

And may bring if they desire either an owl, a cat or a toad.”  
(Signed) “Lucinda Thomsonicle-Pocus Chief Attendant of Witchcraft Provisions”  
There is also a “Divination Class,” “Tea Leaf Reading” that allows one to “customize a tea leaf reading for your friend” and many other questionable activities.

While we should keep in mind that this is all fantasy (real Wicca witches do *not* wear pointed hats), one can’t help but see how very closely aligned some of this is to the real world of sorcery, witchcraft and Wicca. Remember the book titles found in our local Library — how similar? Also of interest is the fact that owls, cats and toads are the most common “familiar” (or low ranking demon) said to be given to Witches by the Devil to carry out spells and bewitchments.<sup>12</sup>

### Point Seven

The Pagan Federation<sup>13</sup> (a promoter of Wicca) has had such an increase in inquiries “following the success of Harry Potter books” that they have found it necessary to appoint a youth officer just to deal with the huge surge in calls.<sup>14</sup>

This is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to evidence that Harry Potter has some problems. There is no way to determine just what effect such input has on those who have an interest in it. Linda Beam of *Focus on the Family* has stated;  
“Any time the dark side of the supernatural world is presented as harmless or even imaginary, there is the danger that children will become curious and find out too late that witchcraft is neither harmless nor imaginary.”<sup>15</sup>

We’re quite certain that some who read this will be angered by what we have written and we readily admit that there are a variety of conflicting opinions concerning the effect of Harry Potter on young minds. It is of course, up to the discretion of each person and each parent to determine what he/she perceives as harmful and dangerous. We believe that the words of Ezekiel 3:1-6 clearly say that if we as Christians, believe there is danger approaching God’s household and we have opportunity to sound the trumpet to warn of it but fail to do so, God will hold *us* responsible for the loss due to that danger. It is however clearly up to each individual person whether or not he/she chooses to heed the sound of the trumpet. If those of you who read this, evaluate what we believe to be a danger and decide that there is none — well — at least — right or wrong — we blew the trumpet — you must make the decision.

The most important thing to be remembered is that there is ultimately only a *very short distance* between the fantasy of Harry’s world and the reality of the *real* occult. Harry *has* caused many youngsters to read again instead of watch television. That’s good. But let’s be certain the harm doesn’t outweigh the good.

—footnote references available on website or by request—

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# DILIGENCE

“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.” — Hebrews 6:11

A ministry of Dennis and Sherri Owens

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Issue 3

## Harry Who?

During the three plus years that we’ve been publishing *Diligence*, we’ve never avoided a subject simply because some would disagree with what we have to say — and we’re not going to do that now — even though we expect that this article will raise the ire of some of you in a way that none of our previous issues have. We realize that we’re addressing something that many of you have come to know and love over the past few years. If you haven’t guessed by now where this is going, it’s a sure bet that you aren’t a Harry Potter fan. Harry has swept much of the world with the vigor of a powerful tsunami.<sup>1,2,3</sup> But for the *very few* of you who say, “Harry who?” — an *extremely* brief summary of the basis for the Potter books and movies.

One of Harry’s parents was a wizard and the other was a witch. Both were brutally murdered by *the greatest Dark sorcerer of all times, Lord Voldemort*<sup>4</sup> leaving Harry an orphan. After the death of his parents, the *Headmaster* of the *Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry* left Harry on the doorstep of some non-magical relatives (the Dursley’s) with a letter explaining that Harry was a wizard. The Dursley’s reluctantly raised Harry but didn’t tell him about the letter. As a child Harry survived an attack by the *King of the Dark Arts* that left him with a lightning shaped scar on his forehead. After several years, the Dursleys were visited by the *Keeper of the Keys at Hogwarts* who came to prepare Harry for attending the school of witchcraft. Harry learned from him that he was not only a wizard but that he was quite famous throughout the world of witches and sorcerers because he was the only one who had ever survived an attack by the *He-Who-Cannot-Be-Named*. Harry packed his bags and left to attend the *Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry*. The plots of each story develop from there.

In view of what we have studied in the previous two articles, it seems that Harry could have the potential of being a dangerous step toward introducing youngsters to the occult. Aside from the fact that the stories are *extremely accurate* in their portrayal of the use of sorcery and witchcraft, the underlying message to young people is that witchcraft — as long as it is not used for dark or evil purposes is an acceptable practice. The conclusions of the Potter plots very skillfully wrap occult practices in an envelope of love and courage. While it’s true that good triumphs over evil in the stories, that’s also true of many other books and movies that Christians would never allow themselves or their children to be drawn to. Parents regularly restrict viewing of movies they believe to be too violent for their youngsters to see, even though the “good guy” is generally victorious over the “bad guy.” Is

*continued on page 2*

the occult any less dangerous? Again, we realize that we'll probably be perceived as "going after" something that has become near and dear to the hearts of many Christians. *That's exactly* why our concern is so great — great enough to risk "being stoned" for even *suggesting* that Harry may not be a good thing to become so interested in for Christians and their children. We don't ask you to agree with our conclusions, only to consider the following facts in view of what we have studied in these last three issues.

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Now — some points to consider:

### Point One

American Library Association News Release — January 2001

*"Harry Potter series again tops list of most challenged books"*

*"The best-selling Harry Potter series of children's books by J.K. Rowling tops the list of books most challenged for the second year in a row. According to the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, Harry Potter first entered the list last year, rising to the top after only three months. The number of challenges to Harry Potter reported in 2000 is triple that of 1999. The series continues to draw complaints from parents and others concerned about the books' alleged occult/Satanic theme, religious viewpoint, anti-family approach and violence."<sup>5</sup>*

### Point Two

Throughout all of the Potter stories, there is a continuous contrast made between the exciting an intelligent wizards who have powers to access the supernatural while the Dursleys (the non-magical family that raised Harry) are dull, boring and unfriendly and are referred to in the stories as "*Muggles*." The underlying message to children? — being a witch, wizard, sorcerer, etc. is exciting, cool and fun while being a part of "*the dark Muggle world*"<sup>6</sup> and seeing the world through "*Muggle eyes*"<sup>7</sup> is unfortunate.

### Point Three

All of the Potter novels and movies are filled with spells, curses, potions, divination, palmistry, out-of-body-travel, witches, sorcerers, communicating with spirits, etc. — all of which actually exist in the practice of Wicca and other neo-pagan religions that regularly teach and practice the occult. In a radio interview on WBUR, Boston, author of the Harry Potter books, J.K. Rowling was asked by a caller if she herself was a member of "The Craft" (meaning witchcraft). After replying to the caller that she was not, the caller told her that she had done her "*homework quite well*." He then told Rowling that the Harry Potter novels portrayed his own belief in such a positive way that it had made his daughter more comfortable with his own involvement with witchcraft.<sup>8</sup>

### Point Four

During a radio interview with Diane Rehm on radio station WAMU, Washington D.C., Potter author, J.K. Rowling stated that fully one-third of her material is based on actual occultism.<sup>9</sup>

### Point Five

<http://www.christiananswers.net/q-eden/harrypotter.html#22>

*"Is Harry Potter Harmless?"*

*"Even some Christian leaders agree that it's just fantasy and generally acceptable for the Christian reader, including Chuck Colson of 'Breakpoint',... and Connie Neal, author of 'What's A Christian To Do With Harry Potter?'* **However, occult experts, Marcia Montenegro of 'Christian Answers for the New Age'<sup>10</sup> and Caryl Matrisciana, author of 'Gods of the New Age,'<sup>11</sup> disagree with their Christian peers. Both have personal experience in the occult before becoming Christians"** (bold added).

### Point Six

A visit to the official [www.harrypotter.warnerbros.com](http://www.harrypotter.warnerbros.com) website should be an eye opener for parents. **One** example — after a few clicks of the computer mouse to arrive at a location on the map called "*The Sorting Hat*" we find the following:

*"Welcome to Hogwarts — To attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry you must apply here. Please fill in the fields below. ... Enroll Now. Please choose a student name to use while in Hogwarts."* (there is a blank field to type in your name — then click on "submit" — the next page says — )

*"We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Students shall be required to report to the Chamber of Reception upon arrival,... Please insure that the utmost attention be made to the list of requirements attached herewith. We very much look forward to receiving you as a part of the new generation of Hogwarts' heritage."* (Signed) "*Draco Dormiens Nunquam Titillandos — Professor McGonagall*"

Clicking on the "Supplies List" displays the following "*list of requirements*."

*"First year students will require*

- 1) *Three sets of plain work robes*
- 2) *One plain pointed hat for day wear*
- 3) *One pair of dragon hide gloves*

*And the following set of books*

- 1) *'The Standard Book of Spells' by Miranda Goshawk*
- 2) *'A Thousand Magical Herb and Fungi' by Phyllida Spore*
- 3) *'A History of Magic' by Bathilda Bagshot*
- 4) *'Magical Theory' by Adalbert Waffling*
- 5) *'A Beginners Guide to Transfiguration' by Emeric Switch*
- 6) *'Magical Drafts and Potions' by Arsenius Jigger*
- 7) *'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them' by Newt Scamander*
- 8) *'The Dark Forces: A Guide for Self-Protection' by Trimble*

*All Students must be equipped with:*

- 1) *One Wand*
- 2) *One standard size 2 pewter cauldron*

1. *The Wall Street Journal*, June 2003  
*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by J.K. Rowling.  
630 Barnes & Noble stores sold 286,000 copies in the first hour — 896,000 the first day.  
1,200 Borders and Walden stores sold 750,000 copies in the first 23 hours; the highest first-day sales in its history.  
In the UK, W.H. Smith sold 120,000 the first day. 31,500 postmen were needed to deliver the book in England.  
5-million copies were sold the first day, shattering all records.
2. *Publishers Weekly*, June 30, 2003.  
*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by J.K. Rowling.  
9.3 million copies were in print the initial week.  
750,000 audiobooks were in print the initial week.  
Amazon.com sold the \$29.99 book for \$12.00  
Amazon.com shipped 789,000 the first day.
3. *The Wall Street Journal*, January 16, 2003  
*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* had sold 25.1 million as of the above date  
*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* had sold 22 million as of the above date  
*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* had sold 6.7 million as of the above date  
*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* had sold 6.3 million as of the above date  
The books have been published in 55 languages and distributed in more than 200 countries.
4. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* by J. K. Rowling; Arthur A. Levine Books, (1999) pg. 4
5. American Library Association  
<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=archive&template=/contentmanagement/contentdisplay.cfm&ContentID=7222>
6. *Prisoner of Azkaban* by J.K. Rowling; Arthur A. Levine Books, (1999) pg. 31
7. *Chamber of Secrets* by J. K. Rowling; Arthur A. Levine Books, (1999) pg. 150
8. <http://www.wbur.org/archives/>  
also  
*Harry Potter and the Bible: The Menace Behind the Magick* by Richard Abanes; Horizon Books (2001) pg.24
9. <http://wamu.org/programs/dr/01/12/21.php>
10. [http://cana.userworld.com/cana\\_home.html](http://cana.userworld.com/cana_home.html)
11. *Gods of the New Age* by Caryl Matrisciana; Harvest House Publishers (1985)  
also  
<http://www.christianreality.com/videos/vs-vid105.htm>
12. *The Encyclopedia of Witches and Witchcraft* by Rosemary Ellen Guiley; Checkmark Books (1999) pg. 119
13. [www.paganfederation.org/](http://www.paganfederation.org/)
14. <http://www.worthynews.com/news-features/harry-potter-4.html>
15. *Hidden Dangers in Harry Potter* by Steve Wohlberg; Amazing Facts, Inc. (2003) pg. 17