


Christian Light Publications

© Taste and See



He was a most successful salesman. His product was one that not very many people buy. Indeed, many people have never tried it. But his method of selling overcame all obstacles.

This salesman was traveling from one town to another in Idaho selling sorghum molasses. He had brought his product from farther south. He would pull his truck into a parking lot and set up an attractive display behind the truck. He did not resort to pleading and coaxing or even asking people if they wanted to buy sorghum. He carried a supply of plastic spoons. He would dip the tip of a plastic spoon into the sorghum and hand it to a prospective customer. He would not even ask the customer if he wanted a taste.

Friends of mine from Idaho stopped by the truck and took the salesman up on his “taste” of sorghum. And, of course, they bought some. As they talked to the man, they learned that \$700 to \$800 netted at one location was a slow day of selling. Fifteen hundred dollars was not uncommon at one place. When a day’s sales reached \$2,500, the man was “in business.” His product was delicious, but it was expensive—around \$7.00 for a quart. Still his sales were remarkable.

My friends, who visited the sorghum seller, could not help considering a spiritual analogy. Psalm 34:8 challenges us to “taste and see that the LORD is good.” We never know what the Lord is like and what He can do for us until we have reached out and have had a “taste” of what He can do.

We do not need to beg and cajole people to come to the Lord. We simply offer the truth to them. As God’s Word says, we are to be “holding forth the word of life” (Philippians 2:16).

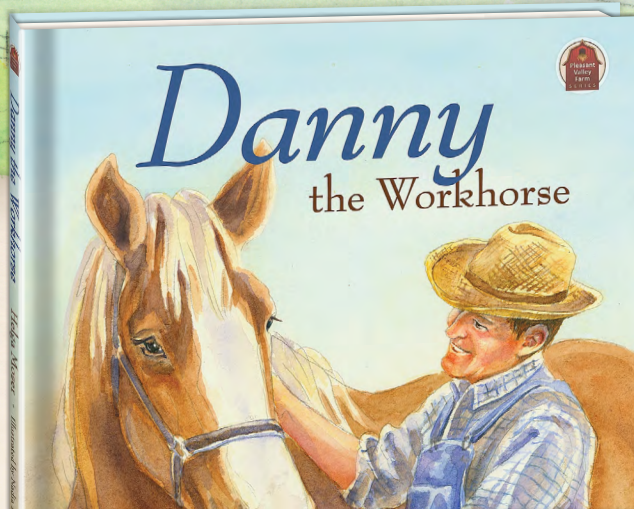
Neither are we to be apologetic for what we have to offer. The man who sold the sorghum did not stammer around with such timid questions as, “You wouldn’t want to buy some sorghum, would you?” No, he was far more positive. As we share the Word of God, we can enthusiastically and positively make our offer. “Here, friend, I have something to give you that will change your life.”

In order to present the Gospel in such a positive way, we must have a positive experience with the Lord ourselves. Have we tasted and then become partakers of the goodness of God? This is our challenge and our call in a world that desperately needs to taste and see that the Lord is good.

*—Roger Berry; originally published in Companions,
a weekly paper for youth and adults.
For more information see page 7.*



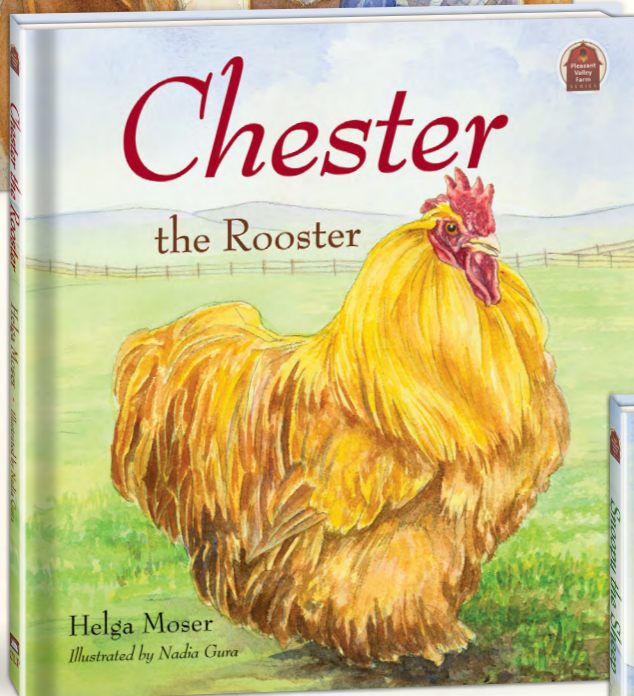
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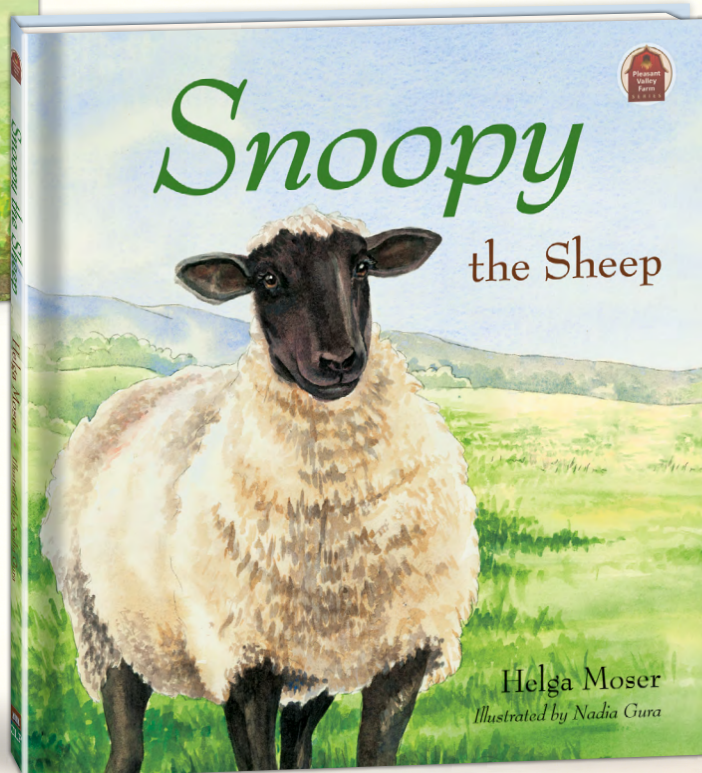
264640 **\$15.95** 40 pages, CLP



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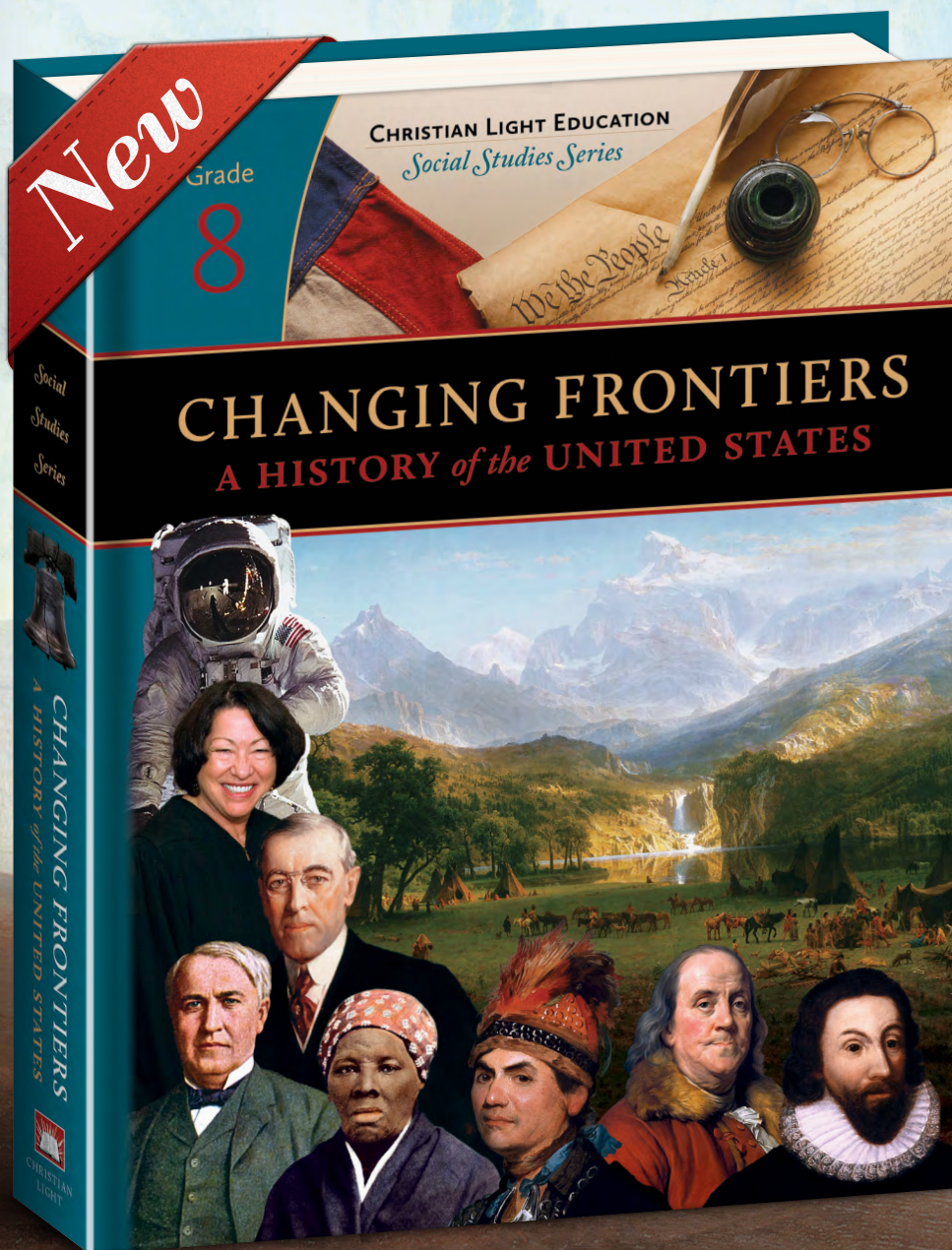
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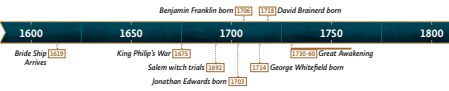
LIFE IN THE ENGLISH COLONIES

1607-1776

When men and women moved to America in the 1600s, they did not expect to become Americans. Englishmen came from England, Germans from Germany, Dutch from the Netherlands, and Swedes from Sweden. Each brought his own way of life with him, and each hoped to continue that way of life in America. These immigrants found climates in America similar to the ones they had known in Europe. They proceeded to establish settlements like the ones they had left. However, with time the unique characteristics and demands of the American wilderness shaped an entirely new person, the American colonist.

Section 1: What Was Life in the Colonies Like?

When settlers came to America, they brought with them their attitudes about social rank. However, few upper-class Europeans immigrated, because America mainly attracted people whose social status prevented them from owning land in crowded Europe. As a result, most of the



colonists were of the middle and lower classes of society, and any social differences between them soon faded in the rugged life on the frontier. Class distinction was hard to maintain during the constant fight to survive in the wilderness. Regardless of a colonist's social background, life in the colonies required the same struggle, hard work, and determination from everyone. Although many settlers arrived as indentured servants or landless poor, land was plentiful in America, and those who worked hard could rise to the position of landowners. Success depended on hard work, not social standing.

Social Classes Develop

As hard work yielded its rewards, some colonists succeeded more swiftly than others. Rapid success brought greater wealth. No longer was everyone on the same level, and social classes again developed along these lines of varying wealth.

The wealthy form an upper class. Those who had come to America with enough money to buy land had an advantage over the landless poor. Landowners, who sometimes assumed the title of Esquire, quickly amassed land and formed the elite class of society. They became

Side-by-Side

In a letter to Thomas Jefferson, John Adams showed how close together the colonists and Indians lived. Adams said the priest and the king of the Punkapaug and Neponset tribes frequently visited his father in Quincy, Massachusetts. He wrote,



This wigwag is probably similar to the one Adams visited as a boy.

"There was a numerous family in this town, whose wigwag was within a mile of [my] house. . . . I in my boyish rambles used to call at their wigwag, where I never failed to be treated with Whortle Berries, Blackberries, Strawberries, or Apples, Plums, Peaches, etc." Indians from that family also visited the Adamses.



This house was John Adams' birthplace and boyhood home.



In spite of the evident wealth of her house, this colonial woman apparently did her own spinning and cooking rather than relying on household servants.

Terms

- Old Deluder Laws
- hornbook
- New England Primer
- apprentice
- Enlightenment
- Deism
- Unitarianism
- Great Awakening
- King Philip's War

People

- Christopher Dock
- Jonathan Edwards
- George Whitefield
- David Brainerd
- Metacomb
- Benjamin Franklin

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—Franklin's Almanac

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Thomas Jefferson

THIRD PRESIDENT

Age at inauguration: 57
 Born: April 13, 1743, in Albemarle County, Virginia
 Wife: Martha Wayles (Skelton) Jefferson
 Children: one son, five daughters
 Occupation: Planter, Lawyer
 Religion: Unitarian (his preference, although he never joined)
 Term in office: 1801-1809
 Party: Democratic-Republican
 Vice president: Aaron Burr, George Clinton
 Died: July 4, 1826

Jefferson was a widower throughout his presidency. One of his acts was the founding of the United States Patent Office. Among other items, Jefferson invented a lap desk, a revolving chair, and a pedometer, but none of his inventions were ever patented.

territory. Although Jefferson's first interest was to find a water route to the Pacific Ocean, he was also interested in scientific observation. He sent Lewis, a military officer with moderate education, to Philadelphia for courses in zoology, botany, and astronomy.

Lewis chose another army officer, **William Clark**, as a co-leader of the expedition, and the two captains recruited about thirty soldiers and fifteen river men. The Corps of Discovery left St. Louis in May 1804, traveling up the Missouri River in one flatboat and two dugout canoes. Lewis and Clark conducted the expedition with strict military discipline, punishing careless guards and rowdy members. After spending the winter of 1804-05 with the Mandan Indians in present-day North Dakota, the expedition headed west.

In North Dakota country, the river men turned back as planned, but a French-Canadian fur trader agreed to be a guide to the expedition. Charbonneau proved disappointing, but his young Shoshone Indian wife, Sacagawea, served efficiently as a guide, interpreter, and Indian

Jefferson's "Wee Little Book"

Between 1804 and 1803, Jefferson snipped verses from the New Testament and glued them into a notebook to form what he entitled *The Jefferson Bible: The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth Extracted Textually from the Gospels*. In a letter to John Adams, Jefferson wrote that his "wee little book" contained "the most sublime and benevolent code of morals which has ever been offered to man." Jefferson's book left out references to supernatural events, including the resurrection of Jesus.

Jefferson buys the Louisiana Territory from France. In 1801, President Jefferson learned of a treaty between France and Spain in which Spain returned control of the **Louisiana Territory** to the French. Louisiana, originally claimed by France in 1682, was a large section of land west of the Mississippi River that had been given to Spain after the French and Indian War. Jefferson feared that a new French occupation of this territory would thwart westward expansion and hinder trade down the Mississippi through New Orleans.

At this time, Napoleon was dealing with a slave revolt against his forces in Haiti, and he needed money to wage war in Europe. So he decided to sell the entire Louisiana Territory to

the United States. Jefferson was amazed when news returned from France that his ambassador had signed a treaty to buy the entire Louisiana Territory for fifteen million dollars—about three cents per acre (seven cents per hectare). Although Jefferson doubted that the purchase was constitutional, he was unwilling to lose such a good opportunity. He submitted the treaty to Congress, where it was quickly ratified. The **Louisiana Purchase** doubled the size of the United States.

Lewis and Clark explore the Louisiana Territory. Even before the Senate had ratified the treaty of the Louisiana Purchase, Jefferson ordered **Meriwether Lewis** to lead an expedition to explore, make maps of, and set boundaries for the new

LOUISIANA PURCHASE AND LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION



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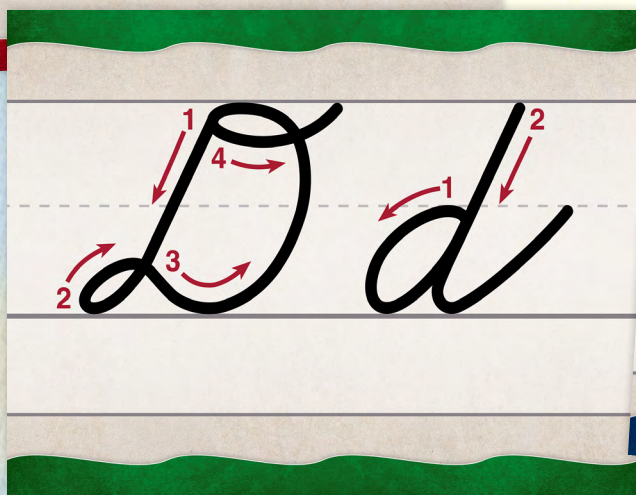
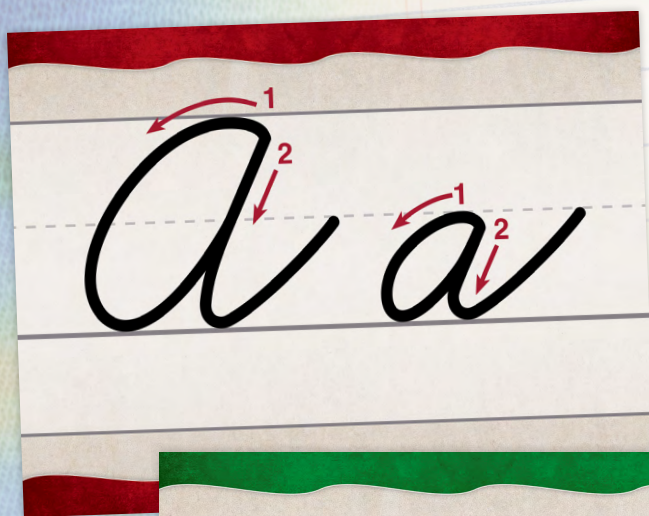
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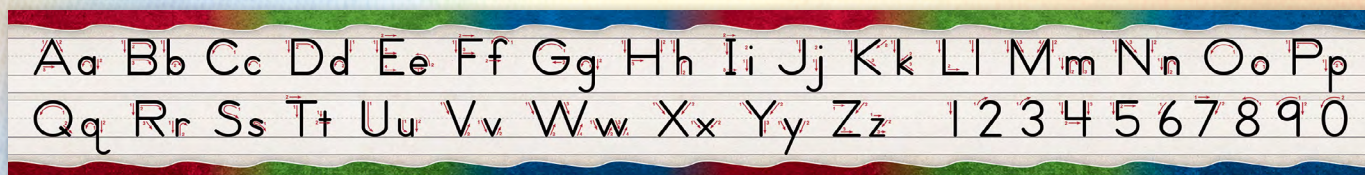
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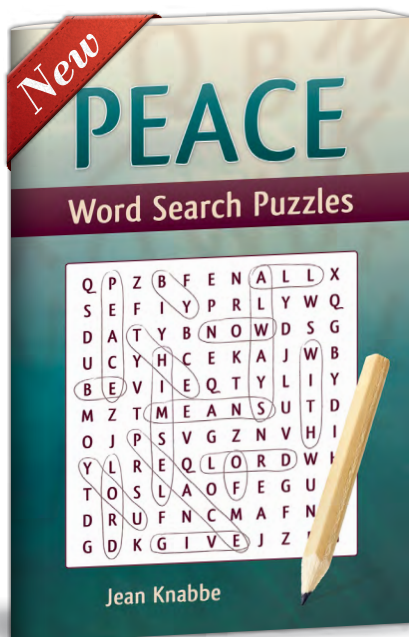
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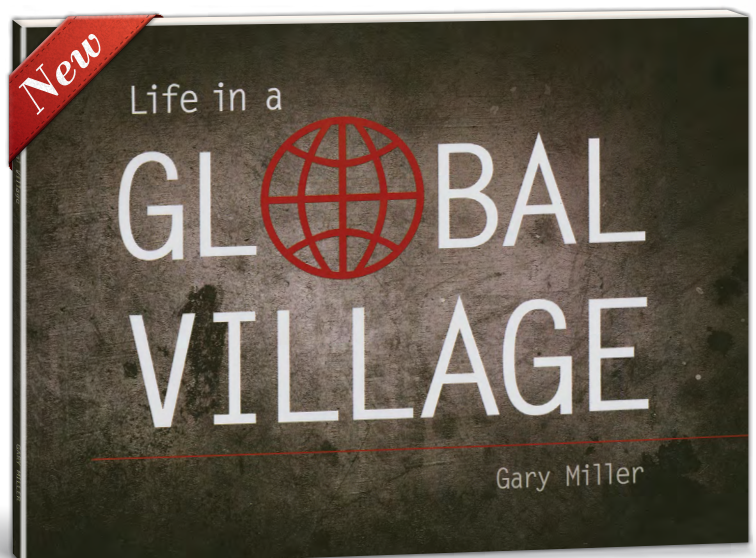


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Gary Miller

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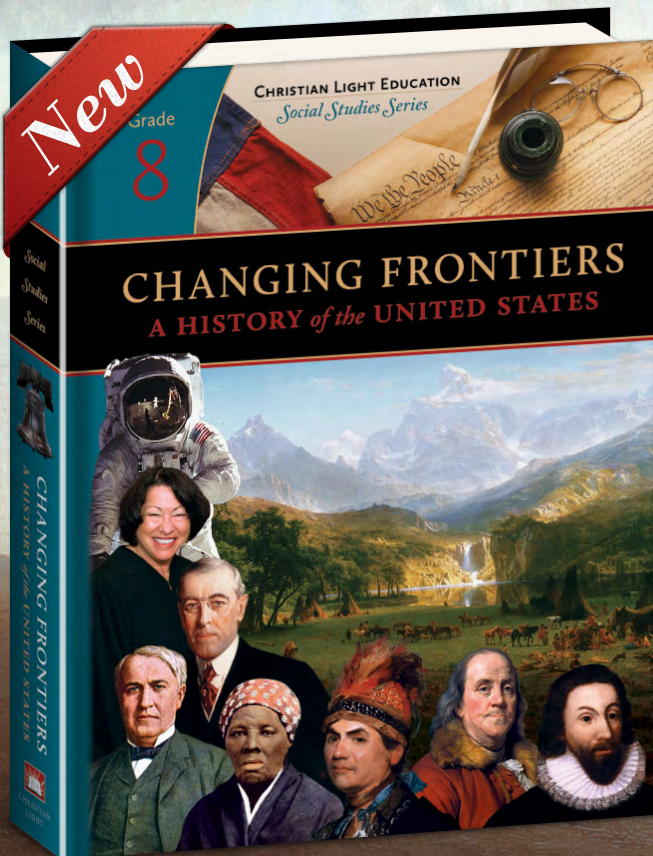
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*United States
History
Grade 8*

*It's
Here!*

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