

*Excerpts for contemplation, discussion and application from this week's issue of THE LOOKOUT.*

## Watching Books and Reading Movies pages 3-5

"As we turn more and more to film, television, and graphics-heavy computers, we are becoming a people who learn wholistically and process more information more quickly."

"Film communicates on multiple levels."

- What differences do you see in the way you learn and think from those of other generations?
- In what ways does the media influence you?
- What stories have affected you most?

## God Rocks!® pages 8 and 9

"Combine many of our TV shows, movies, music, and the Internet and you have a dangerous mix. Parents must be pro-active in helping their children learn how to make discerning choices."

- How can parents teach their children to make such choices?

"Much of the church abandoned the significance of the creative arts as a means to communicate truth to the world. In many ways Christians have retreated from the main stream of society into a sub-culture that has become largely ineffective in reaching its neighbors and communicating truth to the next generation."

- Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

## Thumbs Up! pages 6 and 7

"Assuming that many Christians will give a 'thumbs up' to movie viewing, what biblical principles should be considered in choosing a film to view?"

"The knowledge of the spiritual hunger of his culture gained by understanding the secular media of his day allowed Paul to present the message of Christ clearly and successfully."

"The guiding principles for the Christian must always be the wisdom that comes from Heaven rather than what is called wisdom in this world (James 3:13-18)."

"Notice the strategy here. Reveal spiritual truth in stories to seekers. When understanding grows, pull them aside and teach them more conventionally."

- What movies have you seen that have helped you in your Christian life? What movies have hurt you?
- What elements in the media's version of contemporary culture do you find redeeming or useful? What would Jesus say about it?

# W O R L D W I N D O W S

By Tom Claibourne

*"Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand" (Ecclesiastes 5:15).*

My 12-year old daughter and I searched frantically. We raced against other parent-child teams who also carried small paper sacks to collect the needed items for a Bible scavenger hunt. We climbed hills, sifted through short grass and tall weeds, and examined the banks along a beautiful stream.

Our excitement grew as we placed a check mark beside each Bible clue on the list. We were proud of our teamwork and fairly certain we were ahead of most of our competitors.

We rushed back to home base with our sack, anxious to be crowned as champions once we displayed our treasures. The camp leader announced the order of finish and then calmly told us to place our little brown bags in the trash can and get ready for the next activity.

What? Throw away all the treasures we worked so hard to obtain? Go on to something else? It seemed so unfair.

As Leah and I walked away empty-handed, it occurred to me we had just experienced one of the certainties of life and eternity. Someday we will draw our last breath in this life and leave behind all the material things we worked so hard to obtain.

When that time comes, it will not matter how many things we accumulated, but whether or not we had a personal relationship with the one who made all things and loaned them to us temporarily. ■

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