



Welcome to *Light of Life* for 2021!

Last year not only was an upheaval for many of us, but positively, it also helped us review life. For most of us it has brought a challenge to better define what it means to train our children for a world that has lost its bearings. We want to encourage you that the faith we each hold has not changed – our Lord is still the creator, sustainer, Lord and King over all. It is to Him that we direct ourselves and our children so that we can be part of the solution that God has for this world.

In the over 40 years since Light Educational Ministries began and *Light of Life* was first published there have been many

changes in every area of life – and the vast majority have been negative. In the 1980s there was a quiet expectation that God was moving in many nations to re-establish Christian education to provide a platform for a reformation of the Christian faith. But, within a decade, the Christian school movement that promised so much had been ‘conformed’ by governments (through compulsory education legislation and equally government funding) to become a department of humanist state education.

Similarly, Christian home education began with vision and expectation, but now in its second generation much of that vision has dissipated.

Now, our state education that was once based on a biblical philosophy of life has become decidedly heathen and the products of that system, the nation’s children, have likewise predominantly become godless.

Nevertheless, in the midst of this decline we still find many home educating parents

have a clear and growing understanding of what they are about; and that brings a rejoicing to our hearts. For despite the negatives of our day we are greatly encouraged that there is a remnant of faith. We thank you for that encouragement!

In turn, we encourage you to press on with renewed enthusiasm in your Christian education endeavours.

LEM Phonics 2020

The 2020 revisions to LEM Phonics are now out there ‘in the wild’ and being actively used by schools and homeschoolers.

Feedback is being returned and we are facing regular decisions about which little tweaks to incorporate.

A hurdle we have encountered in our promotion of LEM Phonics is one of perception. More than one school teacher has said something to the effect of ‘I thought LEM Phonics was only for homeschoolers’.

We have recognised that in many ways this was true, with the original program not making much room for streamed classes or multiple students at different levels. But whilst we have actively made changes to

make LEM Phonics work well in the school classroom, we trust those changes have not reduced its effectiveness for homeschoolers. It is our desire that LEM Phonics is simple to use for both classroom teachers and homeschooling parents.

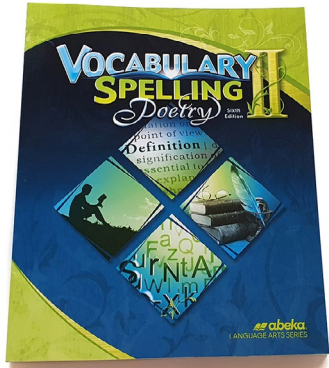
Teacher Book C for the third year of instruction is underway, with a good dose of time pressure to be ready for schools who have already embarked on the 2020 program.

Our agile ‘on-demand’ printing ability has given us the option to continuously improve things, but we are discovering this sometimes presents a consistency problem between versions. But it is a significant advantage when errors are encountered because there are not hundreds (or thousands) of errored copies sitting on the shelf. As the program revisions near completion the amount of tweaking should decrease significantly. If you do encounter an inconsistency, check the print date on the inside front page, and feel free to point it out to us – there’s a good chance it will already be fixed.

Once again we thank our registered instructors for their continued input and promotion of LEM Phonics, and we look forward to God’s favour upon us to make swift progress in the coming months.

Visit www.lemphonics.com for more information on the original and 2020 versions of the program. ■

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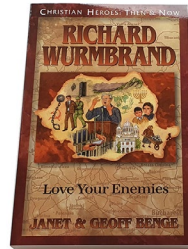
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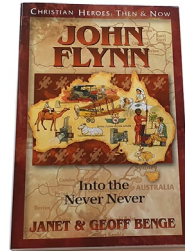
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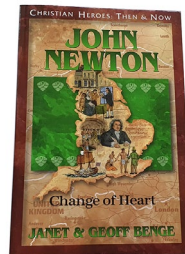
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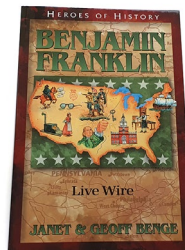
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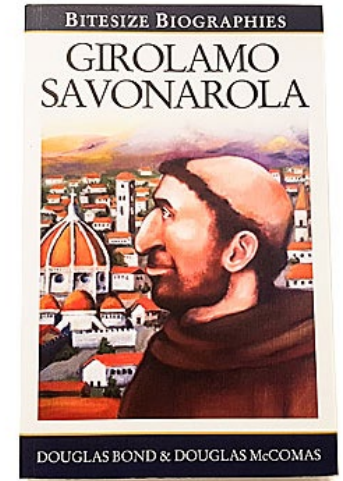
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Bite-sized biographies is a series of 17 short biographies designed for secondary and up. Some of the subjects are quite well-known and others are more obscure, but each is a delightful story of God's hand on the lives of His servants. Our young people need to read stories such as these to fill their hearts with faith and to learn to stand on the shoulders of the Christians who have gone before them.

One fascinating story is that of **Girolamo Savonarola**, a Catholic priest living in Florence, Italy, in the fifteenth century. Savonarola was a fire-brand for the Lord, preaching in the midst of the corrupt Italian Renaissance. This included the Medici family and famous artists such as Michelangelo, who was led to faith through his ministry late in life. Eventually he fell foul of the Pope and was burned to death, but his testimony lives on and he is remembered by a plaque set in the cobblestones of the town square of Florence. **\$14.95**



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No. 111: Understanding the path to victory

Recently I was challenged by an article by Mark Rushdoony (son of R J Rushdoony) from the USA. I quote some excerpts from the article below as it presents a Christian view of the situation in which we find ourselves, and the answer to that dilemma for us as families.



After a difficult year in 2020, followed by a controversial presidential election, many Christians are asking the same question David did in Psalm

10:1, 'Why standest thou afar off, O Lord? Why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?'

In other words, why does the enemy prevail? Why do the wicked walk in victory? As my father noted in *Faith and Action*:

The lack of Christian epistemological self-consciousness is one of the major reasons, if not perhaps the major, for the growing victory of the enemy.

This is a philosophical way of saying Christians lack the full awareness and corresponding action that comes with being called and equipped for godly dominion. My father continues:

Christians are too often trying to defend their realm on humanistic grounds, with Saul's armour, and as a result, they are steadily in retreat. Often, they are actually fighting for the enemy without knowing it.

Doesn't that describe our current situation? With innumerable churches spread throughout the land, the moral, cultural, and political

ground is routinely taken by the enemies of God. Why is this the case? It's because Christians 'are steadily in retreat,' and 'fighting for the enemy without knowing it.'

The remedy of Christian education

What's the solution? The remedy is Christian education in order to create a greater, stronger Christian equipped for godly dominion:

It is therefore of the utmost importance for Christians to develop epistemological self-consciousness. This means Christian education. It means a Christian philosophy for every sphere of human endeavour.

We at Chalcedon are a ministry devoted to Christian education which means developing 'a Christian philosophy for every sphere of human endeavour.' It's not that we as a ministry develop a philosophy for every sphere, but rather that we help provide the tools to equip you to do so!

Last year at this time, the lockdowns began nationwide, and everyone's lives, businesses, schools, and churches were radically changed.

But the need for more scholarship has not changed. If anything, the need is even greater, and we need to devote more time and energy to bringing more Christians to 'epistemological self-consciousness.'

Mark Rushdoony, *The Reason for the Enemy's Victory*, 3 March 2021

Light of Life

Light Educational Ministries is a faith ministry, working in the area of Christian education.

Our Ministry is to spread the vision and concepts of Christian education. Light Educational Ministries staff are available to share with and assist groups interested in or involved with Christian education. Our staff prepare and distribute resources and develop curriculum and LEM training programmes.

Light of Life is a non-subscription newsletter, published several times a year. We do, however, encourage donations towards the cost of production and distribution.

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