

ANNUAL REPORT 2026

*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 -

REV. DR. SID RICE

Dear Ministry Partners:

In reading through the biblical narrative, we discover that God hears the voice of those who cry.

As we study Ishmael's Old Testament story in Genesis 21, we read, "And God heard the cry of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her... Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy" (Genesis 21:17). Appropriately, the translation of the name "Ishmael" literally means "God hears."

Again, in the New Testament, in John 20, the Bible tells of Mary Magdalene's first encounter with Jesus after his resurrection. "Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying... He [Jesus] asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" (John 20:11 & 15). Jesus heard Mary's weeping and graciously inquired about its cause.

At Literacy and Evangelism, when we close our eyes, we hear a billion people crying because they don't have the ability to read God's sacred word, the Bible, for themselves. Through the growing network of L&E organizations worldwide, we are expanding our ability to respond to the cry of the non-reader, the poorest of the poor.

I've participated in primer [new reader] construction projects in India, Nigeria, and Ghana. The most memorable was Ghana. During the team debrief at the end of our two weeks together, everyone shared appreciation for the linguistic expertise that we had brought to the project.

One woman shared through tears her heartfelt appreciation for the fact that we had created a tool that would allow her non-reading friend to read God's word for herself. God heard the tears of sorrow and joy.

I personally want to thank you for helping to respond to the cry of non-readers. Your investment has provided new readers with the ability to read the transforming message of Jesus Christ for themselves.

May God richly bless you for your faithful support as together we expand God's kingdom by enabling new readers to partake of God's written Word for themselves.

Honored to serve with you in God's kingdom work,



At LEI, we hear a billion people crying because they don't have the ability to read God's sacred word, the Bible, for themselves.

IMPACT

71,112
NEW BIBLE
READERS

995
TEACHERS
TRAINED

AFRICA

Teachers Trained: 444

LATIN AMERICA

Teachers Trained: 291

ASIA

Teachers Trained: 232

NORTH AMERICA

Teachers Trained: 28

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

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Newly Revised English Primer

For five decades, Firm Foundations, LEI's 7-book series designed to teach reading and writing to adults who speak English but cannot read or who read at a low level, has been an effective tool. A consistent lesson format allows volunteer tutors to use the curriculum after brief training.

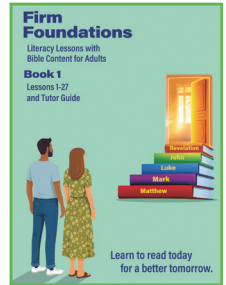
The Firm Foundations series introduces the name of Jesus in Lesson 5, while each subsequent lesson contains a story about Jesus or other biblical material. Scripture passages, read by the volunteer tutor to the learner, are included within each lesson. In addition, Book 3 consists of simplified Bible passages. As students learn to read, they also learn the Good News of Jesus.

This series was first published in 1976, revised in 1979, and again in 1989. Learners progress from the Pre-Reader, which introduces the alphabet and 40 of the most common words in English, to Books 1, 2, and 3. These books introduce additional vocabulary and give practice in reading and comprehension. Each of the three readers has a workbook that gives practice in writing, as well as exercises in grammar, numbers, math, maps, puzzles, and a variety of practical living skills.

Being widely separated geographically, our dedicated Task Force members worked for nearly five years via online video calls to thoroughly revise Firm Foundations. Using a survey developed by Dr. James Kigamwa, current and former Firm Foundations users were consulted as to the series' strengths and for areas of improvement needed.

This new edition includes color pictures, increased cultural and ethnic diversity, 10 more Bible stories (for a total of 36), and 10 additional Workbook lessons. Inductive Bible Study questions have been added, the Teaching Guide was improved, and a thorough review and revision of the nearly 100 lessons were conducted. A detailed Gantt chart and the Holy Spirit guided the work.

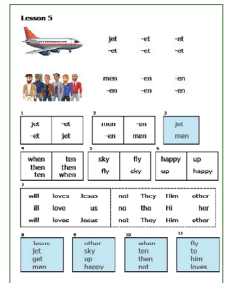
With appreciation to the 12 contributors who assisted in this Firm Foundations revision, we are especially indebted to Mr. Larry Buell, Dr. Melina Gallo, Mrs. Tanya Griffin, and Rev. Carey Jo Johnston, who worked to ensure Firm Foundations continues to impact lives for many years to come. Our prayer is that the Lord will take these books, bless them, and use them to help non-readers learn to read the written Word and come to know the Living Word – Jesus Christ. ~ by Bob Biederman



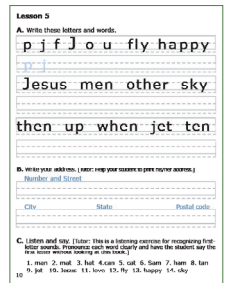
Cover Art:
Aaron Lawerteh



Pre-Reader



Lesson 5 introduces the name of Jesus.



Workbook Lesson 5

PRIMERS PRINTED

AFRICA

Lopka (Benin)

Maasai (Kenya)

Swahili (DRC)

Kabiye (Togo)

Anufo (Togo)

Kokhola (Malawi)

Nyiha (Malawi)

S. AMERICA

Portuguese (Brazil)

PERU

Jerry & Kathy Manus

EFATA is a ministry to the deaf in Peru that has a campus that includes classrooms, offices, and a meeting room used for a church serving the deaf. EVAL, the literacy ministry developed by Jerry and Kathy Manus, LEI missionaries in Peru, has now been granted permission to use space at EFATA as its base of operations.

“About two years ago, Kathy began adapting the LEI Spanish primer for use with the deaf. Kathy had been hoping to implement this method, but she needed to work with someone who used signing.” The Lord heard her cry.

“Julie and her husband Rusvel live at EFATA, where Rusvel pastors the church serving the deaf community.” Coincidentally, Julie had been trained to use the LEI method in one of Jerry’s literacy workshops some twenty years ago. “Julie had worked for years with a Baptist missionary, serving the deaf and teaching sign language. She had tried to apply the LEI Spanish primer for teaching reading to the deaf, but had no clear method.”

“Within minutes of their meeting, Kathy and Julie were making plans. In a day or two, they were working with a young deaf woman who is a reader, and she immediately began teaching a girl to read.”

Raquel joined the project. “Over a few days, the women fleshed out the beginnings of the method, modifying the LEI patten used with hearing students. Our hope and prayer is that Julie, Raquel, and others in the EFATA church will be able to serve non-reading deaf students using this newly adapted method.”

~ from Jerry Manus



Raquel, right, plans to begin teaching Miriam, using the LEI primer with the method for deaf students.

PRIMER CONSTRUCTION



Photo Courtesy: Carey Jo Johnston, L&E Canada

EFFUTU: LEI-USA's Penny Fetters attended the International Primer Construction Workshop (PCW) hosted by L&E Ghana, Sept. 24 through Oct. 17, 2025. This event involved participants from Benin, Canada, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, and the USA, who had already completed LEI's online Primer Construction training.

The PCW was held at the Presbyterian Women's Center in Abokobi, and was led by facilitators Carey Jo Johnston (L&E Canada) and Nat Nunoo (L&E Ghana).

At the request of the Bible Society of Ghana, the PCW was a hands-on primer

construction project for the Effutu language.

With the help of Effutu language speakers and Bible translators Emmanuel, Joe, and Rebecca, 82 lessons for the Effutu-Senya literacy primers were developed, including 12 health stories and 36 easy-to-read Bible stories.

At the close of the event, L&E Ghana Director, the Rev. Samuel Lawerteh, gave the team a charge and prayed for them. Special appreciation goes out to the L&E Ghana team for organizing this significant Bible-based primer construction event.



SERBIAN: Retired Literacy experts Georg and Martha Ort, L&E Canada's Carey Jo Johnston, L&E Ukraine's Vika, and others from Germany and Macedonia gathered in April 2025 to create a Bible-based literacy primer in the Serbian language.

LEI's Resources For The Nations

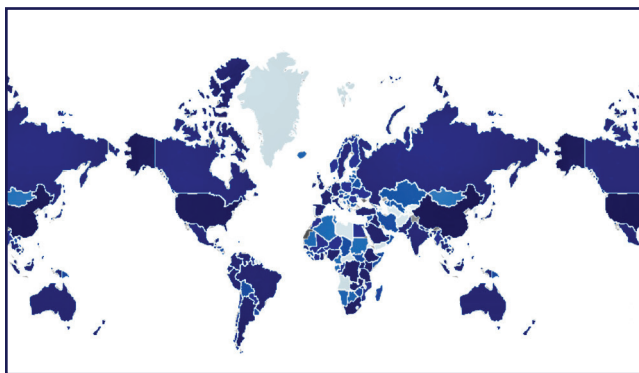
Online Distance-Learning Courses and Curriculum

In 2025

LEI Recorded

Individuals from **152** countries and territories
visited LEI's website.

526 PRIMERS in 151 LANGUAGES
were downloaded from the
LEI website at **NO CHARGE**.



*This map depicts
countries visiting LEI's
website in 2025.*

*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

LEI's Newly Revised Firm Foundations English Primer

is available for free digital download or for purchase on Amazon.

literacyevangelism.org/primers/english-literacy-firm-foundations

LEI Online Training



This past December, instructors and guests celebrated the accomplishments of the participants of Literacy & Evangelism International's 2025 Online Training with a special virtual graduation ceremony.

Dr. Rebecca Foote presented the program's student "vision" videos, and Dr. James Kigamwa shared an inspiring graduates' challenge. Twenty-eight graduates, representing 9 countries: Australia, Canada, Fiji, Ghana, Iraq, Kenya, Myanmar, Nigeria, and the USA, completed online courses from January to November.

We appreciate Dr. Foote and the 14 instructors for their achievements. Thank you, Dr. Foote, for your many years of serving LEI. We congratulate you on your retirement.

Online Training 2026

Literacy Tutor Training: Local Language

January 26 - March 20

Literacy Tutor Training: English

March 30 - May 15

Developing a Literacy Ministry

May 25 - June 19

Primer Construction: An Introduction

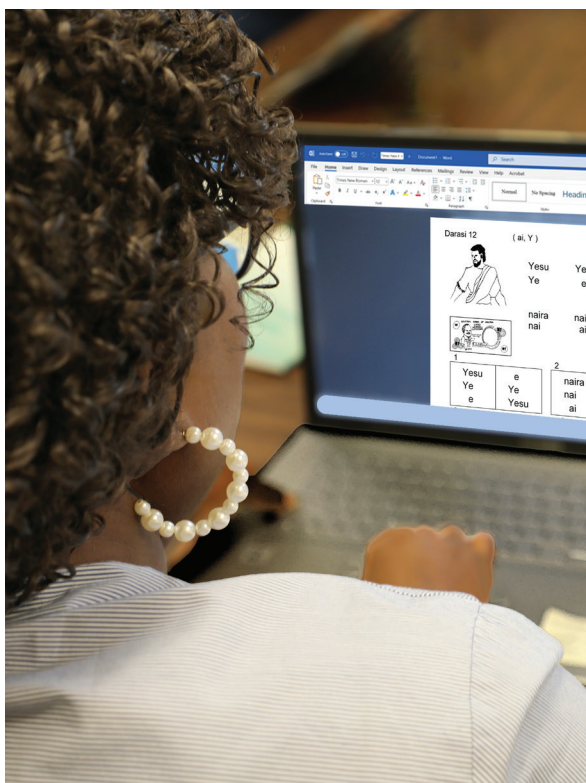
June 29 - July 17

Primer Construction: Nuts & Bolts

July 27 - September 4

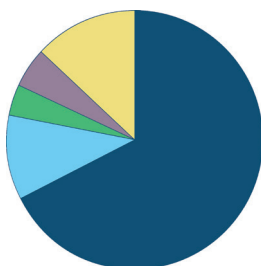
Desktop Publishing: An Introduction

September 14 - October 9



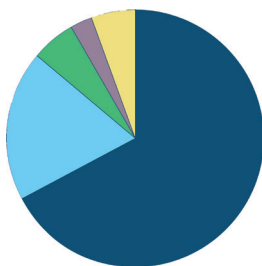
For more information visit
literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training.

Financial Report 2025*








INCOME

	Missionary Support	\$546,395	67%
	Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 86,674	11%
	Project Support	\$ 31,450	4%
	Operating Reserves	\$ 40,550	5%
	Other	<u>\$103,414</u>	13%
	TOTAL	\$808,483	



EXPENSES

	Missionary Support	\$610,917	76%
	Mission Mobilization & Ministry	\$170,074	21%
	Management & General	\$ 52,128	6%
	Communication & Publicity	\$ 24,447	3%
	From Reserves	<u>(\$ 49,083)</u>	(6%)
	TOTAL	\$808,483	

* Unaudited

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India

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Refugees

Mr. David Nabine
Director:
Africa

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

Bob, David, and Patty using LEI's newly-revised Firm Foundations, English Primer.



Literacy & Evangelism INTERNATIONAL



Photo Courtesy L&E Kenya

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