Some Christians See Sinister Side to Movie
By Steve Crump, Times-News writer
Twin Falls, Idaho

It's hard, Kathy Caldwell concedes, to ignore Harry Potter these days.

"They're giving extra credit at school for reading books," she said, "so that's an incentive for the kids to want to read them," said the mother of three. "But the Bible tells us that witchcraft is evil, and witchcraft is what Harry Potter's about." Caldwell isn't alone. Some adults don't think Harry Potter should be going to the Harry Potter movie or reading J.K. Rowling's books, because they think the books glorify witchcraft, especially to younger children, is wrong." Caldwell says.

Some conservative Christians say 20th century British novelist C.S. Lewis, who wrote "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" and "The Chronicles of Narnia," understood how to sell a child a fantasy story without glorifying witchcraft. "It's not like there aren't any alternatives to Harry Potter," Chandler said.

Many educators, including some in parochial schools, and advocates of efforts to promote literacy are vocal Harry Potter fans, and skepticism about the morality of Harry Potter novels is not universal among fundamentalists and evangelicals.

"We're evangelical, but we try to be contemporary," said Caldwell, who urges her children, aged 17, 14, and 12, to read children's classics, not Harry Potter these days.

On his web site, Colson suggests using the fascination with the extraordinary that builds in the Harry Potter series to turn on youngsters to the Harry Potter books. "We're evangelical, but we try to be contemporaneous," he said. "We're certainly not against encouraging a child's imagination." He said. "We're certainly not against encouraging a child's imagination."

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Most of the children in his congregation freely steer clear of Harry Potter, Chandler adds, noting that one pre-teen girl who expressed admiration for the books later changed her mind. "Schools are taking classes to see the Harry Potter movie," he said. "We believe it is real." He said. "We're certainly not against encouraging a child's imagination."

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Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, learn about the subtle and not so subtle references in this controversial documentary regarding the Church of Christ. Announced this seminar was to present "an informative video about the subject matter in this Repackaged."

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Breakaway Session Titled "What Shall We Do"

IDAHOANS may remember Jeremiah Films for their January 2002 "Ladies' Mid-Winter Breakaway Session" entitled "The First Church of the Brethren" which is sponsored by The First Church of the Brethren (Camps). The book, from Britain, is worth $24,000. This book exists to sell more books and accessories. She said that a first-edition of the first book, from Britain, is worth $24,000. This book is only four years old!

The second inspiration came when I went to see the movie. I know, I know, I shouldn't have done it. A friend and I saw the previews and decided that it would be the perfect excuse for me to visit London. So I went, and it was great! I found a free preview of the movie that looked better. The transfer paper cost $12.00 for ten sheets, but I used only three (3) sheets. That is $3.60. I spent $8.04 for the actual cost of the T-shirt and $19.26 for items I bought but did not use.

As the movie began, I was pondering in the idea of a movie existing only to sell other movies and books existing to sell more books and accessories. I had already bought a $5.25 sticker and a $4.00 Pepsi because of Harry Potter; maybe I would somehow be brainwashed to buy the books and the toys. Maybe it was just my state of mind, but the movie seemed to be trying to put some thoughts like that into my head. Harry Potter was like a Cinderella, a whipping boy for his (fat, unattractive) cousin. The concept kept getting wonderful things, but Harry was deprived of a tar - Oh, but I don't want to spoil the movie for you. Suffice it to say, there was an emphasis on things that Harry got because he deserved them, because he was a better boy than the cousin.

So there is a distinction in the movie (presumably in the book too) between things that are gotten because one is good and deserves them and things that are not deserved. The message is that good children should get the things they want. That is not materialistic; it's just fair. This moral reasoning for spending is similar to the Visa campaign that itemizes three things you can buy with your Visa and then concludes with the idea that the happiness you get from having those things is priceless. Voila, the slogan: "To see what Noble typeset, expose front and back of newsletter to sunlight."

I used a standard T-shirt and computer transfer paper. I spent $4.44 on the T-shirt at WalMart (but bought three in case I messed up, so $13.32). I spent $1.98 on a package of Harry Potter alphabet stickers to help me design the type, but then found a free font on the web that looked better. The transfer paper cost $12.00 for ten sheets, but I used only three (3). That is $3.60. I spent $8.04 for the actual cost of the T-shirt and $19.26 for items I bought but did not use.

If I had to do it over again, I might have tried to illustrate the design. I did not use illustrations because I didn't want to detract from the simplicity of the idea, and also because the font was quite decorative alone. I also dislike the Harry Potter illustrations and did not want to use one of them. Nevertheless, a nice photo of an owl or a magic wand might have helped to illustrate the idea. I was pleased with the T-shirt. I think it conveys my feelings on the issue in a concise manner. I was a bit concerned that it might seem "anti-book" rather than "pro-book," but I think that, since it clearly presents the big money that's being made from Harry Potter, it will be read as an attack on this particular book's mass appeal rather than as an attack on books in general.