

Christian writer pens books for younger readers

By DAVID MURRAY
Staff writer

J. Edwards Holt always knew he wanted to be a Christian writer, and the twenty-eight-year-old native of Henderson recently saw his dream come true with the publication of his first book, *'Little Men, Big Treasures.'*

Holt has followed up his initial success with the publication of two children's books, *'Blocky the Bully'* and *'Little Pig Gets Jealous.'*

He is currently at work on the sequel to *'Little Men, Big Treasures,'* which he hopes will be ready next year. Ultimately, Holt plans a three-part series.

Holt has always been an avid reader, and this no doubt has led to his fascination with writing. Some of his favorite authors include J.K. Rowling of Harry Potter fame, J.R.R. Tolkien, who wrote the classic trilogy *'The Lord of the Rings'* and C.S. Lewis, who authored *'The Chronicles of Narnia.'* Holt also mentioned bestselling author James Luceno, who has written *'Star Wars'* novels and reference books and Jude Watson, who has also authored *'Star Wars'* epics.

Holt did a lot of writing growing up, in elementary school and in high school. But following his graduation from Vance-Granville Community College with a degree in school-age education, Holt found employment with the Vance County school

system as Site Director for the Funtastic Kids Club at E.M. Rollins Elementary School in Henderson and he immersed himself in the after school and summer enrichment programs for children. He planned all of the educational activities and games, as well as supervising the children and acting as a liaison between the children and their parents to include sharing the child's progress and addressing behavioral issues, with suggested areas of improvement.

His tenure lasted eight years, until the program was ended, he said.

It was around this time that the work of a friend's father was published, and this rekindled Holt's long lost passion to write. Still, there were moments of doubt as Holt undertook the journey.

"I wasn't sure if I could do it," he notes.

Ultimately, he persevered and found his footing. In all, it took Holt about a year to complete his book.

"It just came back," he marvels.

In addition to living out his faith, Holt stays busy living the life of a writer. He had drawn comic books in elementary school, and continues to draw a lot now, calling himself a "cartoonist, not a technical artist." And, Holt illustrated both of his children's books himself.

He also works at marketing his work through his social media contacts. For instance, he

has a number of followers on Twitter. Additionally, he is considering starting a blog on his website at www.jedwardholt.com. Local book signings and events may be offered in the future, also.

Holt also "spends free time thinking up stories," when he gets the chance. He is very active in his church, South Henderson Pentecostal, where he teaches Kid's Church, Kindergarten through second grade, each Sunday. And all of Holt's books convey a strong Christian message and witness.

'Little Men, Big Treasures,' unabashedly begins with the following passage:

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6: 19-21)

'Little Men, Big Treasures' is the story of four dwarves who set out on an epic adventure from a small village in the mountains, seeking a fabulous, long-lost treasure. But Holt wants his readers to know that greed and lust can take over our lives if we let it, and keep us away from God.

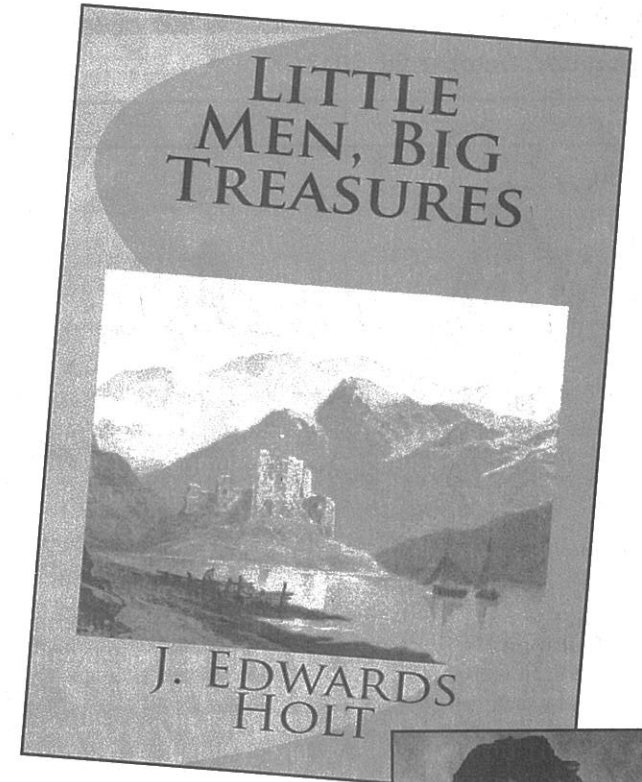
The book is available on Amazon in paper-

back and in Kindle eBook formats.

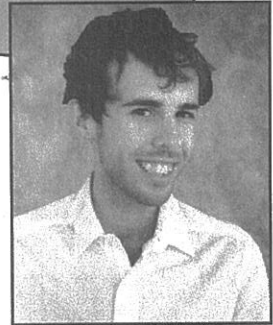
In *'Blocky the Bully,'* Holt explores learning how to deal with bullying in a Christian manner, something that is vital for parents and students in today's world. It is available on blurb.com in paperback and eBook formats, and in eBook formats on iBooks.

Holt's newest book, *'Little Pig Gets Jealous,'* looks at the topic of jealousy from a Christian perspective. It is also available on blurb.com

Holt is clearly someone who has found his mission at a young age, and someone who is pursuing that mission with passion. His business card proclaims that he is "spreading the Word through writing," and that is truly good news for his readers and fans of all ages.



J. Edwards Holt (pictured right) has authored several Christian-themed books geared for young readers, which are now available. Holt lives in Henderson.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS:

GRANVILLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Streets will soon be scattered with little goblins and witches, all trick-or-treating for Halloween. Granville County Sheriff Brin Wilkins reminds all residents to follow these safety tips:

Motorists should:

- *watch for children darting out from between parked cars, as well as those walking on roadways, medians and curbs;

- *enter and exit drive-

time;

- *review trick-or-treat safety precautions, including pedestrian/traffic safety rules;

used to make children visible.

- *should not obstruct a child's vision. Instead of masks, consider using facial make-up;

- *should include nose and mouth openings and large eye holes if covering the face.

- *should not include sharp objects as accessories.

Home owners should:

- *keep candles and Jack O' Lanterns away from landings and doorsteps where costumes could brush against

