



## Where Is the Blessedness I Knew?

Ray Hoover

Jerry is thirty years old. Occasionally he thinks back to the day fifteen years ago when he came to faith in Christ. It is still as real as if it were yesterday. For several months he had fought conviction. Finally, one night after everyone else was in bed, he gave up and said yes to God. He crept downstairs and knocked on his parents' bedroom door.

It was truly a blessed experience for Jerry, his parents, and for the rest of his family as Jerry launched into his newfound faith in Christ. He was free. His fear of dying was gone, his guilt of sin was past, and Jerry was a new person in Christ. The change in his heart affected his whole life—the way he walked, the way he responded to his siblings, his attitude at school, how he did his chores, and his fresh appreciation for the Bible.

A year later the freshness of those first feelings had faded. On some days Jerry's responses at home and school were forced instead of spontaneous. When he read the Bible, he wanted to have faith in God and His Word, but the spark was gone. The feeling of certainty about faith, God, and Jesus was no longer there. Some of his old fears about dying and his questions about Heaven and Hell came back to haunt him.

When he talked to his dad about his feelings, he struggled to put his fears and doubts into words. He just didn't seem to have the faith, or whatever it took, to think right

about God. Not thinking right made him fearful, so he tried to correct his thoughts. But his mind wouldn't cooperate, leaving him with more confusion and doubts.

Jerry became increasingly afraid that he had lost his faith. Finally, he wasn't even certain what faith was. And if he had correctly understood, he would have been more sure than ever that he didn't have it. When he tried frantically to pray, fear followed him to his knees. All his efforts to find peace only deepened his fear that he was lost. Instead of adding to his faith virtue and to virtue knowledge, he found himself spiraling ever deeper into fear and despair.

Looking back fifteen years later, Jerry realizes his fears were due, in part, to an immature understanding of faith and feeling. When the euphoric feelings of his new faith faded, he had wrongly concluded his faith was gone, which made him fearful. He dealt with the fear by forcing himself to think positively about faith and to read the Word more. When that didn't help, his fear only increased.

Jerry remembered his parents helping him see that sometimes faith is just putting one foot in front of the other even if he didn't feel like it. They told him:

- ▶ Read the Word, even if it doesn't bring waves of inspiration.



- ▶ Pray and tell God how you feel, even if you're unsure how to pray.
- ▶ Do your chores and schoolwork the best you can, even if you don't want to.
- ▶ Respond respectfully even if you don't feel respectful.
- ▶ Follow up and let us know how things are going.
- ▶ You most often find faith by living it out, rather than trying to figure it out.

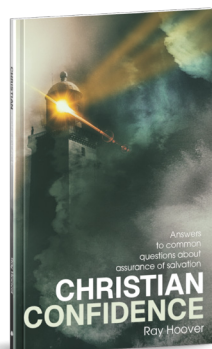
In the years since his early doubts, Jerry got married and had children of his own. He learned that faith is

strengthened by walking in faith, even when the feelings aren't there. Walking by faith includes affirming things that we know to be true. We might sing "Blessed Assurance" and pray, "Help thou my unbelief!" We might say, "I choose to agree with what God says."

For Jerry and many others, faith is affirmed by acting upon things God says are true, even when they don't feel like it. Faithfully doing what we know to be right builds faith. Eventually, the feelings will follow.

**Selected from *Christian Confidence: Answers to Common Questions About Assurance of Salvation*.**

## Growing in Godly Confidence

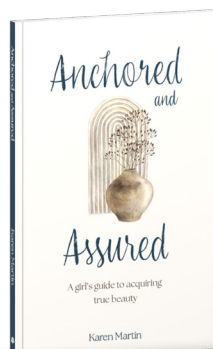


### Christian Confidence

Ray Hoover

Christians sometimes face nagging doubts about their spiritual state. Am I really saved? Why do I struggle so much with sin? Was my conversion genuine? Salvation is more than a one-time encounter—it is an ongoing relationship with Jesus. *Christian Confidence* uses Scripture and simple explanations to help believers anchor their faith in God's Word.

**241760 \$7.95**  
79 pages, 5¼ x 8¼

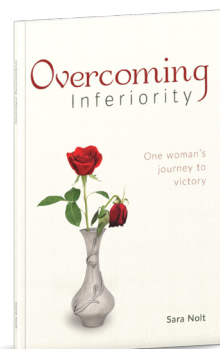


### Anchored and Assured

Karen Martin

Are my thoughts anchored on truth or driven by my feelings? Do I feel assured of God's sufficiency, or am I overwhelmed by my own inability to rise above my circumstances? *Anchored and Assured* is a devotional book for teenage girls that explores simple but profound truths. Each entry includes journaling and prayer prompts. Illustrated with color artwork.

**241795 \$13.95**  
130 pages, 5¼ x 8¼

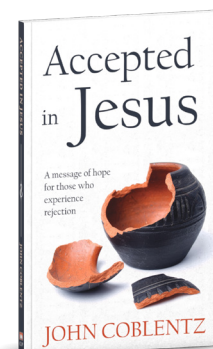


### Overcoming Inferiority

Sara Nolt

Jenna, the older sister, was beautiful, talented, and popular. Sara was the ordinary one. For years she was simply known as "Jenna's sister." Falling into the trap of comparison, Sara became all too familiar with the pain of believing she was worthless. But she found victory and wants others—especially young women—to find it too.

**241920 \$6.95**  
63 pages, 5¼ x 8¼



### Accepted in Jesus

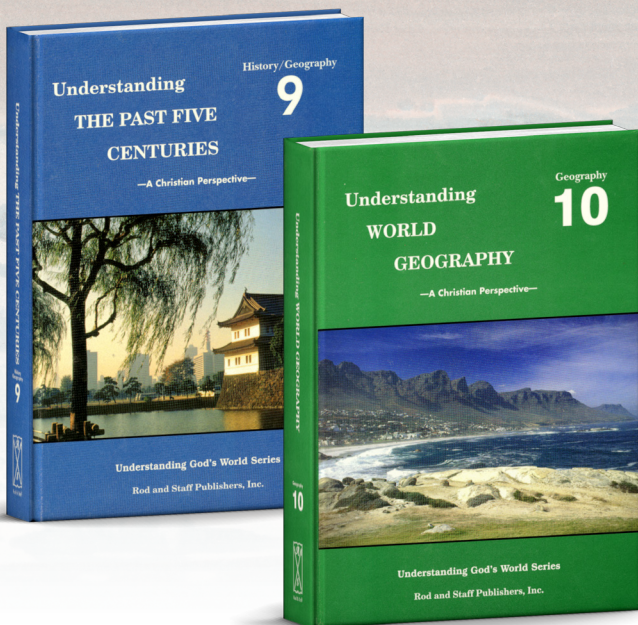
John Coblenz

We hurt when we are excluded. Rejection has driven many people to become rebellious, controlling, intemperate, or obsessed with performance. But being rejected does not need to doom us to misery and bitterness. In Jesus we are delivered from self and anointed with His vitality, which flows into our relationships, making us people of love, joy, and peace.

**241670 \$10.95**  
144 pages, 5¼ x 8¼

# High School Social Studies Update

We have replaced our Social Studies 9 and Social Studies 10 LightUnit courses with the following two courses from Rod and Staff Publishers.

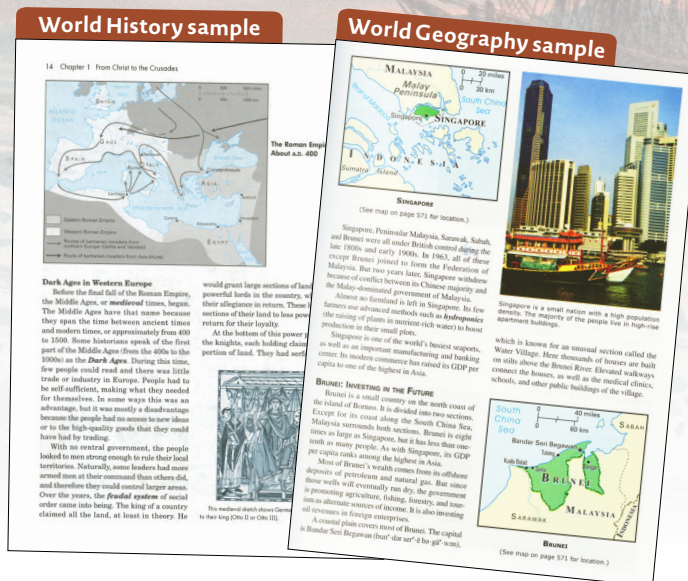


## World History Grade 9

Based on the textbook *Understanding the Past Five Centuries*, this course teaches modern history from a Christian perspective, focusing primarily on the Eastern hemisphere. After a brief review of ancient history, it begins in-depth study around the AD 1300s. Students are introduced to people and events that helped form the modern world. The textbook has twenty-eight chapters with study and review exercises. The teacher's manual includes answers.

### Course Components

|        |                  |         |
|--------|------------------|---------|
| 957401 | Textbook         | \$39.95 |
| 957403 | Tests            | \$5.75  |
| 957404 | Teacher's Manual | \$43.95 |



## World Geography Grade 10

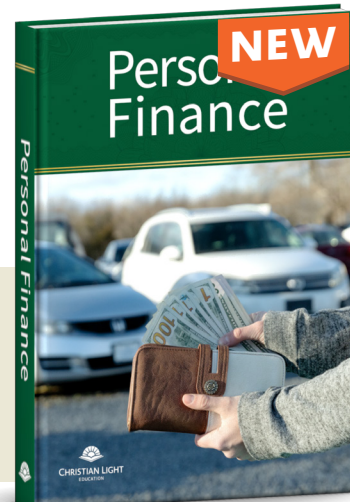
Based on the textbook *Understanding World Geography*, this course calls students to be good neighbors and faithful witnesses to people throughout the world. It teaches them about physical environments, climates, languages, religions, economic conditions, and other factors that have shaped the culture of ethnic groups. This study expands students' perspectives on the diverse landscapes and people of the earth. The textbook has twenty-seven chapters with study and review exercises. The teacher's manual includes answers.

### Course Components

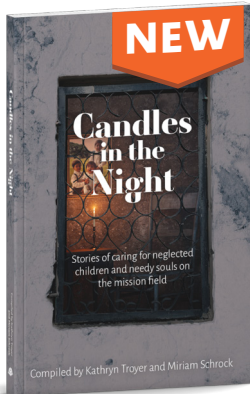
|        |                   |         |
|--------|-------------------|---------|
| 957411 | Textbook          | \$49.95 |
| 957412 | Maps              | \$4.95  |
| 957413 | Quizzes and Tests | \$6.25  |
| 957414 | Teacher's Manual  | \$58.95 |

## Coming Soon!

Personal Finance is planned to be available in June of this year. This new high school course recognizes that handling money well is not just a life skill, but also has spiritual implications. It teaches students how to steward money wisely.



# New Storybooks



## Candles in the Night compiled by Kathryn Troyer and Miriam Schrock

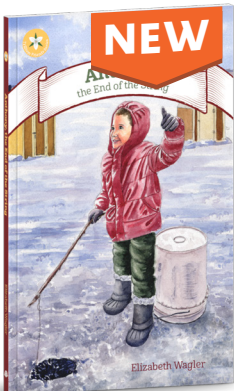
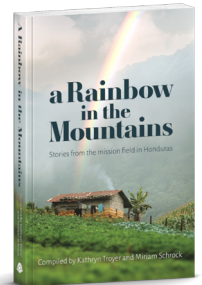
A thin, filthy child wearing only a tattered shirt sat on the dirt floor crying dejectedly. Beside her lay an empty baby bottle. Had her mother left her with only weakened coffee? In the 1970s and '80s, hundreds of children at the Sanson Children's Home in Honduras benefited from the compassion and godly influences of their Christian caretakers. All of them were touched by God's love, and some grew up to live inspiring, godly lives.

The first section of *Candles in the Night* is a collection of accounts related to the children's home. The second section consists of inspirational mission stories. Missionaries and local believers overcome cultural hurdles, find grace for fears and weariness, and share Christ's message of hope. Wherever they live, Christians display the light of Jesus.

265646 **\$12.95** 203 pages, 6x9

**Also by these compilers:**

265645 **A Rainbow in the Mountains** **\$17.95**



## Anthony, the End of the String Elizabeth Wagler

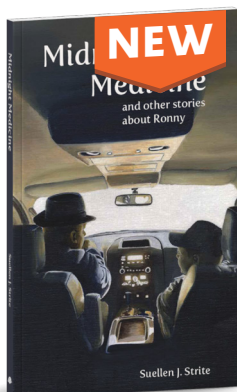
Anthony doesn't always like being the youngest in his family. But he doesn't mind when Dad says, "This is Anthony, the end of the string." When Anthony turns six, Mom makes a cake that looks like a pile of dirt for Anthony's loader to scoop up. She calls it a conscience cake. Anthony can have as much cake as his conscience allows. How many scoops should he take? Third in a series of books about friends who attend the Trillium Christian Church and School.

265733 **\$10.95** 96 pages, 5¼ x 8¼

**Other books in the series:**

265730 **Little Jeannie** **\$10.95** 103 pages, 5¼ x 8¼

265731 **Joanne Knows** **\$10.95** 105 pages, 5¼ x 8¼



## Midnight Medicine Suellen J. Strite

As the youngest in the family, Ronny thinks life would be much better with a playmate. A pet pig, for example. If he had a pet, and if he didn't have to go to school, Ronny would be happy. With encouragement from Daddy, Grampy's help with his homework, and Grammy's funny sayings, Ronny learns to be patient and enjoy life's blessings. He is delighted with the best pet of all.

*Midnight Medicine* is a collection of twenty stories about eight-year-old Ronny. Why was the billy goat's beard gooey? Will Ronny have to repeat third grade? And how does a pony get into school?

265692 **\$10.95** 158 pages, 5¼ x 8¼

**Also by this author:**

265690 **Midnight Tea Party** **\$10.95** 133 pages, 5¼ x 8¼

265691 **Midnight Mouse** **\$10.95** 143 pages, 5¼ x 8¼



# Select Books

## From Other Publishers

### My Muddy March Morning Naomi Lapp

Join our little friend and his duck as they go from splash and splatter, grouch and slouch, to buzzy and fuzzy, bouncing and pouncing, and praising God for weather. This spirit-lifting picture book includes weather facts and a find-the-snail in every picture. The accompanying activity book includes coloring pages and other activities.

265845 **\$17.99** 48 pages, iCare Greetings

265846 **Activity Book \$6.99** 30 pages, iCare Greetings

### Inspiration, No. 1

The writers of this compilation for women give you a glimpse behind the scenes of their lives, sharing the freedom to be found in submitting your will, living above cultural pressures, finding joy in ordinary moments, and giving your life and family to God. Over forty-five articles compiled from the weekly *Inspiration for Ladies* email publication.

242425 **\$23.99** 184 pages, Self-published

### Faith Child Laura Smucker, with Kaylene (Bontrager) Stoltzfus

Join the Bontrager family as they raise multiple disabled children. Feel their pain as they make plans for a tiny baby no one expected. Follow a young boy as he tries to find God's purpose in his strange beginnings. Through three generations, this is an unforgettable story of resilience, redemption, and reliance on a faithful God.

265835 **\$18.99** 304 pages, CAM Books

### Man With a Mission Ruth Ann Stelfox

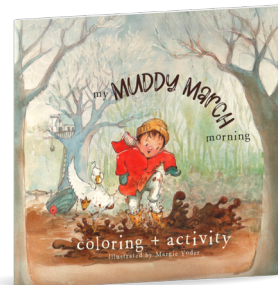
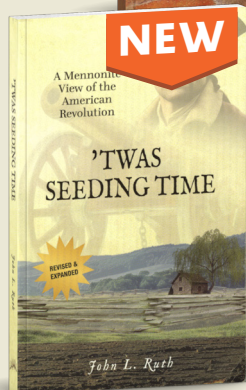
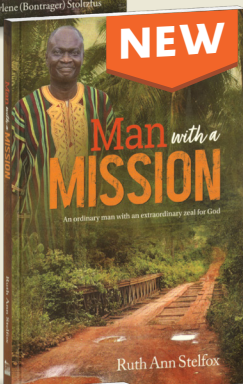
After growing up in Nigeria, Akin sensed God's call to go to war-ravaged Liberia. Whether flying over rebel territory in a UN helicopter or going back to his homeland to find a wife, Akin trusted his Shepherd. How else could he hope to convince a girl to marry him in less than a week's time? A story of what God can do when people trust Him and follow Him.

265855 **\$17.99** 240 pages, CAM Books

### 'Twas Seeding Time – New Edition John L. Ruth

Whose side will you be on? Mennonites in Pennsylvania faced this question as the colonies fought for independence. The patriots wanted every able-bodied man to join the war effort. But what about their promise of loyalty to the king, who had provided religious liberty? Learn about the struggles, triumphs, and human foibles of a peaceful community caught in the crossfire of the Revolutionary War.

274030 **\$13.95** 246 pages, Sermon on the Mount Publishing





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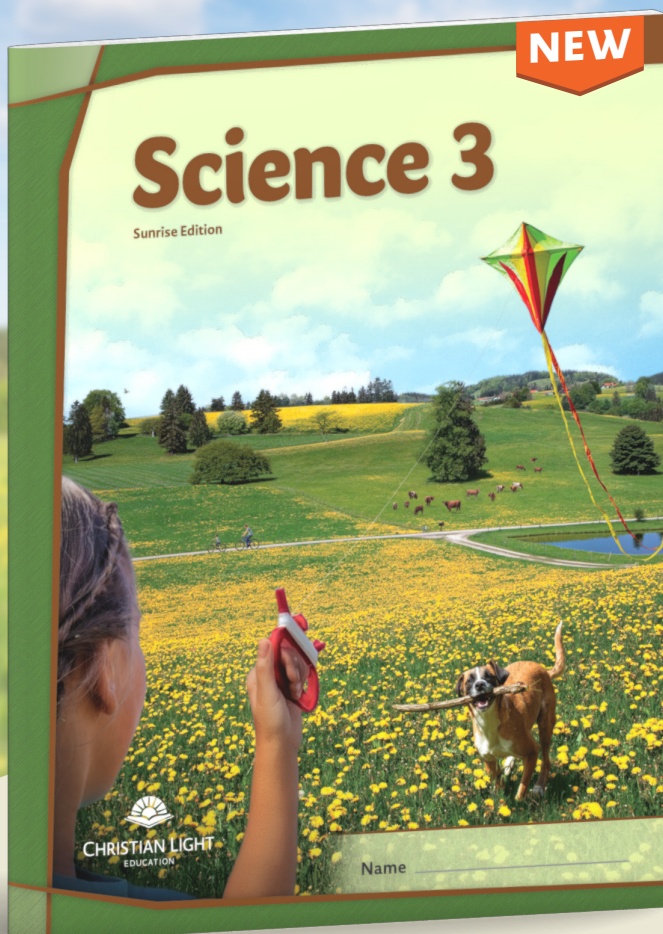
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## New books and courses inside!

Christian Light Publications, Inc is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) ministry. Founded in 1969, Christian Light is dedicated to proclaiming God's truth through a wide range of Christian literature including books, tracts, Sunday school material, school and homeschool curriculum, and more. This Newsletter is published bimonthly for friends, supporters, and people interested in Christian Light's products and ministry.



### Science 3

In this new third-grade health course, students learn about how God made their bodies by studying the skeletal, muscular, digestive, circulatory, and respiratory body systems. They also learn about the five senses, skin and teeth, cleanliness, nutrition, first aid, and general safety. The course consists of five LightUnits, an Answer Key, and a Quiz and Test Answer Key.