

2 March 2004

Ken Janzen
Senior Director, Office of the Chairman
Focus on the Family
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80995

Dear Mr. Janzen,

Thanks so much for your response to my previous letter regarding Dr. Dobson's position statement on GFI and Gary Ezzo. As you remember, I pointed out in great detail the errors contained in Focus' statement on the GFI ministry.

It is disappointing, to say the least, that Focus has chosen not to address the presented facts, but instead, sidestepped the clearly presented errors and concluded "as we see it, everyone is entitled to their own opinion." I take it from your letter that you stand by your statements despite the blatant inaccuracies that have been pointed out. You are entitled to your own opinion but you will also be held accountable for the words you use. You also stated that I seem to be "confusing disagreement with malicious slander." There is no confusion, Mr. Janzen. The errors in the facts of your position statement are clear and speak for themselves, and I have fulfilled my obligation of coming to you first with these concerns. The truth of the matter is that you have not responded substantively to my concerns about your GFI position statement.

While I cannot speak directly for GFI, if asked by Focus, I'm sure the ministry would be willing to provide you with updated versions of the material. As a matter of fact, I will personally purchase and provide you with all the curricula necessary when you feel that you have the time to review them. If you do choose to review the curricula, it would be beneficial to have the GFI national coordinators available to answer any questions. However, there are really no substantive changes in the curricula to evaluate, and no reason why you would need to review recent versions. To my knowledge, they have stayed materially the same for nearly ten years. There are only minor clarification changes; similar to the type that I'm confident Focus makes from time to time. No matter which version you used for the basis of the position statement, you could not have reasonably arrived at the conclusions that you did in your position statement without severely distorting the truth.

Focus has grievously offended all of us using their material including pastors, and many other brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. I provided you with the clear evidence of the offense, and you have an obligation to remove the error from your position statement. Furthermore, GFI is not the "moving target" that you suggest and clearly indicates to me that you are really not familiar with the GFI material, nor did you seriously consider the errors in your six year old position statement. No more are they a moving target than Dr. Dobson is for the THIRD "newly revised" edition of "Hide and Seek". Calling GFI a "moving target" is a cheap shot and its comments like those that offend people. Giving an opinion is one thing, but taking pot shots at fellow Christians is quite another. It is unwarranted and unmerited!

Did you know that GFI has six different curricula to cover teachings on a variety of ages and parenting topics? Which curriculum are you addressing in your position statement? GFI has

made it very clear publicly that they are open to an honest criticism of their ministry efforts. Have you ever contacted the Ezzos, or the GFI national office to present your case to them personally? Furthermore, you have not been careful with your analysis of the GFI ministry as you also claim. I have a letter communication from an individual who has also called you on these same errors in the past. This person worked within your own ministry, but found GFI teachings helpful as well. In your letter response to this person, Focus relied on third party information, quoting the various negative articles and opinions that have appeared over the years. However, you wrote to me that you do NOT rely on third party information. Where is the truth, Mr. Janzen? When your error is so blatant and you choose to ignore the errors, then you DO become a party to gossip and slander (your viewpoints to your constituency not withstanding).

In addition, in the last sentence of the third paragraph, you mention that neither Dr. Dobson nor Focus has been offended... Please reread my previous letter because I'm not quite sure you read it properly the first time. Perhaps you were just too busy and scanned it or relied on another staff member's analysis. We are NOT suggesting that Dr. Dobson has been offended, but that WE (and many others in this ministry) have been offended by Focus' erroneous statement. Thus, your obligation is to investigate the claims to resolve the offense. Certainly this is not too much to ask since so many things are at stake for both ministries.

One of the reasons I came to you is that GFI and their ministry staff, class leaders, etc. are often asked what they think of Dr. Dobson's comments and Focus' "position" statement regarding GFI parenting curriculum. Gary, Anne Marie, and the GFI National Ministry staff have been gracious in their responses to such inquiries as it is their position that they don't want to publicly malign another Christian organization. I have heard members of the GFI National Ministry staff respond by saying that if an individual is blessed by the teaching and writing of Dr. Dobson, then they are thankful. Ultimately, when they are asked about any other author, they say that individuals should take what they are reading and match it up with Scripture. Please note that they don't say they should match it up with what GFI teaches, but rather what the Bible teaches. Wouldn't it be great if Focus could take a similar position about GFI?

I am including a copy of my last letter so you can have immediate access to the detail that I outlined for your benefit. You have another opportunity to resolve this. I appeal to you to reconsider the matter. Perhaps a meeting between you and the national organizers of the ministry would be helpful. However, unless I receive a response from you by the end of March, one bent on reconciliation, my website will include these letters and highlight Focus' refusal to work toward a biblical resolution to the conflict. To be sure, how you choose to handle this will reflect on Focus' reputation for years to come.

Sincerely,

(name withheld for Internet posting)