

# "LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



## CHOOSE CAREFULLY

I have no idea how often I have passed that glass case in the shopping centre. The case filled with strange stuffed creatures from "Somewhere" who wordlessly say, "You need me. I want to be your friend. Save me from this terrible place of overexposure. All it takes is a few coins in that slot and skill, which I am sure you have and we can both be fulfilled".

The other day, as I hurried past, I noticed a young, maybe twelve or thirteen-year-old girl attempting to win a "Whatever" freedom, but more importantly, a fulfilment of her wishes. I stopped and, from about ten metres, became intrigued by how single-mindedly she was going about the exercise. Using her thumb like an artist, she would line up the "Claws of Freedom" with the "Whatever" of her choice. Give the controlling joystick a couple of taps to re-align it with her thumb. Then dart around the side and repeat the manoeuvre. Then back again. Back and forth, she moved with total focus and dedication. Finally deciding everything was aligned, she lowered the "Claws of Freedom". They closed around the chosen "Whatever" and started to rise toward the "Slide to Freedom" and her joy. I'm sure we both held our breath. Sadly, the hapless "Whatever" slipped from the "Claws of Freedom" before reaching the "Slide to Freedom". About now, she became aware of my observing her efforts. With a shrug of her shoulders and a smile that seemed to say, "It was fun. Such is life", she turned and cheerfully went on her way while I pondered how much effort we are prepared to put into "SOMETHING" we "WANT" and which at the time we think will bring great joy, and when it slips away what is our reaction?

Wandering towards the Big W store, I remembered some words of Jesus, God's Son, speaking with a message of love. He said, "Live your life focused on God, Ask Him what His plans are for your life, and remember He cares for and loves you. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes." **(Matthew 6:33-34)** He offers absolute joy and complete freedom when we put him first, and we don't have to waste time lining things up. He has everything planned – just trust him and walk with a smile that tells the world, "This is the life God has given me, and He makes it joyful – even when times might be challenging.

God bless,

Kevin.