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## Poet Illuminates Biblical Truth with Irony

Poet L. Richard De Prisco recently released a witty, thought-provoking book that will appeal to Christian educators, poetry readers, and cynics. This poetry collection, *Flashlights at the Sun: Poetry to Help Shed Some Subjects on the Light*, is fashioned to illuminate biblical teachings with a modern twist. His literary tool of choice? Irony.

While De Prisco's poetry could appeal to any literary-minded Christian over age 15, he has a special wish to reach students—ideally, he says, “before they get cynical about poetry.” He himself wasn't interested in most poetry as a boy—neither the “fanciful stuff” nor the “frilly romantic goo” held any appeal. What he enjoys—and what he now offers—follows a different route, using wit instead of flowers to convey his points.

Indeed, the poems in *Flashlights at the Sun* have much to offer older high school students and college underclassmen who are learning about poetry analysis. There are multiple layers of irony in every poem, giving students plenty to unravel and digest. Educators needn't worry about De Prisco compromising biblical truth in the pursuit of literature; rather, he employs just the right turns of phrase to serve biblical themes. In fact, just as the literary devices draw attention to biblical truth, so does the biblical truth enhance and deepen each line.

*Flashlights at the Sun* tackles topics that concern many modern Christians, such as twisted Scripture and agnosticism. And it does so in a matter that is as likely to make the reader chuckle as think. The Scripture references listed at the end of each poem give readers an opportunity to further explore the biblical themes, whether on their own or in group discussion.

De Prisco doesn't have a poet's resume—at least not at first glance. He holds a degree in atmospheric sciences from Cornell University, and he's now a finance manager. You can't get much less poetic than science and finances. Yet he has now published two books of poetry and has been working at his craft for over 11 years. His poetry proves that you can't underestimate a supposed “science person's” command of words, theology, and wit. His latest book, *Flashlights at the Sun*, is published by Deep River Books and released on November 29, 2017.

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