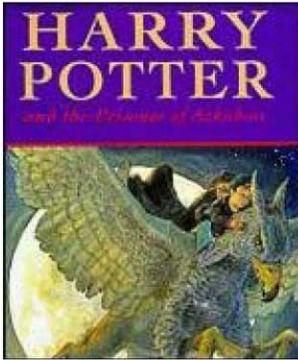




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The concerted assault on the hearts and minds of children



The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live, Acts 7:19.

The above verse refers to the actions of Pharaoh when he sought to destroy every male child born to the Hebrew families in Egypt. You will notice that his scheme required a measure of cooperation, though under duress, on the part of the Hebrew parents, if the plan was to succeed.

It seems hardly credible that parents could cooperate in the destruction of their own children and yet they did. In truth, they still do!

There are many threats to the physical and, more importantly, the spiritual well-being of children today with which parents fully cooperate. Sadly, this includes Christian parents. We wish to highlight just some of the threats that children face and about which all too many parents are unaware or unconcerned.

Consider the following two articles

"HARRY POTTER " BOOKS PROMOTE AN INTEREST IN WITCHCRAFT

Two recent articles in The Belfast Telegraph served to highlight the debate about 'Harry Potter' books for children. On Friday 19th October, a report of a ban on children's books about the boy wizard, imposed by the managing director of a chain of toy stores, Toytown, appeared. It carried a comment by the editor of "The Burning Bush", Rev. Ivan Foster, who welcomed the ban.

The next day, a much larger article appeared, stating that principals of various primary schools believed that the 'Harry Potter' books by JK Rowling should be defended. One principal, quoted in the story, Desmond Hamilton of Strandtown Primary school in East Belfast, said: 'I do not condone censorship or engage in censorship and we encourage boys and girls to read, and to read widely.' Mr. Hamilton plans to take his P 7 pupils along to see the 'Harry Potter' Hollywood film, which is due for release soon. A principal Mr. Hamilton may be, but principled he is not.

Folly

This foolish man, in decrying censorship, suggests that children's reading material should not be monitored or limited at all. Considering just what is available to young people today, it is frightening to think that this man may be an example of the guardians of children's spiritual, moral, cultural and intellectual development within the state system of education. But then, the Minister of Education, Martin McGuinness, is the present leader of the IRA and was for years actively involved in murder and terror. That makes the encour-



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aging of children to read stories on witchcraft seem comparatively tame!

Occult

The 'Harry Potter' books have encouraged children to become interested and involved in the occult. This has been acknowledged by various occult organisations. The interest, generated in reading about these things, may well make a child become interested in matter cursed by God. The 'Pagan Federation' has appointed a Youth Officer to deal with the flood of inquiries following the success of the Harry Potter books. According to Berit Kjos: "Harry Potter lures kids to witchcraft". On average there are 100 inquiries a month from children who want to become witches and Kjos claims the federation has occasionally been 'swamped' with calls. Andy Norfolk, the media officer, said: "It is quite probably linked to things like Harry Potter, Sabrina the Teenage witch and Buffy the Vampire Slayer..... Every time an article on witchcraft or paganism appears, we have a huge surge in calls, mostly from young girls".

Warning

Parents, remember the warnings of God's Word.

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God, Deuteronomy 18:10-13.

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight, Isaiah 5:20-21.

SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS . . .

What some parents don't know and many don't want to know!!

According to the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, it is the responsibility of state schools to promote the "spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual, and physical development of pupils" (letter from the Assembly's Minister of Education, Martin McGuinness, to Mr. Mervyn Carrick, MLA). That is why we repudiate the state system of education. It places the teaching of spiritual and moral values in the hands of those who repudiate the Bible as the sole rule of faith and practice.

Within the remit of the state school is the teaching of 'Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE).' A recent publication on the subject, from the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment, included a list of teaching resources for Key Stages 3 and 4 (11-16-year-olds). One of those listed, because it had been identified by teachers as useful when developing an RSE policy and programme, is called: 'Taking Sex Seriously.' This publication, which doubtless does not really differ very much from the rest of the resources, has been reviewed by Colin Hart, Director of the Christian Institute, at a



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recent meeting in Northern Ireland. He indicated that the booklet suggested some very disturbing lesson plans for children aged 11-14 such as:

- Role playing the part of a sodomite 'coming out.'
- For homework, buying a packet of condoms from a chemist's shop.
- Class discussion of 'the full range of sexual activities' including group sex, sado- masochism' and worse.
- Using sex toys to demonstrate the use of contraceptives.
- Other activities were deemed too foul to refer to. Tino Ferri, national executive officer of the NAS/UWT teachers' union called for Taking Sex Seriously to be scrapped. He described the teaching guide as encouraging 'perversion' and 'deviancy'.

Teachers' Recommendation

It ought to be noted that this booklet is included in the CCEA list of teaching resources because 'they have been identified by teachers as useful when developing an RSE policy and programme.' Teachers within the state sector here in Northern Ireland are recommending such materials!

Why do Christian parents insist upon sending their children to be educated in such a system? There can only be a terrible harvest amongst the next generation from such folly.