



The year 2020 has seen some quite incredible events we have all been experiencing through the apparent pandemic.

For me this has been highlighted by a frightening restriction of freedoms that we have enjoyed for many years and which most of us assumed were inalienable. The events have caused a significant uncertainty and in many cases a fear for life and the future.

I am sure you have heard it said in these days – ‘the world has gone mad!’ So many expected norms of life have been set aside as it seems the enemy of our souls has run rampant through the land. Overall, it seems to me that unrighteousness has been unleashed in a

way many of us have never experienced before. In the midst of this crisis many godless pieces of legislation have been passed that we have had little time to consider in terms of potential consequences. With all these extreme measures I was pondering changes that have taken place in my memory when we enjoyed significantly more freedoms.

### When I was a boy

Memory fades somewhat with age, but some things stick in my memory of the way things were. My memory of school life was 40 lessons a week, 8 every day, all of which were disciplined, didactic instruction. I remember that one of the few distractions from this discipline, and the biggest ‘bludge’, was the weekly library lesson. Even then we were constantly in trouble for talking when we were supposed to be reading (we were, of course, discussing the merits of a particular literary genre).

There was not much else ‘extra curricula’ as I recall because school was almost exclusively about academic learning.

Much of my teaching was in Christian schools that did not look to indulge modern ideas, as we understood our parents (and teachers) saw their role was to teach academic disciplines in a culture of Christian values. Teaching evolution was bypassed as a fiction; sex education was the domain of parents; bullying was a feature of growing up that generally led to a more mature outlook on life. More often than not bullies enjoyed a brief reign, their behaviour modified in a session or two behind the lunch shed.

‘Values clarification’ was studied by reading the Scriptures and drawing attention to the values upon which God assesses our lives, which are found in the Ten Commandments. ‘Sensitivity Training’ was embraced in teaching the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life. ‘Sexual perversion’ was not something to be considered as it was outside our experience and comprehension.

### But now...

We now find our governmental leaders legislating that virtually any biblical value and practice is now illegal. What we have called right is now legally defined as wrong. What is more concerning is that too large a proportion of ‘Christians’ seem to have set aside the knowledge of Scripture to support and even applaud unrighteousness.

What is termed ‘progressive’ is indeed *re-gressive*. It requires little imagination to observe that our society (indeed our civilisation) is degenerating. The foundation of the Christian faith that built the Western world (‘Christendom’) has been systematically

and deliberately dismantled. ‘Progressives’ perceive we have entered to new age of tolerance, freedom and happiness, a time free from the restrictions imposed by Christianity. Progressives (aka Humanists/Marxists) seem unable to recognise they are presiding over a disaster, the full bloom of which is yet to be experienced!

### Christian Response

Raising our children has never been a simple or easy task, but in the world today it is even more challenging! The biblical faith, that we as Christian educators in school or at home seek to inculcate, provides the glue that holds families and nations together. I am sure parents are aware, and becoming more so, that raising Christian children means increasingly ‘swimming against the stream’. It becomes more important that parents return to the ancient ways of biblical values, as we learn from Proverbs 22:6:

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Whilst it is a short verse, it has very long ramifications for parents. Training children is a most important privilege for parents and one that cannot be overlooked without disastrous consequences. Biblical training has always been important and even more today as we see more clearly the contrast between the way of the world and the way of the Lord.

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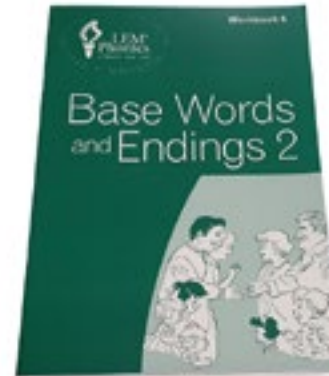
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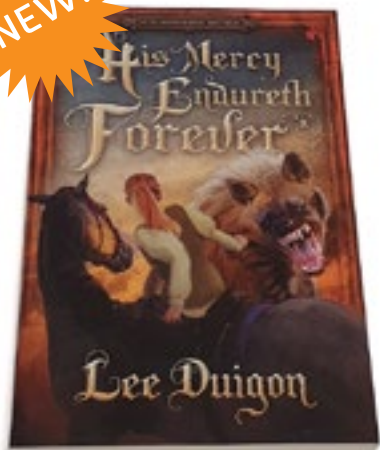
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## Christmas gift ideas

# Bell Mountain series

This fantasy adventure series in the vein of C S Lewis or J R Tolkien is written by Lee Duigon, a contributing editor with the Chalcedon Foundation and a weekly columnist for *News With Views*. The 12th Bell Mountain title has just been released: *His Mercy Endureth Forever*. These books make great Christmas gifts for high schoolers and also adult fans of the genre.



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Lord Orth must return to the city to preach mercy and repentance, and Ellayne and Jack must get him there safely, past the tyrant's men who've sworn to kill him. A nation of cruel barbarians is headed for the city walls; while inside, Lord Chutt probes the mysteries of the ancient past, hungering for more power, more glory. The golden mask made some men kings. Can it make Lord Chutt a god? **\$33.00**

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### #1 Bell Mountain

Jack and Ellayne embark on a divine quest to reach the bell on top of Bell Mountain, encountering battles, strange beasts and bandits along the way. Will they discover the terrible secret of the bell and its ability to end the world? **\$25.70**



### #2 The Cellar Beneath the Cellar

Jack and Ellayne must find the holy writings that have been concealed for 2,000 years. While they search, armies clash, men's hearts change for good or evil, prophets speak, and miracles abound. What was feared to be the ending of the world through the ringing of the bell might prove to be the beginning of a new one. **\$29.35**



### #3 The Thunder King

The tiny army of the Lord is on the march against the undefeated horde, in bold obedience to a divine command. Prophets rise up in unexpected places, unlikely men and women perform deeds of desperate courage, and fantastic monsters stalk the night – while the Thunder King stretches forth his hand to seize the world. **\$29.35**



### #4 The Last Banquet

The Great Temple lies in ruins, but another Temple has arisen in the East. And the heroes of Bell Mountain, Jack, Ellayne, and Martis, captured by the Heathen Griffis, are to be brought before the Thunder King. What will be the fate of the new nation being born in the foothills of Bell Mountain? **\$33.00**



### #5 The Fugitive Prince

There is a new Thunder King in the East, and new threats against the West. The City of Obann seethes with treason and plots against King Ryons – and an ignorant slave-boy must defend the rightful king's throne. Will the nation turn to the New Temple in the East – or to the words of their God? **\$33.00**



### #6 The Palace

Jack, kidnapped from his home and forced to serve traitors; and a new lord of Obann's Temple, bearing a weapon of destruction, are converging on the Palace. For the first time in two thousand years, Obann will have a Coronation Day, and a king will wear his crown. But for how long will he wear it? **\$33.00**



### #7 The Glass Bridge

At the top of Golden Pass, wealth beyond calculation lies waiting for any who can take it. Confronted by perils they can barely understand, with no safe choices set before them, the heroes of Obann must risk their lives on the glass bridge that can only be crossed by faith. **\$33.00**



### #8 The Temple

The First Prester, Lord Orth, continues his missionary work among the heathen; for God has commanded him to establish a new temple, one not made with human hands. But in the great city of Obann, they reject Orth's vision and seek to rebuild the old temple with tainted gold amassed for the Thunder King by crime and violence. **\$33.00**



### #9 The Throne

Nothing in the city of Obann is what it seems to be: evil masquerades as good, while good must hide behind a semblance of evil. The king's chief spy must pose as the usurper's trusted adviser – but will he be able to find the help he needs to mount a successful resistance? **\$33.00**



### #10 The Silver Trumpet

A silver trumpet sounds from the walls of the city, with tidings of unexpected joy: the Thunder King is dead, his empire destroyed, and the boy king, Ryons, whom all believed was dead, is coming home victorious. But no one can find the trumpeter... **\$33.00**



### #11 The Temptation

The usurper who has seized the city from King Ryons now seeks power for himself. Far in the east, Lord Orth prepares to bring God's Word to the nations of the Heathen; but he is also needed, more than ever, in Obann. His heart is set on his mission, but Jack and Ellayne must persuade him to come home. **\$33.00**

# LEM Phonics 2020



When we embarked on the revisions to the LEM Phonics program in 2018, we felt that most of the changes would be in the first year materials and the subsequent years would just be minor adjustments.

As is the case with many things, however, you don't see how deep a hole is until you start digging it! As we have continued developing our second year resources we have discovered along the way many more improvements to add to the new version of LEM Phonics.

Our team of instructors has been amazing in adding their time, knowledge and experience to the revisions, and we are extremely grateful for each of these individuals.

## Year B resources

The second year resources (year B) are now in production.

*Teacher Book B* is the replacement for *Word List Book 1*, and features a revised order where words are grouped according

to their phonograms and rules. The rules are presented in a much more coherent manner with a neat summary and examples at the end of the book.



We also realised that whilst there were 5 workbooks for year A, year B only called for one (*Base Words and Endings 2*). Given the re-organisation of the words and a greater emphasis on rules, we created an additional workbook

for year B called *Rules and Tools*. This workbook corresponds to the rules in the teacher book word list, providing rule-specific exercises to clinch the concepts being learned.

Rounding out the year B resources are the student books and test books, this time presented in two volumes each.

The sound charts for vowel and consonant sounds have also been upgraded and are now available in two sizes.



## Older grades

Our 2020 revisions continue to be informed by our keywords *consistency* and *simplicity*.

But as we work through the older grades of the program we could perhaps add another keyword – *flexibility*. We are seeing the need to cover the student who walks into a grade 3 or 4 classroom having never seen a phonogram, as well as the student who has grown up with LEM Phonics since preschool. We know phonics works for slower learners, bright sparks, EAL students and everything in between, but to be effective we need to give attention to both 'catch up' methodologies and 'run ahead' enrichment exercises. The aim is to offer teachers *flexibility* based on their student levels, whilst remaining *simple* and *consistent*.

*Teacher Book C* will be the first resource to feature this concept and we hope to have it ready for release early in 2021.

## Accreditation & curriculum linking

Mostly thanks to our new instructor Carmel, we have also completed our linking with the Australian Curriculum. Basically this allows teachers to see the specific areas of the Australian Curriculum covered by LEM Phonics for English. In addition we have applied for our teacher training to be accredited by the Teacher Quality Institute, which will allow our courses to count as 'accredited hours' toward a teacher's professional learning schedule.

These are hoops we haven't needed to jump through before, but as we target more and more schools (including state schools), we are discovering that certain things are non-negotiable requirements that need to be in place before our program is even considered for implementation.



## New instructor

We are thrilled to welcome **Carmel Houghton** into our stable of LEM Phonics Registered Instructors.

Whilst she currently teaches at Westside Christian College in Brisbane, Carmel's husband is in the military – which means her teaching experience traverses the globe from the UK to the USA and locally in Queensland, Victoria and the ACT.

Carmel has already been busy training teachers in her school, and has been a wonderful blessing in giving her time and sharing her experience with accreditation and Australian Curriculum linking.

She and her family are moving to Canberra at the start of 2021 and we hope this will open up some excellent opportunities at schools in NSW and the ACT. It will also be wonderful to have an extra instructor close to head office!

## Training

With new instructors and new revisions we have overhauled our course structure to be more consistent and professional. New power-point presentations and neat course booklets are just two of the improvements we have made to our training seminar structure. There is still plenty of scope for the instructor's individuality to shine, but it means each instructor doesn't need to re-invent the wheel each time they present a seminar.

## Website

The **lemphonics.com** website is now up and running, with a new feature that allows customers to order through their registered instructor. This has been beneficial in allowing the instructors to direct people to the website and not have to 'double relay' the order information.

## Evelyn update

As many of you are aware the author of LEM Phonics, Evelyn Garrard, has been experiencing significant cognitive decline (dementia) over the past several years. In mid October her family realised it was unsafe for her to be living alone without care, and have secured a placement for her in a residential aged care facility in Canberra.

She is very much enjoying the beautiful surroundings, the chef-prepared meals, the activities program and the company of



*Evelyn enjoying her new surroundings*

the other residents. And her family is very much enjoying the peace of mind that her health and safety are no longer at risk.

It is sad to see the same sharp brain that could once tell you all the words containing a particular phonogram or rule now struggling to remember her own grandchildren. But we remain so grateful for what God has done through her and we continue to hear stories of the ongoing impact of her life's work. We trust that God is still working in her heart and mind and allowing the 'moments' that she is experiencing day by day to be edifying and worthwhile.

## In conclusion

LEM Phonics is God's program – we just have the stewardship of it. We realise that many overt Christian references have needed to be removed to allow us entry into schools, but our desire is that the program be 'saturated from within' with God's life and light. And we believe that he will continue to bless LEM Phonics and use it to advance his kingdom as we remain faithful to him and his Word. ■



## No. 110: Will the real pandemic please stand up?

The enemy has spent much time endeavouring to scare the population witless in the hope we will be bereaved of vision and purpose.

Even many Christians seem to have been caught up in this climate of fear and uncertainty. While we are encouraged to fear for our lives because coronavirus has already killed 790,000, we forget that in the world, this calendar year, as of mid-August, we have lost:

- 8.25 million people through communicable diseases
- 312,000 through seasonal flu
- 1.1 million through HIV/AIDS
- 5.25 million through cancer
- 625,000 through malaria
- 3.2 million through smoking
- 1.5 million through alcohol
- 683,000 through suicide and
- 860,000 in road accidents.

Indeed, so far this year a total of 37.5 million people have died. If that is not enough, over 27 million babies have been aborted!

I propose that on the basis of these figures Covid-19 is hardly a 'pandemic' and it may be prudent to consider why it is creating such enormous upset to almost every aspect of our lives. Below I suggest the identity of the real pandemic of our times.

## The real pandemic

If the Covid-19 pandemic credentials are a little thin, then what is the real pandemic? Surely it is sin which consigns many more to death each year than Covid-19 ever would – and not just physical death, but eternal death and separation from God. In its rebellion against Almighty God the world seems no longer able to tell the difference between right and wrong, or what is wise and what is foolish – let alone who or what determines the future! The ravages of sin are beyond any human measure. No one is untouched by this overpowering evil that not only produces death but is responsible for every imaginable ugliness in this world.

Only God could eliminate this pandemic of sin, but He seems to be content to suppress or restrain sin. This world-wide, real pandemic, sin, can be forgiven and very definitely suppressed.

This pandemic was the subject of the most incredible event in history. You know of this event – God sent his only Son into this sin-stricken world that 'whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life'. In this supreme sacrifice the power of

the pandemic was broken and the promised Holy Spirit was sent to bring new life to believers and initiate the process called *sanctification*.

## ■ The equipping and training of the next generation is the most important task in the world

### The ground for victory

Parents and teachers – this is our mission field. The equipping and training of the next generation is the most important task in the world. We get to oversee the journey out of the sin pandemic for ourselves and our children. Whilst our personal work seems insignificant to us in the big picture, it is most important to God. For it is in fulfilling this task the world can and will be changed for the glory of God.

Christian education and sanctification are closely linked in that one is an aid to the other. As we have said for many years, *education is the unfolding of God; his character and his creation*. Education is not philosophically neutral, and for Christians education must be biblical and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Education is thus a part of the work of God in our lives – our *sanctification*.

On this basis we come to understand that education involves all the members of the family: parents (and teachers) as much as

children. None of us can possibly know the plans God has for each of us each day in every aspect of our lives. But God does and he has entrusted the Holy Spirit to us to lead us in terms of his will and not our will.

### Motivation

The motivation we have for our children should not primarily be for them to get a good job, to make parents proud, and to provide for their security. Whilst such motivation or goals have much merit they are secondary aspects of God's plan, which is to glorify him in the building of his Kingdom on earth. As we as parents or teachers make this our prime objective we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us and ensure that the secondary goals are in godly order. As Jesus once said:

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

### Method

The concern is not the things we do or how we do them, but rather that the method of all things Christian is faith and obedience. Hebrews 11:6 teaches us that 'without faith it is impossible to please God'. In this case our faith is in the education and equipping of our children.

The scripture couples faith with obedience, with obedience being critical to all learning as it indicates submission.

Through Him we have received grace and apostleship **for obedience to the faith** among all nations for His name.

*Romans 1:5*

...but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, **for obedience to the faith...**

*Romans 16:26*

### Product

The product of training our children in the ways of God is the bearing of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives. And the outcome is the building of God's kingdom on the earth.

Your **kingdom come**, your will be done **on earth as it is in heaven**.

*Matthew 6:10*

For us the pandemic of sin is defeated through the cross, and we now know the Way – so let us walk in it and enjoy the resulting godly fruit in our families. ■



Christmas Closure

Our last day of business for 2020 will be **Tue 22 December** and we will re-open for 2021 on **Mon 11 January**



**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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Vol 41 No 2

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