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Message of the Open Bible

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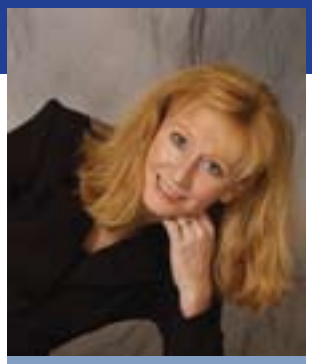
Cherish God's Gifts



ANDREA JOHNSON/*Editor*

The phone awakened my husband and me at 4:30 a.m. Friday morning, September 19. Our first grandson was on his way! By the time we reached the hospital Aubrey, our daughter-in-law, was ready to push. At eight pounds, five ounces, the little guy was somewhat stuck. His mom, though tiny, was determined. Two and a half hours later, to the wonderment of his mom and dad and both sets of grandparents, baby Harper entered our world.

Within minutes the room was filled with family and friends. As I watched my son hold his own son for the first time I was overjoyed, knowing Phil could now appreciate more fully the joy he has brought me through the years. As father and son gazed into each other's eyes, I knew Phil would do everything necessary to protect his child from harm. In fact each person in that room would do anything within their power to ensure this little guy has the best shot at life.

According to statistics though, Harper will be exposed to pornography by age 11, most likely while innocently doing homework. He has a 20 percent chance of receiving a sexual solicitation online.

Why would anyone want to force pornography on a child? Or on anyone for that matter? One person's addiction becomes another person's income source. Internet Filter Review reports that in 2006 U.S. pornography revenue exceeded $13.33 billion. You would be surprised to learn the names of companies profiting from this industry. Likely you have dealt with some of these businesses. Makers of *Grand Theft Auto IV* created a video "game" that, according to Nintendo's site, "What They Play," allows the character to pick up prostitutes and pay for three levels of service. Violence is central to the experience. These types of companies strive to generate lifelong pornography addicts – a guaranteed avenue for their profit margins.

So typical of Satan, he attempts to take one of God's most incredible gifts – sex – and devalue it until it becomes meaningless and vile. Just like with the lottery, processed foods, or diet pills, we Americans want the benefits of rewards without having to work hard to earn them. According to author Gene McConnell, sex should be a celebration of intimacy, not a substitute for intimacy.

When sex becomes no more than a money-making scheme, it loses its true value – that of a strong bond between two people that creates a place of intimacy for both partners: a home where a child feels safe and secure.

Andrea Johnson,
Managing Editor

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