

Dear Concerned Parent:

I am a Christian pediatrician informing you of the following: Across the United States, pediatricians, lactation consultants, psychologists, and respected Christian leaders are expressing their concerns about a parenting program offered in churches by Gary and Anne Marie Ezzo of Growing Families International. Mr. Ezzo has a master's of arts in ministry designed for non-college graduates that gives credit for life experience. He is not in the position to contradict medical research and provide information on delicate professional topics, such as infant and maternal physiology and nutrition, lactation, and child development.

A flood of warnings without precedent has been issued to churches and the general public. Many healthcare providers, religious leaders, healthcare and Christian organizations, and journals have spoken out, including such experts as: Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, Dr. James Dobson, Dr. Penelope Leach, Dr. Laura Schlessinger, as well as, the American Academy of Pediatrics (which deemed GFI inconsistent with AAP recommendations and guidelines), Christian Research Institute (who deemed GFI "cult-like"), *Christianity Today* (which revealed integrity and character problems with Ezzo and GFI, and that he has been deemed unfit for Christian ministry by three churches spanning twenty years due to character issues), and England's National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (which "condemned the guidelines as being responsible for babies failing to thrive, suffering psychological damage and even coming close to death"). Finally, on 10/1/01, Multnomah Publishers returned the publishing rights to Ezzo. Because of this widespread and negative publicity, it is now considered that churches may be legally liable if any problems occur while implementing and endorsing these methods. The pattern of Ezzo's character problems and the medical misinformation in his books continue to be of serious concern.

In sincere concern,

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The following are SOME of the many articles regarding this parenting program:

MEDICAL

- **Summary** of AAP involvement
- **Letter of Concern**, Feb. 1997, including the signers of over one hundred healthcare providers and their comments
- Forsyth Memorial **Hospital** Division of Pediatrics, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
- Stories and **Testamonies** sent to the AAP
- Child Abuse Prevention Council of Orange County, **Religious Parenting Programs: Their Relationship to Child Abuse Prevention**, May 14, 1996
- *AAP News*, '**Babywise Advice Linked to Dehydration, Failure To Thrive**', by Matthew Aney, M.D., Apr. 1998
- *AAP Media Alert*, **Scheduled Feedings vs. Demand Feedings**, Apr. 1998
- AAP District IV **Resolution**, Feb. 1998
- AAP National Annual Chapter Forum **Resolution**, Sept. 1998
- *AAP News*, Nov. 1998, National **Resolution** regarding *On Becoming Babywise/Preparation for Parenting* passed
- **Review of 1998 edition of Babywise** submitted to the AAP after requested by the AAP, Sept. 1998
- GFI comparison chart
- **Analysis of GFI comparison chart**
- **Examining the Evidence for Cue Feeding of Breastfed Infants**, by Lisa Marasco, BA, IBCLC, and Jan Barger, MA, RN, IBCLC 1997
- Santa Clara Valley Breastfeeding Task Force **Document**, Jan. 23, 1998
- *Child Magazine*, **Baby-Care Book Could Be Dangerous**, Aug. 1998

- *CAPS West Newsletter*, **Growing Families International: An Extreme Response to Attachment Parenting**, by Barbara Francis, Ph.D., Aug. 1998
- *Journal of Perinatal Education*, **Scheduled Feedings...Is This God's Order?**, by Kathleen Auerbach, 1998
- Hsieh **Testimony**, April, 1999
- Enquirer Local News Coverage, **Dr. T. Berry Brazelton speaks out against 'Babywise'**, Nov. 5, 1999
- *Childbirth Instructor*, **What to make of Babywise**, Nov./Dec. 1999

CHRISTIAN

- *Christianity Today*, **Growing Criticism**, Feb. 9, 1998
- *Christian Research Journal*, **More Than A Parenting Ministry: The Cultic Characteristics of Growing Families International**, April-June, 1998
- *Christian Research Journal*, **Examining the Response of GFI to Criticism**, Mar. 1999
- *Focus on the Family*, **Ezzo Curriculum**, Aug. 20, 1999
- Statement from **John MacArthur of Grace Community Church**, July 25, 2000
- *Catholic Parent*, **Raising Children "God's Way"? Oh, Baby!**, Commentary by Brian Donnelly, M.D.
- Living Hope Evangelical Church **Statement**, 2000
- *Christianity Today*, **Unprepared to Teach Parenting?**, Oct., 2000
- *Christianity Today*, **Babywise Publisher Plans Contract Cancellation**, March 23, 2001
- Pastor/School Principal Dr. Kent McClain, **An Evaluation of the Ezzo Parenting Programs: Growing Kids God's Way and Preparation for Parenting**, April 7, 2001
- *Christianity Today*, **Babywise Almost Dropped**, June 22, 2001
- *ForMinistry.com/American Bible Society*, **What's the Fuss Over Babywise and Preparation for Parenting?**, August, 2001

SECULAR

- *Salon Magazine*, **Getting Wise to 'Babywise'**, Aug. 6, 1998
- *Bay Area Parent*, **Spoiled Rotten Children**, Mar. 1999
- *Ladies' Home Journal*, **Babies in Danger?**, Apr. 1999
- *Bradenton Herald*, **Q & A with Gary Ezzo**
- *Daily Express Newspaper*, (London), **The Parents Who Believe Inflicting Pain is God's Will**, Oct. 1999
- *Woman's Day*, **Should Parents Be Stricter?**, Oct. 1999
- *Tulsa Kids Part I*, **Baby Wise? Be Wary!**, Jan., 2000
- *Tulsa Kids Part II*, **Baby Wise? Be Wary!**, Feb., 2000
- **REFERENCE LIST: INCLUDES ALL CRITIQUES AND COMMENTARIES OF CONCERN RELEVANT TO GFI/EZZO**

Also, you may browse at the following websites:

<http://www.mailing-list.net/redrhino/Ezzo/>

<http://www.babycenter.com/refcap/8369.html>

<http://www.fix.net/~rprewett/>