



Welcome to another year of Christian education. It is so encouraging to see so many people committed to training children in the ways of the Lord.

Surely the future of our nation, and indeed all nations, is in the hands of those who train the next generation. It is not just an important task, it is imperative. It is a call and task which, I believe, is very much on God's heart.

We have our CHESSE seminars and book displays organised now and we look forward to seeing you soon. The Brisbane

Home Education Conference has unfortunately had to be cancelled for 2012, but all other locations are confirmed. Full details are in the News section.

Also in the news are full reports on our overseas projects. I will be leaving in a few days for Kathmandu, Nepal, for two weeks LEM Phonics training. Despite cuts to electrical supply and some political instability, thankfully our contact Urish Sharma has been able to continue his work. I look forward to reporting on the situation when I return.

### This Issue

In this issue I explore the big picture of what God is doing in the earth and why, particularly in and through Christian education. We present a health article from George Malkmus on the way our bodies heal themselves, and we showcase a number of great new titles that have recently become available in the book section.

### Projects

There are a number of projects in the pipeline but we are finding it increasingly difficult to develop them in the face of other pressures. We are exploring a revamp of the organisation of the LEM Phonics program with an aim of simplifying both content and presentation. Back in that clogged pipeline are *The Elements of Music* volume four and *Let's Teach Art* revisions for grades 1 and 2. It is looking unlikely that these projects will be finished this year.

We trust you are finding inspiration from the Lord in your educational endeavours for Him.



### CHESSE

The 2012 CHESSE season is now in place and we trust dates are now firm:

- Adelaide Saturday 17 March
- Sydney Saturday 23 June (new date!)
- Melbourne Saturday 14 July

Perth Saturday 4 August

Brisbane 18 August (CANCELLED)

### CHESSE variations

The Perth CHESSE for 2012 is planned to be conducted in partnership with St Augustine's Classical Christian College. This will feature a full day's program, more resources available for perusal and purchase and fellowship with a wider range of families.

The Brisbane seminar for 2012 was to be conducted in conjunction with the Brisbane Home Educator's Conference. Unfortunately the organisers' circumstances have changed and they will no longer be hosting the 2012 conference. As a result our CHESSE seminar is also cancelled.

### Resources

These seminars will be a great opportunity to peruse our wide range of materials. It is difficult for many to get to Canberra (although many home educators call in while they are on holidays and spend time reviewing resources) and CHESSE provides an answer.

We bring along almost all student text books and a wide range of reading books, although the long-suffering station wagon is generally unable to fit in teacher manuals, tests, and other extras. As we will be flying to the Perth seminar the range of materials will be limited.

### Book Displays

In driving to the various capital cities from Canberra we pass through many

regional centres where a book display of LEM resources could provide a valuable opportunity for local home educators.

Just like the CHESS seminars, books will be on display and available for purchase. There is usually no entry charge.

If you would like to host such a display please contact our office (details on back page). We just need someone to book a suitable facility and be a contact person for us.

Book displays for 2012:

*Hamilton, Vic*

Thursday 15 March, 1pm – 3.30pm  
St Andrews Presbyterian Church  
McIntyre St, Hamilton

*Coffs Harbour, NSW*

Saturday 15 September, 10am – 3pm  
Abundant Life Church, Coffs Harbour

[Click here for more information and flyers for all CHESS seminars.](#)

## International

### Nepal

After a successful return visit to Kathmandu in September 2011, plans were made to conduct training seminars in LEM Phonics in early 2012. Urish Sharma has been working hard setting up these training times. He has

continued working with the Principal of Ullens school who is also CEO of the Private Schools Association with about 1,000 member schools. We are hopeful that these training courses will see LEM Phonics established in a number of schools. Follow-up training will be essential and we will be aiming to train trainers who will be able to equip many other teachers.

Peter Frogley will be teaching in Kathmandu whilst Richard Wilson will travel to the tourist town of Pokhara, north-west of Kathmandu.

There has been ongoing political instability in Nepal, as well as an unstable electricity supply, not to mention a significant earthquake in the region in October 2011. Nevertheless, we are hopeful these events will not disrupt progress too much. Nepal is a predominantly Hindu nation, but since



*Teachers at Neelgiri School, Nepal*



*Urish and Rama Sharma,  
LEM Phonics representatives in Nepal*

its introduction in the 1960s Christianity has made considerable progress.

We understand that Urish's tutoring service in LEM Phonics and other disciplines has developed well and is provide something of a cash flow for his own support as well as operating costs. He has begun printing books under licence from LEM which we expect will be available for the upcoming seminars and for schools this year.

### Papua New Guinea

As you will have heard from the media there has been something of a crisis in PNG since our last edition. Two days before the crisis in government our friend Mesia Novau was to meet with the Prime Minister to discuss his proposal for education in PNG after the government decided to remove OBE. The crisis and the confusion that has followed has not been conducive to establishing anything, let alone a new educational program.

Nevertheless, Mesia has conducted LEM Phonics seminars in Hula village and on Prince of Wales Island off the coast of New Britain during January. Late news is that the Board of Education in PNG have approved the implementation of phonics in all schools. Mesia is currently exploring how this may impact LEM Phonics in PNG.

Unfortunately, uncertainty is a strong characteristic in developing nations – they say 'expect the unexpected'. There are many discouragements in such an environment but it is encouraging to hear of many schools using or planning to use LEM Phonics throughout the nation of PNG.



*LEM Phonics teachers in PNG*

### Other Nations

During the year we hope to be able to see further development of Christian education in Africa, Malaysia, the Philippines and India.



## No. 83: The Big Picture

In God's providence I seem to have been entrusted with a mind that looks to understand the big picture.

That gift has strengths and weaknesses in the outworking in our lives, as does every gift from God. That is not to say that God makes mistakes, rather His giftings help us to understand that we need others to help us utilise our gifting.

From my perspective, Christian education is about equipping a new generation of believers to build the kingdom of God here on earth.

Some Christians seem to be terrified at this prospect, somehow believing that God's plans must be limited to that which we believe is possible. I hope to be able to explain what I mean, after which I trust such a goal will no longer cause alarm.

First let me suggest that if the Kingdom of God is not the chief reason we educate our children in and through the Christian faith, then our motivation and vision for Christian education may be somewhat

truncated. It seems to me that we are then limited to educating our children to be 'good Christians' who will have 'good families' and eventually earn a better place in heaven. If (as is the reality) we live our lives on this planet, God must have some very good reason for keeping us here. That reason is to provide the opportunity for our children to live life to the glory of God; a life of fruitful productivity in building the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus came to be the Saviour of mankind and He achieved that goal to perfection. The question, then, is 'what do we do with this wonderful gift of salvation for the years we have to live on this earth?'

### The Plan and Call

I contend that God has a great plan for us to fulfil whilst we are here. Our lives are not a meaningless 'filling of time' until we are raptured to heaven. It seems that God always has a grand plan and purpose for every part of His creation, and in particular, for mankind.

Jesus told us what He had come to institute on this earth in His first recorded statement.

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent! For the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.'

*Matthew 4:17*

In the scripture above Jesus seems to be referring to an event that is imminent — that is, the coming of God's kingdom or rule to the earth in a new and very significant

manner. Now the 'Kingdom of heaven' and the 'Kingdom of God' are terms used interchangeably in scripture. God's kingdom is that which God rules over and it should be clear from scripture that God rules over everything. Jesus instituted His reign and plan to bring the Kingdom of God to earth in His final comments to His disciples:

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority is given to Me in Heaven and in earth. Therefore go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world. Amen.

*Matthew 28:18–20*

I believe we are to take this commandment very seriously. Yes, I know it is scary! I know it is far beyond the capacity any of us have, but it is God's command to His followers. I can only conclude that God will equip each of us through the power of His Holy Spirit to be able to play our part for His glory and the fulfilment of His great plan.

### A change of thinking

To return to Matthew 4:17, Jesus does warn that there is a need for repentance before we can see (or be involved in) this kingdom. The major meaning of repentance here is a change of mind, or better, a change in the way we think. Christian education is to be built on a new way of

thinking. Indeed it is true to say that the whole practice of Christianity must be based on a new way of thinking. Paul explains this best in Romans 12:

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God.

*Romans 12:2*

**It is so easy for our  
Christian faith to be the  
fruit of natural thinking  
and thus produce the  
fruit of natural thought**

Paul does not write of a minor change in attitudes, but of a completely new way of thinking. Without this transformation of our thinking we will interpret the scriptures amiss; and our faith will be more akin to Humanism than Christianity. This is the major challenge for our churches today, much as it was for the disciples living in a world dominated by greek thought. It is so easy for our Christian faith to be the fruit of natural thinking and thus produce the fruit of natural thought. This is not the thinking inspired by the Holy Spirit whose task it is to interpret the Scriptures through our renewed (or perhaps better said in practice, our renewing) minds.

## Practice the change

Clearly this means that to educate Christianly we need to know the Scripture and the God of Scripture. That is a daunting prospect as most of us know that our command of Scripture is inadequate and we certainly do not understand what scripture means for education. As with every challenge God sets before us we find we are

## God does understand and is on our side

inadequate for the task. This is not some mean and nasty trick of God's, rather it is one of the ways He teaches us to live by faith. My understanding of working with God is that we never feel adequate — and if we do, it is usually a pride trip! If God wants us to pursue this plan of Christian education we can only start where we are today and believe (that is, have faith) that God will guide us. Yes, if you plan to be involved in education it will mean reading and thinking. If you are allergic to these things then trust God to cure your allergy — and indeed He will bring a love of reading and study that you thought was impossible. But then again, God loves the impossible.

## How to Begin

Simplistically, you begin by beginning. I could recommend some good academic books that would kill most people's enthusiasm by the end of the first page. So instead, as a first step, ask someone you believe knows what is needed and let them

guide your reading and research. Secondly, I recommend some of the Bible programs we stock for students — feel free to ask LEM for some ideas. Once you get started, you will find books will recommend other books.

For those parents (Mums in particular) who have just thrown up their hands because they are already overwhelmed at the challenge — God does understand and is on our side. Learn to walk by faith with Him. He will challenge us, but He will always give us the grace and ability to do what He has called us to do. The stumbling block is that we add to God's instruction to us and wear ourselves out.

This process of renewing our minds is huge. A lifetime is just the beginning of discovering all that God has for us in this area. That is not a discouragement, rather an appreciation of His greatness, and it is the wonder at His greatness that should spur us on to pursue him.

## Some Practics

Along with getting to know the Bible better, I have found that we can explore various disciplines through asking questions of God. In the limitations of this short article it may be best to consider one discipline like geography.

In simple form, geography is the study of the earth, the people who dwell thereon and their interaction. Humanist man begins his study by looking at man and how he has adapted to life on this planet. The Christian may begin differently — God

created everything, the earth and man. He has a plan. God chose to create the earth as a sphere in space surrounded by a myriad of other bodies. He caused there to be land and sea — why?

He created major landmasses called continents and, just as we would expect, each continent is different, yet similar. Every aspect of their physical form has been uniquely designed by God. The location of coastlines, mountain ranges, rivers, etc. — every detail planned by God for His purposes and each continent having a particular function as part of God's plan.

God created man and placed him on the earth to multiply and take dominion over the creation. Each race of man has been placed in specific locations, for specific times for specific purpose.

Thinking like that — beginning with God — will result in a quite different geography program with quite a different purpose. For me such a plan or train of thought leads us to glorify God.

Every discipline should be planned to do just that. The only way we can even begin to achieve that goal is to continue to renew our minds.

It may well be that these lofty concepts are beyond us at present, but that should not prevent us pursuing God. The rewards, like the challenge, will be quite beyond us as well. ■



## The Doctor Inside our Body

God created our physical bodies and our food. If we fail to nourish our bodies according to God's instructions, we get sick.

Today, almost everybody we know is sick to varying degrees. We see everything from high blood pressure, high cholesterol, acne, colds and the flu, to diabetes, arthritis, heart attacks, strokes, cancer and obesity.

In dealing with these physical problems most people turn to the world's wisdom for help, but:

The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. *1 Corinthians 1:19*

The world's wisdom has given us the Standard American Diet (SAD) — which actually creates sickness! Then the world's wisdom leads us to the symptom-treating modalities of modern medicine to attempt to overcome these physical problems.

God has provided a better way to nourish our bodies. Even after we have followed the world's way and become sick, He provides a superior way to help us recover from these sicknesses.

God has built our bodies so that they always seek to heal themselves.

As we learn ever more about this incredible physical temple God has provided for our earthly journey, we exclaim with the Psalmist in Psalm 139:

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. *Psalm 139:14*

## Self-Healing Built In

Have you ever cut yourself? What happens immediately after we cut ourselves? There is nothing we need to do for healing to begin:

- Immediately following the cut we see blood flowing from that break in the skin. Blood is a natural antibiotic and cleanser of the wound. As bleeding stops (if the cut is not in an artery) we see the blood start to coagulate.
- A scab begins to form. God placed within our genetic coding the means of closing the break in the skin and restoring the skin to its former protective function by forming a scab over the break in the skin to protect it from the elements while the body feverishly works to restore the skin.
- When the skin has healed, the scab falls off—and there we behold the incredible self-healing ability of the body.
- This same self-healing occurs when we break a bone—the body literally knits it together again (sometimes the bone will need to be aligned to ensure it heals in the proper position). We behold another miracle of our self healing bodies.

## Treat the Cause

Most doctors have been taught in medical school to treat the symptom rather than the cause of the disease.

Sadly, dealing with the symptom does not eliminate the disease. For example:

**Arthritis:** Joint pain is diagnosed as arthritis and generally a doctor will prescribe a drug in an attempt to subdue the pain (the *symptom*). Because the *cause* was not dealt with, the condition will usually worsen, requiring progressively stronger medications.

**Cancer:** Cancer patients are usually treated for the *symptom* with a combination of chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery. Cancer in many instances returns with a vengeance years later because the *cause* was not addressed.

Almost every physical problem a person has, aside from accidental injury, is treated for the symptom only.

If we want to get well we contend we need to identify and treat the cause of the problem. Once the cause is identified and eliminated, the physical symptom usually disappears.

If we do not entertain the *cause* of a physical problem, the curse of that physical problem will not occur.

## How To Kill The Doctor Inside

We can destroy our internal doctor through improper diet and lifestyle. The Bible tells us in Galatians 6:

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. *Galatians 6:7*

When it comes to our health God gives us the choice of choosing health and thus 'life', or sickness and 'death.' Here's how the Bible puts it:

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life that both thou and thy seed may live. *Deuteronomy 30:19*

## The Doctors Outside our Body

Occasionally I receive a letter from someone who does not appreciate some of the things I have to say about doctors or the world's way. Some consider my words a put-down to doctors and the medical profession and that I have no appreciation for their work.

I am not against doctors—most are very sincere individuals who entered their profession with a sincere desire to help their fellow man. I have some wonderful friends who are doctors and at Hallelujah Acres we have already had 64 medical doctors take our health minister training program. Many of these medical doctors are using the hallelujah diet in their practices.

Nor am I against nurses. My mother was an RN and generally, nurses only do as they are instructed. But these nurses do see the horrible consequences of modern medical treatments. We have had well over

300 nurses complete our health minister program at Hallelujah Acres.

My criticism is of the approach to physical problems doctors were taught in medical school. Much of the financing of our medical colleges comes from the drug industry which has great influence on doctors.

Doctors excel at putting accident victims back together. If I were to have an accident, there is no one I would rather see than a good trauma doctor. It is amazing, with all the modern technology available today, how well doctors are able to restore the integrity of physical bodies.

I am extremely supportive of well-trained chiropractors who are taught how to restore energy flow so the body will function better. Most chiropractors have a much greater awareness of the need to properly nourish the body to health.

Rhonda and I personally go to doctors and have annual blood profiles performed in order to detect any weaknesses and fine tune our bodies to achieve the greatest health possible. One of the doctors we go to is not only on the hallelujah diet but also has completed our health minister training. He requires all new patients to adopt the hallelujah diet for 21 days because he has found that it is only the body that has the ability to heal. He understands that all he can do is direct the patient as to how they can contribute to their own healing through proper diet and lifestyle. And by the way, the results he is obtaining with his patients is phenomenal! ■

# Book Shop



## A Beka Book

Grammar and Composition  
Grade 9 (Fifth Edition)  
Grade 10 (Fourth Edition)

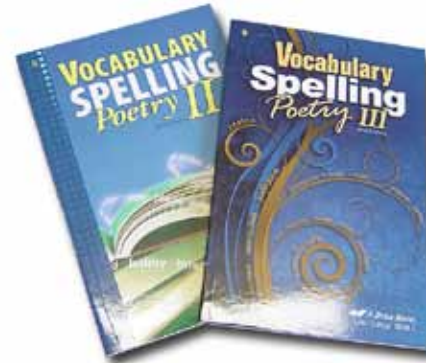


These are traditional writing and grammar work texts enabling students to apply their knowledge of grammar to many different writing styles. They contain many practice exercises emphasising Christian and character-building principles. Each section of the write-in texts begins with concise rules and clear examples to illustrate the rules. Comprehensive and cumulative reviews are built into the texts.

The new editions are minor revisions with fresh artwork.

Student Text	\$24.10
Teacher Edition	\$39.70
Test and Quiz Book	\$7.55
Teacher Key to Test and Quiz Book	\$14.15

Vocabulary, Spelling and Poetry  
Grade 8 (Fifth Edition)  
Grade 9 (Fifth Edition)

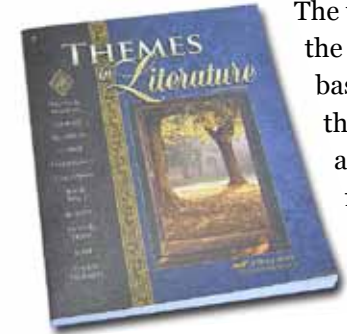


The books set out the four basic spelling rules and seven keys to good spelling, followed by illustrations of these keys. The remaining lessons present words that are frequently misspelled. Vocabulary is built using the A Beka literature books as a source. A wide variety of good quality poetry is included to present beauty of language, literary greatness and character building qualities.

The fifth edition is another minor upgrade with smaller format and new artwork.

<i>Grade 8: Vocabulary, Spelling and Poetry II</i>	
Student Text	\$15.60
Teacher Key to Text	\$39.70
Quiz Book	\$8.40
Teacher Key to Quiz Book	\$14.15
<i>Grade 9: Vocabulary, Spelling and Poetry III</i>	
Student Text	\$15.60
Teacher Key to Text	\$26.95
Quiz Book	\$8.40
Teacher Key to Quiz Book	\$14.15

Themes in Literature  
Grade 9 (Fourth Edition)



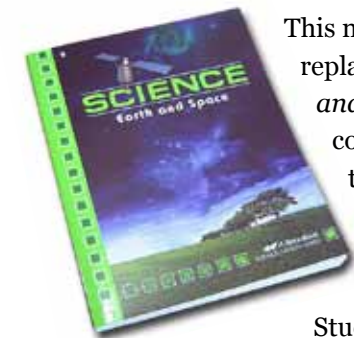
The units in the book are based on themes such as courage, faith, joy, justice and humility through works by famous

authors. Questions aid in discussion and vocabulary words are defined in the glossary.

The fourth edition is a minor upgrade with fresh artwork.

Student Text	\$37.30
Teacher Key	\$78.90
Test and Quiz Book	\$8.40
Teacher Key to Test & Quiz Book	\$14.15

Science—Earth and Space  
Grade 8



This new course replaces *Matter and Motion*, but contains essentially the same chapters in physical science.

Students study geology, weathering and erosion, fossils, seas, the atmosphere, weather and astronomy. There is also a brief section on the environment which

## Rod and Staff Publishers

### Arithmetic 1



A careful and thorough revision of this excellent introduction to Maths. Changes are minor and are an improvement on the last edition.

Student Workbook 1	\$9.55
Student Workbook 2	\$9.55
Teachers Manual	\$21.25
Speed Drills	\$5.60
Flashcards	\$24.00
Aust Money & Measure Supplement	\$11.95

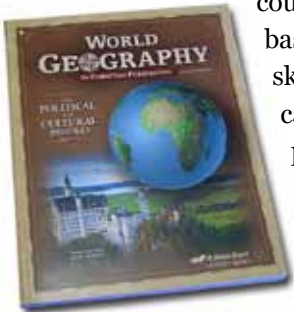
Rod and Staff Mathematics  
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presents a biblical perspective on environmental issues like acid rain, ozone depletion and global warming.

Student Text	\$40.15
Teacher Edition	\$78.90
Test Book	\$10.40
Teacher Key to Test Book	\$14.15
Quiz book	\$8.40
Teacher Key to Quiz Book	\$14.15
Activity Book	\$7.55
Teacher Key to Activity Book	\$14.15

### World Geography Grade 9 (Second Edition)

A compact one year basic geography course, embracing basic geographic skills plus political and cultural profiles for the whole world. The second edition includes minor revisions and a fresh new layout.

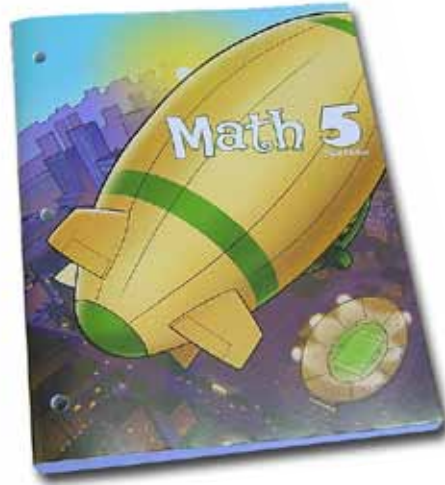


Student Text	\$31.65
Teacher Edition	\$61.45
Test and Quiz Book	\$7.55
Teacher Key to Test and Quiz Book	\$14.15
Map Studies Book	\$7.55
Teacher Key to Map Studies Book	\$14.15

ABeka Curriculum  
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### Bob Jones University Press

#### Grade 5 Mathematics (Third Ed)



An aviation theme runs throughout the book, with real-life applications for various careers. The third edition is a minor revision of the actual content, but it has a new larger format and new artwork.

Student Text	\$20.95
Teacher Edition	\$65.75
Student Manipulatives	\$16.45

Bob Jones Mathematics  
Click to order

### Storehouse Press

#### The Thunder King

In book three of Lee Duigon's Bell Mountain series, the bell has rung and our heroes set about finding the hidden sacred writings, whose message can revive the fortunes of a dying world.

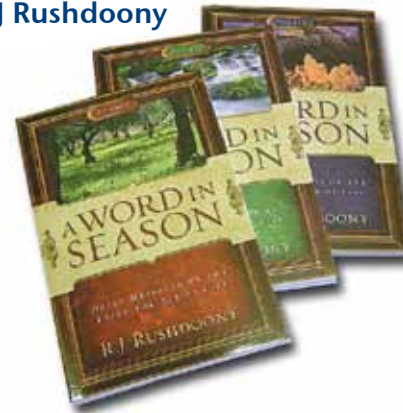


Young adult, 287 pages **\$15.85**

Storehouse Press  
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### Theological Titles

#### A Word in Season R J Rushdoony

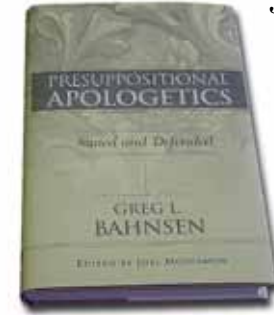


A three-volume series of daily messages taken from over 430 articles Rushdoony wrote for a regular column in an agricultural periodical. This is not a 'devotional' of introspective musings, but daily bite-sized readings on uncompromised faith.

Three volumes, ~150 pages each **\$13.60 ea**

### Presuppositional Apologetics

#### Greg Bahnsen



John Frame writes: 'I revere him yet today as a great blessing of God to the church as one of the most brilliant apologists I have known.'

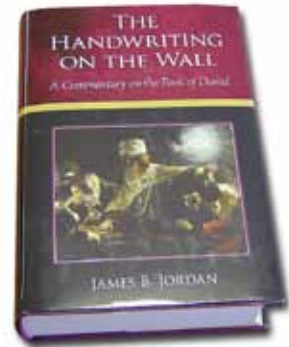
He sets forth the comprehensive Lordship of Christ over the human mind as over everything else...' One of the most helpful books the serious Christian can read.

Hard cover, 296 pages **\$39.65**

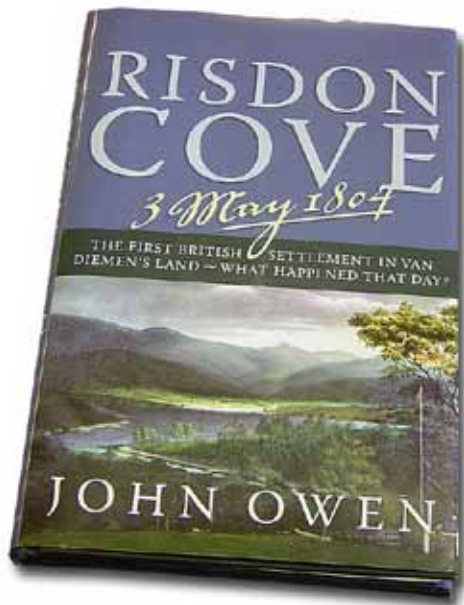
#### The Handwriting on the Wall

James Jordan

A covenant historical approach to interpreting the imagery of the book of Daniel. This commentary sees the fulfillments of Daniel's prophecies as relatively near to the time of writing.



Hard cover, 723 pages **\$56.65**



**Risdon Cove: 3 May 1804**  
**John Owen**

An account of the first British settlement in Tasmania, this book is the most exhaustively researched account of these events yet published. John Owen's forensic examination of the original documents produces a conclusion that will surprise yet convince most readers about what really happened on that fateful day.

Hard cover, 97 pages **\$34.95**

Theological Titles  
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**while stocks last**



**The Nativity & Boyhood of Jesus**

Children and adults will love this beautifully illustrated account from the scriptures.

was \$9.95 now \$3.00

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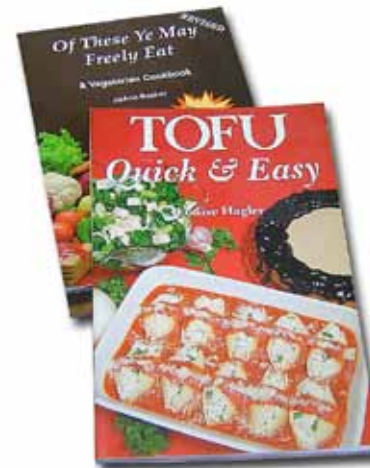
These full colour charts present the great stories and personalities of the Bible. The double sided charts fold out to approximately 2.5m.

Panorama of the Old Testament

was \$29.95 now \$10.00

Panorama of Jesus and the New Testament

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**Vegetarian Recipe Books**

**Tofu: Quick and Easy**

Tofu has been an Asian protein staple for over 2000 years. Louise Hagler's 120 recipes for tofu will bring life and colour to any vegetarian menu – in anything from party dips to barbecue to luscious cheesecakes.

now \$3.00

**Of These Ye May Freely Eat**

JoAnn Rachor's vegetarian cookbook containing over 250 cholesterol free recipes. The book also includes sections on food drying, how to read food labels, plus other general nutritional information.

now \$3.00

Clearance Specials  
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**LEM Phonics**  
**Corner**

EVELYN GARRARD



Sometimes I wish that my mother had kept my old schoolbooks so that I could go over the memory of my schooling days in a more concrete way.

Right now though, as I am teaching my grandchildren LEM Phonics, I wonder at the power of the workbooks which accompany the program.

My grandson Nathan so often sits down with one of his workbooks and with great interest and pride reviews all the exercises he has previously done. He assesses how much his writing has improved, compares how much more complex the work is in later pages than it was in the beginning, as well as delighting in remembering the circumstances which prompted him to write this or draw that. It is a record for him of his journey and what he has achieved over that given period of time. He sees how new concepts are introduced gradually in each book, *building on what is already known*. Then finally comes the great joy of accomplishment when he reaches the final page of his book. He has achieved the given



short term goal, and can now move on to a new one! All of the hard work has been worth it.

The workbooks are specially designed to fit the philosophy of LEM Phonics for those

### LEM Phonics Philosophy

1. God is the author of wisdom and knowledge.
2. Learning best takes place when the mental, spiritual and physical are considered.
3. Learning brings satisfaction and pleasure when one's best effort is applied.
4. Learning takes place through our senses. Utilizing as many of these as possible, simultaneously, aids the learning process.
5. Learning best takes place when it has meaning and purpose.
6. Learning best takes place when new concepts are built upon what is already known.
7. Learning takes place through the challenge to think analytically.
8. Learning best takes place within an orderly framework.
9. Learning is assisted when we are made accountable for what we produce.
10. Learning is consolidated through review and testing.

early years (for a full explanation of the philosophy points see pages xi and xii of the *LEM Phonics Manual*). As children gain greater skill in subsequent years they will move into working from a text and recording written work in a separate exercise book.

If we had just issued sheets of paper for each exercise, it could never have had the same effect. The sheet may be displayed for a while, but as the days go by it would eventually find its way to the rubbish bin with all the junk that nobody quite knows what to do with!

The foundational workbooks give a context for the children to use the tools and skills they have learned, giving *meaning and purpose* to what they are learning. Besides *reviewing* what they have learned previously, they are learning to decode more and more words by sounding the phonograms which they know, linking each word to its meaning. The same process is preparing them to also be able to encode sounds in their minds for building words — which is the skill of spelling. Through these processes the children are learning to *think analytically*.

The nursery rhymes in the first two books, together with the accompanying musical CD, help to develop phonemic awareness. The hearing, saying and writing done as the children use all the possible senses are aiding learning through this *multi-sensory approach*.

The workbooks are a great tool to foster the philosophical truth that *learning brings*

*satisfaction and pleasure when one's best effort is applied*. The teacher has the recent past record at their fingertips to be able to praise the boy who improves his writing, or to encourage the girl who has reverted to a lesser standard to try harder. The past record helps the teacher and child to clearly gauge progress.

The workbooks are also designed to present wholesome content which is interesting for the particular age, and contains good values. The text uses syntax which will enhance the childrens' command of the language as they continue in the program. We have attempted to cater for the *spiritual* as well as the *mental* part of the person.

The books provide a medium which requires the child to *be accountable* for what has been learned. In them the work of previous phonics lessons is reviewed, the exercises giving practice at applying the known principles within a context (*analytical thinking*).

So homeschoolers and school teachers, don't underestimate the value of the workbook that has a cover and staples in it. It has much to offer the child and can also be a great help to you in your teaching, and it is building a record of your child's journey through the early years.



# 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.

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