



## Dirk Willems's Decision

In 1569 a man named Dirk Willems faced a split-second decision between life and death.

Willems had been arrested and imprisoned in his hometown in Holland. Escaping from prison, Willems fled across a frozen body of water pursued by what the historical account in *Martyrs Mirror* calls a “thief-catcher.”

Willems made it safely across with the ice buckling dangerously under him, whereas his pursuer fell through the ice into the frigid water. Still within earshot, Willems needed to decide whether to disappear in the distance or turn back to help his enemy.

What would you have done? Willems ventured back and managed to help the struggling man reach safety.

Grateful to Willems for saving his life, the guard would have released him, but the local authorities refused, ordering Willems back to prison. Willems was subsequently burned to death on May 16, 1569, and his property confiscated.

Dirk Willems' crime was being an Anabaptist, a group that had sprang out of the Protestant Reformation. The year 2025 marks the 500th anniversary of the beginning of Anabaptism. On the evening of January 21, 1525, a man named Conrad Grebel baptized his friend

George Blaurock, after which Blaurock baptized the other believers present.

Today we take believer's baptism—a baptism upon confession of faith rather than being baptized as a baby—for granted. But back then it was not only radical, it was forbidden. Anabaptists faced persecution, spawning a legacy of suffering for Christ's sake.

What motivated Willems? We don't know what passed through his mind in those moments of decision, but even across the centuries we can see that he put into action Jesus' teaching: “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matthew 5:44).

As a conservative Mennonite publishing ministry, Christian Light has an Anabaptist heritage. Regardless of church affiliation, all believers face in some way the same challenge that Dirk Willems faced in 1569: how to follow Jesus in everyday decisions. May God grant all of us His grace and courage to be faithful in 2025.

[See page 4 for related books and stories.](#)



# Stories With Impact

## Metamorphosis

Amber Shirk

As a college student, Amber embarked on an unexpected spiritual journey. Relating to five friends—two Muslim and two Christian students and a back-packing instructor—caused her to wonder if she was truly obeying God's Word. The practical issue that caught her attention was modesty. As an experiment, she decided to wear an Amish dress to school for three months. Amber's journey from a contemporary college girl and karate expert to a conservative Mennonite woman is a testimony of God's faithfulness when we follow Him wholeheartedly.

241750 **\$10.95** 148 pages, 5¼ x 8¼

## Pilgrims in the Library

Faith Zook

When Faith married a lifelong city dweller, the city shocked her. Rats on the doorstep. Drug dealers next door. Her growing family brought more challenges—child training without privacy, having noisy neighbors . . . being noisy neighbors. However, Faith found unexpected opportunities and unexpected joy. Now, she wouldn't want to live anywhere else. *Pilgrims in the Library* encourages mothers everywhere to find joy in serving the Lord in their own setting.

265635 **\$11.95** 201 pages, 5¼ x 8¼

## A Rainbow in the Mountains

Kathryn Troyer & Miriam Schrock

The mountains of Honduras are beautiful, but in the tiny houses clinging to the slopes live people with lost souls. These stories introduce some who were rescued. But mission work is not all glowing stories. The missionaries in these candid accounts also endured disappointments, loneliness, robberies, and ordinary days where little seemed to be accomplished.

265645 **\$16.45** 527 pages, 6 x 9

## What If I Stay?

Anne Gehman

Unwanted by her mother, Amara had been shuttled from one foster home to another as a child. Harsh treatment and rejection scarred her heart and made friendships difficult. Blessed with a caring husband and two children, Amara wanted to be fine but knew she wasn't. Then a letter arrived from a man claiming to be her father.

*What If I Stay?* is a fictional story of finding security in God's love, overcoming a victim mentality, and realizing that running from our hurts doesn't help.

265735 **\$10.95** 163 pages, 5¼ x 8¼



# New Children's Chapter Books



## Even Irina Lynnita Seibel

There was not one church house in Irina's town in Kazakhstan. The government made sure of that. Papa and Mama and others who wanted to have church met in each other's houses. Papa prayed every day that Irina would grow up to obey God. But Irina's teacher said that God did not exist. "Do you believe in God?" Irina's teacher asked. What would happen if Irina told the truth? A true story showing what life was like for believers in a Communist country.

265740 **\$10.95** 197 pages, 5¼ x 8¼

## Little Jeannie Elizabeth Wagler

Little Jeannie longs to grow up and become a teacher like Miss Gail. But Jeannie isn't sure she'll ever be big and brave enough to be a teacher. When her little brother is in danger, Jeannie is brave without even thinking. And when Miss Shirley takes Miss Gail's place at school, Jeannie discovers that even small people can be good teachers.

265730 **\$9.95** 103 pages, 5¼ x 8¼

# Educate Your Family About Scams

## The Widow Who Got Scammed Davin Martin

The most successful thieves may not carry guns and break into your house. They might steal your money while talking to you on the phone. This true-to-life parable tells how a fictional widow was deceived into giving a scammer thousands of dollars. Easy to read and understand, this book exposes the tactics scammers use to defraud people and shows you how to keep from being scammed.

241736 **\$9.99** 103 pages, 8 x 6

## The Village That Burned \$3 Million Davin Martin

A village burned a widow's retirement savings, the savings of an older single woman, the farm down payment of a young father, and a school's building fund. How did it happen? This illustrated story exposes illegal investment pools and shows how to safeguard yourself and your community.

241735 **\$9.99** 103 pages, 8 x 6



# Books Related to Anabaptism

## Not Regina Christmas Carol Kauffman

Regina Strahm found herself caught between two religious factions in Switzerland. Her parents warned her against the Anabaptist heresy, but why then did the official religion fail to satisfy? Why were the Anabaptists willing to die for their faith? Regina discovered why and found a joy she had never before known. A heart-touching story by a popular author.

263195 **\$12.45** 267 pages, 5¼ x 8¼

## A Flame Forever Bright Claudia Esh

The story of Dirk Willems rescuing his pursuer who fell through the ice is one of the best-known stories in the *Martyrs Mirror*. However, almost nothing is known about Willem's life prior to his arrest. This book weaves facts of Willem's life and fictional narrative to tell his story through the eyes of his younger sister Lucia.

265150 **\$8.99** 136 pages, 5½ x 8¼, CAM Books

## Fire in the Zurich Hills Joseph Stoll

Marx Boshart had not only become an Anabaptist—he was now an Anabaptist minister. But now, imprisoned by the Zurich city council, he wasn't sure it was worth it. His wife and newborn son awaited him at home. If he would promise not to teach or preach anymore, he could be free. *Fire in the Zurich Hills* is a factual account of the first Anabaptists in sixteenth-century Switzerland.

263070 **\$12.50** 351 pages, 5½ x 8, Pathway

## The Anabaptist Vision Harold S. Bender

This essay, first published in 1944, presents a classic statement of the essence and vision of the early Anabaptists. "We shall practice what He taught, believing that where He walked we can by His grace follow in His steps."

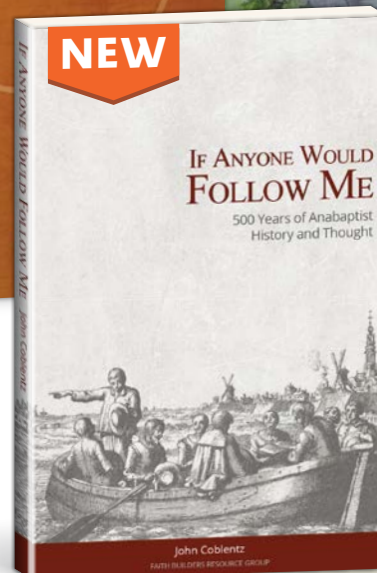
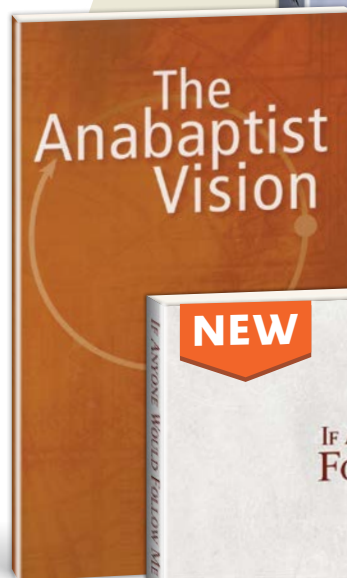
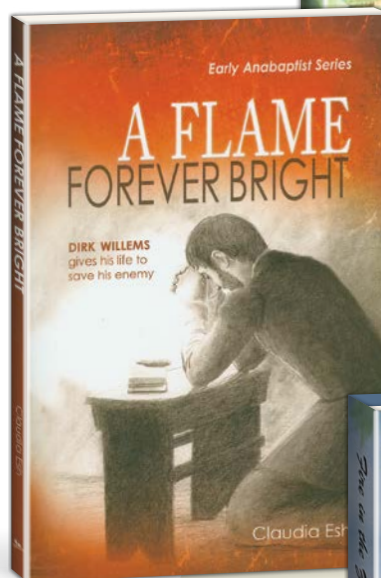
274035 **\$7.99** 44 pages, 4¼ x 7, Herald Press

## If Anyone Would Follow Me John Coblentz

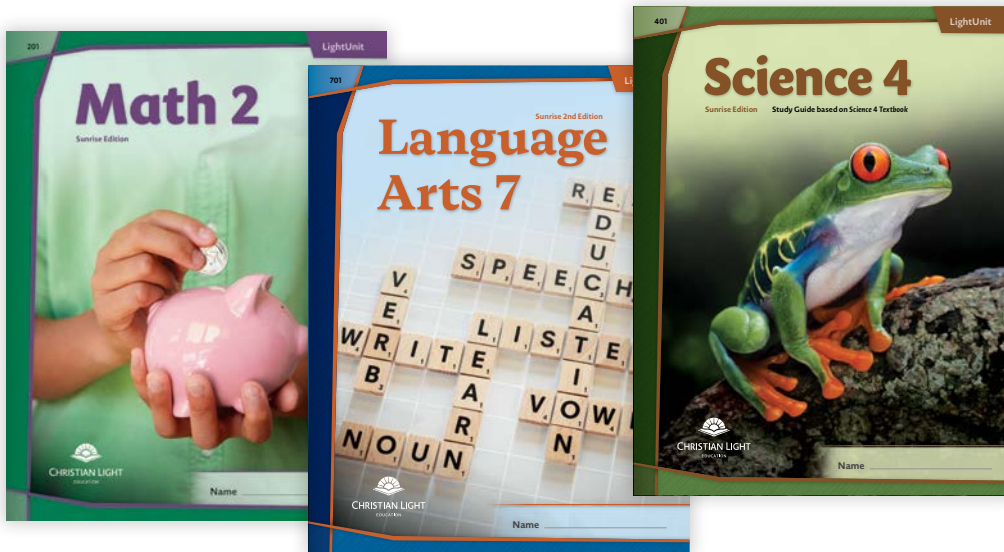
This book traces the story of Anabaptism from its beginnings to the major developments of the twentieth century. It notes influential characters in the movement and discusses Anabaptist beliefs and values.

390500 (Student) **\$8.99** 180 pages, 5½ x 8½, Faith Builders

390501 (Teacher) **\$8.99** 60 pages, 5½ x 8½, Faith Builders



# A New Look for LightUnits!



Over the next few years, we will be rolling out new covers for Sunrise Edition courses. Existing courses will be switched over to new covers as they are reprinted, starting in mid-2025. For a time, your orders will include some LightUnits with legacy covers and some with the new look. Teacher's Guide and Answer Key covers will also be updated over several years.

## Planning

A planning committee outlines a new course.



## The Journey of a LightUnit

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## Editing

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