

**ZION'S FAITH AT HOME MINISTRIES
NEWSLETTER**

theParentLinkSM

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

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

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

Back to
School



Your feedback is important to us!!
Please feel free to contact any member of Zion's CYFM staff with your comments. Let us know what you think!!

Danielle Acay

dacay.zionkent@comcast.net

Kelly Mullin

kmullin.zionkent@comcast.net

Berit Wright

Bwright.zionkent@comcast.net

Debbie Boyce

dlynnboyce@comcast.net

**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: *The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry* (Sept. 18)

Genre: Christian drama

Rating: PG (for mild thematic elements)

Cast: Gavin MacLeod, Jansen Panettiere, Robert Guillaume

Synopsis: This coming-of-age tale takes place in a quaint town in the early 1970s. Three inseparable 12-year-old friends face challenges, including a town bully. Their lives change when they meet Jonathan Sperry, age 75, an encouraging mentor. The film contains a clear Christian message, emphasizing how the Bible contains answers for everyone's lives.

Discussion Questions: Talk about someone, besides your family, who's made a lasting difference in your life. What do you think you'll remember most from your childhood, and why? Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. How is the Bible relevant to the stuff you're facing now?



What Music Is Releasing

Artist: Selena Gomez

Album: *Kiss and Tell*

Artist Info: Gomez, now 17, has been an actress since appearing on *Barney and Friends* at age 7. After being discovered by the Disney Channel, she appeared in two Disney shows. Now she has a lead role in *Wizards of Waverly Place*.

Summary: On her "pop-rock-techno-inspired" debut album, Gomez aims to create "fun" music that parents and kids can enjoy together. Some of the deeper lyrics address how plastic Hollywood can be. Gomez says she tries to "live day by day" and not focus on media scrutiny or rumors.

Discussion Questions: What entertainment does our family enjoy together? What does it feel like to be under lots of scrutiny? Read Ecclesiastes 3:1. What helps you take life one day at a time?



What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Gardening Mama</i>	Players grow and harvest various flowers, fruits, and veggies by using the stylus as a gardening tool.	Wii; E
<i>Go Play Lumberjacks</i>	Players use the Wii Remote to saw trees, split logs, and compete in events such as the Pole Climb and Log Roll.	Nintendo DS; E
<i>TMNT: Turtles in Time Re-shelled</i>	The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles return in this downloadable 3D remake. Contain lots of beat-'em-up cartoon violence.	X-box Live; T

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:

- More than 1,200 teachers have petitioned educational book publisher Scholastic to stop selling toys to kids. Last year, about one-third of the items in Scholastic's catalogs weren't books. (usatoday.com)

- Due to budget cutbacks, more parents are now chipping in money toward classroom essentials, including teachers. PTA groups are raising funds to keep school programs and staff that would be cut otherwise. (msnbc.com)

Quick Stats

- Children eat an average of 228 more calories during meals when the television is on. (University of Toronto)
- About 10% of public elementary schools require students to wear uniforms. (publicschoolreview.com)



MUSICSPOTLIGHT



Mainstream Artist

Background: This Grammy-winning musician, producer, and entrepreneur (born Shawn Carter) grew up in the Brooklyn projects. His father abandoned the family, and Jay-Z sold drugs for a while. After Jay-Z became interested in hip-hop, he worked his way up to become one of the industry's most powerful and influential figures.

Albums: *The Blueprint 3* (2009), *Reasonable Doubt* (1996), *The Black Album* (2003)

What Parents Should Know: Jay-Z, who's married to Beyoncé Knowles, is a philanthropist. But his lyrics are filled with anger and profanity, and he seems to revel in feuds with other rappers.

What Jay-Z Says: "At my age [39], I can't relate to a 15-year-old. I deal with mature and relevant topics for my age group; it has to all be based on true emotions. The more...mature we make hip-hop, the bigger the net you cast."

Discussion Questions: Are maturity and spiritual maturity tied to age? Why or why not? Does using "adult" language make someone more mature? Read 1 Samuel 17:17-51. How did David show maturity? How are you a leader in your family and among your peers? Read Matthew 4:18-20. What kind of "net" do you cast to reach people for Jesus?



Christian Artist

Background: In 1995, Crowder was frustrated that so many students at his Christian university weren't attending church. So he started his own and provided the worship music. The six-piece David Crowder Band now produces award-winning, top-selling worship songs.

Albums: *Church Music* (2009), *Remedy* (2007), *Can You Hear Us?* (2002)

What Parents Should Know: Crowder has also written two books—one about the church and one about worship. He has a strong heart for teenagers and college students. Crowder's latest album is an effort to redefine "church music."

What David Crowder Says: "I hope this album serves as a reminder of [church music's] richness and its broadness, and the tension that exists in using elements of cultural language to express our collective experience."

Discussion Questions: What comes to mind when you think of "church music"? Should worship songs be updated to include cultural language? Why or why not? Read Mark 2:23-3:6. Why was Jesus going against tradition here? How can we discern when change is really necessary? What are some church traditions that seem outdated or irrelevant to you?

FILMWATCH

Movie: 9 (releases Sept. 9, 2009, or 9/9/09)

Genre: Science-fiction action-adventure

Rating: PG-13 (for violence and scary images)

Synopsis: A homunculus (miniature, fully formed adult theorized to inhabit a cell) known as 9 is implanted with the life essence of its creator. He awakens to a post-apocalyptic world in which all humans are gone. Nine discovers eight others like him, hiding from the machines that seem to have caused the humans' demise. Nine argues that they must fight to survive.

Discussion Questions: If you woke up to find that you were alone on the planet, how would you feel? What would you say are the biggest threats to the human race? Read aloud Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. When, if ever, is fighting justified? How can we know whether it's time for war or time for peace? Explain.

