



THE LEI MESSENGER 2019 LATIN AMERICA EDITION



Literacy & Evangelism INTERNATIONAL

*"The book will be given to the one who cannot read,
saying, "Read this, please." And he will say,
"I cannot read." Isaiah 29:12 AMP*

SID RICE: PRESIDENT

The last two LEI Messenger publications have highlighted our emerging strategic formation of Member Nation Partners. These global network partners have embraced the mission, vision, values, and name of Literacy & Evangelism. Though this publication highlights LEI work in all of Latin America, we are particularly honored to bring attention to a Member Nation Partner, Alfabetização e Evangelização Internacional (AEI) Brazil which was the catalyst for our expanding global presence through Member Nation Partners.

Several years ago we noticed the “bright spot” of literacy mission in the country of Brazil. AEI Brazil formed a mission organization independent of LEI-US, taking ownership of the LEI formatted Portuguese primer, training trainers, holding thousands of literacy classes, and now sending missionaries to Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. This incredibly bright example of literacy mission gave us pause and begged the question, “How can we empower more countries to be like AEI Brazil?”

This past summer, I was honored to meet Pastor Edson, AEI’s board chairman. I thanked him personally for the organization’s role as a source of inspiration for the expanding global network of L&E Member Nation Partners.

May God continue to richly bless AEI Brazil, LEI missionaries, and partners throughout Latin America and the world.



J. MCDONNELL: MANAGING DIRECTOR LATIN AMERICA

A few years back, *The Washington Post* published an article stating that “The center of Christianity has shifted from Europe to the global South.” I’ve observed this reality first-hand in Latin America, where what was once a missionary field has morphed into a missionary force.

Today, it is estimated that 80% of the evangelical church lives in the global South. Over the past decade, the Lord has been raising up nationals in Latin America to champion Bible-based literacy missions in their countries and even other parts of the globe. We’ve seen LEI Brazil missionaries working in Mozambique & Cape Verde, and LEI Peru missionaries helping plant a new sister organization in Equatorial Guinea.

This month, I had the honor of joining LAMP, LEI-Canada’s Guatemala team, for the 20th anniversary of the New Testament translation in the Mam language. It was a great reminder of the enormous blessing of having the scriptures in our mother tongue languages, and also the remarkable power of a grassroots, self-governing, indigenously-led literacy ministry.

Of course, there are many more stories to celebrate in Latin America, but the unifying thread is the gospel of Jesus Christ. It’s at the center of LEI materials, methods, and mission. It’s God’s work, and we stand in awe of how He’s using reading to redeem human souls for eternity. “The Lord has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes” – Psalm 118:23



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John McDonnell
Managing Director
Latin America and
wife Emily



Ana Biederman
Brazil



Jerry & Kathy
Manus
Peru



Augusto & Carolyn
Pecho
Peru



Bruce & Jaye
Hansen
Caribbean



Ivan & Claire
Rosalia
Dominican Republic
& Curaçao

MULTIPLY AND DIVIDE LITERACY & EVANGELISM IN PERU

BY JERRY MANUS



“Doris, the principal of a Christian school, was praying for a way to help the students who were not learning to read.”

Jerry and Kathy Manus are missionaries with EVAL (LEI) in Peru. Jerry trained two of the school teachers at Victory of Jesus Christian School to use the LEI Spanish-language primer. In this way, they hope to reach the children of Belén (Bethlehem) who are non-readers. This is Jerry’s story.

“Doris, the principal of the Victory of Jesus Christian School, told me she had been praying for a way to help the non-reading students. God was answering her prayer. Students who missed learning to read in first grade started being taught in special classes.

“The school year ended in December, but now we have trained two more reading teachers. The new school year began in March, with four reading teachers trained and working at the school.

“We usually deal with reading, not in arithmetic. But now we are multiplying and dividing the students among the teachers. In this way, we are reaching many more students than we could on our own. All of the students at the Victory

of Jesus School are given the message of the Good News in Jesus Christ and are guided with biblical teaching.

“Now Doris has asked me to teach an adult reading class, beginning in May. These are parents of students who are themselves non-readers. This class needs special prayer because adults here are often unwilling to study reading, for fear that others will find out they are non-readers.

“Since I began helping at the Victory in Jesus School, we have made plans to work with a sister school in another high-risk part of town and also with a ministry that rescues abused girls.

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD. And on his law, he meditates day and night. ~ Psalm 1:1-2 (NIV '84)

“How can we protect children from the counsel of the wicked? If we are the parents of the children, we can guide them to information and influences that will form a good path for them.

“Through the reading ministry, we have had the privilege of helping and guiding some children along a better path than that of the ‘wicked and mockers.’

“We work to pass on the message of salvation in Jesus and the love of God’s word so that it becomes a guiding light in lives surrounded by darkness.

“But when we look at an entire high-risk community like Belén, we realize how much needs to be done and how powerless we are to reach the lives of so many children. Now we see God working in opening the way to cooperate with the Victory in Jesus School, giving us the means to multiply Christian teachers using the reading ministry to impact the lives of many more children than we could on our own.

“Thank you for coming with us as we bring the hope of Jesus to children in Belén. Meditating on and delighting in God’s Word are keys to knowing God and receiving his blessings. Those are the blessings we want for the kids in Belén. Let’s not miss out on those blessings ourselves, wherever we are.”

Latin America: what was once a missionary field has morphed into a missionary force. ~ John McDonnell

MEMBER NATION PARTNER ALFABETIZAÇÃO E EVANGELIZAÇÃO INTERNACIONAL, AEI BRAZIL

BY ANA BIEDERMAN



J. McDonnell, LEI Managing Director for Latin America, met at 1st Presbyterian Church, Belo Horizonte, with leaders of AEI (LEI) Brazil. Pictured here are from left to right John, Melise, Nilza, Selma, Cilseia, Pastor Edson, and Helsa.

Cilseia, from São Paulo, is one of the key leaders of literacy in Brazil. She was part of a 3-week training event conducted by Ana Biederman in 1998. Cilseia has continued to do mission work without interruption for the past 20 years! She trains teachers to use the Bible-content Portuguese primer, teaches non-readers, speaks at churches and conferences, and is an enthusiastic representative of AEI (LEI) Brazil. Recently she wrote to Ana to describe the blessings of this work.

“My work in literacy started in the most difficult time in our family’s life. My husband, Clau, was unemployed, and we had two small girls. I was preparing to take a post-graduate degree and finish a seminar to be a church worker. As I was looking for a job, I received a letter about teachers in Africa who taught people to read by writing in the sand! That touched me so much I prayed, ‘Lord here am I, send me.’

“Ana, you sent me an invitation to attend the AEI (LEI) training course. I wondered if I should go. My pastor took the letter to the church council and they sent me to the training near Belo Horizonte. Today I am celebrating 20 years of uninterrupted literacy evangelism ministry to the glory of God! God calls - God empowers - God sustains!

“By God’s grace, I’ve trained over 3,000 teachers in São Paulo and also traveled to other states in Brazil to conduct training.

“After conducting training in a church at Pinheiros, 100 literacy evangelism classes were started in different regions of São Paulo State.

“For 19 years I helped prepare missionaries for overseas work with Kairos Mission. Their missionaries are working in Cape Verde, São Tome, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry and elsewhere. In one Portuguese-speaking country, a missionary taught 27 (non-believers) with the Bible-content primer. Another missionary in Peru taught an entire family to read. They can now study the Bible and grow together in their faith.

“This past April I again taught at Kairos Mission. One worker told me of the growing literacy work in a church in France. She reminded me to never give up because this work is growing. We wept together at God’s faithfulness.

“Ana, I could continue to write but one day I’ll write a book. In these 20 years of ministry, with many struggles, my work continues uninterrupted. These are 20 years of VICTORY!”



John McDonnell, Helsa, and Selma visit the Maxakali (Muh-shock‘uh-lee) village where literacy classes are ongoing. Helsa (right) came to LEI’s International Literacy Training Institute in 2009 and returned with Project Tairu reaching indigenous tribes in Brazil.

For those who want to learn more, the history of LEI Brazil can be read at <https://bobbiederman.wordpress.com/2019/08/22/aei-lei-mission-in-brazil/>

TRAINING TRAINERS TO TRAIN

BY JAYE HANSEN



“We are retired, but that does not mean that we’re just amusing ourselves. We have been in beautiful places and have enjoyed meeting people from other cultures. We’ve been to Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and even one of the cartel areas of Mexico. We’ve been in challenging situations, and we’ve watched God continue to be faithful to us!

“Recently, we’ve been praying about what we should focus on in the LEI ministry, and in a short time, there have been five requests to train teachers in Haiti for literacy classes.

“The first request came from Darlene, who lives in California! After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Darlene went to help in the relief efforts. While working in Haiti, Darlene met Rosemene, a pastor’s wife, who is trained as a teacher and as a nurse. She visits orphanages to provide health care for the children. She expressed a desire to reach out to illiterate women in her neighborhood by teaching some of them to read in their own language, Haitian Kreyol. Rosemene discovered LEI’s materials and began teaching five women to read. Though she wasn’t trained in using LEI’s materials, she still had good success! Rosemene loved LEI’s materials because of their biblical content.

“One of the beauties of literacy ministry is, it is very relational, giving the teacher opportunities to share the gospel with students and to help them be able to read the Bible for themselves! This is why we do what we do!

“Darlene reached out to us, asking if we could train Rosemene. Unable to make a trip to Haiti at that time, we instead traveled to Catalina Island. We trained Darlene in the LEI method so that she can show Rosemene how to use the method. Rosemene plans to finish teaching her five students to read so that they can read their Bibles. Now, there are plans for Rosemene to teach illiterate adults in an additional neighborhood!

“We plan to locate illiterate adults in our area who would like to learn to read in Spanish. Literacy is really our passion!!

“Please pray for God’s guidance that we will be able to fulfill all of the requests where help is needed and for health and safety as we do so!”

GUATEMALA

WITH J. McDONNELL & WES HERMAN

In 1975 LEI founder Dr. Bob Rice with son Roland and daughter Alice (Rice) Tubley, worked with a Guatemalan primer construction team to create the Mam literacy primer, two decades before the Mam New Testament was completed.

Now, 44 years later, this past September, an LEI short-term ministry team lead by J. McDonnell, LEI Man.Dir. Latin America, and including Wes Herman, LEI missionary, were in Guatemala with LEI-Canada's Byron Temaj, a native Mam speaker, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Mam New Testament's translation. While in Guatemala, the team visited and filmed new reader testimonies in literacy evangelism outposts.



Wes explains, "I've spent the past week meeting with the Mam people in the Guatemalan high country. It's amazing to see literacy ministry at work and hear new-reader testimonies. Being able to read and write in your own language is a blessing not to be forsaken.

"Wendy (pictured here) said, being able to read the Bible in her native tongue has been a life-changing experience. She feels like she has a deeper, more heartfelt understanding of the Word compared to previously only being able to read a Spanish translation.

"Norberto (another Mam speaker) said he feels like he has a better grasp on the world around him, being able to read for the first time at age 84. He can better operate the business side of his farm and read newspapers and street signs. Perhaps most importantly, he is excited to share the Gospel with others now that he can read and understand the Bible for himself!"

Through the faithfulness of Literacy & Evangelism and its partners, the Lord is changing people's lives, strengthening disciples, and planting churches by sharing the message of Jesus Christ while sharing the gift of reading.

Being able to read and write in your own language is a blessing not to be forsaken. ~ Wes Herman

PLEASE PRAY

“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks;”

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 (NASB)

MON

For new missionaries for LEI who have a vision and heart to serve the Lord through literacy evangelism in Latin America.

TUES

For John McDonnell (LEI Managing Director Latin America & Southern Asia), Emily, and children.

WED

For Ana Biederman (Brazil), husband Bob (LEI Managing Director North America & Europe), their children; and AEI-Brazil.

THURS

For Jerry & Kathy Manus and Augusto & Carolyn Pecho and others serving in literacy evangelism in Peru.

FRI

For Bruce & Jaye Hansen serving the Caribbean and California.

SAT

For Ivan & Claire Rosalia serving in Dominican Republic and Curaçao.

SUN

Thank the Lord for LEI's 52-years of literacy and evangelism ministry; ask for wisdom and blessing in future endeavors such as the International Literacy Training Institute 2020.

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



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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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Cover Photo: A missionary to indigenous people in Brazil encourages a tribal member as he reads the Bible in his native language.



Literacy & Evangelism INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY TRAINING INSTITUTE 2020

Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA
June 6 - 26, 2020 (3 weeks)

Two simultaneous tracks will occur over these three weeks.
For more detailed information about Literacy Trainings and Digital
Resources, please see our website.

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

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