

# Footprints FOCUS

March 2009

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- **Is there a demon lurking behind the bedpost?! Or is it just a witch hunt?**
- **Show us your SHORTS!**
- **And the winner is ...**
- **Go the maroons!**

**Footprints – helping you to take time to FOCUS on God in the midst of your busy life!**

## Witch Hunt!

When my daughter was small she just loved to watch Barney videos. For those who have not had the pleasure of meeting Barney, he is a purple dinosaur toy who comes to life whenever children play with him. It has quite an educational focus, introducing tiny tots to concepts such as the weather, feelings, letters and numbers, nursery rhymes and fairytales, with plenty of singing and dancing thrown in. No wonder millions of toddlers around the world, just love him!



Each show finishes with a song which goes something like this - "I love you, you love me, we're a happy family, with a great big hug and a kiss from me to you, won't you say you love me too". Seems pretty harmless, right?!

So I was astonished to read an article cautioning Christian parents against the dangers of Barney. What could possibly be wrong with Barney? My only complaint is that it's all a bit too sickly sweet and wonderful!

The main argument was that the show encouraged children to put their trust in Barney, because he is "the friend who is always there". The author claimed that Barney was usurping Christ's position; and that Barney promoted new age ideas - such as positive thinking and asking children to use their imaginations.

Whilst I believe it is important to protect and nurture our children, and raise them to follow Christ, I am saddened to think that some Christians perceive Barney as evil and detrimental to their children's development. Personally, I would like to encourage my children to practise positive thinking, and I delighted when they used their imagination and played "let's pretend". I don't see either as in direct opposition to the gospel.

Sometimes it seems that Christians are so busy hunting for the evil and bad in this world (a demon behind every bedpost!), that they forget to focus on what is good (Phil 4:8). The classic Christian band, Petra, have a wonderful song which addresses this very problem - it's called *Witch Hunt*, from their *Beat the System* album. I'll just quote the chorus here:

*"Another Witch Hunt, looking for evil wherever we can find it  
Off on a tangent, hope the Lord won't mind it  
Another Witch Hunt, takin' a break from all our gospel labour  
On a crusade but we forgot our saber"*

Married couples are advised in counselling to "choose your battles carefully". Life is too short to waste it getting upset and angry about every little thing

Not the building in which I stand or sit, often uncomfortably, often irritably. Not any denomination of any kind – and the fact that the Body of Christ is broken by denominations is another cause for Satan’s pleasure. Why can’t we worship in our differing ways and still be One?

*Madeleine L’Engle*

**Contact Us**

that crops up. Choose to fight only those battles that really are important. Learn to prioritise! Save your strength and energy for the things that really matter.

The same can be said for the Christian life. Choose your battles carefully! Don’t jump on every bandwagon condemning the latest craze, TV show or fad – whether it be Barney, Pokemon, or whatever! Concentrate instead on our shared life mission – to share the love and good news of Jesus with those around us.

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## Editor’s Wishlist ...part 2

Wow! The Scripture says to “ask and you shall receive” ... it’s true! Last FOCUS I shared my “editor’s wishlist”, of articles we would love to run in upcoming issues of *Footprints*. We have received numerous articles and enquiries, on subjects as varied as tips for a happy marriage when your partner isn’t a believer, to handling menopause, thoughts and testimonies on tithing, cosmetic surgery, flirting, widowhood, self-harm and many more.

My heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful people who responded!

I was so encouraged by the response that I want to put a new request out there – **SHOW ME YOUR SHORTS!!!!** Short articles, that is! Most of the submissions we receive are “feature length” ie over 600 words, and we can only run 3 (or at most 4) of these in each issue. What we REALLY need is plenty of smaller “bite-sized” pieces ... which can sometimes be the hardest to write! As these form the bulk of our (and any magazine’s) content, we are always looking for well-written, meaningful, short articles.

So if you can help, you know where to send `em ... [editor@footprintsaustralia.com](mailto:editor@footprintsaustralia.com) or Footprints, PO Box 1962, Cleveland DC Qld 4163. No monetary payment unfortunately but we CAN promise a reward that’s OUT OF THIS WORLD, and a copy of the issue your work appears in!

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## Winner’s Circle

Last month we asked you to tell us what you thought of the formatting of FOCUS, or if you preferred to receive it as an attachment. (Of course as luck would have it, that particular issue was the first one in AGES that wasn’t marred by a “Yahoo Groups” box hiding half the text of the email!)

Thanks to all those who took the time to respond – and congratulations to **Dianne Riley, of Sutherland NSW**, who will soon receive a fab Footprints prize! Enjoy ... and keep reading FOCUS each month, you never know when you will see a great competition that’s as easy as sending an email ...

And just to make certain nobody misses out on being able to read FOCUS, it will arrive in the body of an email and also as a Word attachment from now on.

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**Go the maroons (and the blues ... etc!)**

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Currently our **QUEENSLAND** supporters outnumber the other states 2 to 1 (go the maroons!) ... as is reflected by our three newest subscribers (below) ... but if you would like to address the balance, you know what to do (and if you really don't, check out the Resources page on our website or drop me a line at [editor@footprintsaustralia.com](mailto:editor@footprintsaustralia.com))!

- Carol, Victoria Point Q
- Paula, Mt Barker SA
- Sacha, Salisbury Q

Til next month

Love,

*Janet xxx*

and the Footprints Team.

(Please feel free to forward this email to others who may be interested).