

# 2020 Annual Report

## Ministry During A Pandemic

**“COVID is not a limit,  
it is an opportunity!”**

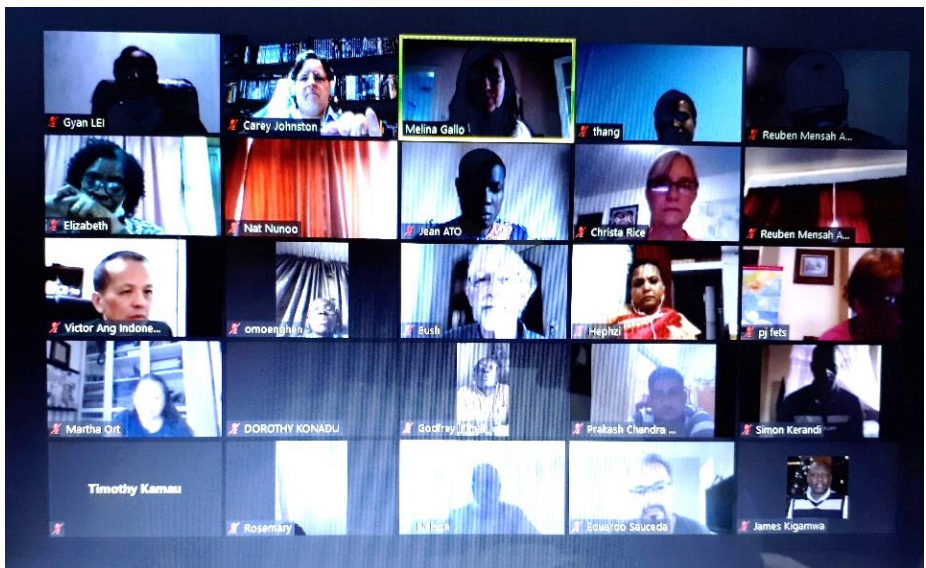


**“We do not want you to be uninformed... We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure ... But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who ... has delivered us from such a deadly peril... On him we have set our hope ... as you help us by your prayers.” 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 (excerpts)**

## Ministry during a Pandemic

Byron, director for LAMP in Guatemala, says it best. “COVID is not a limit, it is an opportunity!” When the Corona Virus struck the world, many governments shutdown in-person gatherings. This affected literacy classes, ESL classes, and training courses here in Canada, as well as with our international partners. But this did not stop ministry from continuing! Praise God that he had already been preparing Literacy & Evangelism globally to do training and classes via on-line courses and classes. Where on-line classes were not possible, classes adapted when permitted to COVID safe protocols. In this report we share how your prayers and partnership have kept ministry happening during the pandemic.

### The look of training during 2020



“COVID is not a limit, it is an opportunity!” – Byron, Director for LAMP in Guatemala

# Canada

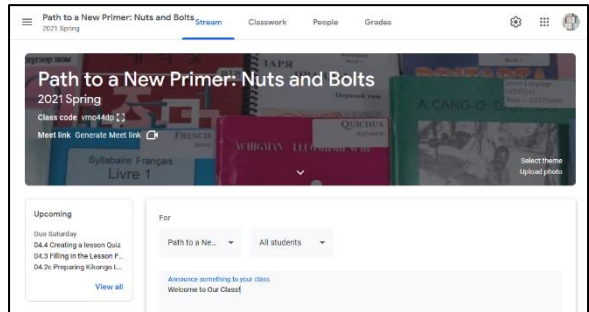


## Training in 2020

In partnership with LEI-USA, Carey Jo Johnston developed 2 on-line facilitator led Primer Construction Courses on Google Classroom. She facilitated both during 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020.

Then, it became clear that the in-person, 3-week International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI) in Tulsa, Oklahoma would be cancelled because of COVID.

Instead we would have a 3-week on-line ILTI. Carey Jo assisted by helping to adapt the courses for a 3-week intensive format. She co-facilitated the 2 Primer Construction courses and the Inductive Bible Study course. 27 trainees participated from all across the globe.



## Sharing the Vision in Churches

When in-person services were allowed, Rev. Carey Jo Johnston shared the LEI ministry at partnering churches.

## 40 Days of Prayer



We continued our *40 Days of Prayer* during Lent. Weekly emails highlighting specific prayer items were sent to the people who registered to receive them. (We had a 28% increase in participation from the previous year).

## Primer Construction

While our Canadian missionary, Carey Jo Johnston, did not travel to help develop primers, she has supported groups in our Member Nation partners in their primer construction efforts through video calls and editing via email. She continued to work with the A primer in Ethiopia. These books are almost ready for printing. She assisted with several primers in Ghana (see below). Also, she helped with the Y primer in Brazil...



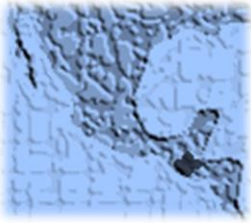
For many years, the AEI (LEI-Brazil) Member Nation team has been praying to prepare literacy primers in indigenous tribal languages in Brazil. A primer construction workshop was planned for March 2020 with the Y tribe who lives in the Amazon. Then COVID! But the AEI team was not to be stopped! They began working with Mary\*, their missionary contact with the Y tribe, via Facebook Video Chat. From late March to early

December, the team worked with Mary several mornings each week to guide her through writing the Y language lessons. In August, Primer Construction Consultant Carey Jo Johnston, Managing Director LEI-Canada, and Penny Feters, LEI missionary to Latin America, occasionally joined the calls to mentor the AEI Brazil team in primer construction. So far, the group has completed the 32 original story lessons of the 82-lesson primer. After a break over Christmas, Mary has worked on editing the translated health and Bible stories. So, from the south of Brazil, through Florida, and north to Canada, dedicated servants of God join via Facebook Video Chat to bring literacy to the Y people so they can read the Word of God and know Jesus for themselves. *Note: Y - Name abbreviated for security reasons. \*Name changed for security reasons.*

# Ministry Partners

## RESTART Literacy Classes Fund

Many of our international partners suffered greatly during the pandemic. We began a “Restart Literacy Classes” fund to assist with reopening requirements (i.e. masks, sanitizer, etc).



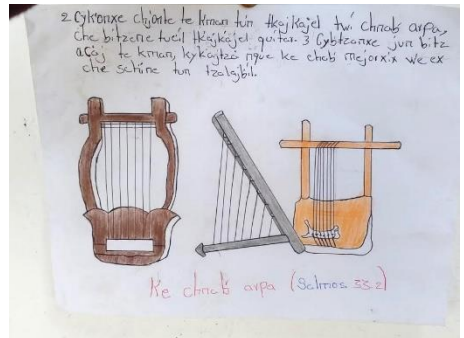
## Latin America

### Guatemala

**LAMP** <http://www.lampliteracy.org/>

Our national missionary, Director Brian Feliz in Comitancillo, and staff Maria, Herminio. and Eliceo, continue to promote Mam literacy during the pandemic. While not able to have in-person classes or training, Byron has continued Bible studies for radio, and preaching in Mam on Social Media platforms. They had contests for children and families for reading Mam Bible verses and sending in drawings. The Mam Facebook Live broadcasts went beyond Guatemala... One day a

man came to Byron's door and handed him some money with this story... *My son has been listening to your Mam program in the USA on Facebook Live and wanted you to have this money for your internet expenses. Also he sent me a boombox. I am setting up the boombox on my patio. People are coming to sit in my cornfield so they are not too close together. Then we “have church” by listening to your preaching on the radio.*





## Guatemala City



- Yovany & Esmeralda Hernandez (daughters Rachel and Rebecca)

National missionaries Yovany and Esmeralda in Guatemala City had to suspend their in-person training and classes because of COVID.

*"We are still serving the Lord using technology – in which our daughters Rachel and Rebecca are helping us use – with teachings and praying meetings with the brothers and sisters of our church and the literacy volunteers."*

They continue to prepare for post-COVID opportunities and to pray.

## Colombia - Carolina Perdomo



Carolina traveled to Venezuela to help develop literacy primers for the Yukpa people. While she was there... COVID shutdowns! She also contracted COVID. She has recovered and continues to work as she can on the literacy primer and support the Bible Translation team with the pandemic restrictions.





# Africa

## Malawi –

Supporting literacy in Malawi as Maxwell Mpitanyanga trains teachers in Lambya, Chewa, Yao and Sena languages. Revised Chewa primers are ready to print. Many classes were on-hold because of COVID. However, as they are able to reopen, they are using masks and sanitizer partially funded by our Restart Literacy Classes Fund.



From Maxwell... “We went to the Chambuluka literacy centre. Fourteen literacy classes came together for certificates presentations.



Sixty four students receive their certificates on this day. These classes were not closed during covid-19.

This centre has a successful story. Twelve of the classes are taught by the first students. Only two teachers are the first teachers we trained. The rest of them were trained by Henry Katandika who is a Trainer of Teachers of the area.”



(Picture 3 of the students who are now teachers.)

## Ghana –

### Supporting Literacy & Evangelism Ghana –

The Ghana staff continued to develop primers. They started and/or completed Ga, Ewe, Akuapem, and Mfantse languages. Rev. Carey Jo Johnston assisted in reviewing and editing materials via email.

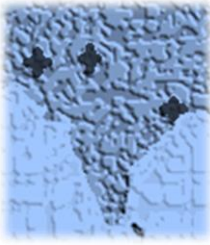


During the On-line Intensive ILTI in September, they hosted a co-hort of 5 trainees. They gave them technical and training support during the very intensive 3 weeks. Ghana missionaries also co-facilitate the on-line courses.

Ghana missionaries led teacher trainings in various language groups and with the Pentecostal Denomination in Ghana as COVID restrictions allowed.







# India

Supporting the work of Gyan Mochary, literacy consultant in northeast India.



Gyan reports, "In 2020, Covid-19 has stagnated the literacy ministry but God continues to work in the lives of the people."

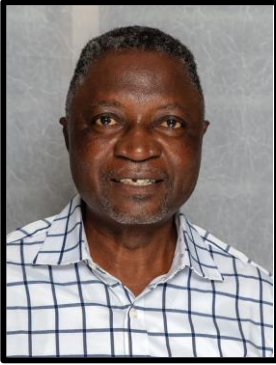
From non-readers and non-believers to readers and believers... from a literacy class a church is born...

In 2009, literacy /health workers S. and her husband R. started 3 literacy classes in Northeast India using LEI literacy books along with holding a tuition centre for kids plus a health/hygiene awareness program. Then at the end of 2009 they started a small house fellowship with a few neo-literate women with their immediate family members numbering 12 altogether. Currently, the house fellowship has 16 families with 32 baptized members and regular attendance of 55 adults. This church also wanted to share the Gospel with others.

So, in 2020, they reached out to a nearby forest village with the Gospel. As a result, 8 families from other faith have come to the Lord and a new church has been established with 30 members. Thank God!



# In Memoriam...



Our dear friend and partner in literacy ministry, Pastor Nzongo Sila-Ndunda, passed this life in December 2020. The investment he made in others has changed countless lives, bringing many the gift of literacy and eternal salvation.

"Among any missionaries, Sila stands tall. Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sila committed his life to the Lord at an early age. People in his church were so impressed with his dedication that they called him 'Timothée' after the youth Timothy in the Bible who worked with the apostle Paul.

"In 1989, Dr. Robert F. Rice came to Africa from Literacy & Evangelism International to direct the writing of the literacy primer in Lingala, the most widely-spoken language in Congo. Sila was one of the two writers of that primer. It was then that he caught the vision for literacy evangelism. "Sila worked with literacy in his mother tongue Kikongo, and in Lingala, Kituba, Tshiluba, and Congolese Swahili. He taught illiterate adults himself, trained teachers and supervisors, and trained teacher-trainers. He traveled all over the Congo for literacy, including Pygmy areas. He encouraged the Pygmies to settle in villages and grow their own food instead of wandering from place to place 'hunting and gathering.' And many of them did; they loved Pastor Sila. He went to Angola, Congo-Brazzaville, Ghana, Uganda, and more for primer construction and teacher-training workshops.

"Sila was humble and almost fearless. He followed God's direction, no matter what the danger. Once he entered a soldiers' camp, a place where visitors are not welcome. He told the men there, 'Your business is death, but mine is bringing life, life through Jesus Christ.' Because of this encounter, some of those soldiers became Christians.

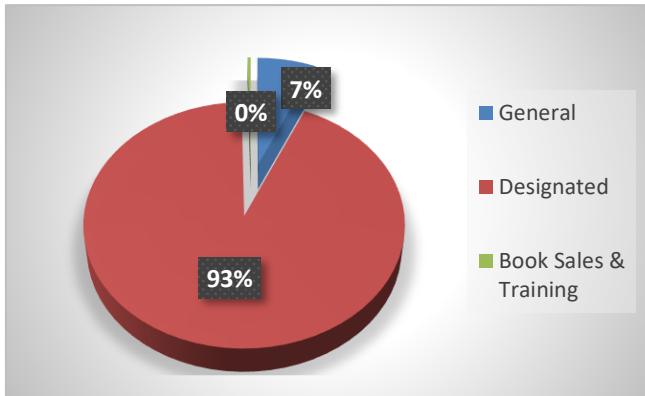
"Sila set a goal of teaching 1,200,000 people to read and write, through himself and all the other teachers trained in the literacy program, and to bring 1,000,000 to Christ by December 31, 2019. That date marked

30 years of his literacy ministry. He actually surpassed this goal by far. Sila's ministry made great strides against illiteracy. He was much loved."

--By Joan Lovekin,  
retired LEI missionary  
to DRC

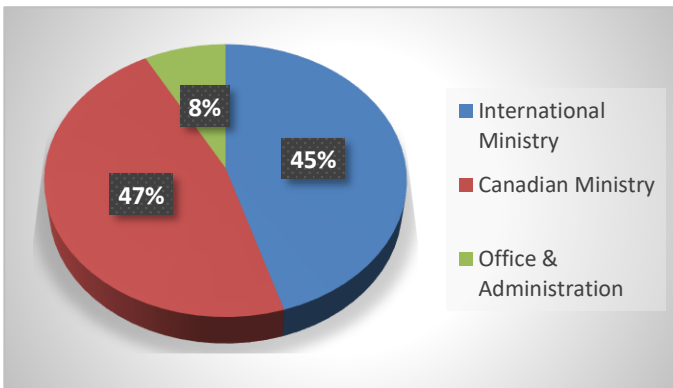


# 2020 Financials



## Income:

|                       |              |                     |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| General               | -            | \$ 1,973.85 (7%)    |
| Designated            | -            | \$ 28,032.54 (93%)  |
| Book Sales & Training | -            | \$ 101.41 (.3%)     |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME.</b>  | <b>.....</b> | <b>\$ 30,107.80</b> |
| Retained Earnings     | <b>.....</b> | <b>\$ 16,972.76</b> |



## Expenses:

|                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| International Ministry:         | \$ 10,725.00 (45%)  |
| Canada Ministry:                | \$ 11,102.35 (47%)  |
| Curriculum Printing             | \$ 62.05            |
| Public Relations                | \$ 64.40            |
| Other                           | \$ 650.73           |
| Payroll                         | \$ 10,293.78        |
| Office & Admin.                 | \$ 1,889.65 (8%)    |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....</b> | <b>\$ 23,713.61</b> |

# The Mission

Literacy & Evangelism International equips the Church to share the message of Jesus Christ through the gift of reading and conversational English.

## 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 that expand the mission of LEI.

### Canadian Board of Directors in 2020:

Sharon Hionides – President  
Nancy Warwick-Kingdon – Vice-President  
Ruth Russell – Treasurer  
Carey Jo Johnston – Secretary,  
Managing Director  
Lori Martin – Board Member  
Richard Powell-Brown – Board Member



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