own language (Ewe), I speak fluently. But with the LEI literacy classes in my church, I am learning to read in my language. Be blessed."



*Learning to read as an adult takes determination and perseverance.*

# 15 Member Nations

## AFRICA

LITERACY BENIN

L&E DR CONGO

L&E GHANA

L&E KENYA

L&E MALAWI

L&E NIGERIA

L&E TOGO

L&E BURKINA FASO

## ASIA

LEI SOUTH KOREA

LI INDIA

## EUROPE

L&E MACEDONIA

L&E UKRAINE

## NORTH AMERICA

LEI CANADA

LEI USA

## SOUTH AMERICA

AEI (LEI) BRAZIL

## New Member Nation Partners - 2023

### L&E Burkina Faso



Literacy & Evangelism, Burkina Faso, Africa, (L&E Burkina Faso), under the leadership of Boro Ibrahim, Executive Director, was accepted as a literacy Member Nation partner in 2023.

With LEI trained teachers, a number of students have been diligently working with LEI's Mooré language literacy primers, Books 1 and 2, to learn and strengthen reading skills.

Learners hope to become "true disciple-making ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ" with their new literacy expertise.

### LI India



Literacy International, India (LII), was accepted as a literacy Member Nation partner in 2023. LII works with this vision and mission to equip the Church to share the message of Jesus Christ through the gift of reading. LII prayerfully works toward fulfilling its vision and mission, uplifting the church and the community through Adult Literacy (AL) and ESL Tutor Training Workshops, AL and ESL classes, primer construction, Regional Literacy Training Institutes, free tuition classes for the underprivileged and school dropout children, discipleship, and Sunday school programs.



# Primer Construction

## Africa

"A" (Ethiopia) & Workbooks	Revision
Gonja (Ghana) & Workbook	Printed
Hausa (Nigeria) & Workbook	Printed
Mooré (Burkina Faso)	Reprint
Macua (Mozambique)	Reprint
Marama (Kenya)	Printed
Marachi (Kenya)	Printed
Nzema (Ghana) & Workbook	Printed
Samburu (Kenya)	Final Edit
Sena (Malawi)	Reprint
Sola (Benin)	Printed
Swahili (Kenya)	Revision

## America

English (USA)	Revision
Huambisa (Peru)	Final Edit
"X" (Brazil) & Workbook	Final Edit

## Asia

Bru/Mru (India)	Printed
Pyongyang (Korea)	Printed

## Europe

Russian (Russia)	Reprint
Ukrainian (Ukraine)	Reprint
Macedonian (N. Macedonia)	Printed

## LEI's YouTube Channel Offers 399 Videos

featuring playlists about teaching Literacy, Inductive Bible Study, Desktop Publishing, Primer Construction, ESL, and more.

**In 2023, LEI's YouTube Channel had  
118 New Subscribers & 9,421 Views**

[youtube.com/@LiteracyInternational](https://youtube.com/@LiteracyInternational)

# Member Nation Gathering

Brazil - September 2023

In September 2023, the leaders of Literacy & Evangelism Member Nations met outside of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, for an eight-day gathering.

When the first Member Nation Gathering occurred in 2018 near Accra, Ghana, Africa, there were only eight Member Nation organizations.

Five years later the number has increased to 15! Countries represented this time included: Brazil, Benin, Canada, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kenya, S. Korea, N. Macedonia, Ukraine, and the US. In addition, leaders from Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Nigeria, and Togo joined online to participate in this inspiring experience.

LEI Brazil team members, led by Anderson Fleming, were outstanding hosts who prepared for the enjoyment of our stay with meticulous planning.

At the gathering's opening ceremony, senior pastors from the First and Ninth Presbyterian churches participated in the program.

Meeting days were filled with devotions, reports, sharing of best practices, and significant times of prayer for each Member Nation.

L&E Benin introduced the new cutting-edge app pioneered and developed by Daniel Awolou's sons Jérémie and Schallom. This computer tool allows readers to be self-taught or instructed by a tutor.

Sunday proved to be a day of celebration as First Presbyterian recognized all the Member Nation participants and their countries,

including their own LEI Brazil team. The church graciously provided translation, so every leader could hear the service in English. Dr. Sid Rice thanked First Church for their vision in sponsoring LEI Brazil's work over the past 20 years. After the service, participants were invited to a sit-down luncheon at the church.

Ana Biederman started the LEI work in Brazil. Her foundational efforts have become a model for the development of LEI's Member Nation organizations.

One very important concept Ana learned from the late Dr. Robert Rice was to enlist the aid of an intercessor for each teacher and student. This aspect of prayer truly enhances the work and has opened many hearts to the salvation message of Jesus.

*Shared by Bob Biederman, Managing Director, North America/Europe*



*Rev. Bob Biederman, left, with Pastor Edson Rodrigues, 1st Presbyterian Church*

# Impact

## LITERACY APP BENIN

"Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it" (Habakkuk 2:1). God commanded Habakkuk to write God's prophetic message so that those who read it could flee the coming judgment. The tried-and-tested LEI literacy method is an effective tool for sharing the message of Jesus through the gift of reading. However, the deepening challenges of printing and distributing materials continually arise. Scattered populations, mass migration and immigration safety, and terrorist attacks interfere with reaching people who cannot read and therefore prevent them from reading God's Truth. These impediments are true in Benin and for numerous other people groups.

Schallom and Jérémie, sons of Literacy Benin's Daniel and Leocadie Awolou, have a vision for increasing availability and use of the literacy primers. Encouraged by a Sola pastor whose main activity is digital evangelism, these ambitious and talented young men, in collaboration with Sola-speaking pastors, have developed an LEI-funded mobile application Sola language primer.

The Sola are a West African populace with only 1% being able to read and write. They know very little about the Gospel. The Sola app offers continuous distance or online learning in downloadable videos or exercises in the form of text from the primer's Book 1.

In the 2023 announcement for the soon-to-be-released Sola primer, the community of digital users expressed impatience to finally learn to read the New Testament in their mother tongue. The project is also aimed at young people since they currently represent 46% of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa. In particular, Benin has only 32.94%, aged 15 and over, who can read and write (UNESCO 2017). These cost-efficient digital primers would increase the number of people reached by LEI's literacy methods, motivate learners, improve the quality and efficiency of learning, and stimulate the creation of virtual literacy classes.

May the LORD grant Schallom, Jérémie and many volunteers the spiritual strength and wisdom to fulfill God's vision for His prevailing purposes in the world. "It will surely come; it will not delay" (Hab. 2:3).



*Jérémie Awolou*

# Literacy Training Impact

**AFRICA**  
*Total New Bible Readers: 7,370*

**SOUTH AMERICA**  
*Total New Bible Readers: 818*

**ASIA**  
*Total New Bible Readers: 21,250*

**NORTH AMERICA**  
*Total New Bible Readers: 9*

**UNDISCLOSED REGIONS**  
*Total New Bible Readers: 100*

**TOTAL NEW BIBLE  
READERS: 29,547**

**TOTAL TEACHERS  
TRAINED: 879**

**TOTAL  
TEACHERS TRAINED**

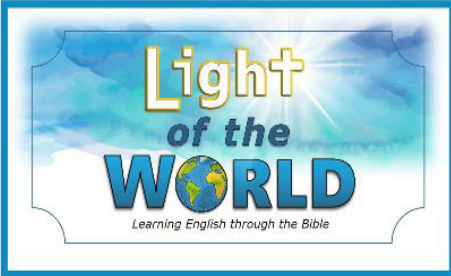
**AFRICA: 596  
ASIA: 182  
EUROPE: 37  
THE AMERICAS: 64**

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



# English Language Ministry

<b>AFRICA</b>	Total Teachers Trained: 7
<b>ASIA</b>	Total Teachers Trained: 26
<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>	Total Teachers Trained: 15
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>	Total Teachers Trained: 45
<b>TOTAL NEW ENGLISH SPEAKERS: 125</b>	<b>TOTAL TEACHERS TRAINED: 93</b>



## ESL IMPACT Tulsa OK

Never underestimate the workings of God online and in person. After hearing of a couple's need for English language lessons, a church janitor connected this couple with a member who serves with LEI. Connections were made in 2022 for a husband and wife who are Ukrainian refugees to meet with an online tutor to learn and practice English using LEI's "Light of the World" ESL curriculum. After two years of tutoring and numerous hours of homework, this diligent couple has completed all 50 lessons in the A1 beginner level! As a result of their English learning, they have experienced new freedom and

engagement in their Tulsa community. The husband acquired his driver's license and is working at Walmart. His wife has attended a church "women's night" and has succeeded in a community sewing class. Together they attend an English-speaking church and have navigated apartment living, doctors' appointments, and essential living accomplishments. Most importantly, their next-door neighbor invited the couple to share dinner and conversation in English. Their evening together filled the Ukrainian couple with encouragement, confidence, and the love of God for neighbors.

# LEI Online Training



This past December, instructors and guests celebrated the accomplishments of the participants of Literacy & Evangelism International's 2023 Online Training with a special virtual graduation ceremony.

Dr. Rebecca Foote guided the program's special music, student "vision" videos, and an inspiring graduates' challenge. Thirty-four students, representing 16 countries: Australia, Curaçao, Ghana, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, 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 how the gifts of literacy and ESL instruction are used to share the loving message of Jesus Christ with others.

Literacy Tutor Training: Local Language

\*January - March 2023

James Kigamwa & Penny Fetters

\*July - September 2023

James Kigamwa

Literacy Tutor Training: English

\*January - March 2023

Bob Biederman & Larry Buell

English as a Second Language Tutor Training

\*April - June 2023

Melina Gallo, H. Davidson, Jean Ato, P.C. Giri & Tanya Griffin

Developing a Literacy Ministry

\*April 2023

James Kigamwa & Nathaniel Nunoo

Desktop Publishing: An Introduction

\*May 2023

Patty Hickman, Carey Jo Johnston & Nathaniel Nunoo

Primer Construction: An Introduction

\*May - June 2023

James Kigamwa,  
Carey Jo Johnston, Penny Fetters, Nathaniel Nunoo & G.M.

Facilitating LEI Training Courses Online

\*June 2023

Melina Gallo & Tanya Griffin

Primer Construction: Nuts & Bolts

\*June - August 2023

Carey Jo Johnston, Penny Fetters, Nathaniel Nunoo & G.M.

Leadership

\*September 2023

Sid Rice & Greg Bennett

\*Dates for LEI's 2024 online training events can be found at [literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training](https://literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training).

# DREAM CENTER

## Tulsa Tutor Training Workshop



On May 31 and June 1, 2023, David Nabine and Ana and Bob Biederman conducted a tutor training workshop at the "Dream Center" in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This outreach of Victory Christian Center provides food, healthcare, sports and education for children and youth. Pastor Tim, the Director, says, "We're about giving hope and changing lives."

Bob, Ana, and David were invited to the Dream Center by the Director of Education, Cynthia Townsend, who they met at the Oral Roberts University Career Day. Townsend expressed

interest after seeing LEI's Bible-content curriculum, Firm Foundations. She felt it was a good fit for the Dream Center's summer tutoring program.

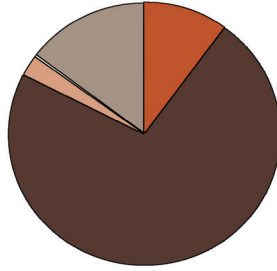
Although the training was abbreviated, the high school and college-aged participants learned quickly. In addition to classroom instruction, access was provided to LEI's training videos to assist with learning. Eighteen people were trained in the 10-hour workshop.



*Eighteen young people were trained to tutor others in reading at this 10-hour workshop held at the Dream Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma.*

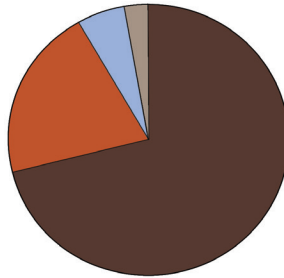
# Financial Report 2023\*

---



## INCOME

	Missionary Support	\$671,022	72.5%
	Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 94,089	10.2%
	Project Support	\$ 23,760	2.6%
	Tuition & Materials	\$ 1,707	.2%
	Operating Reserves	\$ 911	.0%
	Other	\$133,876	14.5%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$925,365</b>	



## EXPENSES

	Missionary Support	\$658,879	71%
	Mission Mobilization & Ministry	\$190,923	21%
	Management & General	\$ 50,448	5%
	Communication & Publicity	\$ 25,115	3%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$925,365</b>	



# Board of Trustees 2024



*Angela Fleming, Janice Blankenship, Roland Rice, Faith Wambugu, James Estes, Jim Davis, Ford Brett / Vice Chair, Sid Rice/Chair, and Hess Hester.*

## Ministry Directors

Rev. Robert Biederman  
Managing Director: North America & Europe

Dr. Rebecca Foote  
Director: Distance Learning

Dr. Melina Gallo  
Director: ESL

Dr. James Kigamwa  
Managing Director: Africa & Middle East

Mr. T.L.  
Managing Director:  
Latin America & Southern Asia

Rev. Robert Mulloy  
Director: Philippines & Refugees

Mr. David Nabine  
Director: Francophone Africa

Mr. Georg Ort  
Director: Europe

Mr. Roland Rice  
Chief Financial Officer

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



*Jenn Edic, center, in Africa*



*Teacher Training Workshop, Madagascar*



*Member Nation Gathering Brazil*

# Sharon Hopson and Ron Fick

## Celebrating Service

"Sharon, are you interested in. . . ?" **Sharon Hopson's** positive response in 2012 began a beautiful ministry of hospitality at LEI's Tutor Place, Tulsa, for visiting literacy training students from a multitude of nations. Hosting the in-person LEI trainings for the committed and focused missionaries was not as simple as her reply. During her first seven years, she and her husband Larry grocery shopped, planned meals, cleaned rooms, laundered linens, mowed lawns, and more, in preparation for the 5-6 weeks' trainings. After Larry's passing in 2016, Sharon relied more on the Lord for the necessities of Tutor Place. She fondly recalls God's answers coming from countless churches, schools, and walking-by volunteers, who seemed to "drop out of the trees." Some of her favorite memories include the international dining varieties, inspiring fellowship, sharing testimonies, and witnessing the trainees becoming full-time missionaries once they were equipped and caught the vision of sharing the message of Jesus through the gift of reading. Thank you, Sharon, for answering God's call!



When **Ron Fick** retired after 30-plus years of purchasing and management experience with Spirit AeroSystems, Boeing, and McDonnell Douglas, he was seeking a new kind of place to serve. With a heart for God and spiritual gifts of helps, service, wisdom, and discernment, Ron discovered the Lord's call as Director of Administration with Literacy & Evangelism International was just the right fit. During his volunteer tenure with LEI, Ron not only managed overall office operations and staff, he graciously built relationships with ministry partners and vendors, was a member of the personnel committee, negotiated contracts, transported countless people to and from

the airport, helped restore order after the 2018 building flood, taught international students how to lead Bible studies in their home communities, and did a plethora of other behind-the-scenes tasks that helped plan for long-term success of the ministry. We are thankful for Ron and the positive influence he had on us all during his ten years of service with LEI .



Literacy & Evangelism  
INTERNATIONAL

# Online Training

January through September 2024

For information:

[literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training](https://literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training)



[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](mailto:info@literacyinternational.net)



# Literacy & Evangelism INTERNATIONAL



*Member Nations Gathering, Brazil, 2023*

Rev. Dr. Sid V. Rice, President  
Literacy & Evangelism International  
1800 S. Jackson Avenue  
Tulsa OK 74107-1857

[info@LiteracyInternational.net](mailto:info@LiteracyInternational.net)

Website: [LiteracyEvangelism.org](http://LiteracyEvangelism.org)

Phone: 918-585-3826

To receive LEI's email publications, please send your email address to:

[info@literacyinternational.net](mailto:info@literacyinternational.net)

*Contributing Story Writers: Tanya Griffin & Bob Biederman*

*Graphic Design: Duane Blankenship*

*Cover Photo: Togo, Africa. Photographer, David Nabine.*