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CONTACT: Mark D. Weinstein
Executive Director of Public Relations
[937-766-8800](tel:937-766-8800) (o)
[937-532-6885](tel:937-532-6885) (m)
Mweinstein@cedarville.edu
[@cedarvilleneews](#)

Children's Book Shines Light on the Darkness of Fear

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- A desire to bring glory to God and how he nurtures faith motivated Jen Ashcraft, a 1998 graduate of Cedarville University, to write the children's book "Please Turn on the Light." The story is about a fearful young girl who learns that God cares enough to chase away her fears with his always-on, internal 'Night-Light' that is more powerful than the darkness around her.

"Please Turn on the Light!" will be released on Nov. 12 by Author Academy Elite publishers. For more information, visit jenashcraft.com.

"The story really provides a biblical template for a lifelong pattern of thinking," said Ashcraft.

Ashcraft majored in finance and worked as a financial advisor until her first child was born. Years later, Ashcraft was inspired by multiple life experiences to write "Please Turn on the Light," her first book. Family and faith have been her most important influences.

"God first watered the seed he had planted through my mom when I was young," said Ashcraft. "She would excitedly share God's love with me and my sister even in the mundane."

When she became a mother, Ashcraft's love for God's Word and passion to share his truths only grew as she spent time studying and taking steps of faith. She often thought about how to simplify complex biblical truths so that her children could better grasp God's love for them. Reading children's books and trying not to neglect bedtime conversations even when she was exhausted became an important part of teaching her children about his love.

"I absolutely loved it when God would give me just the right book to read to [my children] that would capture their attention, teach them about his love for them from a unique angle and rejuvenate my own weary soul in the process," said Ashcraft.

However, Ashcraft didn't seek to publish her work until recovering from an injury. After being bitten on the thumb while caring for her cat, she faced multiple surgeries, several hospital visits and nuclear medical testing in an effort to save her thumb. She was bedridden for 8 1/2 months.

"It was one of the darkest times of my life," said Ashcraft. "I was not only physically debilitated, but I was also spiritually discouraged. God was giving me the opportunity to apply everything I had just taught my students in Bible class the prior year. It felt like God took me down to nothing to show me that Jesus is truly my everything."

Ashcraft hopes that her children's book will remind people, both young and old, that the overcoming light God gave to the world in Jesus is inside those who believe and will empower them to confidently face their fears.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,550 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including the [Bachelor of Arts in English](#) and [Creative Writing minor](#) programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and high student engagement ranking. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.

Written by Tessa Landrum