I rarely watch or listen to any media. I was among those who saw the media as a “vast wasteland” of corporate slogans, mindless dribble and fear mongering. But I think it is time for me to stop hiding away, for fear of being corrupted, and find what redeeming qualities it might hold.

Since I started home schooling my 9 year old son, I feel it is important to use the media as an educational resource. And for the first time, we now have unlimited internet through our home school provider. We have an endless list of entertaining and enlightening material to choose from. Tonight was movie night, and I let George pick off of Netflix. He chose 2 National Geographic episodes. The first was called “Tigers of the Snow” and the second was “Climbing Redwood Giants”.

I enjoyed both of these very much. They each, in their own way, helped me to feel connected to the planet and understand that it is not just humans going through this crisis. I got perspective on two very different voiceless inhabitants that have survived against great odds.

We learned a lot about big cats in Siberia, from “Tigers in the Snow” and found it interesting that it is quite common for a mother cat to completely neglect her newborns when in captivity. I wonder why that is? Could it be, because they themselves are being cared for by humans? Might this relate to why some humans abandon their newborns? It is important to understand what animals go through, so that we might understand how they adapt and evolve in these trying times.

 I took a trip down memory lane as I explained to George about the first tree-huggers, while watching “Climbing Redwood Giants”. I was just a girl when I heard about people sitting high in the trees to try and save them from the logging industry. In addition to the history of the Redwood forests, we learned, that the older a tree is, the more mass it produces. The growth rate is exponential. I can kind of see a parallel with the human experience, in that, the older we become, the thicker our family tree is; the more lives we have woven our threads with.

I think media like *this* is worth watching, because it is educational, but especially because I could watch it commercial free. I feel main stream media is far too commercial, and over run with psychological innuendo to create wants and needs that lead to either aggression or depression in the masses, which leads to high alcohol and prescription drug sales.

Ad placement is everywhere; in and out of the media with people using their automobiles and bodies to display their favorite brands. But other than naming some camera equipment or glimpsing at the vehicle brand, these shows had no ad placement. In fact there seemed to be no political agenda other than greater awareness for these endangered species. The information did not vilify the culprits to their endangerment, but rather, gave an unbiased account of history, and focused on the efforts being taken to right the wrongs. From the National Geographic website, links were given for more information of the subjects and ways I could get involved.

There are many aspects of the media that are out of control and even harmful to the populace, but censorship is not the answer. We must learn to censor ourselves, and be more mindful of what we put our attention on. We must be free to choose for ourselves what is beneficial and what is garbage.

We must learn to seek out those programs that will enrich our lives and make us better people. We have the universe at our fingertips at this unprecedented moment in history. It is understandable why so many are dumbfounded and choose to find funny cat pictures instead.