

# LITERACY & EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL

1967 - 2017

*"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,  
His power, and the wonders He has done."*

PSALM 78:4B NIV



## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

## THE MISSION

Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI) equips the Church to share the message of Jesus Christ through the gift of reading.

## 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 to expand the mission of LEI.

*Photo on page 1: Vintage photo of the late Dr. Robert Rice in Indonesia, using one of the first LEI Bible-content primers to teach a woman how to read.*

*Literacy & Evangelism International*



# Message from the President



Dear LEI Shareholders:

This past year has been an incredible time to celebrate what God has done through Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI) over the past 50 years. We have preliminary results from a 50-year evaluation contained within this annual report that validate the strategic focus of the mission. Also highlighted are new curricula and training events that comprise

the annual rhythm of LEI's mission.

We resonate with the words of the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, “**Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope...** It is a wall against poverty and a building block of development. Literacy is a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and national identity. Especially for girls and women, it is an agent of family health and nutrition... Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.”

The mission of Literacy & Evangelism International is all of the above and more. We reach out with the two hands of the gospel. We lift new readers out of the socially crippling darkness of illiteracy, and, even more importantly, LEI shares the sacred message of eternal hope which is found in knowing Jesus.

Thank you for joining with us in lifting new readers out of poverty in this world, and the next, by sharing the hope found in Jesus Christ, as we “tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done” (Psalm 78:4b, NIV).

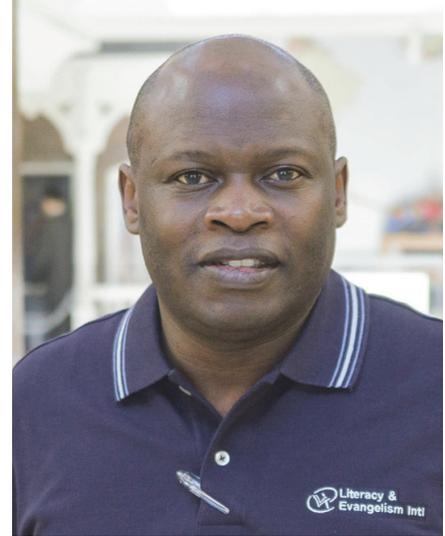
Always your grateful brother,

Reverend Doctor Sid Rice

# 50 Year Evaluation Report Summary

*Dr. James Kigamwa, Managing Director of Africa and Research*

**A Literacy & Evangelism International 50th year global evaluation** was recently led by Dr. James Kigamwa, LEI's Managing Director of Africa and Research. The purpose of this project was to collect information regarding the global impact of LEI's ministry. Data were compiled from: online surveys administered globally and interviews with literacy tutors from Kenya, Malawi, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and the US, and with learners. Observations of existing literacy classes were undertaken in Malawi and Benin. Direct interviews with graduates of the International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI) were conducted in Kenya, Malawi, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and the US, while literacy classes were visited in Malawi and Benin. The findings reveal a vibrant program with an estimated **1,935,668 people taught to read** over the last three decades, mainly in Asia, Africa, and South America. Graduates from the yearly International Literacy Training Institute held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, reported having conducted 2,521 literacy workshops that trained 59,037 tutors and trainers. Globally, at least 710,983 individuals have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior through the programs, and 17,724 churches have been planted, mainly in Asia and Africa. Together with ministry partners and associates, LEI has printed and distributed more than 1,415,500 Bible-content primers over the last three decades. Though the figures reflect the impact of LEI's global work, they were drawn from **a small sample** of LEI missionaries, associates, and partners who responded to the global survey that was circulated to all International Literacy Training Institute graduates from the last three decades. The impact of Literacy & Evangelism International's ministry over the past five decades has been far-reaching and effective. Acquiring literacy skills empowers marginalized people to become productive and influential contributors in their families and communities.



# Celebrating Longevity with LEI



## JERRY & KATHY MANUS - 20 + years with LEI

It was about 1993. We had made our last student loan payments. In the meantime, we had discovered the work of LEI. This got our attention: Most of the world's people have the Bible in print, but up to half cannot read it. In the fall of '94 we attended LEI's Fall Literacy Institute, were trained and accepted as members. Three years later we moved to Peru where my parents were still working on translating the New Testament for the Urarina, a people group with few readers. Literacy was the next step for putting the Bible into use, not only for the Urarina but for other tribal groups as well. In order to be able to promote Bible reading among tribal groups, we directed the writing of LEI's literacy primers in three minority languages, one of those with the help of LEI's founder, Dr. Robert Rice. Since then we have trained hundreds of volunteer teachers, both in Spanish and in tribal languages, to use the LEI method to teach reading and to share God's Word. We have seen many students put their faith in Jesus Christ as we taught them to read and write.

*from Jerry Manus, Peru*

## GEORG & MARTHA ORT - 20 years with LEI

The fall of 1997 was a significant time for us, marking the beginning of a new chapter in our lives. We had finished 17 years in serving through health-care ministries in Asia. Coming to the United States with our family, we expected to find employment in the health-care sector. But God opened a unique door of ministry with Literacy & Evangelism International. A former missionary colleague, Rev. John Taylor, then president of LEI, encouraged us to make the shift from helping people with physical eye problems, to helping them see with their "spiritual eyes," enabling them to read the Scripture. Being involved in helping non-readers acquire the ability to read, and sharing the Gospel with them in the process, has been exciting and fulfilling over the past 20 years. We hope to continue in this worthy ministry for years to come, to see many who were once illiterate read God's Word, the Bible, for themselves; and watch many come to know Christ as Savior and Lord, and grow in their faith.



*from Georg Ort, Europe Director*

# EXPANDING RESOURCES TO THE NATIONS

“Overseas Literacy Teacher Training” prepares you to teach people to read and write in their native (non-English) language, using LEI methods and primers. The class is taught in English.

<https://www.literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training/overseas-non-english-literacy-teacher-training-online>

“How to Use Video Calls to Tutor Literacy and English” is a two-hour, instructor-led, interactive webinar developed and led by Dr. Melina Gallo.

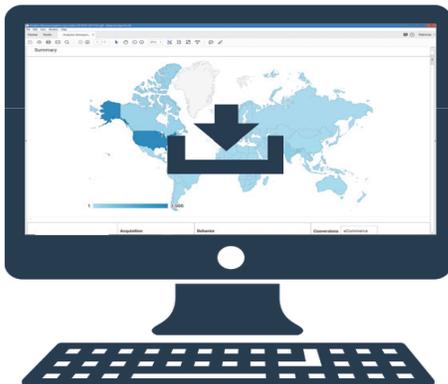
<https://www.literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training/how-use-video-calls-tutor-literacy-and-english-online>

Another newly-released, FREE, online course hosted through our partners at Crosswired.com is

“Introduction to Mother Tongue Literacy.” This self-paced course talks about the impact of illiteracy and introduces LEI’s approach to sharing the love of Jesus through the gift of reading.

<https://www.literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training/introduction-mother-tongue-literacy-online>

In 2017, the LEI website became our “front door.”



People from  
**137** countries visited LEI’s website,  
a **47%** IP hit increase from the previous  
year, where patrons found  
**208** primers digitally available.  
**500+** primers were downloaded  
for free.

# NEW PRIMER CONSTRUCTION

## AFRICA

Fula (Guinea Bissau) Final Edit

Gurune (Ghana) Complete

Kagulu (Tanzania) Final Edit

Kupsabiny (Uganda) Final Edit

LuSamia (Uganda) Final Edit

Samburu (Kenya) Primer Construction Complete

Tangale (Nigeria) Final Edit

## ASIA

Mru (Bangladesh) Complete

Magahi (India) Primer Construction Complete

Rajbanshi (India) Final Edit

## EUROPE

Macedonian (Macedonia) Complete

90 LEI post-primer booklets, called shell books, are available in English for translation into other languages, hosted on <https://bloomlibrary.org>.



*Pat Lindsay (center) led a Firm Foundations class at the Africa Literacy Training Institute in Accra, Ghana, training attendees to teach non-readers how to read and write.*

# PRIMER CONSTRUCTION, SOUTH ASIA

A long-awaited Primer Construction Workshop was sandwiched in between two very important literacy events in Southern Asia this past year. In late November 2017, T. L. (LEI Managing Director: Latin America and Southern Asia), G.M., and M.K. orchestrated the first All Literacy Partner Meet for that region. In this meeting, three significant long-term literacy partners gathered to build closer relationships and discuss strategies for literacy ministry.

After this, in the first two weeks of December, M.K. hosted the Primer Construction Workshop, always an intensive experience. G.M. led the primer construction team to successfully complete the new books in the limited two weeks allotted.

Then, following the primer's construction, six men and seventeen women were trained to use the primer to teach others. This Teacher Training Workshop helped the primer construction team test the recently constructed primer and teaching guide.

We are thankful for the success of these three important events. We look forward to 2018 to discover the multiplication effect of these new teachers and literacy materials, as the gift of literacy is shared with love.



*Primer Construction and Teacher Training Workshop*

# LITERACY TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

## EUROPE

Teachers Trained: 41

Bulgaria  
Romania



## AFRICA

Teachers Trained: 390

Angola  
Benin  
Burundi  
DR Congo  
Ghana  
Guinea Bissau  
Malawi

## ASIA

Teachers Trained: 4,780

Bangladesh  
India  
Malaysia  
Mongolia  
Philippines  
S. Korea



## THE AMERICAS

Teachers Trained: 174

Canada  
Cuba  
Guatemala  
Peru  
USA



## UNDISCLOSED REGIONS

Teachers Trained: 262

## NEW BIBLE READERS

AFRICA	2,421
ASIA	11,837
EUROPE	574
LATIN AMERICA	1,375
NORTH AMERICA	12
UNDISCLOSED LOCATIONS	90

## WORLDWIDE

TEACHERS TRAINED  
**5,647**

NEW BIBLE READERS  
**16,309**

*\*These statistics represent only a fraction of all who are learning to read using LEI's materials. Since our trainings and materials are shared freely online, the full global impact is impossible to determine.*

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE MINISTRY WORKSHOPS

## ASIA

Teachers Trained: 1

## AFRICA

Teachers Trained: 19

## NORTH AMERICA

Teachers Trained: 32

## LATIN AMERICA

Teachers Trained: 19



## WORLDWIDE

TEACHERS  
TRAINED

71



sehen, hören, verstehen

DER DEUTSCHKURS MIT BOTSCHAFT



## GERMAN AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

### Sehen, Hören, Verstehen, der Deutschkurs mit Botschaft

New German as a Second Language materials (student book and teacher's guide) written by Sarah Müller, are now available for free download from the LEI website.

<https://www.literacyevangelism.org/primers/gsl-german-second-language>

# INTERNATIONAL LITERACY TRAINING INSTITUTE



## ILTI 2017

The International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI), initiated years ago by Dr. Robert Rice, provides training opportunities that share a wealth of information regarding best practices in literacy evangelism. Each summer, literacy champions from around the globe gather at LEI's training center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA, for five weeks of intensive training.

Originally called the Fall Literacy Institute, which was 11 weeks long, these training sessions ran from early September through mid-November. Eventually, in the new millennium, Fall Literacy Institutes were compacted into a five or six-week program. These gatherings became known as the International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI). To this day participants are inspired by the fellowship, instruction, prayer, Bible study, and worship experienced in the loving, multi-cultural setting of ILTI in which life-long friendships are forged.

This past year, eleven Christian leaders from six different countries - Ghana, Malawi, Myanmar, Nigeria, Togo, and the United States (Illinois, Oklahoma, and Virginia) gathered in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to experience the International Literacy Training Institute. Guest instructors came from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina, and Canada. After this past summer's intensive training, these literacy evangelism leaders returned to their spheres of influence to share the loving message of Jesus Christ while sharing the gift of literacy.

# ILTI IMPACT

## L&E Ghana, LEI Member Nation Partner, Hosted Africa Literacy Training Institute

LEI Member Nation Partners expand the mission of LEI by promoting the creation and growth of indigenous, autonomous, country-specific organizations that embrace the mission and vision of LEI. LEI's Member Nation Partner, L&E Ghana, has taken LEI's multiplication vision to the next level. Many members of L&E Ghana have traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to attend LEI's International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI): Director, Samuel Lawerteh (ILTI 2008); Ellen Adjetey-Sowah (ILTI 2014); Joseph MacCarthy (ILTI 2003); Nathaniel Nunoo (ILTI 2003); and Helena Amoako-Kesse (ILTI 2012). In the fall of 2017, L&E Ghana hosted its own three-week Africa Literacy Training Institute (ALTI) in Accra, Ghana. This location in western Africa is much more readily accessible for those people who cannot afford the cost of flying to Tulsa and for those who cannot get US visas. L&E Ghana did a great job holding this ALTI. With the presence and encouragement of LEI missionaries Pat Lindsay (Benin), Sila-Ndunda Nzongo (DR Congo), Carey Jo Johnston (LEI-Canada), James Kigamwa (USA), T. L. (USA), and Kenyon Gerbrandt (USA), ALTI was a great success. L&E Ghana offered many literacy champions the long-awaited training they desired.



# DR. MELINA GALLO: Taking Literacy to the Nations without Leaving Home



*Dr. Gallo (inset)  
tutoring Sethea online.*

Nearly one billion people around the world cannot read or write. They are unable to read the Bible and many have never heard the gospel message of Jesus. Dr. Melina Gallo, LEI Director of Global Distance Learning, is addressing this great need.

While many cannot access formal education, nearly two-thirds of the world's population now have cell phones. This makes it easier for LEI to reach out to share the gift of literacy.

Over the past year LEI's Digital Training Task Force has worked to put LEI's training classes online so more Christians around the world can learn to be tutors and teacher-trainers. We now have four online courses available and plan to have the majority of our International Literacy Training Institute online by the end of 2018.

Because it is difficult to travel to the US, online training provides a new way for churches and organizations to learn how to start Bible-based literacy and ESL programs. This spring we had students from Pakistan, Philippines, Benin, Brazil and the US learning through our online classes. Dr. Gallo led the classes with live, weekly class discussions, interactive videos, and reading and writing assignments.

Dr. Gallo is also using video calls to tutor several women in the US and Brazil. Video call tutoring lets tutors teach reading or English by talking through mobile devices or computers instead of in person. It also allows tutors to meet with learners more frequently which accelerates the speed and quality of the learning experience.

You can help, too! If you can use your phone to video chat with your family, you can teach someone in your neighborhood or across the globe to read or speak English. For more information please visit <https://www.literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training>.



## LEI CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

*Vintage Photo: Dr. Robert Rice and his wife Alice, at the Nigerian Baptist Convention in Ibadan, Nigeria*



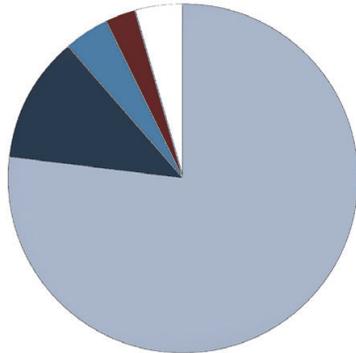
**On September 14th, 2017**, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI). A special dinner was held at the Gilcrease Museum of Art in the beautiful “Vista Room.” Dr. James Miller (Pastor, 1st Presbyterian, Tulsa) and Dr. William (Hess) Hester (Pastor, Southern Hills Baptist Church, Tulsa) were the masters of ceremonies for the fast-paced program. Dr. Sid Rice, along with his brother Roland, related how Dr. Robert Rice began LEI in a bedroom of the family home. Kenyon Gerbrandt, LEI Media Director, shared a short film he created about LEI’s history. From humble beginnings, LEI has grown to become an international organization with more than 50 missionaries serving in over 20 countries. The impact of LEI is only partially known — however, what is reported is amazing. For example, one partner in Southern Asia has used LEI’s Bible-content primers for some 30 years. During that time they have seen 1.3 million people learn to read their Bibles. This is only a small snapshot of Literacy & Evangelism’s impact, by God’s grace, on the world.

Nearly 200 guests were present at the 50th Anniversary banquet to remember, to celebrate, and to give thanks for God’s blessing on this significant mission. LEI missionaries and staff were scattered at tables around the room to share personal experiences and memories with the guests. It was a special evening to highlight five decades of God’s faithfulness and blessing upon Literacy & Evangelism International.

*~From Bob Biederman, LEI Managing Director of N. America & Europe*

# FINANCIAL REPORT\*

## 2017



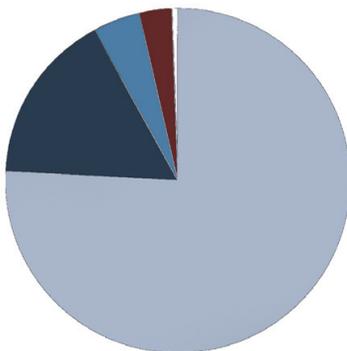
- Missionary Support 77.0%
- Unrestricted Gifts 11.8%
- Project Support 4.2%
- Tuition & Materials 2.7%
- Other 4.3%

### INCOME

\$109,694 Unrestricted Gifts  
 \$717,212 Missionary Support  
 \$38,897 Project Support  
 \$25,727 Tuition & Materials  
\$39,809 Other  
  
 \$931,339 Total

### EXPENSES

\$707,062 Missionary Support  
 \$151,226 Mission Mobilization & Ministry  
 \$40,476 Management & General  
 \$29,332 Communication & Publicity  
\$3,243 Escrow/Reserves  
  
 \$931,339 Total



- Mission Mobilization & Ministry 16.2%
- Management & General 4.4%
- Communication & Publicity 3.1%
- Missionary Support 76.0%
- Escrow/Reserves .3%

\*unaudited

# LITERACY & EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2018

Ford Brett

Max Deardorff

Gary Dundee, Treasurer

Hess Hester

Jim Miller

Richard Reinking, Chair

Sid Rice, Ex Officio Member



## MINISTRY DIRECTORS 2018

Gregory Bangura, Director: West Africa

Robert Biederman, Managing Director: North America & Europe

Rebecca Foote, Director: International Literacy Training Institute 2018

Melina Gallo, Director: Global Distance Learning

Kenyon Gerbrandt, Director: Communication & Media

Carey Jo Johnston, Managing Director: LEI-Canada

James Kigamwa, Managing Director: Africa & Middle East & Research

Gamaliel Kim, Director: Central Asia

Nam-Hyeon Kim, Managing Director: Central & Southeast Asia

T. L., Managing Director: Latin America & Southern Asia

Robert Mulloy, Director: Philippines & Refugees

Georg Ort, Director: Europe

Roland Rice, Chief Financial Officer

Sid Rice, President & Chief Executive Officer

## SHORT-TERM MISSION TEAM



T. L. (far right) and a short-term team from Arkansas visited national missionaries throughout Guatemala and met up with Emily Willard Velasquez (ILTI 2011) at Centro de Capacitación Misionera (CECAM) in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

*These and countless others have shared the message of Jesus Christ by sharing the gift of reading, locally, nationally, and internationally. Is our Lord calling you to Literacy and Evangelism ministry?*

## INTERNATIONAL LITERACY TRAINING INSTITUTE

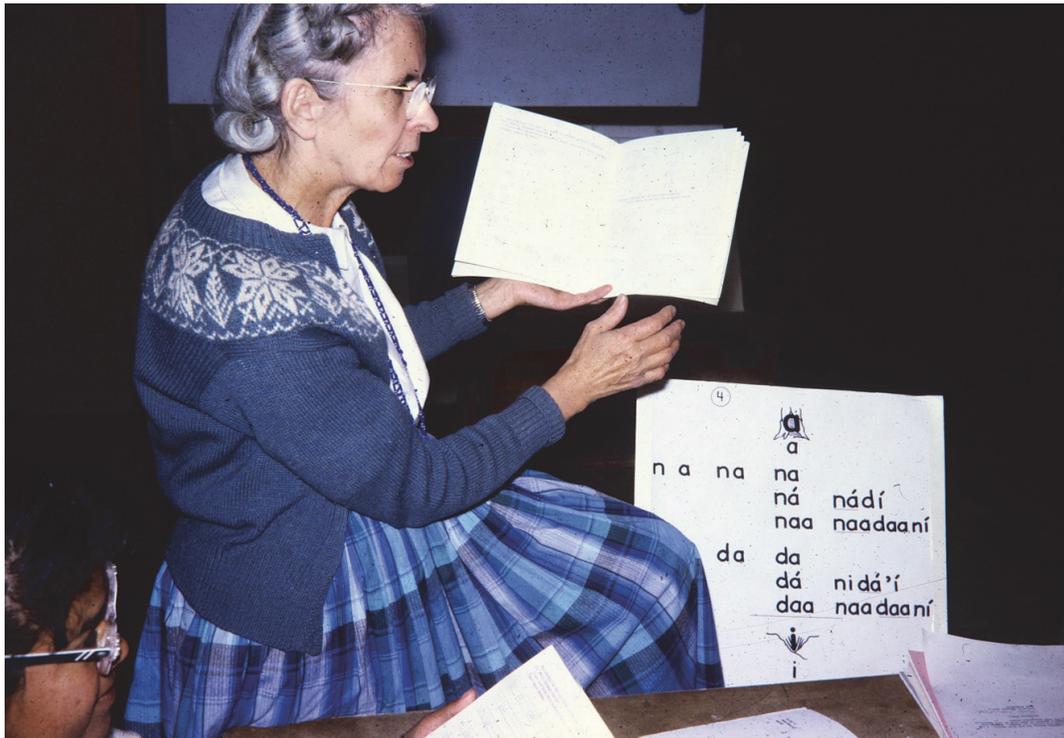
2018

Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA

June 9 - July 14, 2018 (5 weeks)

For more detailed information about Literacy Trainings and Digital Resources, please see our website.

<https://www.literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training>



*Faye Edgerton, literacy with the Navajo, November 1967  
Vintage Photo from the LEI Historical Archives*

LEI's latest news can be accessed through our twitter and facebook accounts and by signing up for LEI's newsletters.



[Twitter.com/LEIUSA](https://twitter.com/LEIUSA)



[Facebook.com/LEIUSA](https://facebook.com/LEIUSA)

[www.literacyevangelism.org/give](http://www.literacyevangelism.org/give)

LEI is equipped to receive donations through Electronic Fund Transfers. Please contact our Tulsa office to request a form to initiate this service. You can also donate to individual missionaries, partners, and projects through our website.



Enhancing Trust

LEI is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

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