

**MALI**

Light in West Africa

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printed, and makes financial decisions with Khmer C&MA leaders, missionaries, and other Christian workers. We are backed by C&MA's Cambodia Mission.

Vision for the future

Since 1990, literature ministry in Cambodia has changed drastically. Now there are at least a dozen groups writing and printing new titles, mostly to fit their ministry, organizational or denominational needs. Writers include both expatriate as well as local Khmer. The increase of activity happened quite naturally with the growth of the Church.

Now, we are working to bring different groups together to develop one publishing house. The national market is not large enough to support all the publishing efforts in existence. Our vision is for the Cambodian Church to have a Christian publishing house, led, managed and owned by a Khmer Christian. We want to encourage Khmer Christians, including those outside of C&MA, to become significant players in this endeavor. Such a publishing house would have greater flexibility and a greater impact on the entire Cambodian church. ❖

L.A.M.P.E. (Literature pour Afrique Mission Protestante Evangelique), started as a distribution center for Christian literature in a room on the Christian and Missionary Alliance mission compound. In 1984, a literature center was started. The book depot and the literature production center are separate entities housed in the same building.

The center was begun mainly to produce books in the vernacular for Bible schools. Prior to its inception, teachers wrote and mimeographed books for their classes. Thus most of the Bible school books produced are reruns or revisions of old books. These are sold to six or seven Bible schools in three countries and to Christians in the local churches for local Bible study groups.

During the last year, L.A.M.P.E. had about ten missionaries and eight Malians working directly with the publication of the books. This includes writing new books, typing revisions, layout,

proofreading, and the actual duplication. Etienne Saye works with the equipment: a stencil cutter, a mimeograph, and a Risograph. Two part-time staff assist with collating, folding, etc.

In 1998, L.A.M.P.E. produced 30 titles and 37 "runs" of other things in six languages. The average print run of books was about 300 copies. We have produced a small newsletter, *Light*, written in Bambara, the local trade language. Also printed were: work for other mission groups, books of the Bible for translators, forms for the office, dispensaries and the TEE (Theological Education by Extension) program, publicity letters, and even a wedding announcement. More than 366,000 pages were printed.

All books printed are immediately sold to the distribution arm of the literature work under the direction of Daouda Coulibaly. L.A.M.P.E. has a good market for its products, and has trained about 15 pastors

Jane Robson, literature coordinator for L.A.M.P.E., provides an overview of her organization's work in the French-speaking country of Mali.



Douda Coulibaly, Jane Robson and Etienne Saye in front of their facility in Koutiala, Mali.

and laymen as colporteurs to work throughout Mali. Last year, sales were about \$12,400.00, 67 percent in Bambara, 17 percent French, 15 percent miscellaneous (calendars, etc.) and one percent other languages. French is Mali's official language.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance has been in charge of both aspects of L.A.M.P.E., but aims to turn it over to national leaders in three years. In preparation for this, greater integration is being sought between the editorial and distribution sides of the work, and a committee is being selected to supervise both aspects. ❖