



Literacy & Evangelism  
INTERNATIONAL

*Access to your words gives light. | PSALM 119:130 CEB*

- Established 1967 -

# DR. SID RICE

## LEI PRESIDENT

Dear Co-laborers in Christ,

Over the years, it has been our custom to highlight literacy evangelism ministry by continent in our LEI Messenger publications. As we rotate back to the continent of Africa, much has changed since our last African publication. We currently have two missionaries who have full residence in the US that serve Africa. They include Patricia Lindsay, LEI Missionary to Benin, and James Kigamwa, Managing Director for Africa & The Middle East. You will hear of their superlative work in this publication. Along with these, a vast amount of literacy work is being accomplished across Africa by Literacy & Evangelism Member Nation partners. A "Member Nation" is a literacy evangelism organization doing literacy and/or English language ministry, aligned with our global network of like-minded partners. Each Member Nation has an independent local board and agrees with and uses the LEI mission statement, LEI covenant commitment, statement of faith, and core values (or an approved culturally appropriate adaptation, consistent with the spirit of the LEI mission).



L&E Member Nation partners in Africa include: L&E Benin, L&E D.R. Congo, L&E Ghana, L&E Kenya, L&E Malawi, L&E Nigeria, and L&E Togo. The focus of this publication is to celebrate what God has put into place, by way of this network of L&E partners and LEI missionaries throughout the vast African continent. You will note that many of these literacy champions have been trained on our Tulsa, Oklahoma, campus.

As many of you are aware, due to COVID-19 restrictions, LEI's June International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI) in Tulsa was rescheduled as an Online three-week intensive event in September. During this event, some of our African L&E partners hosted regional cohorts to facilitate local participation.

The opportunity to facilitate an Online International Literacy Training event did not take us by surprise, as you will note from Dr. James Kigamwa's article "Mending Our 'Old' Nets and Making 'New' Nets!" In the Lord's providence, we have been working toward this end for several years. These new creative developments remind us of God's promise that "all things work together for good for those who love God" (Rom. 8:28), especially in these changing times.

May God continue to provide you, and our African missionaries and partners, with His grace and protection. May we discover new ways to draw closer to our Lord in this season of social distancing.

Always your grateful brother in Christ,  
Dr. Sid Rice, LEI President

# DR. JAMES KIGAMWA

## LEI MANAGING DIRECTOR

### AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST



#### Mending Our "Old" Nets and Making "New" Nets!

2020 has so far turned out to be unprecedented. With all systems ready to go for a four-week ministry trip to West Africa, that would have seen me and a colleague from Congo train tutors and launch literacy work in Guinea, Togo, and Ivory Coast, we had to postpone all travel. I also had to cancel an impending primer construction workshop, in the Okun language, that I was to lead at the invitation of the Bible Society of Nigeria.

With everything on hold, we can draw inspiration from the stories of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were called by Jesus as they were mending their nets; and two other brothers, Peter and Andrew, who were busy fishing when Jesus asked them to follow Him (Matthew 4:18-22).

As we wait for the world to reopen to travel, we should be mending our "old" nets and preparing "new" ministry tools in readiness for a new season of ministry marked by increased digital work and online training. With the postponed travel we have focused on online tutor training opportunities using Literacy & Evangelism International's online curriculum.

Earlier this spring, I was honored to co-facilitate online training for trainees in different parts of the world who are preparing to tutor. We offered two online courses for tutors of church-based reading programs: one for local languages and a second training for those who planned to teach reading using LEI's English language curriculum, Firm Foundations. Participants drawn from Liberia, Nigeria, the US, Kenya, and India were able to access our training through the online platform.

Though participants in cities and urban areas in developing countries can access the content with little difficulty, those in rural areas face challenges with Internet connectivity. Another limitation is that most learners are accessing training from their cellphones.

We continue to learn a lot about distance learning and are considering ways of improving delivery of content via Google Classroom and other tools such as ZOOM and Google Meets. Please pray with us for understanding as we engage new tools for instruction to support churches around the world that desire to share the love of Jesus Christ through the gift of reading.

Dr. James Kigamwa, LEI Managing Director for Africa & the Middle East

# DANIEL AWOLOU

## L&E BENIN

Hostility toward the Gospel of Jesus is increasing in Francophone countries such as Benin, West Africa. Yet, L&E Member Nation partner L&E Benin and its President Daniel Awolou (ILTI 2005 Graduate) have a vision and call to "open the eyes of the illiterate" through the development of Bible-based literacy programs.

Daniel shares, "Evangelization through literacy is a very effective means in these countries where 60-70% of the population is illiterate. Times are becoming more and more difficult and the church must commit itself to prepare its faithful to face the storm."

This past year, literacy primers were constructed in the Dendi language, and a revision and reprinting of the Lopka primer was completed. The Dendi language primers were the result of a three-fold partnership between L&E Benin, SIM Benin/Togo, and Literacy & Evangelism International. The primer construction workshop took place at the SIM station in Djougou, Benin, last June. These primers are now being field-tested in literacy classes.

With praise and appreciation, Daniel reports, the Lokpa primer has been revised, and 1,000 copies of Book 1 have been printed. Book 2 will be printed as soon as funds become available.

In partnership with local churches, LEI, SIM, and the Awolou family's



*Adija, New Bible Reader  
L&E Benin*

ministry, 143 classes were opened by 298 teachers in 2019. 2,518 students participated in classes and 2,312 finished Book 1.

During a follow-up of literacy classes in the villages, testimonies of transformed lives were heard. Adija, a mother of two children, testified, "A few months ago I enrolled in the literacy course as you are doing today. On my first day of class, I was among the learners who didn't know how to open a book. The Bible that I have in my hands now, its inside was as black to me as its cover because I could not read anything. I can now read this Bible, and I read it twice a day: in the morning and in the evening before going to sleep. During this time spent in these places as a learner, God gave me grace, and I received Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. I enrolled in the baptismal classes with the purpose of getting baptized. The fact that I could read, write, and calculate has enabled me to improve my small business. I am very happy because I can read the Bible to my children and my whole family."

# PATRICIA A. LINDSAY

## LEI MISSIONARY, COTONOU, BENIN

Pat Lindsay graduated from LEI's International Literacy Training Institute in 2010, joining LEI as a Missionary in 2015. In the past few years she has attended and instructed at LEI training events in the US, India, and across Africa.

In a recent communication she shares, "It has been hard to hold on to the message of hope during these challenging times in our world. We had all hoped and prayed that COVID-19 would have been over by now. Unfortunately, COVID-19 may be here for several months more. But, the work of the Lord must go on."

Cotonou's English Language Ministry started a new session on July 28th, 2020. Sixteen students are enrolled in classes this session. This is the fourth session of classes that has run since last October thanks to the work done by national teachers Ephrem Hounsou, Jean Ato, and English Assistant, Samuel Amoussou. "Without the tireless efforts of these faithful servants of the Lord, the English Ministry would have closed its doors during this health crisis."

Pat's heart's desire is to see individuals come to the Lord through English Language Ministry. A significant part of the team's

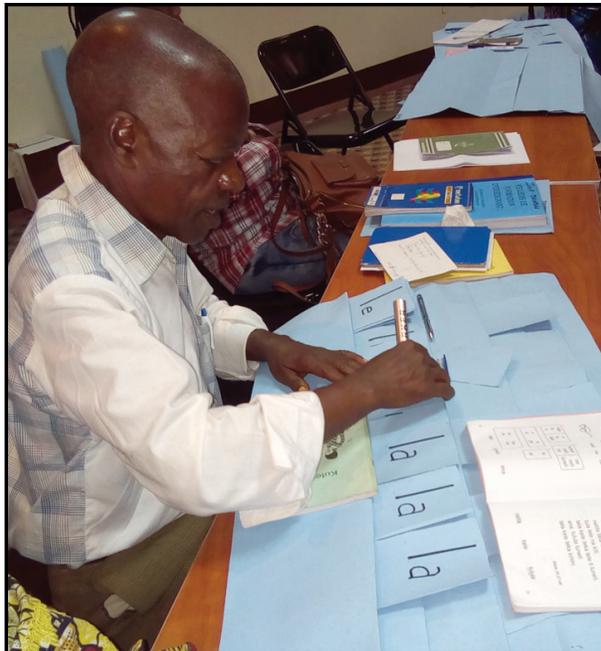


ministry is relationship building, showing students that the concern for them goes beyond the English classroom, seeking ways to develop new friendships.

They plan outreach opportunities and lead an Inductive Bible Study group. Pray for Pat and the ongoing work, as the English Language Ministry team shares the loving message of Jesus while sharing the gift of literacy.

*LEI Missionary Patricia Lindsay serving in Benin*

# TESTIMONY FROM L&E D.R. CONGO



*Teacher making card holders. L&E D.R.C.*

My name is ELIMA. I am born at the sun rise, and I am nearing thirty-one years old. But we don't tell the age of someone the way others do. I have a wife and am a father of four children.

We, first citizens (aborigines), are human beings like other human beings God created. If we are different in tallness and in the colors of our skins, that's the way the Creator made His world, and He knows the reason. He knows the importance of every person. These differences are riches and for the good of the whole world. But other people hate us and kill us.

Yet they and we are persons. There are things we can learn from them, and there are also things they can get from us. All people are important to other people.

For example, authorities come to us to get various traditional medicines



*Literacy champions work diligently at Mbuji-Mayi Teacher Training Workshop.*

and fetishes to disappear or double themselves in times of war or when they are attacked by enemies.

Now that the servants of the Lord have given us a literacy class and have brought us Jesus Christ, we are getting converted; what will be the fate of those people (who seek for protection from us)? Their enemies will overcome them and eat them.

They should have love, not seeing the color of the skin, not seeing tallness, but to see that everyone is a creature of God and is my brother or my sister.

Let us be in unity; let us make one row to follow Jesus, then we will win. That's my message!"

# NZONGO SILA - NDUNDA

## L&E D.R. CONGO



*Pastor Sila (at left) teaches the first literacy class at Tshikapa. L&E D.R.C.*

The previous timely story was shared by Pastor Nzongo Sila-Ndunda, Executive President of L&E D.R. Congo. Throughout his 34-year ministry which started in 1986, by our Lord's grace, Pastor Sila has raised people from the dead, cast out demons, healed the sick, planted churches, and has been instrumental in church and tribal conflict reconciliation. He acknowledges these miracles have opened doors for ministry in "foreign places."

Yet, the most profound harvest of Pastor Sila's ministry has come with introducing lost souls to Jesus Christ while delivering people from the social oppression of illiteracy.

At the invitation of Dr. Robert F. Rice, Pastor Sila joined Literacy and Evangelism International as an LEI missionary on February 8, 1989. There was much celebration in 2011 when Pastor Sila was finally able to come to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to attend LEI's International Literacy Training Institute,

though in truth he was as much a teacher as he was a student.

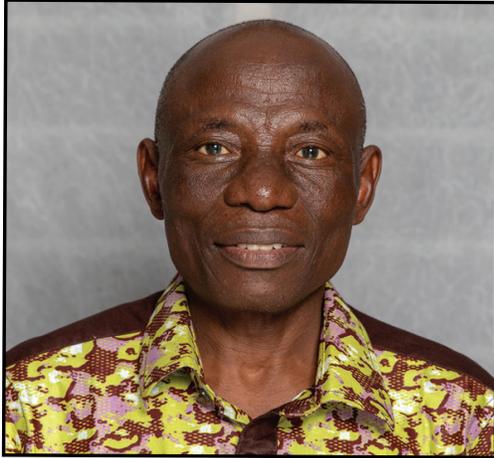
Five different literacy primers are used in Pastor Sila's literacy-evangelism ministry: Lingala, Kikongo, Kituba, Kiswahili, and Tshiluba. This talented linguist is fluent in French and English as well as a wide variety of indigenous languages. He has organized a total of 7 primer construction events and has coached three more in languages of other African countries, working on a total of 10 primer construction projects.

The Lord has called 546 missionaries to serve alongside Pastor Sila as supervisors and trainers, planting the seeds of literacy throughout the 26 provinces they cover in D.R. Congo. An estimated 1,252,679 people have learned to read in their indigenous languages because of Pastor Sila's work. 1,027,197 of those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord are now serving in various church ministries.

The ministry Pastor Sila leads is exceptionally large. In covering such a vast country, he and his supervisors encounter the challenges and dangers of persecution, civil wars, tribal conflicts, catching Ebola and other diseases, and lack of finances. Yet, Pastor Sila fearlessly travels wherever he is called. He says, "I never fear anything in doing the ministry because I know that God is with me and goes before me. He who loses his life because of (Christ) and the work, the word of God, will gain it."

# REV. SAMUEL B. LAWERTEH

## L&E GHANA



*Samuel Lawerteh*  
*President L&E Kenya*

"After two years of literacy classes, nothing is strange to me any more. I feel happy when I walk the streets because I can read everything around me," testifies Rebecca, literacy student of Literacy and Evangelism, Ghana (L&E Ghana).

Originally registered in Ghana in 2009 as Literacy and Evangelism Mission, L&E Ghana re-registered to updated its name to Literacy and Evangelism Ghana in 2015. Still, their mission focus remains the same. "We develop Bible-content, basic literacy materials (called Primers), (and) teach basic reading, writing, and numeracy

in local languages and conversational English."

With the stalwart aim "to equip the Church in every Nation, effectively reaching the illiterate, bringing them the Living Word, Jesus Christ, through enabling them to read the written Word of God," L&E Ghana has trained over 300 teachers and continues to train teachers to meet this goal.

Samuel B. Lawerteh (ILTI 2008 Graduate) is the Country Director of L&E Ghana and Nathaniel Nunoo (ILTI 2003 Graduate) the Programs Manager. Many others on the L&E Ghana staff have attended and graduated from LEI's International Literacy Training Institutes, hosted on LEI's Tulsa, Oklahoma, campus. With the upcoming ILTI 2020 being hosted online this year, L&E Ghana will take this opportunity to train more workers and volunteers.

In 2019 alone, this organization conducted five-day literacy Teacher Training Workshops (TTWs) for Gomoa Kyirem District (20 participants), Dowda (14 participants), and Sra Presbyterian Church (8 participants).

In the Anyaa-Ablekuma area, 43 participants were trained simultaneously to teach classes using the English, Asante Twi, Ga, and Ewe language primers. 588 local church congregants immediately registered to attend literacy classes in the Anyaa-Ablekuma area, eager to learn to read in their native languages.

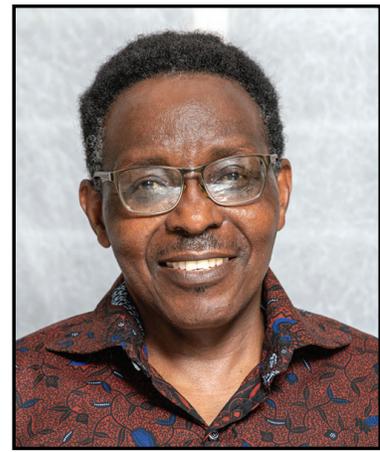
English literacy training was conducted for Compassion International care-givers at Adoagyiri and Ayikuma (36 participants), and L&E Ghana teamed up with the Church of Pentecost to implement other literacy classes.

Along with these flourishing Teacher Training Workshops, L&E Ghana led primer construction teams to create Bible-content primers in the Bono and Mfantse languages. These will be added to the eleven other primers already constructed for Bible-based literacy instruction in Ghana.

# JOSEPH MATHEKA

## L&E KENYA

L&E Kenya was founded in 1978 as Literacy & Evangelism Fellowship, becoming Partners in Literacy Ministry (PALM) in 2006. Now as a Member Nation partner with LEI, the name has been changed to L&E Kenya. Joseph Matheka (2005 ILTI Graduate) is the current president, and the intense passion for sharing the message of Jesus Christ through sharing the gift of literacy remains the same.



*Joseph Matheka,  
President L&E Kenya*

Fifteen language primers have been created to serve literacy learners across Africa. English as a Second Language is taught as well. It is no wonder that this organization is a five-time recipient of the Kenyan government's annual "Best Literacy Program Award," and received the 1994 UNESCO "Award for meritorious work in Literacy within Kenya and Eastern Africa."

Eight missionaries work alongside Joseph Matheka. Patrick Malasi serves as the Literacy & Outreach Coordinator, with Gideon Kiongo as the Materials Development Coordinator.

Over the years, an astronomical 420,000 people are estimated to have been taught to read. Yet the dilemma of illiteracy continues. The cry of the people is urgent. "If they cannot read the words, how can they read THE WORD? How then can they be transformed by THE WORD they cannot read?"

Therefore, L&E Kenya relentlessly continues to find new ways to share the message of Jesus Christ while sharing the gift of literacy.



# MAXWELL MPITANYANGA

## L&E MALAWI

Maxwell Mpitanyanga, President of L&E Malawi, is a 14-year veteran in literacy evangelism ministry. He started this organization in 2006 soon after he graduated from LEI's International Literacy Training Institute in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Five different literacy Primers have been created to serve the people under his care: ChiSena, Yao, ChiChewa, Lambya, and ChiTumbuka, two of which Maxwell constructed. His team of 328 volunteers has taught an estimated 10,500 people to read.

One of these learners is Rose, a 29-year-old woman who comes from a polygamous family in Saopa Village, Malawi. She is married and has two children.

Rose had never attended literacy classes before, but she admired fellow women who knew how to read and write. There was no opportunity to attend a literacy class in her area until 2018. Knowing that a literacy program would be beneficial to his people, a village headman invited literacy teachers to his village. Rose joined the class though she could not even hold a pencil well.

Miraculously, after only two weeks, Rose was able to read and use her pencil to write. Within a month, after attending classes daily, five days per week, she was able to read a sentence and a small paragraph on her own. When the Sena Bible was distributed

in the adult literacy classes, she managed to read the Bible on her own. After finishing primers 1 and 2, she was able to read and graduated from the literacy program.

Rose, in her testimony, said enthusiastically, "God is in my house and God is speaking my language. I am so happy to see and hear God speaking in my mother tongue. I am a very lucky lady, (more lucky) than those people who are not reading the Bible themselves. After reading the words of God in my lovely language, I really experience the love of God to me and my family. The Lord God also loves me as a person. At first, I was thinking that God cannot speak in my language. God is not for illiterate people. I thought God was only for those people who were able to read and write... The literacy program to me is a true reflection of God's love."

We rejoice with Rose and her literacy teachers that she is now able to read her Sena Bible all by herself.



*Maxwell Mpitanyanga  
President, L&E Malawi*

# MUSA WAZIRI L&E NIGERIA

What would your daily devotional time be like if you sat before the Lord with great anticipation. You open your Bible to read THE WORD, prepared expectantly to seek the Lord's instruction for your day. You open your Bible enthusiastically only to discover the pages are blank. There are no words printed on the page. Regardless, you hold this holy book reverently in your hands. In fact, you carry it to church every Sunday, but in reality, God's scriptures are unavailable to you and the majority of the people in your community. The Bible is a blank book for your illiterate pastor as well. This is a tragedy.

With great celebration, Bibles are being translated and printed in many indigenous African languages. Yet, for the illiterate population, the pages might as well be blank.

Founded in 2011/2012, with Musa Waziri (ILTI 2014 Graduate) as its current Director, L&E Nigeria is addressing the nation-wide illiteracy dilemma.

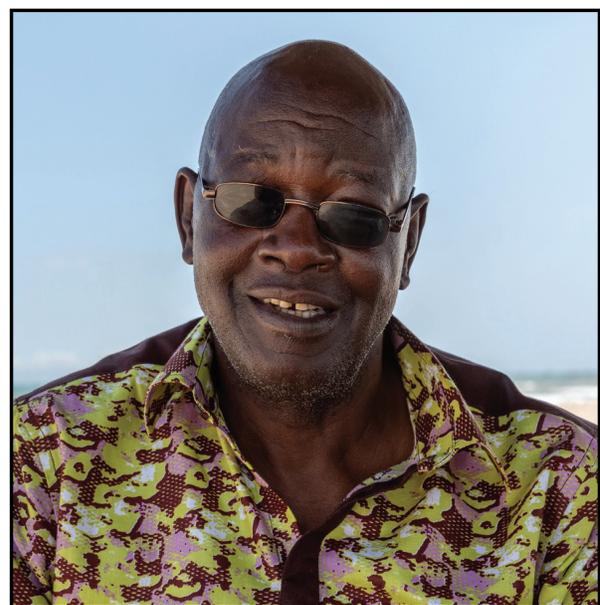
LEI Bible-based language primers have been created in the official languages of Nigeria - English and Hausa - and for 13 more indigenous languages as well.

As missionaries reach out to the non-readers of their country, the Lord is using literacy evangelism to

improve people's circumstances.

It is difficult to have personal devotions because of the inability to read, but once the skill of reading is acquired, as a result, personal devotions can be done effectively. Literacy also makes family devotions more meaningful when both parents can read the scripture. Literacy makes a positive impact on the community as well.

The goal of L&E Nigeria is "to create and empower trainees with basic skills of reading and writing with the aim of building a Christ-like character in Christians. We seek to be a leading literacy, prayer, and discipleship training agency that empowers and enhances good reading skills among believers."

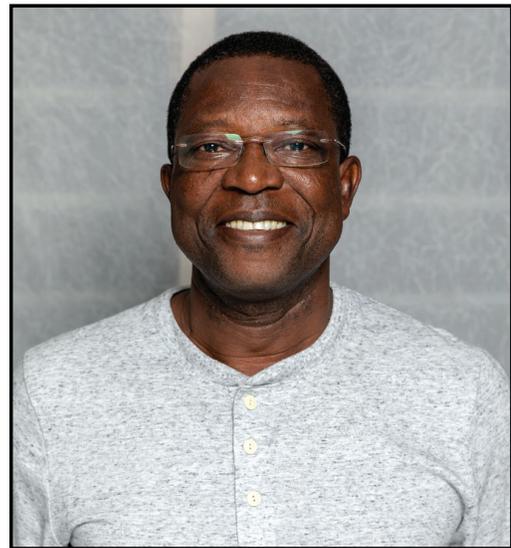


*Musa Waziri*  
*President of L&E Nigeria*

# DAVID NABINE

## L&E TOGO

L&E Togo is one of the newest Member Nation partners joining the global network in November 2019. David Nabine (ILTI 2012 Graduate), a computer science - I.T. Specialist and law graduate, is the organization's founder and Executive Director. For many years, David has been a devoted worker in the Bible Translation Department of the Bible Society of Togo.



*David Nabine  
Executive Director, L&E Togo*

After the Bible is translated into an indigenous language, teaching its people to read The Word is the next significant step. L&E Togo provides literacy classes for the vulnerable population that mostly resides in rural areas. The national language of Togo is French. Literacy primers are also available in the Ewe, Kabiye, Mina, Dendi, and Tamberma languages. At present, primer construction work is being focused on the N'Cam (Bassar) language.



*Glorify the Lord and Celebrate Literacy*

To Access all LEI Primers that are available for free  
download please visit  
<https://www.literacyevangelism.org/primers>

# PLEASE PRAY FOR LEI MISSIONARIES AND MEMBER NATION PARTNERS

**MON** Please pray for Pat Lindsay, LEI missionary serving in Benin, implementing English language programs.

**TUE** Please pray for Dr. James Kigamwa, serving as LEI Managing Director: Africa & Middle East, traveling safety across Africa and creativity in teaching online.

**WED** Please pray for Member Nation partners Daniel Awolou, L&E Benin, and Nzongo Sila-Ndunda, L&E D.R. Congo, for a bountiful harvest and safety in all they and their families do.

**THU** Please pray for Member Nation partners Rev. Samuel B. Lawerteh, L&E Ghana, and Joseph Matheka, L&E Kenya, leading primer construction and online training events.

**FRI** Please pray for Member Nation partners Maxwell Mpitanyanga, L&E Malawi, and Musa Waziri, L&E Nigeria, and their teams for safety in sharing literacy evangelism ministry in Africa.

**SAT** Please pray for David Nabine, L&E Togo, and future Member Nation partners who are called to share the message of Jesus Christ while sharing the gift of literacy.

**SUN** Thank the Lord for every literacy evangelism opportunity to share the loving message of Jesus Christ through sharing the gift of reading.



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

Instagram.com/Literacy\_Evangelism ■ Facebook.com/LEIUSA

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.

<https://www.literacyevangelism.org/give>

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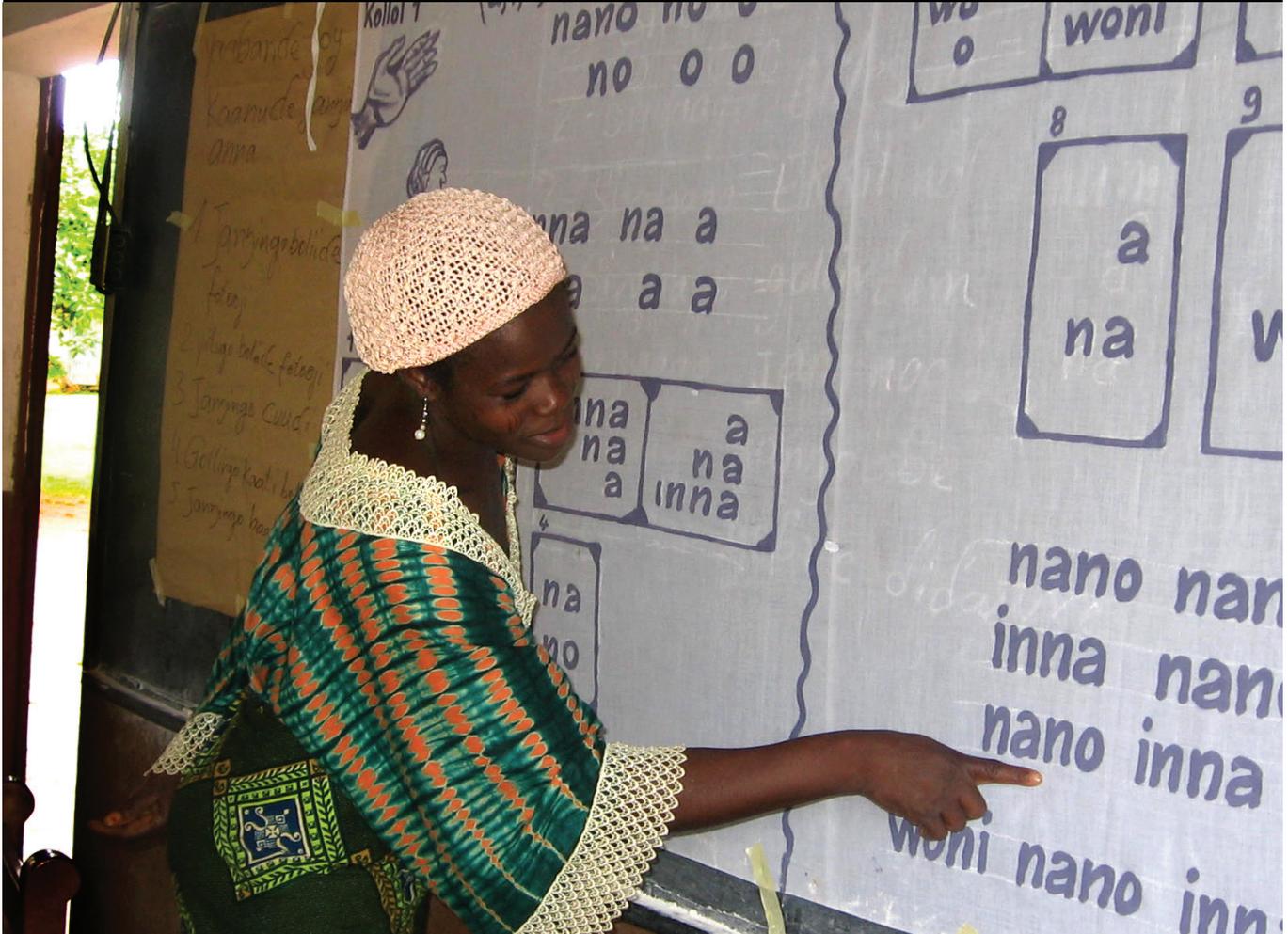
**info@literacyinternational.net.**

*Cover Photo: Jesus brings light to those trapped in the darkness of illiteracy.*

*Photo courtesy L&E Ghana.*



# Literacy & Evangelism INTERNATIONAL



*Literacy Training Benin, Africa*

*Your word is a doorway that lets in light. PSALM 119:130 [NOG]*

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