



MEDIA RELEASE

21 Days of Prayer for Marriage & Family

1 February – 21 February 2011

Several key leaders in the marriage and family movement have called for 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for Marriage and Family.

Family breakdown and social dysfunction is an increasing problem in this nation. Forty percent of marriages end in divorce in Australia and along with increased cohabitation rates (prone to even higher levels of dissolution) are leading to higher levels of heartbreak.

The current Green's proposed homosexual marriage bill, if passed, will further weaken marriage and rob children of a mother and a father.

Marriage and family leaders are encouraging churches and individuals to join this urgent call for prayer by initiating special prayer meetings or incorporating the call to prayer into existing activities from Tuesday 1st February to Monday 21st February 2011.

Mrs Mary-Louise Fowler, coordinator of National Marriage Day on the 13th of August, said <http://marriageday.family.org.au> ,“ I encourage everyone to join the *21 Days of Prayer for Marriage and Family* to preserve the essence of and the pre-eminent place of the wonderful institution of marriage in Australian society.”

Dennis and Ann Outred, coordinators of Marriage Week 11 - 17 September 2011, www.marriageweek.org.au said, “There are many things in our nation that need our urgent attention through prayer and fasting. Marriage between a man and a woman being one of the foundational building blocks of the church and the nation is among the top of the list. St. Valentine's Day on 14th February is a timely reminder of prayer and the power of sacrificial love. This makes February a good time to pray for marriage. We therefore encourage you to join this call to pray for marriage and family.”

Francine Pirola, from Celebrate Love www.celebratelove.com.au said, “Prayer is our greatest unused marital resource. Please pray with your spouse daily over this twenty-one day period of prayer. Have a family prayer time as well once a week. When it comes to fasting, rather than fast the whole time you can always fast one day per week or miss a meal from time to time. The key

thing is the attitude of the heart. It's all about expressing a heart of love for God and each other throughout this time of prayer."

Gerard Calilhanna from the National Marriage Coalition www.marriage.org.au said, "We encourage all those who are able, to join this twenty-one day period of prayer and fasting for marriage. Negative spiritual forces are only too happy to see marriages fail and families breakdown. I believe prayer is the answer. Jesus referred to the power of prayer and fasting in Matthew 17:21. We should not be afraid to follow his example."

Warwick Marsh, a pro family advocate said, "Parliament is going back on the 8th February and sometime soon after will decide on the proposed introduction of homosexual marriage by the Greens. This is why it is so important to pray over the first 21 days of February. Marriage redefined is marriage destroyed. Please go and see your Federal Parliamentarian if you have not already done so. They are waiting to hear from you. This is yet another reason to pray for our parliamentarians and the future of marriage and family in Australia in 2011. We are also pleased to announce that the Australian Prayer Network will be encouraging its members to get behind this call to prayer for marriage and family."

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