



# Growing Families Australia

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Reaching our nation one family at a time

**Inside:**

- Sequins and end of year concerts
- Conference update from the team
- Reflections of Moral Innocence - what sort of course it is
- And more...

**Keep us up-to-date!**

- Are you changing your email?
- Have a new telephone number?
- Planning to move in the next few months?

We would love to know your new details so we can keep you informed & connected with the Growing Families family! Email us on enquiries@gfi.org.au

## National Greetings from Bill & Joan

Why come to the GROWING FAMILIES AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE January 2012 at Phillip Island?

Jesus himself said to us "Come with me to a quiet place and get some rest" – Mark 6 v 31

Somehow the world, church, school, business on top of family activities, consumes mountains of our time and life seems to go by faster and faster. In all of that mix comes the lack of personal connection through the internet, facebook, twitter etc. etc. It seems that as a whole nation we are losing the ability to really communicate in personal, intimate relationships. God gave us FELLOWSHIP, HOSPITALITY, RELATIONSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP as precious gifts to strengthen our faith, vision and interaction in the world to display the character of our God. All of these four gifts are what NC12 is about. Joan's dad was an excellent, practical Bible teacher who loved God's Word.

When asked "Which of the 4 components of the church is the most important in Acts ch 2 v 42, Bible Study, Prayer, Communion and Fellowship, he never hesitated in stating clearly that fellowship was the most important. We were surprised so asked him why. He said

simply that if we have TRUE fellowship then all the rest will follow and the rest Acts ch 2 to verse 47 come to life and into action.

GFA National Conferences are more than listening to good practical teaching on nurturing our families, they are more than a great holiday with the children, and they are more than spending time in true fellowship with like minded and hearted families. They also strengthen our faith and love for the Lord, and they renew our vision to "Reach our Nation one family at a time" and in this comes true FELLOWSHIP.

Jesus knew we needed these times of fellowship so He instituted them for our blessing so that we may be a blessing to others. Australia, this great nation God has privileged us to be a part of, desperately needs families who are such a light set on a hill that display the character of God that thousands will turn to Him as they see your family. Are you equipped for the task that God put you on this earth for?

Can you really afford to not come to NC12? Step out in faith and enroll TODAY and trust God to provide for your family. He can get you to Phillip Island in January 2012.



*"Christianity is not a religion of mediocrity. 'Approve that which is excellent – Phil1:10'" Gary Ezzo.*

## Reminder:

**How about this month during couch time...**

*This month is a great opportunity for a series of discussions around why a national conference should be on your agenda. It may be a back to basics discussion about community, priorities, where the family is at, who is spending time with the children and what do they believe or what is important. An extended discussion about priorities and how to pay for such a memory building opportunity may also be part of the couch time agenda. How about listing 10 reasons why to go and why not. Then discuss the results and what it means.*



[www.gfanc.com](http://www.gfanc.com)

Growing Families Australia  
**FOUNDATIONS 4 GENERATIONS**  
 National Conference • January 2012 Australia

*Come and connect with the Growing Families community to encourage each other and journey together.*

Phillip Island Adventure Resort, Victoria

**Main Conference: 21-24 January 2012** | **Teens Camp: 18-21 January 2012**

For further details and to register, please visit [www.gfanc.com](http://www.gfanc.com)

Dear GFA Families,

Seeing some of the photos from the GFI National Conference in the US recently, has reignited in me the excitement of being together with hundreds of like-minded parents and children from all over Australia and overseas, some of whom we only get to see in person at National Conferences. I can't wait to see again and listen to the teachings of Gary and Anne Marie Ezzo, Rich and Julie Young, Bill and Joan Grosser, and a host of other quality, Australian, talented speakers who are preparing to share with us what God has laid on their hearts for our families. Check out the line-up of speakers and the topics they will be speaking on at the NC12 website: [www.GFANC.com](http://www.GFANC.com).

For the NC12 Action Groups (that's what we call the organising committee for the National Conference 2012), the next 6 months leading up to the Conference will be filled with anticipation, preparation, co-operation, and fellowship, as we work together to make this next National Conference a life shaping event for all of you who will be there in January 2012. That's right! We believe without a doubt that God is preparing for us, not only a memorable family holiday at an Adventure Resort, not only an unforgettable time of fellowship and community, but more importantly, an opportunity for us to re-focus on His purposes for us and our children and our children's children, and be empowered and equipped to re-align our future with His plans for our family. That's why we've chosen the theme of the Conference to be "Foundations for Generations".

While it's great to see how the pieces of the Conference puzzle are coming together, we still have a lot to do, to make our plans for the Conference a reality. We value your prayers for all involved in organising, as well as all those parents, teens, and children who will be attending.

If you haven't registered your family for the NC12 yet, please do so as soon as possible. Even if you don't intend to pay before the end of July to take advantage of the 5% Early Bird discount, we would still ask you to please submit your registration online at [www.GFANC.com](http://www.GFANC.com) now. This will enable the Action Groups to ramp up the preparations with more certainty, once we have a more accurate idea of the anticipated numbers. You can still pay for your registration later or even in multiple smaller payments by bank transfer or credit card via PayPal. So, please don't delay! Register now. We'll see you there...

Blessings, Charles Papp

GF Vic State Representative

## Our family attended our first GFA WA camp in 2010.

It was a tremendous blessing to be around like minded families for a whole weekend. We have been to many Christian camps over the years but none like this one!

From the first night we knew this camp was different. Everyone was relaxed and really excited about being there. One of the things that made it relaxing for us is that we knew everyone there was parenting with the same purpose so we knew the standard was the same for every family present.

This one thing alone made a huge impact on our two boys Aaron and Luca (11yrs and 10yrs). Luca said to us on the Saturday "I think this camp is the best ever. All the other kids have the same rules as we do; they have to get permission from their mum and dad as well!! I thought it was only our family that did that!" It was great for our children to see that other children are being raised with the same Biblical standard we go by in our family, and it also gave them a new sense of belonging.

There were children of all ages at the camp. From babies right through to young adults. Ordinarily that would be cause for concern in another context but not at this camp. To see how the older children interacted and cared for the younger ones was amazing! There was no arguing or bickering no bullying etc... just genuine care and respect. For the entire camp not one mum or dad had to wash any dishes. The teens took care of that, no problem! WOW!!

We came home from the camp so enthused and encouraged that we registered for the NC12 straight away!!

*Paul & Norma Troiani (W.A. State Team Leaders)*

# Book Review

## – Mom's Notes –



The Mom's Notes presentations give practical application (for all ages of children) to the principles learned in the Growing Families parenting curriculum. The 40 Mom's Notes presentations, written by GFI National Ministry Overseers Joey and Carla Link, cover most of the topics and principles taught in the Growing Kids God's Way series.

Topics include: understanding 'first-time obedience', transferring ownership to your children, being 'wise in their own eyes', building healthy family identity, understanding character training, the 'besetting sins' and much more.



## Teen Camps

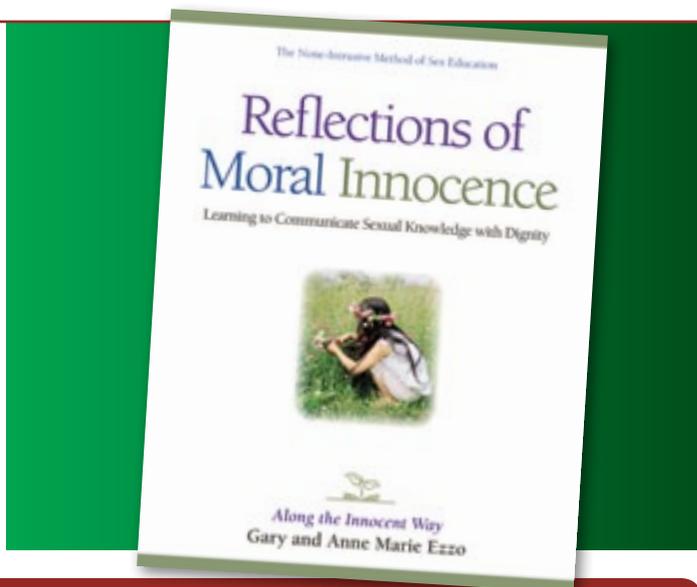
The teen camps are a time filled of fun, learning and great connections. Returning home after both of the previous teen camps, I have felt refreshed renewed and re-invigorated. It is like a huge gulp of the purest air, being surrounded by people who are like you.

The camps give a great chance for us teens to be 'normal'. We are surrounded by other teenagers who have been brought up the same way to us. I know, that for me, to be able to spend just a few days with like-minded teens is a real encouragement to continue being me on the 'outside'. I have a renewed enthusiasm to act different at school and not be ashamed.

Each camp has taught me something new about myself, my friends and God. I would encourage any teenager to come along even if you don't know anybody. I have found, that in the past, that isn't a barrier; we all get along just fine and actually enjoy each others company! *Corrine H.*

Reflections of Moral Innocence is a study in the basics of human sexuality, especially the developing sexuality of our children. The Ezzos believe it is right to let children be children as long as they can, and believe it is wrong to rush children into adulthood through the medium of premature sexual knowledge. There is no faster way to rob a child of the innocence of childhood than inappropriate sex education.

Children only get one childhood. What are you doing to protect it? This series discusses the practical how-to's of sex education and much more. By the end of this series you should have the confidence of knowing how, what, and when to communicate biological truth to your children with biblical values attached without fearing that you are giving your children too much or too little information Go to [www.gfi.org.au](http://www.gfi.org.au) to register interest or see if it is being running locally.





# Lose the sequins and let the innocence reign

Want to see what your little princess has been up to at her dancing classes? Well, I have a timely warning for those parents, grandparents and loved ones who are about to experience the horror that is the 'end-of year concert'. For first-timers, it can be a shock.

In fact, it can be downright disturbing. After forking out large amounts of money all year for the classes, plus the uniforms, tights and shoes, now comes this end-of-year extravaganza, for which you will need to buy, or perhaps even make, an array of hideous costumes. And your reward for all of this? Watching your precious poppet give a public performance that any pole dancer would be proud of. It's horrifying. Little girls wearing sparkly crop tops, more make-up than a drag queen - and bumping and grinding better than Britney Spears.

Dancing is enjoying a healthy renaissance, thanks to Channel 10's reality TV show "So You Think You Can Dance", as well as mind-boggling music videos produced by pop stars such as Beyonce Great! Dancing is wonderful for the body and soul, plus it's fun. You can't deny those sexy hip-hop moves we see on TV are impressive - unless they're performed by a six year - old girl. I am not a prude but it feels as if we have to constantly fight to keep our girls simply that - girls. There are already so many inappropriate influences on children toys, dolls and people who are trying to turn kids into little adults, complete with skanky clothes, make-up and way too grown-up attitudes. This is not about playing dress-ups. It is the premature sexualising of girls. Childhood is so short, why rush them? Surely the swollen local dance schools need to take some responsibility to keep choreography age appropriate. I am in no

way suggesting that we return to 'the good old days' when we all danced around to nursery rhymes wearing those teapot costumes. That wasn't even cool in 1975. Of course, we should be teaching kids the best cutting-edge choreography, please just tone it down for the younger ones. A highly respected dance choreographer was bemoaning the fact recently that dirty dancing for juniors was fast becoming a scourge across the industry. Often the problem seems to be an unfortunate clash between lyrics, choreography and costume. Get them all wrong and the result is a paedophile's dream come true. Little girls dancing to Hot Love is quite benign, unless of course you add hotpants and a couple of well-timed pelvic pumps during the chorus.

So parents, when you sit down at this year's concert to see what your child has been up to at dance class, it might be best to hold your breath and brace yourself. More than likely you'll be bursting with pride regardless of whether they're playing Odette, the Swan Princess or simply Tree No.3 in the back row. Dancing can offer so much to young children: everything from confidence, fitness and a strong social network. But if, during the performance you start to get that sick feeling in your stomach and you can't recognise your child under mountains of makeup and sequins, then please talk to your dance teacher.

Julian Whiting is a former television journalist and presenter.

This article is from the Courier Mail, Brisbane, Tuesday 3rd November 2009.