

# Annual Report 2021

*"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 -

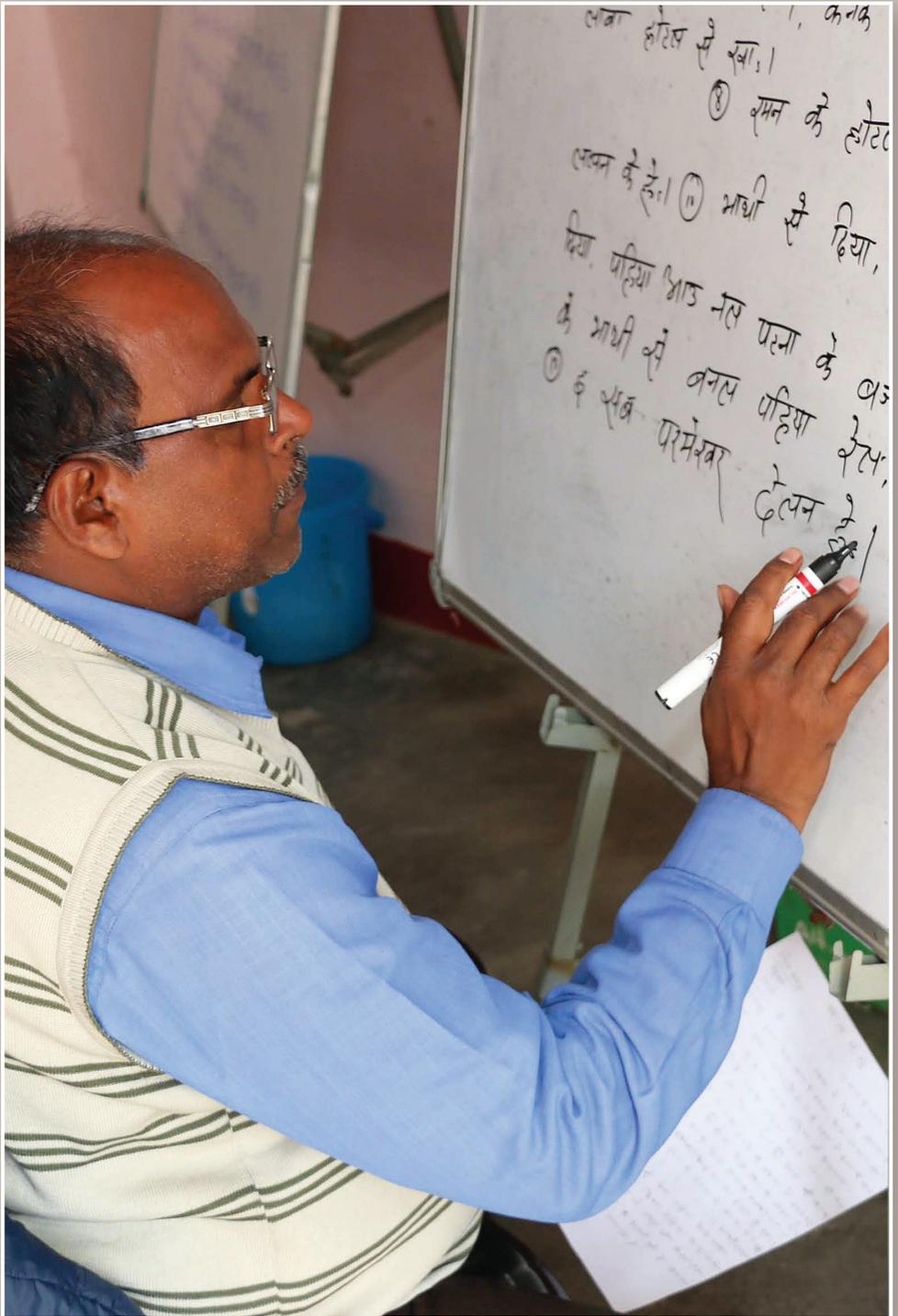
# The Mission

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.





## LEI President Dr. Sid Rice

Dear Co-laborers:

Jesus says, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit” (John 15:1-2).

This passage has spoken to me over and over again as seasons of pruning ebb and flow through my personal journey. In times when I experience frustration, pain, or suffering, I often realize that God in His infinite mercy and grace is simply pruning me for a season so that I can bear more fruit for His kingdom here on earth. As I've reflected over the past several months, I've concluded that the season of COVID, of social distancing, has been a season of personal pruning. It has also been a season of pruning for Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI). After 39 years of hosting the International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI) on our campus in Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA, we had to cancel. We were forced to prune an incredibly fruitful event from our corporate calendar, an event that has seen an abundance of fruit borne over the past four decades.

But I'm reminded of Jesus' words, “every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

I submit to you that this season of pruning has enlarged the capacity of LEI to bear even more fruit. In 2020, we celebrated accomplishments that were not imagined a year ago. There was New Fruit borne out of our Intensive Online International Literacy Training Institute (IOILTI 2020). We also celebrate new opportunities of developing primers (basic readers) through virtual primer construction teams in Latin America and Africa.

This annual report highlights all that has been accomplished for God's glory despite challenging worldwide events. Thank you for joining with us as we celebrate new fruit borne in this season of pruning.



Dr. Sid Rice



## Expanding Resources To The Nations

With New Online Distance-Learning Courses.

## LEI's Website Continues To Be Our "Front Door" To The World.

### In 2020: LEI Recorded...

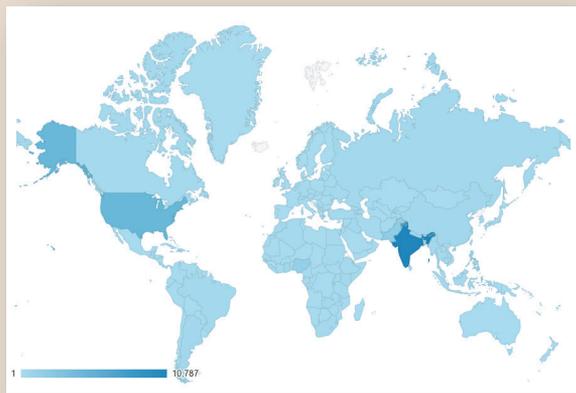
203 countries and territories with individuals visiting LEI's website.

### Patrons Found:

**254** Primers available on the LEI website

**224** Primers digitally-available for FREE DOWNLOAD

**553** Primers were downloaded at NO CHARGE in 2020.



Light blue represents lower usage, dark blue represents higher usage.

Global map depicts 203 countries around the world that visited the LEI website January 1 through December 31, 2020.

## View All Of LEI's Online Trainings

[www.literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training](http://www.literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training)

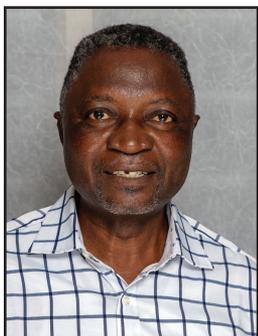
## Online Learning | Impact Online

For several years, LEI has been preparing for the digital world with digital primers and ILTI on-line. However, none of us could have been prepared for COVID. We now know how valuable LEI's preparations were and how God was leading us.

~ former LEI Board of Trustee Chairman

# Celebrating DR Congo The Life Of Nzongo Sila-Ndunda

by Joan Lovekin, LEI Missionary



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, by April 2019. Sila's program made great strides against illiteracy. He was much loved.”



# English Language Ministry

## Pat Lindsay - Benin, Africa



Jean leads the class in singing a new song as a medium for teaching English.



"Without the tireless efforts of faithful servants of the Lord, the English Ministry would have closed its doors during this health crisis," shares Pat Lindsay, LEI Missionary in Benin.



Art projects become fun hands-on English class activities.



Students enjoy word games that help them memorize scripture.



Ephrem learned English through our center during the past 4 years and is now fluent enough to serve as an English Teacher.



Grâce, an English major at the University Abomey Calavi, volunteers to assist in teaching English - "a man cooking rice."

# Primer Construction

## Africa

A. (Ethiopia)	Final Edit
Bono (Ghana)	Printed
Chichewa (Malawi)	Revision
Dangme (Ghana)	Revision
Dendi (Benin)	Printed
Epie (Nigeria)	Printed
Ébembe (DR Congo)	Final Edit
Esahie (Ghana)	Printed
Ewe (Ghana)	Revision
Fon (Benin)	Final Edit
Ga (Ghana)	Revision Printed
Kagulu (Tanzania)	Final Edit
Lokpa (Benin)	Revision Printed
Luganda (Uganda)	Revision Printed
LuSamia (Uganda)	Final Edit
Maasai (Kenya)	Revision
Mfantse (Ghana)	Printed
Nkoya (Zambia)	Completed
Samburu (Kenya)	Final Edit

## America

Y. Language (Brazil) Book 1 Complete

## Asia

Magahi (India) Printed

## Europe

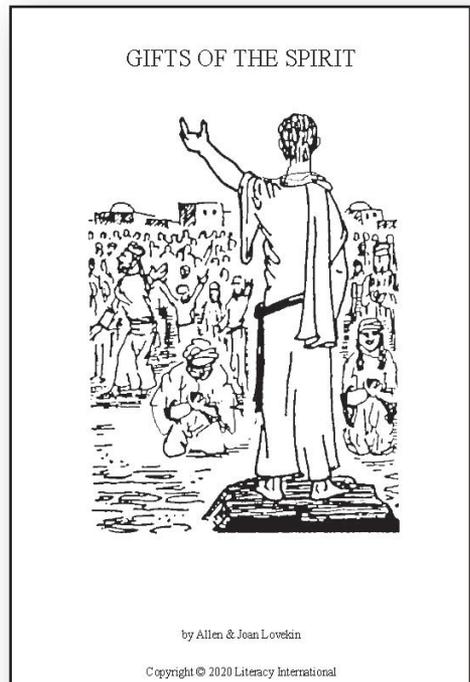
Russian (Russia) Revision

Ukrainian (Ukraine) Printed

## 88 LEI post-primer booklets,

called shell books, are available in English for translation into other languages. These LEI shell books are hosted on [www.bloomlibrary.org/browse](http://www.bloomlibrary.org/browse).

Pictured is the cover of the shell book, *Gifts of the Spirit*, by Allen and Joan Lovekin.



# Primer Construction "Y" Language

by Rev. Carey Jo Johnston, Managing Director LEI-Canada

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 Fetters, 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.*

**Two pages of LEI's Maxakali language primer already used in Brazil. Lesson 12 is illustrated here.**

**LEI primers usually introduce the word "Jesus" in Lesson 12, followed by short stories about Jesus or God.**

Tappet xux te noxyi 12 (-ox, Y)



Yeyox yox	yox ox	ox ox
putat tox tox	tox ox	ox ox

1 Yeyox yox ox	ox yox Yeyox	2 putat tox tox ox	ox tox putat tox
-------------------------	--------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------

3 e pe	ox pox	u pu	4 pe pox pu
5 pe te	pox tox	pu tu	

Yeyox	putat tox	putup
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6 putup pu u	u pu putup	7 putuk tuk tu	tu tuk putuk
8 hã ã	ã hã	9 putat tat ta	ta tat putat
10 te to ta	11 pãm mãm nãm	12 tox yox Ye	

yãyã te putat tox hã pãm putup.  
payã 'ap mãm 'ah.  
ha yãyã te- 'áte paha pãm, payã 'áte  
putat tox hã mähã.  
payã 'áte paha, tu- mã' pãm yaya.  
yaya te pãm putup.  
ha yãyã te' mähã, tu 'mä nãm.  
ha yaya te- 'ây, ka mã nãm!  
ha yãyã te- 'áte mã nãm.  
ha yaya te- 'ây, 'áte mãmtup kama.  
ha yãyã te- yãyã 'Yeyox te- 'áte pãm putuk.  
ha yaya te- 'áte Yeyox putup.

(Yoãm 6:35)

putuk	hã	putat tox
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48 49

# Literacy Teacher-Training Workshops

## AFRICA

*Total Teachers Trained: 690*

## LATIN AMERICA

*Total Teachers Trained: 139*

## ASIA

*Total Teachers Trained: 1,375*

## NORTH AMERICA

*Total Teachers Trained: 31*

## EUROPE

*Total Teachers Trained: 6*

## UNDISCLOSED REGIONS

*Total Teachers Trained: 63*

## WORLDWIDE

**TOTAL TEACHERS  
TRAINED: 2,304**

**TOTAL NEW BIBLE  
READERS: 39,061**

## NEW BIBLE READERS

AFRICA: 16,340

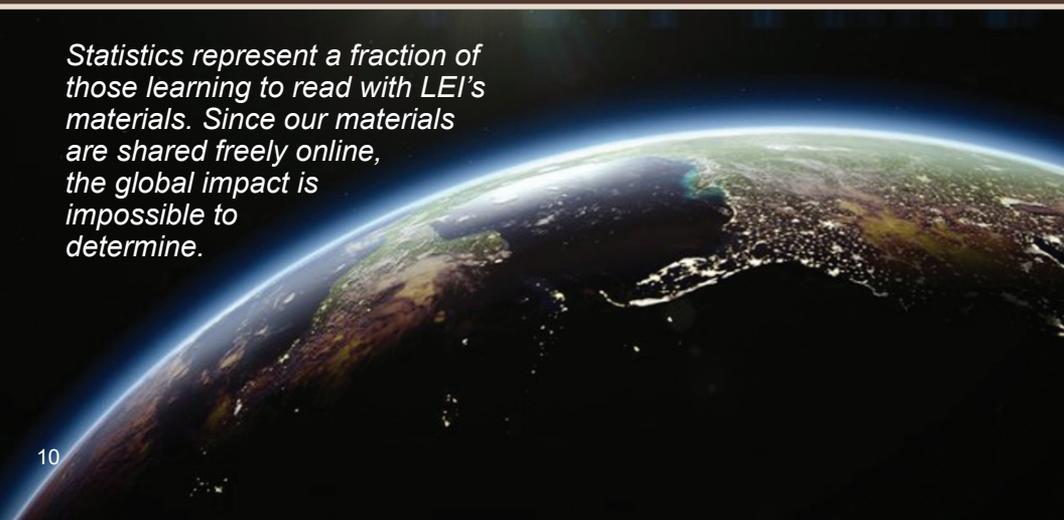
ASIA: 22,411

EUROPE: 2

LATIN AMERICA: 235

UNDISCLOSED LOCATIONS: 73

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



# English Language Worldwide Ministry

**AFRICA**

*Total Teachers  
Trained: 8*

**ASIA**

*Total Teachers  
Trained: 1*

**EUROPE**

*Total Teachers  
Trained: 2*

**LATIN AMERICA**

*Total Teachers  
Trained: 1*

**NORTH AMERICA**

*Total Teachers  
Trained: 8*



*A literacy class in Angola / Photo courtesy Reverend Nzongo Sila-Ndunda*

# Intensive Online International Literacy Training Institute | IOILTI 2020

by Dr. Melina Gallo, Director Global Distance Learning



This year, the novel Corona virus pushed Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI) into a novel way of doing our International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI). Instead of holding our traditional face-to-face program in Tulsa, Oklahoma, we decided to offer a 3-week intensive online ILTI. For three weeks, we met daily on Zoom for 90 minutes to do Bible Study and discuss the assignments for the other classes. After the Zoom call, students spent several hours each day reading, creating videos, taking quizzes, and completing other assignments online.

Additionally, in Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria, local study groups met in person to work on the online materials together.

Twenty-seven students from ten countries (Benin, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and the USA) studied in our 2020 Intensive Online International Literacy Training Institute (IOILTI 2020) this fall. Nine of the students completed the entire IOILTI 2020 program, and the other 18 completed one or more of the core courses and plan to finish the rest in the coming months.

Despite many hardships including personal and family illnesses, poor Internet connections, and computer difficulties, learners managed to overcome, persevere, and learn.

In Ghana, the Internet connection was weak during the day, so learners often waited until after midnight to log on and worked through the wee hours of the morning.

Dorothy shared, "It has been a blessing working in a study group. The whole study group met at least twice a week, though smaller groups met almost every day at the L&E Ghana office. We were a great encouragement to one another, to keep going on with the work, especially at the beginning when we were overwhelmed with assignments and some were at the point of giving up."

David of Kenya wrote, "The study group was so engaging, encouraging, and motivating. Participants were open to each other, asking questions, and sharing what they were best at. The challenges included traveling for a long distance for the participants living away from Nairobi."

Nelson of Sierra Leone wrote, "I appreciate all the facilitators that trained us in different modules. Your training skills are powerful."

Thanks to all staff and participants who made this year's virtual ILTI a great success!

# Intensive Online International Literacy Training Institute Member Nation Regional Cohorts L&E Ghana | L&E Kenya | L&E Nigeria

One of the noteworthy events that transpired during LEI's Intensive Online International Literacy Training Institute was the cohort initiative hosted in-country by L&E Ghana, L&E Kenya, and L&E Nigeria. Many of the literacy leaders of these organizations have been trained and/or have taught at LEI's Tulsa literacy evangelism institutes. As cohorts, trainees met in local study groups to work on class assignments and to encourage one another. Working together in small groups positively effected attendees' perseverance and completion of assignments. Praise the Lord for the insightful innovation of these Member Nation partners.

*L&E Ghana: (from left) Nathaniel Nunoo, Dorothy Konadu, Ellen Adjetej-Sowah, Elizabeth Agah, Rosemary Sackey, Reuben Adrakpanya, Samuel Lawerteh.*



# Tulsa Literacy Center Daniel Cherry

by Rev. Robert Biederman, Managing Director North America/Europe

In February 2019, Pastor Steven Land of City Hope Church brought Daniel to Literacy & Evangelism's headquarters for reading evaluation. Daniel had found LEI's website and told his pastor he wanted to read better so he could read his Bible.

Bob Biederman evaluated Daniel and began to tutor him from *Firm Foundations, Book 1*. If his pastor could not bring him, a determined Daniel rode his bike 9 miles to class. He was determined to read.

A short time later Bruce Richardson tutored Daniel for about a year, meeting him at a local library each week for reading lessons. Not only did he help Daniel with reading lessons, he assisted him with writing and math. Bruce wrote, "He's very diligent about doing his homework and meeting with me each week. And he never fails to tell me how much he appreciates LEI (and me) in teaching him to read, which in turn, leads him in growing as an adult. His dream now is to get his GED. He continues to grow spiritually and now reads his Bible on his own."

In early 2020, due to COVID-19, Bob tutored Daniel on a Zoom call each week for an hour and a half.

In September, Ellenor Gopal commenced tutoring Daniel from her home in Johannesburg, South Africa. When it's noon in Tulsa it's 8:00 pm in South Africa. Daniel completed all of the books in the Firm Foundations series in December. He received a certificate of completion and a gift Bible from LEI to celebrate his accomplishment.

Ellenor wrote recently, "Working with Daniel has been gratifying and a blessing in my life. I am inspired by his enthusiasm to learn, his commitment, and his sincerity to the Lord. I look forward to our reading and discovering the Bible together as we continue lessons in future months."

Daniel desires to continue improving his reading skills. Ellenor will help him with online Bible reading to further extend his reading level. Daniel summarized his experience in these words: "This was so enjoyable and a blessing from God. It's given me hope and faith. I can actually read full paragraphs of the Bible now in the Easy-to-read and ESV translations....Each day I read a devotional and Scripture passage. It is so encouraging to read the promises of God.... The tutors did good work and helped me a lot....You all at LEI are great!"

Daniel told Bob that when he was a child, he felt God might want him to become a pastor. With each progression in reading, he is a step closer.



*"But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).*

# Tulsa Literacy Center Online Cornelius: A Journey Through Time and Faith

by Larry Buell, LEI Information Technology & Tutor

Cornelius is a firefighter in Mississippi. He is in his mid-20s. He had found LEI online early in 2019 and wanted to know if we could set up remote tutoring for him.

The main issue Cornelius had was word substitution. When he would see the word “God” his mind would transform it into “Jesus”. He also transformed personal/possessive pronouns into other forms. The same thing happened with verb tenses. His mind would jump over 3+ syllable words, so he had no idea what they were/meant.

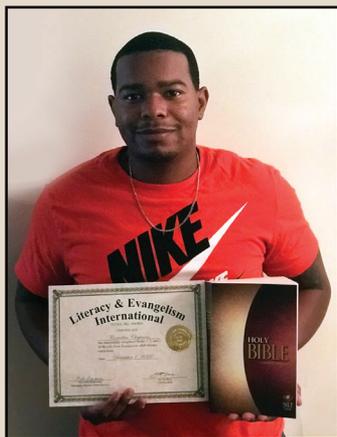
Beginning in March 2019, we started our remote tutoring sessions. We initially used Skype for our sessions. Then Cornelius’s computer died. We decided to try just walking through a lesson verbally over the phone. Firm Foundations is organized in such a way to make this very doable!

Cornelius was not brought up in the Church. He was unfamiliar with things we may take for granted, like the story of Adam and Eve, Noah and the Ark, Moses, John the Baptist, the disciples, etc. He knew the word Jesus, but not the mercy and grace of Jesus.

Cornelius finally completed the last lesson in Firm Foundations in December 2020. We sent him a certificate of completion and a NLT (New Living Translation) Bible, the same one we’d used during the sessions to do our scripture readings. He was ecstatic! He sent me a note saying the NLT Bible was the best present he’d ever received!

But the best gift of all, to me, was Cornelius’s response to the final question in the final story in lesson 80: “Have you accepted Jesus’ gift of eternal life in heaven?” Cornelius answered with a soft but firm, “Yes sir, I have.”

We are still continuing to meet after finishing the Firm Foundations books. Cornelius wants to learn to read and understand more of the Bible so he will feel comfortable choosing and attending a church. Cornelius is so excited that he can continue his education in literacy and faith through Bible reading!

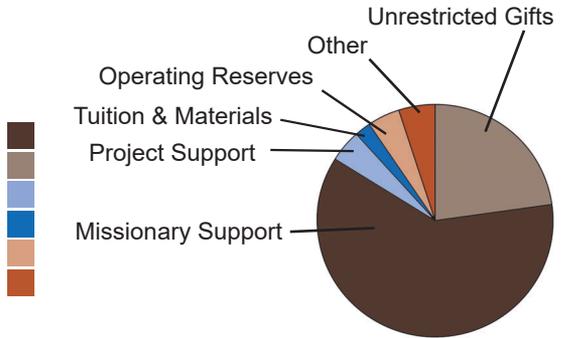


# Financial Report 2020\*

## INCOME

\$ 232,843	Unrestricted Gifts
\$ 623,096	Missionary Support
\$ 45,985	Project Support
\$ 22,199	Tuition & Materials
\$ 47,649	Operating Reserves
<u>\$ 48,356</u>	Other
\$1,020,128	TOTAL

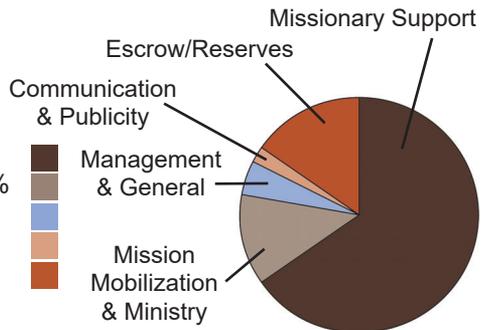
Missionary Support 61%  
 Unrestricted Gifts 23%  
 Project Support 4%  
 Tuition & Materials 2%  
 Operating Reserves 5%  
 Other 5%



## EXPENSES

\$ 668,598	Missionary Support
\$ 127,515	Mission Mobilization & Ministry
\$ 47,834	Management & General
\$ 21,253	Communication & Publicity
<u>\$ 154,928</u>	Escrow/Reserves
\$1,020,128	TOTAL

Missionary Support 66%  
 Mission Mobilization & Ministry 12%  
 Management & General 5%  
 Communication & Publicity 2%  
 Escrow/Reserves 15%



\* Unaudited

# Board of Trustees 2021

Sid Rice - Chair

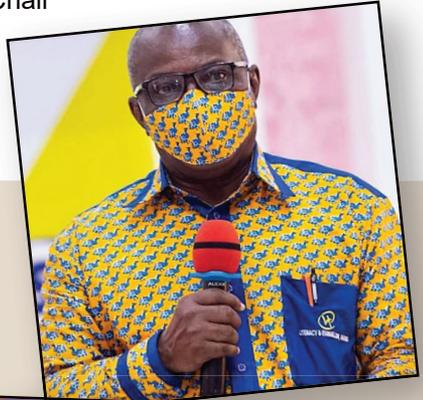
Ford Brett - Vice Chair

Jim Davis

Ms. K. T.

Hess Hester

Angela Fleming



## Ministry Directors

Rev. Robert Biederman

Managing Director: North America & Europe

Dr. Melina Gallo

Director: Global Distance Learning

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Managing Director: LEI-Canada

Dr. James Kigamwa

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Rev. Robert M.

Director: Philippines & Refugees

Mr. Georg Ort

Director: Europe

Mr. Roland Rice

Chief Financial Officer

Rev. Dr. Sid Rice

President & CEO



# Celebrating Excellence South Korea



*LEI Missionaries Gloria and Gamaliel Kim received the Mission Award in honor of Missionary Horace Grant Underwood. Because of pandemic restrictions Dr. Nam-Hyeon Kim received the award on behalf of Gloria and Gamaliel; they were unable to leave the country where they serve.*



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

[www.Instagram.com/Literacy\\_Evangelism](https://www.instagram.com/Literacy_Evangelism) ■ [www.Facebook.com/LEIUSA](https://www.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.

LEI is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.  
Attention Donors: If you would like an email receipt instead of a paper one, please let us know by emailing:

[info@literacyinternational.net](mailto:info@literacyinternational.net)



# Virtual International Literacy Training Institute

*January through September 2021*

For information:

[www.literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training](http://www.literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training)



# Literacy & Evangelism INTERNATIONAL



*Member Nation Gathering in Ghana, Africa*

Rev. Dr. Sid V. Rice, President  
**Literacy & Evangelism International**

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If you are not on our email distribution list and would like to receive this "email only" publication,  
please send your email address to [info@literacyinternational.net](mailto:info@literacyinternational.net).

*Cover Photo: Literacy student taking a test. Kinshasa, DR Congo, Africa. Courtesy Pastor Nzongo Sila-Ndunda*