



## Time does not stand still — we all get a day older each day and I trust wiser as well!

Philosophies and their practice change things, including nations. And Australia has changed dramatically in the last 30–50 years. What was a great window of opportunity for Christian education in the 1970s was frustrated as government took increasing control of education to a degree that would have seem ridiculous in those early days. In the early 70s there was no registration of teachers and until the early 80s no registration of schools. Amazingly, people seemed to be better educated without all these essential protections! Tragically the promised raising of standards that would

ensue did not materialise, and many would suggest have actually deteriorated. I should clarify that from a humanistic perspective education has improved out of sight, but it is from a Christian perspective that I write and in terms of Christian values we have seen a dramatic deterioration.

As time has passed much of the vision of Light Educational Ministries, which was built on personal responsibility before God, has been outlawed. It has become impossible to fulfil our vision without unacceptable compromise.

As a result, we have focused on promoting the LEM Phonics program and supplying many other resources for Christian education, which mainly originate from the USA. But even that market has changed as education has moved from conservative Christian values to humanist values. So, with a lack of adequate demand, our endeavours to produce LEM curriculum have slowed significantly.

We are presently in a process of restructuring much of our activity. As I wrote last time Evelyn Garrard has retired (about ten years after she reached retirement age) and Kaye and I are also almost a decade past retirement age. We have no intention of retiring, but we are taking things a bit easier these days. Our staff are still committed to offering quality Christian education services into the foreseeable future.

### Rationalisation

We have stocked various lines for many years (largely imported from USA) which have now passed popular use, making it difficult to maintain stocks. Sadly, many of these materials were excellent, but fewer and fewer people seem keen to use them in their home education programs.

You may have noticed that we have been clearing stocks of some of these slower-moving items to streamline our operations. For example:

- We have been clearing the Canon Press Latin texts, which provide excellent value for any who are keen to teach Latin and provide a superior basis for language study.
- Vic Lockman has sadly passed away in 2017 and we are clearing the last of his books.
- The Bob Jones Booklinks Guides have decreased in popularity in the last year or so, but they still provide an excellent resource to accompany the very good series of readers/novels Bob Jones use in

their English program. We are clearing these both individually, and as a set with their novel (where available).

We will continue keep the full range of curriculum from Rod and Staff publishers, A Beka Book, and Bob Jones University Press, as well as a large range of their reading (library) books. Christian Liberty Press sales have decreased (largely because they do not offer a full curriculum) and we are likely to be offering some of their titles as specials in the near future.

We will continue to provide all the LEM resources and we are about to embark on a major upgrade of LEM Phonics materials.

So as we set out on this busy season, we trust you will continue to uphold us in your thoughts and prayers as we seek to serve the Lord in education.



## No. 105: LEM Phonics

We believe LEM Phonics is one of the best programs for teaching English.

Thousands of children have been taught to read, write and spell well using our program, and numerous accolades have come our way over the years. We have taught the program in each state of Australia. We have travelled to PNG, China, New Zealand, Malaysia, India, Nepal, Tanzania, and Uganda to conduct training programs. Others have been teaching LEM Phonics in schools in several other nations, not to mention missionary families teaching their children in numerous far-flung locations.

The journey began for us in developing an understanding of Christian education – through which we realised there was a problem with the way English was taught in the school system. Although we had a recollection of learning traditional phonics in our own schooling, our subsequent training was in the whole word (look and guess) method. In casting about to find alternatives we discovered intensive phonics and began working with that method from about 1980 until the mid 1990s. At that stage it became necessary

to branch out and develop our own Australian intensive phonics program, which became known as LEM Phonics. Our staff member Evelyn Garrard, who was teaching the junior grades in our Christian school, developed the program to suit the Australian situation with a strong Christ-centred approach. Over the subsequent years we developed the LEM Phonics program and its wide range of products we have today.

### New Leader

With Evelyn's retirement late last year, her son John is taking over the leadership role for the LEM Phonics program.

John is no stranger to phonics, having been taught phonics at our school and having worked with his mother at LEM for seventeen years reviewing, editing and designing the LEM Phonics materials. John and his wife Linda have also taught their four children at home using LEM Phonics. In recent times John has successfully completed the Advanced Course to become our resident instructor in LEM Phonics.

John has begun working with our Registered Instructors with a view to building a team to promote the program across Australia and numerous countries around the world. We will also be meeting together to develop a strategy for revising our LEM Phonics program over the next year or two.

### Registered Instructors

We presently have three Registered Instructors to provide training and resources



and to assist in equipping schools and homeschoolers in teaching our program.

### GREG O'KEEFE TOOWOOMBA, QLD



Greg O'Keefe has been a teacher for over three decades, with extensive experience in all grade levels from Preschool to Year 10. He has a keen interest in literacy, particularly the way in which children acquire language. Greg's wide international teaching experience (using LEM Phonics in a non-English speaking context) has given him an outstanding depth of knowledge in the area of teaching literacy.

### BARBARA SOUTTER DONVALE, VIC



Barbara began her teaching career in 1981 but in 1986 she took several years off to raise her three children. In 2004 she recommenced teaching and in 2008 became an LEM Phonics Registered Instructor, using the programme at Donvale Christian College. She is passionate to see children learn to read and write through the LEM Phonics programme.

### ANNE FRIES OFFICER, VIC



Anne discovered LEM Phonics several years after she embarked on her teaching career in 1981. She soon became an enthusiastic advocate for phonics, and now has many years of experience in school and home education,

and in tutoring children from Prep to Year 12. As an LEM Phonics Registered Instructor, Anne delights to help teachers help students discover the independence, empowerment, and joy of literacy.

### Encouraging LEM Phonics breakthrough in India

Richard Wilson is an LEM Phonics enthusiast who has completed our Advanced Course. As part of his ministry to India, Richard has busily promoted LEM Phonics in several locations in that country. He writes:

IN INDIA English is certainly the language that transcends all the state languages, and to have an excellent English literacy programme there is to have a 'silver bullet'. The more we get to use LEM Phonics in the vast private and government education system of India the more we realise that we have a world class product.

### FAITH ACADEMY

Faith Academy in New Delhi is an outstanding Christian school of 3700 students who attend in two daily shifts. Recently, they attributed the introduction of LEM Phonics as greatly enhancing the academic standards of the school. A growing number of other Christian schools are now looking to Faith Academy as their LEM Phonics model school.

The LEM phonics program was introduced to Faith Academy some four years ago. All eighty teachers at that first seminar passed the course and the four Coordinators of





Faith Academy, New Delhi



Students at Faith Academy



Richard Wilson instructs teachers in LEM Phonics at Faith Academy

the primary school committed to implement the program in Kindergarten and Year One with 120 students at each level.

Faith Academy have been wise in appointing four primary school coordinators who have become extremely proficient in the use of LEM Phonics and are able to conduct training, not only for Faith Academy but a growing number of other schools planning to implement the program. From March 2017 we began working with other schools in Pondicherry (Tamil Nadu Province), the Mukti Mission (near Pune), and Grace Academy in Dehradun (a sister school of Faith Academy). We hear that LEM phonics is well entrenched in these new schools and remarkable changes are being witnessed in their academic standards.

The wonderful thing about this story is that this work will continue even if I am unable to go to India again. The outstanding work of the Faith Academy Coordinators is God-given blessing. I am looking forward to visiting Faith Academy in April/May 2018 to continue to encourage the teachers and students.

### Malaysia seeks out LEM Phonics

Onny Maathai is head teacher of PACTS Schools in the city of Miri, Sarawak Province, Malaysia. He writes:



ENGLISH HAS become a most needed language to speak in Malaysia as well as in the national and international education faculties.

We have found school leavers in Borneo (who are mostly from native communities) are not able to have a simple conversation in English. This reduces employment opportunities for them, as employers find it hard to employ them due to their inability to speak an important language.

My involvement with LEM Phonics goes back to my first class in 2005 after witnessing it being taught in China by missionaries. I saw how the community there had been impacted by the effectiveness of the program.

I believe LEM Phonics to be the most complete English teaching program (and being an educator I have used many other programs). LEM Phonics is the best possible approach to teaching English and building the learning foundation to the language. We are planning to implement LEM Phonics in schools this year and this will allow mission organisations and missionaries to use this tool to reach out and greatly improve the English standard among the natives and their communities.



### New from Bob Jones

#### Grade 2 Math 4th Edition



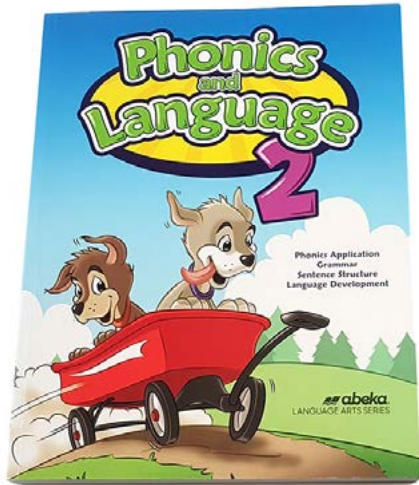
The fourth edition features a new layout and lesson arrangement. Designed as a write-in text, students learn addition and subtraction (up to three digits), place value (up to four digits), multiplication and division facts, time, calendars, money, fractions, geometry and measurement.

Worktext	<b>\$48.90</b>
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Bob Jones Maths  
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# A Beka Book New Editions



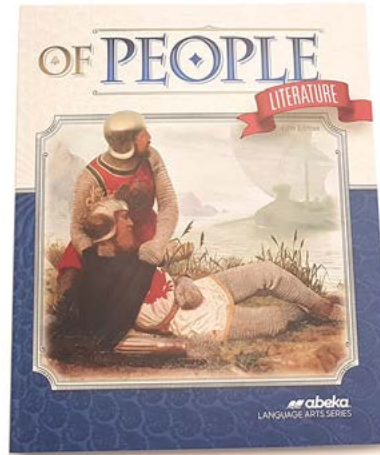
## Phonics and Language 2

This is a new course to replace *Letters and Sounds 2* and *Language 2*—it covers much the same material as these two books in a combined and rearranged course. Gives an excellent foundation in sentence structure, language development, and grammar using a phonetic approach to expand vocabulary, enhance word analysis skills, and increase reading speed. Each lesson is filled with special word challenges, puzzles, riddles, and other exercises.

Student Text	<b>\$44.00</b>
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Teacher Key to Test Book	<b>\$23.70</b>

## Grade 7 Literature Of People 5th Edition

Foster a love of literature with this compilation of selections based on pioneers, pilgrims, patriots, professional athletes, and many other exciting people. Includes over 100 selections, timed reading exercises, vocabulary words, and ‘Think it Through’ sections.



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Student Test Book	<b>\$13.60</b>
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## Grade 2 Spelling and Poetry 4th Edition

The fourth edition alters the layout and makes some significant changes in arrangement of content. This write-in book provides 33 spelling lists with exercises and a selection of poetry, plus homework sheets for each lesson.



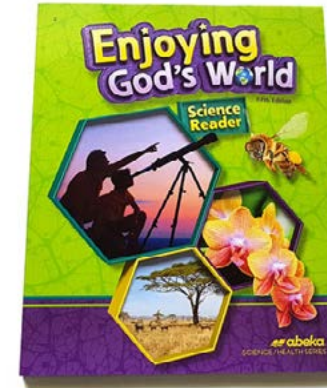
Student Text	<b>\$24.35</b>
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Teacher Edition	<b>\$42.80</b>



## Grade 2 Health, Safety and Manners 4th Edition

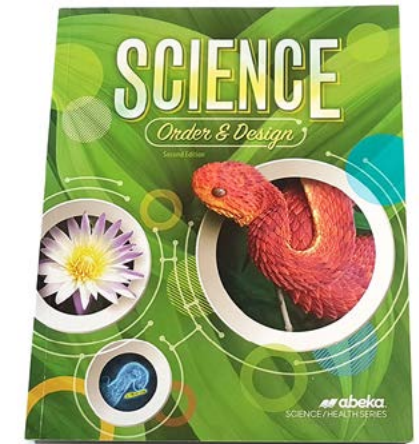
The fourth edition has a new design with largely rewritten text. The course covers healthy eating and exercise habits; safety at home and in public; and manners and behaviour for meals and other social situations.

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Teacher Edition	<b>\$42.80</b>

## Grade 7 Science Order and Design 2nd Edition

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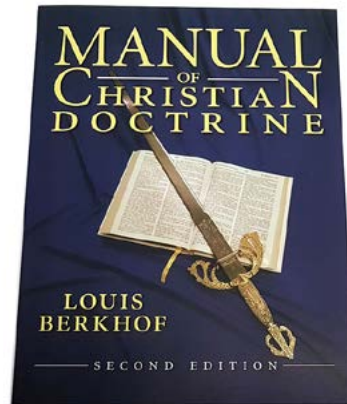
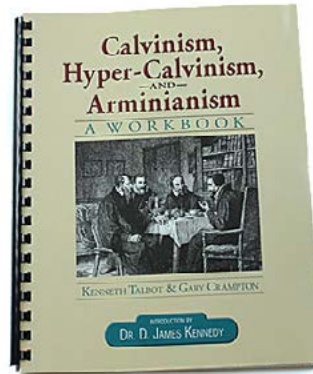
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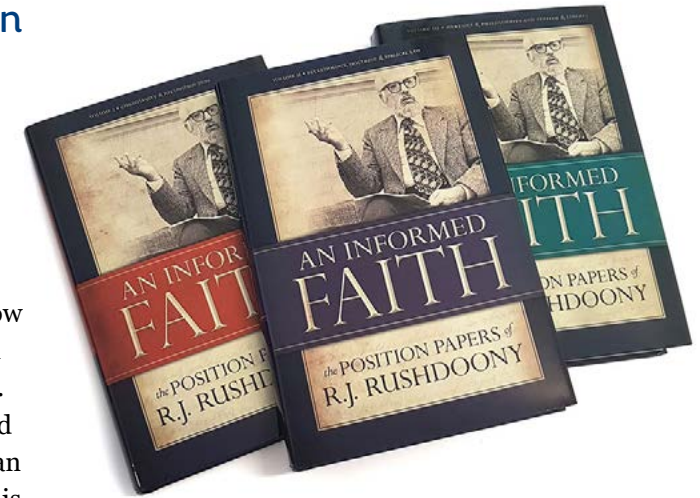
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Full conference details including program and registration are available at the website [daniel244.org](http://daniel244.org).



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## Bob Jones BookLinks Last Chance!

Many modern children seem to miss the enjoyment of reading.

More particularly, we have seen a dulling of the skill and habit of reading that will leave children much the poorer. To that end we strongly encourage the deliberate promotion of reading for students.

The last two issues of *Light of Life* have offered Booklinks from Bob Jones University Press at a special price to complement your reading programme. We are not planning to restock these titles so this is the last chance to purchase these for just **\$5.00** for the BookLink folder (if you already have the novel) and **\$18.00** (that's less than half price!) for the matching pair of novel and BookLinks folder. Several novel titles are out of print so they are clearing for **\$2.00** each.

BookLinks are part of the Bob Jones student library range specifically designed to accompany their English curriculum.

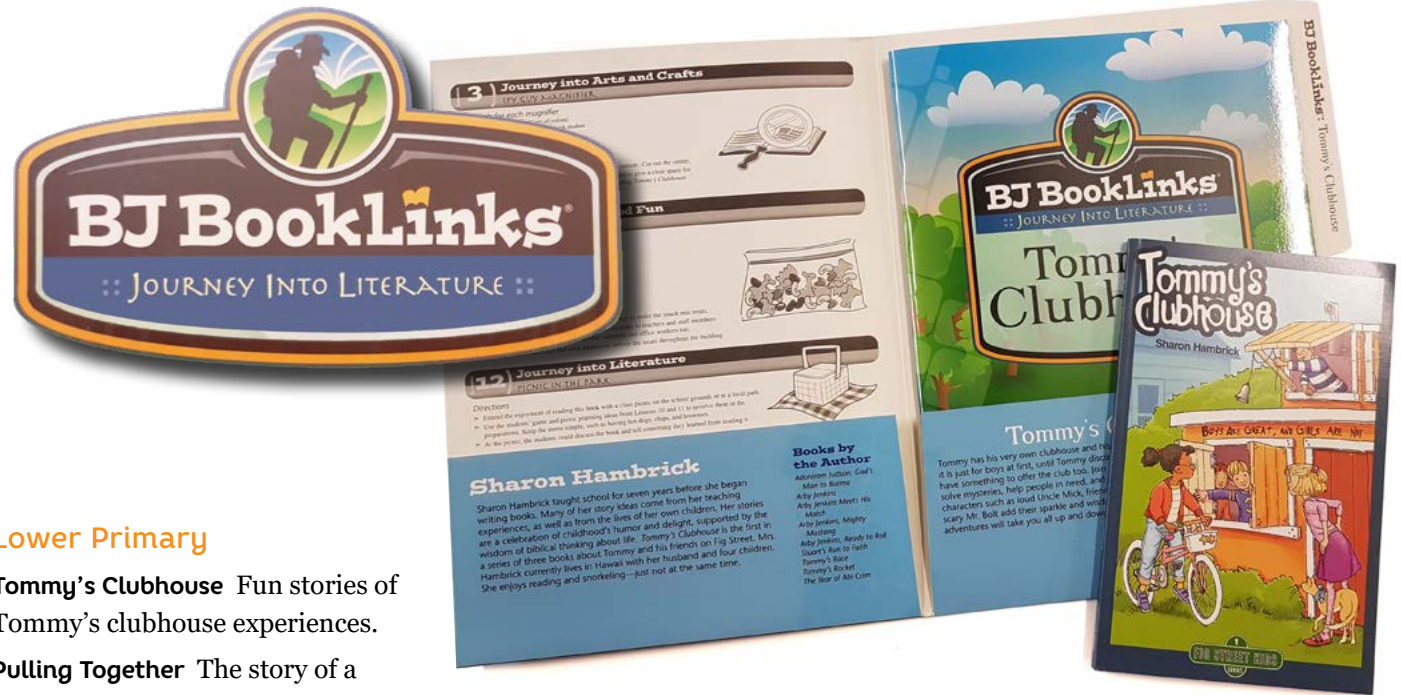
BookLinks are individual units based on full-length, age-appropriate books published by BJUP. Each BookLink comes in a pocket folder containing a teacher's guide to the text with carefully planned lessons, enrichment activities and reproducibles.

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Booklink folder and book pack **\$18.00 was \$37.90**

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Please be quick as stocks are limited  
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Did you know that you can search our online resources by supplier, subject, or grade level?

Those of you who remember that white thin stuff called ‘paper’ may recall the LEM *Curriculum Book*, which had a section at the front showing all the resources for each grade, sorted by subjects. This was particularly useful for curriculum planning because it answered the question ‘what’s available for my child’s age level?’

The ‘sort by grade’ function on our website answers the same question, allowing you to click through grades, then subjects, then see all the suppliers for those subjects. And, unlike the curriculum book, you can add them to your cart and order them straight away!

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# 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 three times a year. We do, however, encourage donations towards the cost of production and distribution.

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