

Matthew 28:19



INTRODUCTION

According to John Wesley, "A people cannot grow in faith unless they have given themselves to the reading of the word of God. Aware of this truth, Literacy Evangelism Benin has invested in the literacy of the peoples of French-speaking Africa. Indeed, learning to read and write in local languages and French remains an undeniable vector for the communication of the Gospel in the French-speaking countries of Africa south of the Sahara where we witness every day jihadist attacks and the rise of religious fundamentalism. The literacy of Christians allows the daily reading of the word of God while that of non-Christians facilitates the reception of the Gospel.

THE 2021 LITERACY CAMPAIGN

1. TRAINING OF THE ACTORS OF THE LITERACY CAMPAIGN

The first three (3) months of 2021 were devoted to the preparation and training of the actors of the literacy campaign. These actors, who are in fact evangelists or pastors and literacy teachers, made up two teams, one for Lokpa language speakers and the other for Yom language speakers. The Lokpa team of 57 participants was trained in February in the village of Gaounga and the Yom team of 45 participants was trained in March in the city of Djougou. The objective of these trainings was to provide the actors with the tools and knowledge necessary for the proper conduct of the literacy campaign.



Picture of the presentation of certificates to pastors and members of the Lokpa literacy office



Picture of the presentation of certificates to pastors and members of the YOM literacy office

During these trainings we were blessed by the testimony of some former pastors to encourage the young people who start the activity.

Testimony of Pastor Paul Idjalawé

My name is Paul and most of you call me dean because I have been serving the Lord as an evangelist and pastor for over forty (40) years. Today the Church considers me theoretically as a retiree but I consider myself as an active person because in the service of the Lord retirement is in heaven, more precisely in Paradise. During these years of service I understood very early that after the Bible, the syllabaries constituted the second most important physical work tool of my ministry just as the hoe and the cutter are for a farmer of our country. As a door-to-door evangelist, I never went without my Bible and syllabaries. The literacy sessions were a bridge that allowed me to establish trust with the learner in order to evangelize. With my literacy hat on, I have always been welcomed in both Muslim and animist families. My great motivation is to teach a person to read in order to bring him to Christ. Currently I am continuing this ministry and teaching a group of Muslims to read in the village of Ananiga in the arrondissement of Bariénou, commune of Djougou.

Testimony of Pastor Salomon of the Fooyoo Church

My name is Solomon, pastor of Fooyoo Church, but what I want to tell you happened at the Tokotoko village evangelistic station where I was sent as the first evangelist. My first years there were dark and unsuccessful. The majority of the population being Muslim, my evangelization efforts did not bear fruit. The opening of literacy classes with the youth of the village opened the door for me to establish a place of worship. Today when I visit this village I am happy to see that not only do the literacy activities continue, but also that it is the youth who attended my first classes who are leading the activities in this place of worship. I encourage you young pastors and evangelists to consider the ministry of literacy as an integral part of your ministry.



Pastor Paul and Pastor Salomon during their testimony

2. LITERACY CLASSES IN THE VILLAGES

During the months of March, April and May, we traveled to 37 villages to follow the progress of literacy activities. Leocadie gave herself to the training of women on hygiene and nutrition for children and we organized together workshops for the training of teachers.



Visit to the literacy centers



Visit to the literacy centers

3. ASSESSMENT OF LEARNERS

To close the literacy campaign in Lokpa and Yom 2021, a series of evaluations of the centers took place during the months of May and June 2021.

The methodology consisted in proposing assessment tests in four disciplines, namely writing, arithmetic, dictation and oral reading, taking into account the level of each center. These tests were administered to learners in each center. One day was set aside per center for the evaluation. At the end of the day, the literacy teacher and the project manager were responsible for correcting and announcing the results. It should be noted that each learner wrote in his or her own place of training.



Evaluation of learners in the village of Bantoko



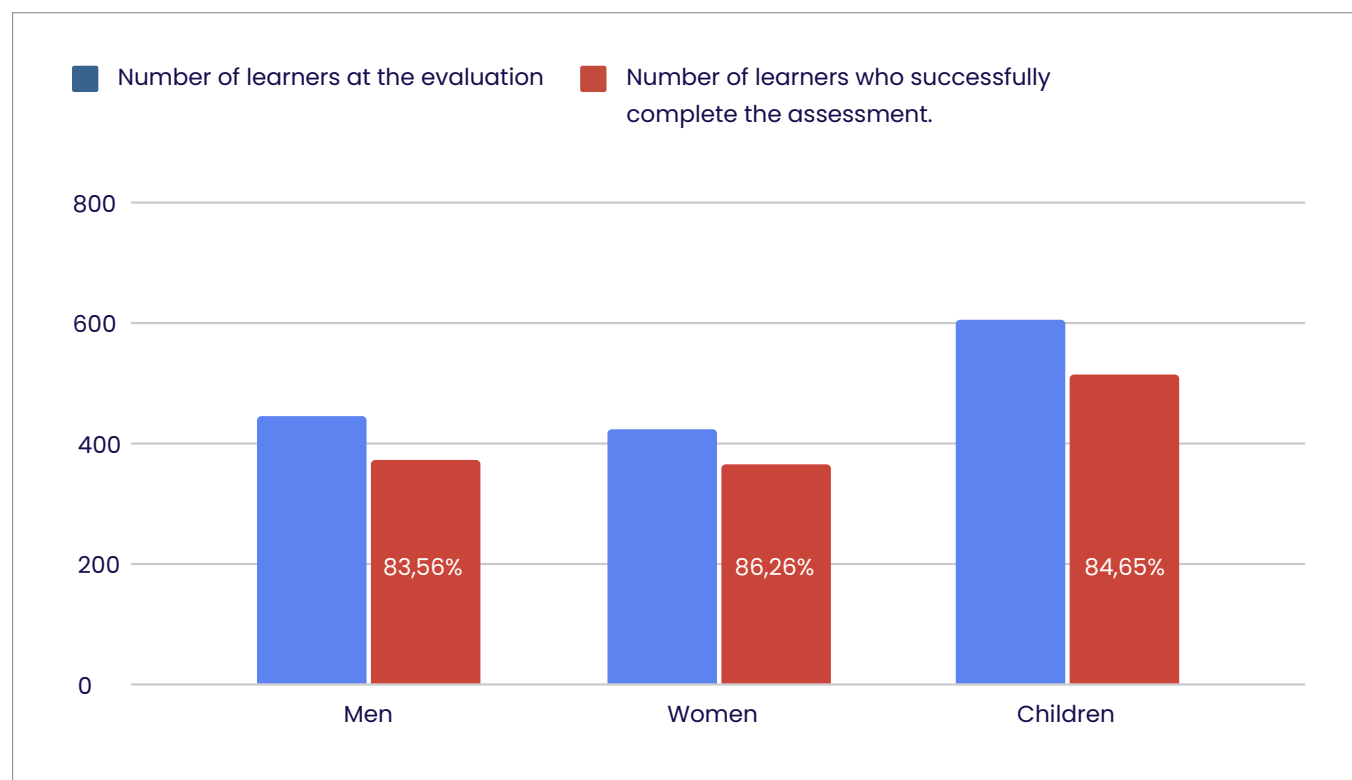
At the end of this process, here are the results by composition center.

Municipalities	No	Villages	Number of learners at the evaluation				Number of learners who successfully complete the assessment.			
			Men	Women	Children	Total	Men	Women	Children	Total
Bassila	1	Kprèkètè	15	12	12	39	8	13	17	38
	2	Aléjo	15	8	11	34	10	5	9	24
	3	Kikélé-Lokpa	12	23	34	69	10	21	25	56
	4	Odokpakou	11	6	14	31	7	5	9	21
	5	Apïi	10	12	27	49	8	10	25	43
	6	Kalaaji	20	39	17	76	17	38	16	71
	7	Frignon	10	7	13	30	9	7	11	27
	9	Owodè	4	8	23	35	4	8	19	31
Bantè	10	Kouloubou	21	17	23	61	18	13	19	50
Djougu	11	Bio-Sika	17	10	14	41	15	9	13	37
	12	Djakpèngou	21	9	15	45	18	8	10	36
	13	Mendjénaga	5	7	9	21	3	5	7	15
	14	Gnori	8	5	10	23	6	5	10	21
	15	Ananniga Lokpa	11	5	13	29	8	3	12	23
	16	Massi	17	21	24	62	15	18	21	54
	17	fooyoo	13	12	27	52	9	8	23	40
	18	Sisi Fooyo	14	8	17	39	12	5	14	31
	19	Partago	16	6	15	37	13	4	12	29
	20	Tokotoko lokpa	10	7	16	33	8	5	14	27
	21	Bantoko	12	9	14	35	10	6	12	28
	22	Manfoka	7	7	12	26	7	6	11	24
	23	Angara	10	13	25	48	10	13	18	41
	24	Wèwè 2	20	39	17	76	17	36	16	69

Copargo	25	Kpélaga	8	16	27	51	7	14	23	44
	26	Kafaaga	7	8	10	25	5	6	8	19
	27	Kakouprè	15	7	10	32	13	6	8	27
	28	Koubokoubourè	6	11	35	52	8	10	25	43
Ouaké	29	Kadolassi	7	10	14	31	7	8	12	27
	30	Bajoudè	9	7	12	28	7	6	11	24
	31	Djalinga	10	11	15	36	9	10	12	31
Tchaourou	32	Tokobio	19	13	20	52	17	10	19	46
	33	Kpaawa	7	10	14	31	6	8	12	26
	34	Téoukpara	8	5	10	23	6	5	10	21
	35	Kpessou –Samari	18	14	23	55	16	13	20	49
Bembéréké	36	Bembéréké lokpa	24	12		36	22	10		32
Parakou	37	Banikaani	7	8	14	29	6	7	10	23
TOTAL			444	422	606	1472	371	364	513	1248

Table of results of the evaluation of the 2021 Lokpa literacy campaign

Analysis of the results



Results of the evaluation of the 2021 Lokpa literacy campaign

From the analysis of the results it appears that the overall success rate is about 85%. Women came first with 86.26% while men and children came first with 83.56% and 84.65% respectively. Reading is the major difficulty for learners who did not pass the assessment. Since reading ability is the main concept taught by literacy teachers, it is the main pillar of the assessment. Indeed, the overall objective of the whole process is to bring the learner not only to perceive the world around him, but especially to give him the ability to read the Bible.

Because of the rural exodus of young people to Nigeria and Niger, we did not bother to present the situation of the number of enrolled students at the opening of the courses.

The difficulties encountered

The first difficulty was the monitoring of literacy centers, especially those whose villages are not located on the edge of practicable roads. Then followed the lack of adequate equipment such as blackboards in the new centers, and the lack of teachers in the centers where the number of enrolled students is very high.

At the end of the evaluation process, we had the opportunity to collect some testimonials from the learners.

Alfara Clarisse OF Kalaaji

Upon his arrival in our village, the evangelist informed us of his desire to help us learn to read in Lokpa, our mother tongue. My curiosity and desire to learn to read in my mother tongue led me to join his class. At the end of each class the evangelist read a text from the Bible. It was through these readings that I listened to the word of God and one evening I accepted Jesus as my savior and Lord. Actually my husband and I were animists and we recently came to this village in search of fertile land since we are farmers.



Thanks to these literacy classes, I can read fluently. I just bought a Bible and every night I read it out loud so that my children and husband can listen. My husband and children are currently following me in church and my husband has given himself to learning to read. I have committed to teaching my first three children to read and the Bible.

Abraham Benedict of Kalaaji

At a very young age I dropped out of formal school in the second grade (3 years old in elementary school). This early dropout did not allow me to learn to read and write. My husband and I were non-practicing Christians in the Catholic Church before we came to this village. The opening of literacy classes at the church has facilitated our integration into this evangelical church. Now I can read and write in Lokpa, my mother tongue.



I have a Bible that we read as a family. In terms of responsibilities, I teach other women in our church who want to learn to read and write in Lokpa. I have become the first women's leader of this local church. I attend the different regional meetings and I give them the reports of these meetings. In addition, I keep the register of their activities at the local level.

Kahampaou Tchilaalou

I came from Togo to seek healing in this village of Tokotoko in Benin. In spite of the care of the traditional healers, I could not obtain satisfaction. It was then that a brother of this church asked me to come to the church so that the faithful and the pastor pray for me. After several prayer sessions were held for me, I was healed. In order to get a perfect and spiritual healing, the pastor asked me to enroll in a literacy course to learn how to read the Bible.



I enrolled and I can read and write now. Today I read the Bible every day and I am not afraid of sickness and death anymore because I discovered in this Bible that death is a gain. I have committed myself to tell my loved ones about the gospel so that they will know the salvation I have received.

PRINTING OF LOKPA AND FULANI PRIMERS

The year 2021 began with the printing of Book 2 of the Lokpa primers. This has facilitated the literacy program in the villages as indicated in our report. The Lord continued to bless the ministry as in November we obtained funding to print 1000 copies of book 1 and 1000 copies of book 2 of the Fulani primers for a total of 2000 copies. Promotion began in December.



Fulani primers, Book 1 & Book 2



Distribution of the Fulani primers in the forecourt of the Evangelical Church of Boukoussera

OUTLOOK FOR 2022

For 2022, Literacy Benin plans to revitalize literacy activities in the Lokpa, Yom and mainly Fulani areas, which have recently been plagued by religious fundamentalism and Islamic radicalization. In addition to conducting this new campaign, Literacy Benin wants to develop the Sola language primers in 2022.

We invite you to discover our entire program of activities for the year 2022 via the following link: <https://bit.ly/2022literacybeninprogram>

FINANCIAL REPORT OF LITERACY BENIN

	Amount	Comments
Contribution from the Ministry of the Awolou Family account	\$3,084	Church planting, Monitoring and supervision of literacy classes
Contribution of local churches	\$1,700	This is an estimate of the funds used by the churches to feed the participants in the different TTWs.
Contribution from LEI Tulsa	\$5,000	Printing of 1000 copies of book 1 and 1000 copies of book 2 of the Fulani primers and promotion of the primers.
Contribution of Literacy Benin's partners – first part	\$2,000	Printing of 1000 copies of book 2 of the Lokpa primers.
The storeroom	\$635	This is the amount of primers sold. It will be used for reprinting.
Contribution of Literacy Benin's partners – second part	\$5,000	Pre-financing of Literacy Benin's program of activities for the year 2022
Total	\$17,419	

CONCLUSION

We thank the Lord for the completion of the literacy activities for the year 2021 and we ask you to continue to pray for the learners so that the flame that is lit for the desire to read the Bible will never be extinguished.

"The most bruised men, the most naked men, the most hungry men, and who are doomed to delinquency, the men who are sick and imprisoned in their minds and souls are the illiterates of this planet... At least a billion people in this world are virtual slaves... hungry, controlled, sick, and are frightened by educated men and by the devil and his retinue." Frank C. Laubach (1884-1970).