

ANNUAL REPORT



2024

MEA

VIEW

MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM THROUGH LITERACY (MEA) Junior & Marthe SILA

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR



MEA Président
Dr SILA-NDUNDA Junior

We offer our deep and sincere gratitude to our God for great things. Things in which He never ceases to amaze us in this path of the mission of Jesus Christ that we have chosen. 2024 has been for us another year of discoveries and experiences in the field of literacy where the Ministry of Evangelization through Literacy has taken the initiative to inspect a Province each year for an inventory. We cannot do this without your prayer support, especially for the current security situation in the entire eastern part of our country. This motivates us to be able to compile information journals solely for prayer requests. Thus, we continue to work as best we can with teacher training workshops, supervisors, and teaching illiterate people in our various local and regional literacy centers.

On behalf of the association, I cannot end this message without a glance at our partners and all people of good will, who can support in various ways this mission, which is as much for God himself as for us. Your help is essential for the development of this mission.

HIGHLIGHTS

This point is characterized by several elements where we have here: the involvement of individuals, churches, organizations or associations in the literacy mission. We see here the Evangelical Baptist Community in Congo (C.E.B.C) which informs and sensitizes Christian churches and other communities to integrate or install the literacy ministry in their churches to help their faithful. We had received in 2024 two major collaborations with communities but also several emails from organizations or associations and simple individuals wishing would learn the LEI

methodology to work voluntarily (volunteers) as literacy monitors in different locations.



Past Ma-gloire Nzita

Pastor & new Learner in Matadi



Pastor Iako from de Antioche church

Nouveau andragogue de Lubumbashi

Regarding the printing of literacy manuals, we also printed 1,500 literacy books in Kikongo to prepare for the Kongo-Central mission where several teacher training workshops are planned this year. Similarly, several other training sessions took place in literacy centers located in different provinces and more in the eastern part of the DRC, although we do not have details on the certifications of the other sites. A major refresher session took place in Kinshasa where things went well.



Sila and literacy manuals printed in Kikongo

The large church Lifeline International Ministries Kinshasa opened its doors to us for a second refresher course for its literacy instructors. This session inspired quite a few people to join the church organization, which already has more than 25 literacy instructors in the mother parish alone. It is activities like these that we strive to introduce as a ministry in churches that are unaware of the power and

benefits of literacy in Christian life; hence the very term Literacy Evangelism Ministry.



Literacy Teacher Refresher by Sila Jr.



Sila explaining a step in the teacher refresher program



Marthe Sila teaching the learners

Therefore, for us, literacy is not just a job or a mission; it has become a passion, and so we no longer live for ourselves but also for others. An ideology that the founder, the first of the name, instilled in us, in order to better ensure its protection and continuity.

NEWS

Several andragogues and other individuals consulted the LEI secretariat and were subsequently transferred to LE-RDC, all by email. The goal was to join LEI (through the Ministry of Evangelization through Literacy) as volunteers. Thus, all those who

contacted us, some from nearby communities and/or congregations, were satisfied; that is, in Kinshasa and the surrounding provinces (see photos 1 & 2 for highlights).

In other provinces, there were not enough volunteer candidates because many of those who contacted us relied on personal ideologies other than that of LEI; this is completely outside the organization's functioning. It was then necessary to explain how it works to them while encouraging them to spread and exercise this passion whenever necessary. Certainly, despite life's difficulties, volunteers and new members have never been lacking.



Volunteer teacher in Tshikapa (DRC)



Mr Boongi, volunteer alongside Sila Jr

Volunteering in the world of literacy or education in general is an exceptional element in countries like ours, especially among young people who are still strong and fit enough to carry out such tasks, as they still need a certain social and financial stability. This directly proves that it is difficult to find or have young people passionate about volunteering in literacy unless they have other jobs besides being literacy instructors! It should be noted that 80% of literacy instructors in the DRC are over 40 years old, compared to 20% of instructors over 20 years old, with 72% of people doing other jobs besides literacy instruction, compared to 28% of people who only do literacy instruction. These statistics also clearly demonstrate that older people (aged ≥ 40) are much more likely to volunteer in literacy work because they have and can have multiple sources of income, unlike younger people (aged ≥ 20) who are looking for stability. Hence, we can only see far more adult volunteers working in the literacy ministry.

On the other hand, we can affirm that the world of literacy, particularly in our country, is still in a state of flux because it greatly needs young people who are strong, resilient, passionate, and promising to ensure continuity and the execution of excellent work. The same goes for older people, who are there for a certain time and quickly retire due to age. Literacy organizations and ministries must take this into account to minimize the risk of poor succession, management, and ministerial development. Thus, "Literacy needs young people, and young people need stability."

TOPICS OF PRAISE AND PRAYER

In life, we all have many reasons to praise, worship the Lord, and above all, pray. Likewise, for our institution, we have so many reasons for praise and prayer that we can share with you to show how good the Lord is and how He continues to extend His mighty hand to us in every need, in our mission, our families, our churches, and so on.

We thank the Lord for the current security situation in the east of our country. Although it is not completely resolved, we see positive developments, and through faith and prayer, we affirm that very soon all will be well. Thus, we leave our dear and beautiful country in the holy hands of the Almighty and present it as a prayer request to every reader of this document.

We also thank the Lord for the fourth anniversary of the death of Rev. NZONGO SILA-NDUNDA Timothy passed away in December 2020. Our prayer requests are for his family, his community (his local churches), and the continuation of his literacy mission throughout the world. Peace and gentle rest to his soul!



***Literacy Center in Bunia
(Est of DRC)***



Rév. NZONGO SILA-ND Timothée

Our prayer requests for this community of our Congolese brothers exiled in Uganda due to the recent war that took place in Goma and Bukavu in eastern DRC; may Christ, who gave himself as a ransom, dying on the cross to save us, bear this heavy burden of the realities and treatment these innocent people endure, and may the Most High be their support, hope, and comfort in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our prayer requests for the Evangelical Baptist Community in Congo (C.E.B.C.), which is also planting two local churches, one of which was active a few days ago and the other is currently underway. May God assist us in these projects to grow His church and may glory be given to His name. Our prayers for the Lovekins, including their children and widow Joan Lovekin, may this family be filled with the ever-renewing goodness of the Lord, and may He, the father of orphans and husband of widows, fill this void in His servant Joan for the rest of her days. May their descendants enjoy the

fruits of happiness and the results of this great service to Jesus Christ that their ancestors Joan and Allen performed.

Our prayers for Literacy Evangelism DR Congo, that God may be the perfect guide, that He may extend His holy and powerful hands for the successful expansion and development of our ministry, and that God may bless its leader, as well as each staff member and member of the ministry, so that tomorrow may be better than today!

Our praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for the access and introduction of our literacy and adult education projects (especially for women and girls) within the government of our country and in some social-political organizations. We know by faith that everything will be fine, so our prayer requests from any reader on this matter are essential.



CAPTIONS

The first photo shows Ms. Marthe Sila explaining the importance of literacy and adult education for adults (men, women, and girls) for the development of the DRC. The second illustrates the same event, but at the beginning, during the opening prayer. The third photo shows a crowd of adults, and many more women and girls participating in the meeting.

MOST STRIKING TESTIMONIES

There are plenty of testimonies from learners and even from those who have now become executives in society but who yesterday went through our literacy centers to learn; women who cannot work due to illiteracy and others even illiterate but who

work today; others who are married and express themselves, read and write very well thanks to God and by going through our literacy centers. Here are some testimonies:



**Former apprentice
Today Hairdresser and beautician**

"My name is Mimie Nkenge. I lost my father at a very young age, which meant that I never knew him. When I was a teenager, my older married sister, who had already been living in Kinshasa for a few years, came to evict me from the village and move me into her house. At first, everything was fine until she and her husband started abusing me and chased me out of their house. That's how Rev. Sila Timothée took me in and took me to live in his house. At his house, I learned to read and write because I had never been to school. I learned cutting and sewing from Mrs. Marthe Sila. Although Rev. Sila died, I continued to receive training thanks to the literacy I learned; here I am today, married, a beautician, and a hairdresser!"



**Yesterday illiterate,
Today evangelist**

" My name is Fiston Ntama, I went to primary school without finishing it. This led me to do several jobs such as: cleaning, being a sentry, selling collected stones, all that to have something to put in my mouth. When I left my church to join the one where I met my wife, that's where I learned that this church had a large literacy and practical theology center. I always wanted to serve the Lord in the church, but I could not learn because I did not know how to write. Using patience and perseverance, I then decided to learn to read and write. Today, I am happy to be able to read the Bible and write in order to enter the ministry."

These testimonies, without citing those not mentioned above, serve as evidence to prove that literacy in the DRC is not in crisis but in a period of reconstruction, a period that requires initiatives, projects, campaigns, strategies, and mobilizations.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR

The Literacy Evangelism Ministry's schedule is somewhat complex, with several programs and projections. However, for next year, three major programs will take place:

- A decent in the city of Matadi/Central Kongo
- A decent in Mbanza-ngungu/Central Kongo
- Another decent in Moanda/Central Kongo

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All these are for an assessment of each city for the "Kongo Central Literacy" project; a project to establish literacy centers, then the organization of teacher training workshops, sector-by-sector mobilizations for the sale of books in Kikongo, and participation in radio and television channels to achieve high visibility. Next, the creation of a website and the initiative to present educational radio and television programs on literacy in the DRC; Organize conferences with young people to inspire them to take an interest in literacy and become instructors, because the mission needs strong and courageous young people.

In the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo:

- Number of illiterate people trained: 228 peoples, including 142 women and 86 men
- Number of adult educators trained: 84 peoples, including 50 women, 12 men, and 22 young people. Number of books printed : 350 literacy books.
- Number of certificates issued: 302 certificates issued.
- Number of new Bible readers: 200 peoples.
- Literacy manuals created: 0 manuals.

In Lubumbashi (CACEA Ministries) and southeast DRC:

- Number of illiterate people trained: 171 people
- Number of books printed: 250 literacy books.
- Number of certificates issued: over 150 certificates.
- Number of new Bible readers: approximately 140 readers.

In Kinshasa

- Number of illiterate people trained: 700 people
- Number of books printed: 1,500 books in Kikongo
- Number of new Bible readers: over 630 readers
- Number of major literacy centers currently operating: 3
- Number of churches established: 1 local church.

2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

Amount	Financions structure	Propose of financions	Observation
\$2500	<i>Literacy Evangelism International</i>	<i>Printing of Literacy Books</i>	<i>1,500 literacy books in Kikongo</i>
\$240	<i>Evangelical Baptist Community in Congo</i>	<i>Heath Assistance</i>	<i>Médical Consultation</i>
\$280	<i>Literacy Evangelism RDCongo</i>	<i>Sale of Literacy Manuels</i>	<i>28 pairs of books 1 & 2 in Lingala</i>

CONCLUSION

This annual report is a kind of message to all those who can support this work to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world through reading, as He recommends in Matthew 28:19-20; an imperative mission for all disciples. Thus, we have this duty to make people not only Christians but true disciples of Christ. It is easy, and many become Christians, but few become disciples. Beyond pastoral care and other ministries, literacy has a great role to play in our churches, our families, and other communities. Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit for all. Amen!

Literacy Evangelism DR Congo

MEA 2024

