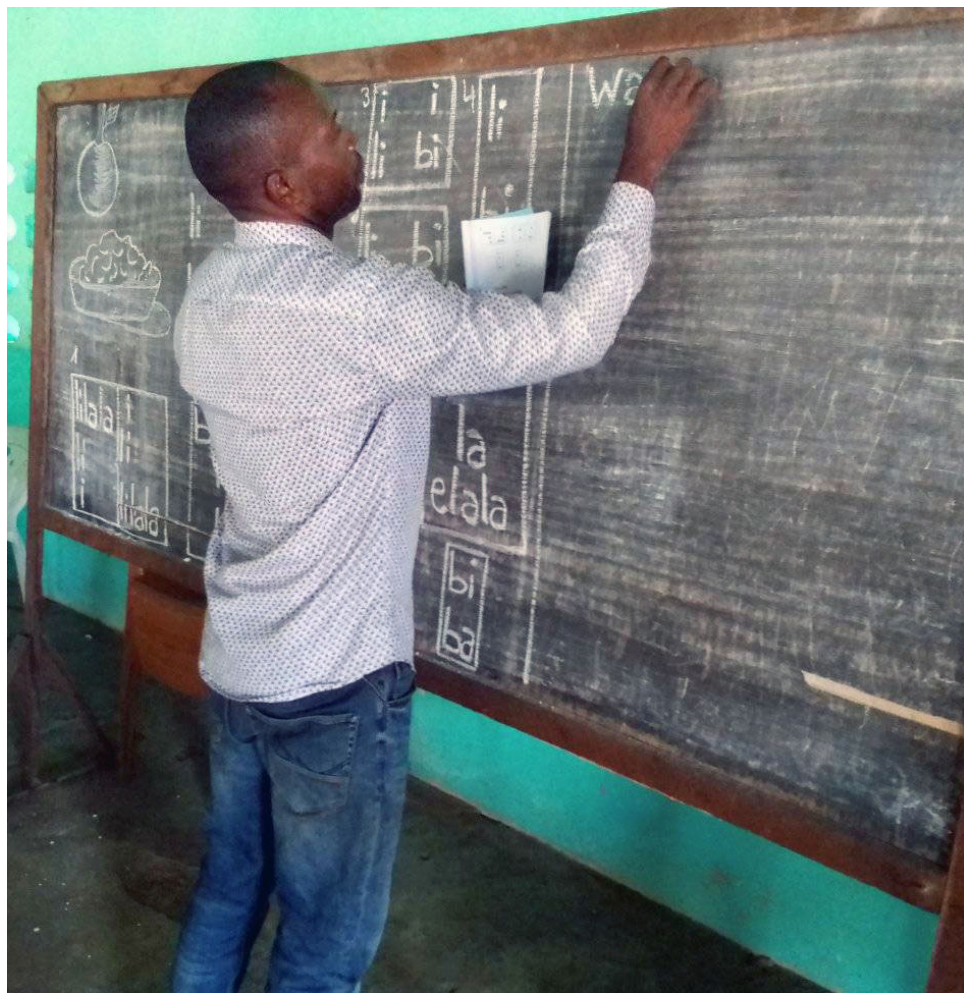


# LEI Messenger

## Member Nations Edition 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 -

LEI President

# Dr. Sid Rice

Dear Friends,

The Psalmist writes, "I [we] have a beautiful inheritance" (NIV, Psalm 16:6).

A beautiful thing has occurred over the past several years. Literacy & Evangelism organizations have been formed in 17 countries. We call these L&E "Member Nations". Our strategic effort to decentralize by equipping autonomous, indigenous, self-governed L&E organizations around the world has led us into a season that is indeed a beautiful inheritance.

The genesis of the Member Nation partners began several years ago when the LEI leadership team read the book, *Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard*, by Chip and Dan Heath. Chapter 2, "Find the Bright Spots," led LEI to begin looking for "bright spots" in literacy work. Two countries came to the forefront, Alfabetização (Literacy) e Evangelização Internacional (AEI/LEI) in Brazil and Literacy & Evangelism Fellowship of Kenya (now L&E Kenya). Both organizations embraced the mission, vision, and name of Literacy & Evangelism.

The book, *Drive, The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us*, by Daniel Pink, confirmed our strategic direction. The book articulates three motivators: Autonomy, Mastery, and Purpose. LEI Brazil and L&E Kenya had full autonomy in their efforts to engage literacy ministry in the context of their own culture. Both had mastery in the use of L&E materials and had fully embraced the higher purpose of using literacy to strengthen the Church and share the message of Christ through the gift of reading.

The questions before the leadership team at LEI were, how do we facilitate the creation of more "bright spots"? How do we set aflame more nations/countries with autonomy, mastery and purpose, yoked together by the vision of LEI? What flowed out of these questions was a strategy and application process to encourage the formation of additional Member Nation partners.

May God continue to bless the efforts of LEI's growing network of organizations, a kingdom inheritance.

Your brother in Christ,



"Our strategic effort to decentralize by equipping autonomous, indigenous, self-governed L&E organizations around the world has led us into a season that is indeed a beautiful inheritance." - Dr. Sid Rice

# What Are Member Nation Partners?

L&E Member Nation partners are a network of autonomous, indigenous, incorporated, self-governing Literacy and Evangelism organizations throughout the world who embrace the mission, vision, and name of Literacy & Evangelism.

## Member Nation Gathering Brazil September 2023

L&E Member Nation partners gathered outside Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in September 2023 to fellowship with like-minded literacy evangelism workers, share devotions, be inspired by new reader success stories, report on the use of educational best practices, explore new ideas and cutting edge technology tools, and above all, lift each Member Nation to the Lord in prayer. Yet, as is often the case with international travel, not all Member Nation representatives were able to participate in person due to visa and travel challenges.

Thankfully, the Lord prepared the way. L&E Brazil's host team set up the necessary technology for partners, unable to attend in person, to attend online.

Furthermore, later in September, the L&E Ghana team hosted a smaller gathering in Accra, Ghana, for orientation and induction of those from L&E Togo and L&E Burkina Faso who could not attend the larger meeting in Brazil. L&E Democratic Republic of Congo's new director Sila Junior and veteran literacy teacher Rigobert also attended this inspiring in-person gathering in Accra.





# Among the Okun Nigeria, Africa

After completing the translation of the Bible into the Okun language, the Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) invited Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI) to partner with them in developing literacy primers for the Okun language to facilitate learning to read in this language. So far, LEI has developed materials in twelve Nigerian languages, namely, Nigerian Pidgin, Yoruba, Fulani – Fulfulde, Hausa, Kamuku, Epie, Urhobo, Nkem, Ekajuk, Tangale, Igbo, and Tsuva-di.

Working with BSN, LEI Managing Director of Africa, Dr. James Kigamwa, recently traveled to Nigeria to lead a team of translators and language experts based in Aiyetoro Gbede, in Kogi State, in developing and writing literacy primers for this Okun language. In line with LEI's strengthening of Member Nations, this workshop was an opportunity to add to LEI's more than 275 primers around the world and to train Primer Construction Consultants who will assist with developing primers in Nigeria. The trainees, Omonor, Elisha, and Ifeoma, have completed LEI's online training, including the Primer Construction Workshop (PCW) taught by Rev. Carey Jo Johnston.

With an early start along busy roads, Dr. Kigamwa and his local host Brother Temitope of BSN, took an 8-hour trip spanning close to 300 miles, arriving before dusk in Aiyetotor Gbede, where the primer construction project would take place. Participants at the PCW, including six local writers and the three trainees, worked hard over two weeks to complete 82 lessons that include LEI's 36 Bible stories.



Among the writers was a local chief who, Dr. Kigamwa says, "invited me and the BSN literacy coordinator to meet with the local council of chiefs whom we briefed on the primer construction project." The community leaders expressed appreciation for the language development work that LEI was doing with the Bible Society and pledged support for the project.

We thank God for the partnership with the Bible Society and the work being done by LEI's Member Nation in Nigeria. Pray for the successful completion of the typesetting of the primer and the launch of the literacy program.

**LEI Primers are available for free download at**  
**[literacyevangelism.org/resources/primers](http://literacyevangelism.org/resources/primers)**

# New Member Nation Partners

## L&E Congo- Brazzaville



Located on the western coast of Central Africa, Congo-Brazzaville joins other French-speaking countries throughout Africa as a new Member Nation. The Director, Rev. Pierre Manguinga, with an experienced, committed, and burdened heart for the illiterate, pioneers the ministry in sharing the message of Jesus through literacy.

Rev. Manguinga has more than 25 years of literacy ministry proficiency, and he has witnessed the transforming joy in hundreds of new readers when they are able to read the Bible and accept Jesus as LORD and Savior. He is inspired when new readers can engage in the community with more skills and in the church with more zeal. There is an immense satisfaction also when the indigenous pygmies, as trained literacy instructors, can help their people learn to read and write.

Rev. Manguinga hopes L&E Congo Brazzaville, as a Member Nation, will win even more souls to Jesus.

## L&E Guatemala



Attending the Member Nation gathering in Brazil greatly encouraged Rev. Yovany and Esmeralda Hernandez to organize the L&E Guatemala Member Nation. Since 2014, Rev. Hernandez and his wife Esmeralda have been pointing people to Jesus through the blessing of reading.

As a pastor, Rev. Hernandez witnessed that people in churches could not read, so he and Esmeralda acquired training using LEI's Spanish primers. Since then, they have trained literacy tutors to spread the Gospel. They have distributed Bibles, shared the literacy need, promoted the vision, and raised support for the mission.

They plan to advance Spanish literacy among the Spanish-speaking churches and to work with other organizations to develop Bible-content literacy primers in 24 indigenous languages.

Rev. Hernandez and Esmeralda serve the Great Commission, making "disciples of all nations," while sharing the gift of literacy.

# 17 MEMBER NATIONS



**AEI Brazil** (Alfabetização e Evangelização Internacional) established by Ana Biederman in 1993 and a "bright spot" in literacy evangelism, became a Member Nation in 2017. Beginning with Brazil's primary Portuguese language, AEI Brazil, now led by Director Melise D'Agostini, has trained hundreds of teachers in local languages and has sent out literacy missionaries world-wide.

**L&E Benin**, Africa, led by Daniel Awolou, President, was established in 2014 and became a Member Nation in 2018. L&E Benin works extensively in the French-speaking country of Benin, developing primers in local languages and conducting teacher-training workshops. Using cutting-edge technology, a tutor-training computer app is being developed for the Sola language.



**L&E Burkina Faso**, Africa, led by Boro Ibrahima, Director, established in 2017, joined as an L&E Member Nation in 2023. Working throughout the multi-language-speaking country (Mooré, Dioula, French) of Burkina Faso, they develop primers, tutor in local languages, and conduct teacher-training workshops. Their latest project is with the Dioula people group.

**LEI Canada** is led by veteran primer construction expert and trainer, Rev. Carey Jo Johnston, Managing Director. Rev. Johnston has served as a literacy evangelism missionary for over three decades, registering LEI Canada in 2008 and as a Member Nation in 2016. She teaches primer construction online and in person, leads primer construction workshops worldwide, and edits primers in many languages.



**L&E Congo Brazzaville**, Africa, led by Rev. Pierre Manguinga, Director, became a Member Nation in 2024. Rev. Manguinga has served in literacy ministry using LEI materials since 1993. The organization works extensively throughout the French-speaking country of Congo Brazzaville, teaching in Lingala and other local languages, conducting teacher-training workshops, and teaching prison inmates.

**L&E Democratic Republic of Congo**, Africa, was founded by Rev. Nzongo Sila-Ndunda in 1986 and continues as a Member Nation, established in 2019, through the work of Sila's son, Sila Junior, President, Marthe (Sila Sr.'s widow), and veteran literacy worker Rigobert Kobele. They serve throughout this French-speaking country developing local language primers and training teachers and students.



**L&E Ghana**, Africa, led by Rev. Samuel Lawerteh, President, with teammates Nat Nunoo, Helena Awuah Amoako, Joseph MacCarthy, and Ellen Akornor, was founded in 2009, becoming a Member Nation in 2015. A literacy evangelism "bright spot", L&E Ghana develops language primers and conducts teacher training and primer construction events in Ghana, Nigeria, and elsewhere.

**L&E Guatemala**, led by Rev. Yovany Hernandez, Director, became a Member Nation partner in 2024. Esmeralda Hernandez is a valuable member of this literacy evangelism team. The organization works in the Spanish-speaking country of Guatemala, developing primers in other local languages and conducting teacher-training workshops.





**LI India**, Southern Asia, led by literacy evangelism expert G.M, founder and president, was formed in 2022, becoming a Member Nation in 2023. The organization works throughout English and Hindi-speaking areas, developing primers in other local languages and conducting teacher-training workshops.

**L&E Kenya**, Africa, led by Joseph Matheka, Director, became a Member Nation in 2018. The organization works throughout Kenya and nearby countries developing primers in local languages, tutoring, and conducting teacher training and major regional training events. L&E Kenya's Patrick Malasi travels to other countries developing materials and training teachers.



**LEI Korea** (aka Global Literacy Missions) is led by Rev. Phoebe Park, Director, and was established in 1999, becoming a Member Nation in 2021. Based in South Korea, the organization works extensively throughout several countries in southeast Asia, developing primers in local languages, establishing literacy offices in other countries, and conducting teacher-training workshops.

**L&E N. Macedonia**, Europe, led by Tefik Musoski, President, was formed in 2020, becoming a Member Nation in 2022. The organization works throughout the Macedonian and Albanian-speaking country of North Macedonia, developing primers in other local languages and sign language and conducting teacher-training workshops while also ministering to the Roma people.



**L&E Malawi**, Africa, led by National Director Maxwell Mpitanyanga, became a Member Nation in 2015. Along with Chancy Gondwe and Wales Sawali, Maxwell serves in Malawi and nearby countries such as Mozambique, Zambia, and Madagascar, developing primers in local languages, conducting teacher-training workshops, and educating prison inmates, adults, and children.

**L&E Nigeria**, Africa, led by Musa Waziri, Director, was formed in 2012, becoming a Member Nation in 2015. The organization serves throughout the country of Nigeria, developing primers in local languages, and conducting teacher-training workshops. Workers include Silas Phanuel, Yohanna Boyi, and Omonor Wade.



**LEI Togo**, Africa, led by Pastor Tete Koffi Désiré, Executive Director, was formed in 2013 becoming a Member Nation in 2019. The organization serves in the French-speaking country of Togo, developing primers in other local languages, conducting teacher-training workshops, and assisting in other countries.

**LEI Ukraine**, (aka LMU - Literacy Ministry in Ukraine), Europe, led by Kolesnik Yuriy Konstantinovich, Director, was established as a Member Nation in 2021. The organization serves the Ukrainian-speaking country of Ukraine, developing primers in other local languages, and conducting teacher-training workshops. Viktoriia is a valuable partner in this ministry.



**LEI United States of America** is led by the Rev. Dr. Sid Rice, President, and is based in Tulsa, Oklahoma. LEI USA was established in 1967 by the Rev. Dr. Robert F. Rice and has been the founding organization in the literacy evangelism initiative and methodology for the past 57 years.



# Member Nation Highlight

## LEI Korea



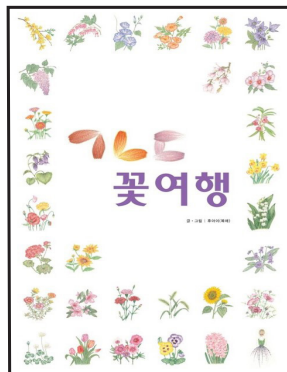
Gratefully, Rev. Park Bok-se (Phoebe) is quite familiar with following the Lord's leading, and not her own understanding. In late 2023, Dr. Kim, the former Director of Global Literacy Mission (GLM) in Korea, upon his retirement after 25 years of sharing the Gospel through literacy, foresightedly passed the baton to Rev. Park. Dr. Kim's work with LEI founder Rev. Dr. Robert F. Rice, over many years, and his creation of primers for 16 countries established his legacy.

Rev. Park's work with Dr. Kim began in 2016, and in 2018, she completed in person the International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI) in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Equipped with the mentoring, tools, training, and passion to share the Gospel using literacy as her means, Rev. Park now serves as the Director of LEI Korea and powerfully so! Even though Korea's illiteracy rate is low, Korea is an influential missionary-sending country. Rev. Park's mission is fueled by Koreans being welcomed into 191 countries without visas as well as by Korean popular culture (K-pop music, gaming, film, fashion, etc.) as a global cultural powerhouse. These circumstances open doors for Koreans to countries with other religious beliefs, which others cannot easily access.

Rev. Park's missional effect is evident throughout her 2023 Annual Report. During 2023 in Thailand and Bangladesh, she trained local leaders, YWAM missionaries, and seminary students in workshops that equipped and inspired the literacy ministry for the seriously destitute: economically, socially, and spiritually.

In Korea, Rev. Park continues to expand her influence with her PhD studies in Applied Ethics in Education. With her dissertation, she seeks to share how picture books can positively change all ages of human life through reading words and reading pictures. To help fund the literacy ministry, Rev. Park has authored and illustrated a Korean alphabet book. Furthermore, she is dedicated to refining her English-language skills so that she can preach the Gospel in multiple languages such as the Apostle Paul did in the Bible.

Clearly, Rev. Park's missionary heart and influence reach into many lives, near and far.



You can read all the good news and the Member Nations' annual reports starting here.  
[www.literacyevangelism.org/give/support-member-nation-partners](http://www.literacyevangelism.org/give/support-member-nation-partners)



# Member Nation Highlight

## L&E Kenya

L&E Kenya, founded in 1978 as Literacy & Evangelism Fellowship of Kenya, became an L&E Member Nation partner in April 2018 and continues to be a "bright spot" in literacy evangelism ministry.

With an intense passion for sharing the message of Jesus Christ through sharing the gift of literacy, President Joseph Matheka and Rev. Patrick Malasi were both trained at Literacy & Evangelism International's Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA, campus.



Thirty Bible-based heart-language reading primers have been created by this organization to serve literacy learners across Africa. An estimated 100,000 students have come through the program in various churches within Kenya and beyond.

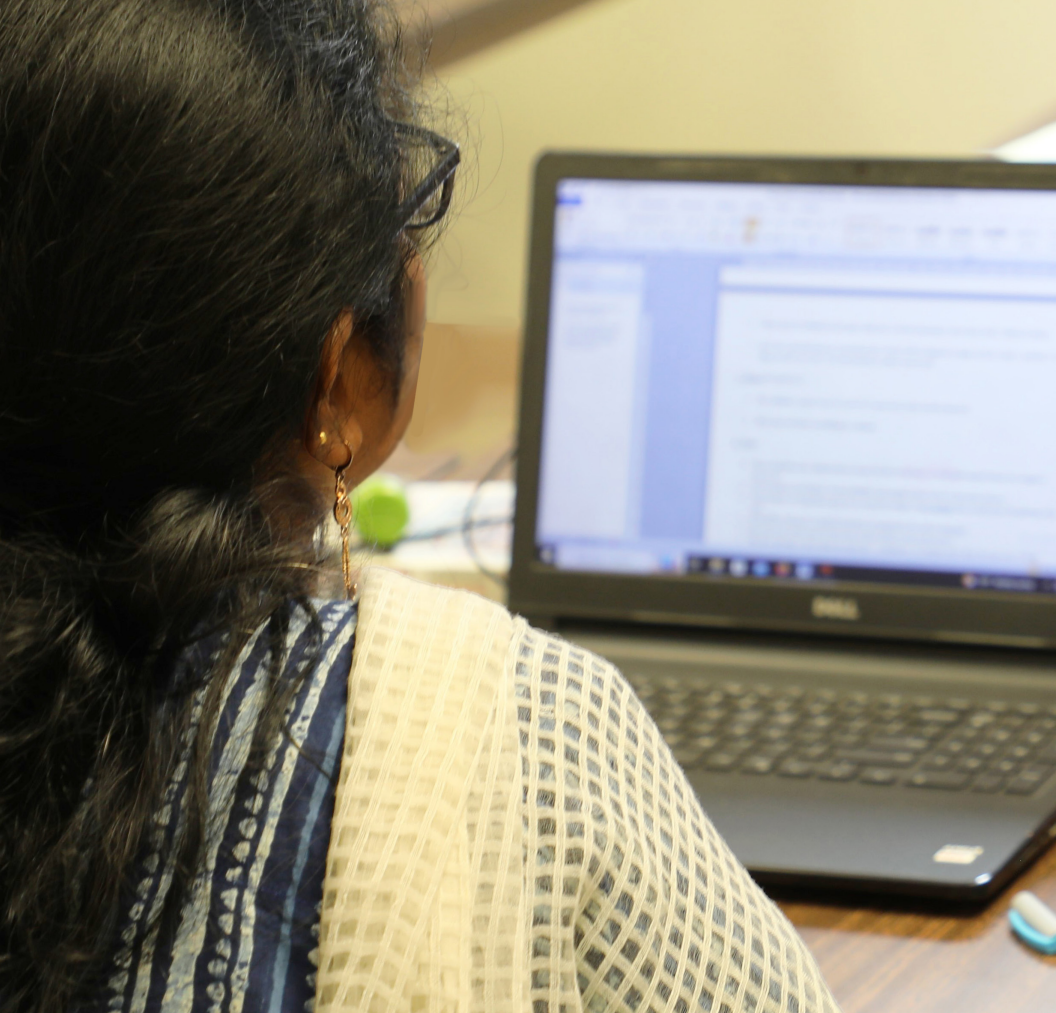
Over the years, L&E Kenya has trained more than 4,000 tutors. Yet, L&E Kenya relentlessly continues to seek new ways to share the gift of "mother-tongue" literacy and the transformative love of Jesus Christ.

Most recently, LEI USA has partnered with L&E Kenya in printing the Swahili primer, books 1&2, with corresponding teaching charts. Rev. Malasi writes, "As you may know, Swahili primers are used not just in Kenya but across East Africa. You may also be pleased to know that A1 size charts for tutors' use were printed, and two sets have already been sent to Tanzania. The challenge that tutors of literacy evangelism have been having, to draw a lesson (on a chalkboard) each day they meet, has been solved. Some did not even have a chalkboard; we praise God for the funding through LEI to meet that need."

Rev. Malasi continues, "The Swahili primers we will be printing are a revised edition with a pictorial condensed Tutors' Guide, and we are very grateful."

Also exciting to note is that L&E Kenya has been invited by the administration of Kenya's Narok Bible College to launch its literacy and evangelism curriculum there. Rev. Malasi and Rev. Moses will be the regular visiting trainers/teachers who will get the course started. In the future, every student at the college will be required to take literacy evangelism as a course unit. The newly-printed materials will enable the work to run smoothly.

Other Good News from Rev. Malasi: Training new teachers and having materials available will enable L&E Kenya to expand its literacy evangelism program among the Maasai people group in Narok and throughout the region. Lives will be eternally changed by the Lord's Holy Spirit and L&E Kenya's commitment to serving people trapped by illiteracy.



# Virtual Literacy Training

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January through September 2025

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For information

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

***LITERACY & EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL***

# Please Pray

*Devote yourselves to prayer being watchful and thankful.*

Colossians 4:2 NIV

MON	Please thank the Lord for new Literacy & Evangelism Member Nations L&E Congo-Brazzaville and L&E Guatemala.
TUE	Please pray for each of the 17 existing L&E Member Nation partners and the work they accomplish in literacy evangelism.
WED	Please pray for the safety of L&E Member Nation workers who cross borders to help lead literacy workshops and create primers in unwelcoming areas.
THU	Please pray for LEI USA's online classes, as instructors teach learners to use LEI's worldwide literacy evangelism materials.
FRI	Please pray for learners being taught in mother-tongue literacy, that they would persevere in learning to read God's Word for themselves.
SAT	Please pray for those being strengthened in their relationship with our Lord Jesus because they can now read God's Word and for those who are meeting and accepting Jesus for the first time.
SUN	Thank the Lord for literacy evangelism opportunities to share the loving message of Jesus Christ through sharing the gift of reading.



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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

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# Literacy & Evangelism INTERNATIONAL



*David and Tanya, LEI Missionaries, at the Member Nation Gathering, Brazil, 2023.  
David is LEI Director of Francophone Africa, and Tanya, besides teaching,  
writes articles for the LEI Messenger.*

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