

LEI MESSENGER ONLINE TRAINING EDITION 2020



Literacy & Evangelism
INTERNATIONAL

The word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all He does.

PSALM 33:4 NIV

- Established 1967 -

DR. SID RICE

LEI PRESIDENT

Dear Co-laborers in Christ,

In God's gracious wisdom, He prepared Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI) in this unique season of limited travel and social distancing, "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). Several years ago the LEI organization began pursuing a strategic initiative to create online learning opportunities. Under the expert leadership of Dr. Melina Gallo, Director of Global Distance Learning, she and others created online training courses giving LEI the capacity to provide all of the components of our International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI), virtually. At the beginning of this year we rolled out a training option for participants to attend ILTI online over the course of eleven (11) months. This training opportunity continues to be available at: www.literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training.



For 39 years, LEI has also provided an in-person International Literacy Training Institute on our Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA, campus. However, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, our Tulsa campus training, scheduled for June 2020, was canceled. In God's providence we already had the online components in place to offer an intensive version of our International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI).

This publication celebrates the resurrection of ILTI as an online event which took place this past fall, September and October 2020. God's plans were accomplished despite worldwide pandemic restrictions, and we praise Him for all that has been achieved.

Always your grateful brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sid Rice".

Dr. Sid Rice, LEI President

IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE WE ALREADY HAD ONLINE COMPONENTS IN PLACE TO OFFER AN INTENSIVE VERSION OF OUR INTERNATIONAL LITERACY TRAINING INSTITUTE.

DR. MELINA GALLO

DIRECTOR: GLOBAL DISTANCE LEARNING



Dr. Melina Gallo

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!



BOB BIEDERMAN

ENGLISH LITERACY



Bob Biederman, Managing Director: North America & Europe

The Intensive Online International Literacy Training Institute (IOILT) began on September 13th, 2020. During the first week of instruction, Larry Buell and I taught students how to use LEI's *Firm Foundations* literacy curriculum.

A total of seven students from Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, India, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Benin attended the virtual class exhibiting quite an international representation!

Each day, instructors met with students via Zoom for half an hour. This time was divided between checking in with and encouraging the participants and answering questions about the course content or assignments. It was always a great time to be together with these motivated individuals. For some, the meeting came in the afternoon and for others in the evening. This made for an interesting daily greeting. "Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening!"

The course was divided into six modules: Module 1 was a pre-course assignment which features testimonies of adult new readers and statistics on illiteracy. Module 2 introduced the *Firm Foundations* curriculum, as well as how to teach the "Pre-Reader." The Pre-Reader introduced symbol differentiation, the left to right pattern for reading, and 40 of the most common words in English. Module 3 began training the five steps necessary to teach all 80 *Firm Foundations* lessons. Module 4 discussed workbooks, schedules, and non-reader characteristics. Module 5 addressed witnessing to the students, using supplementary material, and reviewed the steps used to teach a lesson. Module 6 focused on starting a church-based literacy ministry concluding with the final exam.

All the coursework and assignments, including videos, PowerPoint presentations, books, articles, and quizzes were posted online. The presentation framework for the course was Google Classroom. Learners also navigated "Flipgrid" to record videos of themselves teaching a lesson.

Each module contained a number of assignments, keeping students and facilitators quite busy. Despite the limitations of internet connectivity in some locations and the challenges of the intensive workload competing with jobs and family life, five out of the seven industrious students successfully completed all English Literacy assignments and were able to graduate!

This new virtual institute platform gives LEI an exciting avenue for ministry and inspires the training of more literacy champions around the world.

JOHN MCDONNELL

LOCAL LANGUAGE LITERACY

It was an honor to facilitate the Local Language Literacy course. Part of that honor was facilitating alongside Dr. James Kigamwa (Managing Director: Africa & Middle East) and Mr. Nathaniel Nunoo (National Literacy Coordinator: L&E Ghana). They both have vast experience in the field and their insights enriched the class tremendously.

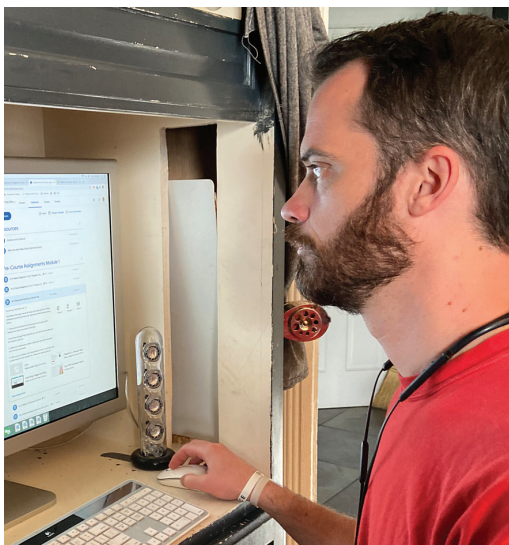
This was just the second online course that I've facilitated; there's still a bit of a learning curve.

I discovered that facilitating an online class demands a lot more work and time commitment than does an in-person training, but it is totally worth the effort. I loved getting to know each student.

There is an incredible joy in being connected to a group of people from around the globe (both digitally and in Spirit), all of whom share the same goal of bringing the light of the gospel of Christ through the scriptures to others.

I am really enjoying our virtual learning platform. It's more participatory in many ways than a live training. Each student completes assignments individually. This gives instructor and student a chance to interact as we review student responses. Many assignments are completed in the form of class discussion where students can learn from each other. Our daily Zoom meetings gave a chance to hear different perspectives, and to field questions.

Technological advancements and growing infrastructure are eroding previous obstacles commensurate with international literacy training, circumventing challenges in paying the high travel cost of long-distance travel and obtaining foreign visas. In God's providence, real time training across continents is now a reality, and I'm excited to be a part of Literacy & Evangelism International's new chapter of global distance learning.



REV. CAREY JO JOHNSTON

PRIMER CONSTRUCTION



Rev. Carey Jo Johnston, Managing
Director: LEI Canada

The Path to a New Primer

By God's grace and perfect timing, the two on-line courses for Primer Construction occurred in June and July 2020. So, when the proposal for an on-line intensive 3-week training materialized, we were prepared! Well, almost. Both classes had to be reformatted from a multi-week configuration to a one-week design!

I am so thankful for Nat Nunoo, Martha Ort, Cliff Bush, and Penny Fetters, my co-facilitators. They communicated with their assigned trainees and graded assignments for the 30 students in Module 1 and the 15 students in Module 2.

All trainees took *The Path to a New Primer: Beginning Considerations* (Module 1). In this class participants learned about the preparations necessary to begin development of an LEI method primer in a local language.

Fifteen trainees selected to take *The Path to a New Primer: Nuts and Bolts* (Module 2). These trainees learned the details of how to lead a language team in creating literacy lessons, how to incorporate Bible content in those lessons, and all the many extra bits that are needed to make a complete draft of an 82-lesson Bible-content literacy primer.

For this class we met daily the second week of LEI's Intensive Online International Literacy Training Institute (IOILTI). We spent a half hour on Zoom answering questions and giving encouragement to the trainees.

The rest of the day, the trainees worked on assignments which the instructors graded before the next day's Zoom call!

Graduates are now equipped with a new tool to bring glory to God as they help develop literacy primers in local languages.

DR. MELINA GALLO

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

I had the privilege of teaching the English as a Second Language (ESL) ministry course with the assistance of my talented co-facilitators Rachel Grijincu, Prakash Chandra Giri, and Carolyn Pecho.

In this course, students learned how to teach new English learners and to help them succeed in becoming fluent speakers of English.

Hephzi of India shared, “English has been a passion, and knowing that I could use it as a gospel tool is exciting. It’s a God-given talent to be proficient in it, and I would like to put this to full use as an extension of His Kingdom expansion. India is a country of diverse languages and English is considered as a bridge for communication.”

Van Thang of Myanmar wrote, “The burden and vision that the Lord has given me is to train youth with God’s word.

My vision is to share the gospel to each individual people group in Myanmar. When I see my community, I have a burden for my own people, like Moses. When he saw his people, he suffered for his own people to deliver them. Many young people want to learn to read English.”

Victor Huatama, a businessman in Indonesia, also runs vocational schools. He writes, “Having wonderful LEI materials and technology available to us (give) great tools for us to start the ESL (work). I am in an industrial city, and the ability to speak and to write English will be an advantage for youth to get their first jobs in factories and offices. I see the opportunity to teach the fresh high school graduates to equip them with basic conversational English. Benefits are enormous if we can have regular classes.”



Victor's students in the maritime vocational program.

DR. SID RICE

LEADERSHIP

The Leadership course of LEI's Intensive Online International Literacy Training Institute is designed to teach participants how to initiate and supervise literacy classes and work within a ministry team. This class was taught by Greg Bennett and Sid Rice. Greg has served LEI as an adjunct professor teaching the leadership course for over two (2) decades.

Leadership is intentionally placed in the final week of instruction containing the following components: Understanding Yourself and Others, Exceptional Leaders, Teamwork, Project Management, and Vision Casting. Each section builds upon prior components culminating in a final vision-casting presentation given by each participant. Each vision includes how the graduate will leverage the entire three (3) weeks' training to launch literacy programs in his or her respective country or region.

Here are some insights from the week:

"This course will equip me to flourish as a positive leader who understands and empowers others to accomplish their goals." Gyan - India

"After you embody vision, you must articulate it to stretch towards innovation. Then your job becomes: observe, question, listen, and challenge."

Reuben - Ghana

"Reasonable human beings do not need to get their way in order to support a decision but only need to know that their opinions have been heard and considered. Great teams ensure that everyone's ideas are genuinely considered."

Patrick Lencioni

- *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*

"I will adopt the project management approach in managing tasks assigned. I will first seek to understand the task, clarify and confirm my understanding of the desired outcomes, and subsequently discuss the resource requirements and availability." Rosemary – Ghana

"The leadership module opened my eyes in identifying my weakness and improving my strengths. Thank you... for this enriching experience which I am confident the Lord will bear fruit in the coming months and years for God's glory and extension of His kingdom."

Hephi – India



Dr. Sid Rice, LEI President

**“EFFECTIVE LEADERS
SPEAK TO INFLUENCE
AND MOTIVATE;
EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS
LISTEN TO LEARN,
COLLABORATE,
AND INNOVATE.”**

KEVIN CASHMAN

“POWERFUL PAUSE, LISTENING
IS LEADERSHIP”

DR. MELINA GALLO

FACILITATING ONLINE

The Facilitating Online course teaches participants how to use LEI's online videos and interactive courses to train teachers in adult literacy and ESL.

Eight students completed Facilitating Online which equipped them to teach online classes. They learned how to use new applications including Google Classroom, Flipgrid, and Zoom.

Prakash of Nepal plans to conduct online workshops in his country and to help facilitate LEI's worldwide courses. He writes, "English language teaching and literacy skills are gold mines rich with mission opportunity."

Jean of Benin, West Africa, writes, "The most surprising fact to me is that I never imagined online training to be so demanding. With the Lord's help I will set up online tutoring in order to help others learn English. And I will train other tutors to use online resources to reach people with the word of God."

Nelson of Sierra Leone faced many difficulties. He explains, "The Covid has devastated us and affected our church community where I was expecting to raise my support. I write to apologize for failing to attend two classes due to the heavy storms that damaged our host suppliers of the internet in our region. Since the problem couldn't be resolved, I traveled to the capital city to make sure I had internet access." Through great perseverance with the Lord's help, Nelson successfully completed the class.

Victor from Indonesia plans to teach English as well as classes at a theology school, online. He wrote, "I am very blessed to have the opportunity to be in this LEI online class. For sure, the course has equipped me abundantly and is very useful for my life and ministry."



Dr. Melina Gallo



Dr. Gallo and Rev. Johnston work together on computer technology in Ghana.

MEMBER NATION PARTNER COHORTS

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 Adjetey-Sowah, Elizabeth Agah, Rosemary Sackey, Reuben Adrakpanya, Samuel Lawerteh.

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

The Inductive Bible Study (IBS) course is always an ILTI favorite. Not only does this class teach participants how to effectively lead a small group Bible study, it feeds the hearts, souls, and minds of participants holding individuals accountable for delving deeply into the books of Philippians and Daniel.

Inductive Bible Study "helped me realize that God can talk to me directly through the study of the Bible, and I know that small group study also can help people develop a strong relationship with God," testified Jean of Benin.

All trainees participated in the IBS course completing assignments that introduced them to and strengthened their skills of Observation, Interpretation, and Application. During the three weeks, three small IBS groups facilitated by Penny Fetters, Bob Biederman, and Carey Jo Johnston, met on Zoom each day, Monday through Friday. The trainees themselves led one of the group studies putting into practice the IBS method they were learning.

Many ILTI participants find this Inductive Bible Study course transformational. Their personal experience inspires them to take the IBS method back to their churches. "We especially want them to use this method with their literacy and ESL students so that they become students of the Word of God also," exhorts Rev. Carey Jo Johnston, LEI Canada Managing Director.

"The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul" [Psalm 19:7 NLT].

PRAYER SUPPORT FOR LEI MISSIONS

MON

Please thank our good Lord for Dr. Melina Gallo and the LEI literacy instructors who made this year's online training event a memorable success.

TUE

Please pray for all the new IOILTI graduates as they put their vision plans into action.

WED

Please pray for IOLTI participants who still have parts of their course work to complete, that they would finish strong.

THU

Please pray for ongoing online literacy evangelism training, that many who have been unable to take the training in the past may now take the opportunity to do so.

FRI

Please pray for learners being tutored in English and mother-tongue literacy, that they would persevere, being dedicated in their learning so they can read God's Word for themselves.

SAT

Please pray for all who are being strengthened in their relationship with our Lord Jesus because they can now read God's Word, and for those who are meeting and accepting Jesus for the first time.

SUN

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

**REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING,
IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS.**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 NKJV



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>



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



Literacy & Evangelism INTERNATIONAL

IOILTI (INTENSIVE ONLINE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY TRAINING INSTITUTE) 2020 PARTICIPANTS

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