

ZION'S CHRISTIAN YOUTH &  
FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

theParentLink<sup>SM</sup>

April 2009



**Welcome to the  
online MEDIA pages  
of Zion's parent  
newsletter!**



**"The B-I-B-L-E"**

Many children absorb new information quickly through music. Plus, it's fun! At home or in the car, sing songs about Bible people and events. Many praise lyrics come directly from Scripture verses.

On the following pages you will find media information for teens and children. The first page applies more to children. The second & third pages are geared more for teens.

You will also find plenty of discussion questions to spark conversations in your home.

Your feedback is important to us!! Please feel free to contact any member of Zion's CYFM staff with your comments. We first added theParentLink<sup>SM</sup> newsletter to the December Horizon. This month is the first addition of the online media pages. Let us know what you think!!

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**These pages are designed to help educate parents and aren't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children listen to and watch.**

## What's Playing at the Movies

**Movie:** *Hannah Montana: The Movie* (April 10)

**Genre:** Comedy, Family, Music

**Rating:** G

**Cast:** Miley Cyrus, Billy Ray Cyrus, Emily Osment

**Synopsis:** Ordinary girl Miley Cyrus, who morphs into pop star Hannah Montana, is having trouble juggling her busy life. When Miley becomes overwhelmed by her alter ego, Dad whisks her away to the family's Tennessee hometown for some perspective. While there, Miley must decide which life to pursue.



**Discussion Questions:** When have you felt overwhelmed, and what was the reason? If you could "reinvent" yourself, who would you become, and why? Read Joshua 24:14-15. Think of a time you had to choose between two different paths: How did you make your decision? How does God help you make decisions?

## What Music Is Releasing

**Artist:** Mandisa

**Album:** *Freedom*

**Artist Info:** Now a contemporary gospel artist, Mandisa placed ninth on *American Idol* season five. She forgave judge Simon Cowell for making mean comments about her weight.

**Summary:** Mandisa's second album contains upbeat praise, R&B, and pop tunes. Her strong alto vocals praise God in catchy anthems and ballads. The album's first single, "My Deliverer," celebrates Mandisa's freedom from a food addiction. In "Definition of Me," she sings, "Pretty is cool for a minute, but it will always fade away.... I want the beauty on the inside."



**Discussion Questions:** Why are so many people focused on outward appearances? What is your definition of true beauty? Read 1 Peter 3:3-4. What about your spirit makes you beautiful on the inside?

## What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Roogoo</i>	Players test their reflexes by guiding falling meteor shapes through a series of platforms. This game is similar to <i>Tetris</i> .	E; Xbox 360
<i>NASCAR Kart Racing</i>	Driving teams work together to win championships, racing on 24 layouts. Up to four people can play this fun game.	E; Wii
<i>Zubo</i>	Players "battle" by solving puzzles and completing humorous gags. This game will appeal to Pokemon fans. It contains mild cartoon violence and mild crude humor.	E10+; Nintendo DS

**GAME RATINGS KEY: EC=Early Childhood, E=Everyone (ages 6+), E10+ (ages 10+), T=Teen (ages 13+)**



## Culture & Trends

**What's happening right now that may affect your children and family:**

- Thanks to the recession, now more families are enjoying home-cooked meals together. Food trends for 2009 center around comfort, value, and simplicity. (NPR)
- In the last decade, the number of stay-at-home dads has tripled. (Newsweek)

## Quick Stats

- 75% of U.S. households now forbid smoking. That's up from 43% just one decade ago. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Each day, an estimated 4 million children post content to the Web. (netlingo.com)



- Every week, MySpace deletes 25,000 profiles of users who don't meet the site's minimum-age requirement of 14 years. (netlingo.com)

# MUSICSPOTLIGHT



## Mainstream Artist

**Background:** This Grammy-nominated band formed in Virginia in 1990 as Burn the Priest. They changed their name but continue playing a combination of heavy metal, death metal, and progressive metal—keyword metal. *Wrath*, their new album, hit number two on the Billboard chart. Lamb of God has headlined the popular OzzFest tour.

**Albums:** *Wrath* (2009), *Sacrament* (2006), *New American Gospel* (2000)

**What Parents Should Know:** Despite the band's name and album titles, don't mistake it for a Christian band. Dark lyrics and imagery often mock the church and authority figures.

**What Lamb of God Says:** Drummer Chris Adler says the band's name "was never a religious thing.... What we're really trying to get across is: Don't always take things at surface level." Guitarist Willie Adler says kids can relate to their music, especially with "the whole feeling of angst and rebellion."

**Discussion Questions:** Read Romans 13:1-7. Do we have to respect people who abuse authority? What should Christians do when leaders abuse power? Read John 7:24. Why is it dangerous to accept things at surface level? How can you avoid making dangerous assumptions?



## Christian Artist

**Background:** This nu-metal band formed in Tennessee in 2004, and, after only two albums, has become one of the biggest players in Christian rock. Red's music has been nominated for a Grammy and has won a Dove award. *Innocence & Instinct* reached number one on Billboard's indie chart.

**Albums:** *Innocence & Instinct* (2009), *The End of Silence* (2006)

**What Parents Should Know:** Red isn't just a "safe" alternative band; these guys are genuinely talented and have had mainstream success as a result. Many of their lyrics deal with overcoming baser instincts and turning toward God.

**What Red Says:** Singer Michael Barnes calls the song "Never Be the Same" an anthem of redemption. Although we've all gone through difficult situations, he says, "when we look to God and see how he's put us back together again and made us whole, we realize we'll never be the same."

**Discussion Questions:** Read Psalm 51:1-10. Have you ever cried out to God in a similar way? If so, explain. Why do we continue making mistakes that make such confessions necessary? What does it mean to have a "clean heart"? Does it mean we're perfect? Explain.

## FILMWATCH

**Movie:** *Watchmen*

**Genre:** Action, Drama

**Rating:** R (for strong graphic violence, sexuality, nudity, and language)

**Synopsis:** This is a faithful adaptation of an influential graphic novel. The characters are deeply flawed people who don costumes and try to make the world a better place (at least, as they see it). But this



isn't just another superhero movie—or even another “dark” one, such as the recent *Batman* films. There's *nothing* heroic about these superheroes. Because of this film's content, parents should take its R rating *very* seriously.

**Discussion Questions:** If you could have one superpower, what would it be, and why? Is vigilantism ever justified? Explain. Why do people often find comfort in wearing masks? What types of masks have you worn, and why? Would you act more bravely if your identity were hidden? Why or why not?