

# **MARRIAGE RESOURCE**

## **PRAYER DIARY April - June**

### **April**

#### **Marriage Preparation (continued)**

- 1 Pray for Branches and others who take stands at wedding fairs to promote marriage preparation, that they will be able to encourage couples to invest time and money in it.
- 2 Pray for all who are seeking to raise standards in marriage preparation. Pray for good use to be made of Holy Trinity Brompton's Marriage Preparation Course.
- 3 Give thanks for all people involved in marriage preparation, including mentoring, that God will guide them and encourage them in all that they do.

#### **Marriage and Health**

- 4 Good marriages have great physical and mental health benefits for couples and for any children. Give thanks for this, and pray that it maybe realised much more widely.
- 5 Marriage breakdown often has unhappy health consequences for couples and any children they have. Pray that couples with difficulties will work hard to overcome them with help if necessary.
- 6 Cohabitations frequently break down, with bad health and other sad effects. Pray that the foolishness of entering uncommitted relationships may become much more apparent to everyone.
- 7 Doctors and Health Visitors are often the first people to receive confidences about marriage and relationship problems. Pray that they will give wise advice.
- 8 The provision of contraception and easy abortion for young people has encouraged promiscuity, aided the enormous growth of sexually-transmitted diseases, and made it more difficult to form lasting marriages. Pray for changes in policy.
- 9 Give thanks for the success of sexual abstinence teaching in some other countries, and pray that it will be widely used in Britain.
- 10 Give thanks for the marriage promise: "...in sickness and in health ..." and for husbands and wives who have helped, or are helping each other through serious health problems.

#### **Church and Community**

- 11 Thank The Lord that some churches have improved their marriage preparation, enhancement, and help for those in difficulties.
- 12 Pray for the leaders of your church who are married. Pray that The Lord will protect them from strain caused by ministry, and that their homes and marriages will be blessed and be an example to others.
- 13 Pray for the leaders of your church, that they will give good teaching on marriage, as well as caring for those single, divorced or widowed.

- 14 Pray for each of the different ways that your church ministers to marriage through marriage preparation, mentoring, enrichment, support or counselling. Pray that these will be integrated and ongoing.
- 15 Pray that the resources on this website will be helpful to churches.
- 16 Pray that smaller churches will find other small or larger churches with whom to work to improve their ministry to marriages together.
- 17 Pray for all those living locally who will be married at a Register Office or other location this year, who are unknown to the church and its ministry. Pray that Registrars will encourage them to find marriage preparation.

### **Marriage Resource Branches and Area Representatives**

- 18 Give thanks for the MR Branches' and Area Representatives' past work.
- 19 Pray for the Branch Leaders: Barry Turner (Greater London South East), Dennis Colby (London South West), Michael Kimble (West Sussex) and Bob Edge (West Midlands) – for good health and for encouragement in their work.
- 20 Pray that Branches may be guided by The Lord to do what He has planned for them.
- 21 May each Branch succeed in finding other couples to work with them, so that their work can expand.
- 22 Pray that each Branch will receive support in prayer and giving from local people and churches.
- 23 Pray that our couple-to-couple Marriage Counsellor Training Course, now overseen by the London SW Branch, will be used to train more counsellors.
- 24 Pray for the Area Representatives: Chris Bacon (East Midlands), John Deagle (Southampton), Jim and Rosemary Gillespie (East Yorkshire), Edward Pratt (East Dorset) and John Selves (West Surrey).

### **The Government**

- 25 Pray that the promotion of marriage will be given high priority by all political parties: that they will act on the research evidence that marriage is best and that the alternatives are massively adding to the nation's problems.
- 26 Pray for your local MP, that he/she will see the upholding of traditional family values as important, especially if this involves a change of view.
- 27 Pray for Cabinet members, that their marriages and families will be protected from the many strains and tensions of high political office.
- 28 Pray for all married spokesmen in Opposition, that in their pressurised lives they will be able to give space to their spouses and families.
- 29 Pray for legislation which will build marriages and family life, and that Laws and Benefits that encourage alternatives will be amended.
- 30 Pray for those MPs whose marriages are under strain that they will know God's mercy, wisdom and healing and give more time to their spouse.

## MAY

### Counselling and Care

- 1 Pray for the Government funding of Marriage Support services, that it will be increased from its pitifully low level and be used to support marriage, rather than alternatives.
- 2 Give thanks for the many organisations providing counselling for those in need. Pray specifically for any that you know about locally.
- 3 Pray for anyone you know who is struggling in their marriage but who feels unable to seek help. Pray that someone will come alongside them who will encourage them to talk.
- 4 Pray for those currently receiving counselling, that they will see how they can change their attitudes and outlook, giving and receiving forgiveness and finding new life in their marriage.
- 5 Give thanks to The Lord for those who have been through difficult times and who have been reconciled and restored.
- 6 Pray for those who work for counselling organisations, that God will give them compassion, wisdom, insight and encouragement in their work.
- 7 Ask Him to raise up more people, especially married couples, to be trained, so that people can receive counselling without waiting, not when it is too late.
- 8 Praise God for all those couples who give up their time and energy to counsel and pray with couples in difficulty.

### Broken Marriages and the Widowed

- 9 Pray for any families known to you who have suffered the trauma of divorce.
- 10 Pray for any children you know who have suffered the pain and confusion of parents who no longer live together. Pray that their own distress will not damage them in later marriage.
- 11 Pray for those who are living apart but not divorced. Ask God to give them repentance, forgiveness and love, and to bring healing and restoration.
- 12 Pray for those who believe that they have failed too badly to be accepted back, that they will truly repent and will receive forgiveness. Pray for use to be made of the book 'Divorce Remedy' by Michele Weiner-Davis.
- 13 Pray for those currently involved in divorce proceedings, especially any known to you, that spouses will treat each other with mercy and generosity despite their own hurts and grief.
- 14 Pray that this website's page 'Suggestions for Separated or Divorced Parents' will help them to give their children confidence that they can have a successful marriage.
- 15 Ask God to comfort those who mourn the loss of a spouse, that in their loneliness they would be met by Him, who is *the* Comforter.

## **Marriage Milestones**

- 16 Give thanks for the Holy Spirit who renews marriages. Pray for the use of the Marriage Milestones leaflets giving help at key times.
- 17 Give thanks for all those couples who have had new children during the last year, and pray for them in this time of readjustment.
- 18 Pray for all those couples coping with a child with special needs or disability. Pray that God will grant them wisdom and patience while continually coping with difficult situations. Pray that their marriages will be enriched, not endangered.
- 19 Pray for families where children have grown and left home, that parents will find new joy and intimacy in their marriage.
- 20 Pray for anyone known to you whose life has been affected by redundancy and unemployment. Pray that they will have confidence in God to care for them and their family.
- 21 Pray for couples facing retirement, that it will bring new opportunities for activities and for appreciating each other, and that the adjustment will be smooth and happy.
- 22 Pray for those used to going out to work who are now caring for children at home.

## **Key Marriages**

- 23 Give thanks for the marriage of Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip. Pray that God will sustain them. Pray that if Princes William and Harry are to marry they will be guided to the Lord's choice for them, and that they will have the confidence that will help them to have lasting marriages.
- 24 Pray for the marriage of your minister or another minister, especially with the pressure on time and privacy that church leadership brings. Pray that your church will be sensitive to their needs.
- 25 Pray for the marriages of some specific world leaders.
- 26 Pray for the marriages of leaders of Christian denominations and national organisations.
- 27 Pray for the marriages of some leading sports and/or music couples who are known to be Christians.
- 28 Pray for Edward and Jo Pratt of MR and Richard and Maria Kane of National Marriage Week. Pray also for any key people known to you who head up marriage work.
- 29 Pray for Rob and Dianne Parsons and Jonathan and Ann Booth of Care for the Family.
- 30 Pray for David and Liz Percival of 2-in-2-1, and Nick and Bunty Gulliford of Community Family Trusts and FOCCUS, and John and Jenny Deagle of PREPARE/ENRICH.
- 31 If you are married, pray for your own marriage; if not, pray for the marriage of some close friends.

## June

### Prayer for the Nation

- 1 Praise God for the many happy marriages in our nation.
- 2 Give thanks to The Lord that for many years this country's laws and principles have been based on a Christian foundation. Pray that this will continue to be the case, and pray for those who campaign for that.
- 3 Pray that the Government will rise to their responsibility to support marriages, and thus increase their budget for marriage support, restore a Married Couples Allowance and remove Social Security Benefits' disadvantages for the married.
- 4 Pray for guidance for those who wish to support marriage publicly that they will know how to do it.
- 5 Pray that all in public life who do not set a good example will be aware of the harm they cause, will repent, and seek the Lord's merciful forgiveness.
- 6 Pray that those who are living together unmarried or "living apart together", especially any known to you, will realise they are doing wrong, repent, and marry or separate as appropriate.
- 7 Pray that the many benefits of marriage will be publicised more widely in our nation, and that the results of research which demonstrates those benefits will become widely known.

### Marriage Preparation and Summer Weddings

- 8 Praise the Lord that many couples still choose marriage, making solemn promises to one another.
- 9 Pray that couples will be clearly taught the meaning and extent of their promises, and that they would undertake them readily with joy and total commitment.
- 10 Give thanks for all those who have led and who assist with Marriage Preparation courses, especially any known to you. Pray that they will develop their courses further, including use of an Inventory (Questionnaire).
- 11 Pray for those who are married in Register Offices and secular venues, that their vows and wedding ceremony will be deeply meaningful and not just a formality.
- 12 Pray for those who choose to get married in unusual settings in idyllic holiday destinations, that their true focus will be on their commitment to lifelong marriage, not just on the romantic wedding.
- 13 Pray for families you know in which there have recently been or will soon be weddings, that parents will welcome new sons-in-law and daughters-in-law and will release the newly-marrieds to be a new family unit.
- 14 Pray for those married ministers for whom Saturday is normally a family day, but who take weddings on some of them.
- 15 Pray that those thinking of marriage will find our website page 'Why pay the earth for your wedding' helpful.

- 16 Pray that engaged and married couples will find the page 'Twenty steps to happy marriage' on the Marriage Resource website, and put its suggestions into practice.

### **Marriage organisations**

- 17 Give thanks to The Lord for the many different organisations in the MR Directory who help to increase the network of care for marriage across this land.
- 18 Pray for any organisations helping with marriages which are situated near to you. Pray that leaders of all such organisations will find and train others to take over from them in due course.
- 19 Pray for One Accord (Marriage Review) and for Marriage Ministries International as they offer marriage enhancement residential courses and church-based courses.
- 20 Bernie and Karen Holford lead Adventist marriage and family work in Southern England. Pray for the Lord's strength and blessing in this demanding ministry.
- 21 Some leaders of marriage enhancement organisations meet twice a year at Promoting Marriage meetings. May these be useful times of sharing, learning and fellowship.
- 22 Pray for Radiant Life Ministries (Manchester) and New Life (Lincoln), that they will receive invitations from churches to do marriage events in their areas.
- 23 Pray for Married Couples Fellowship (East London) and One Flesh Ministries (SE London) as they offer marriage enhancing activities in their areas.
- 24 Pray that counsellors and others will find the Marriage Resource web page 'When Cohabitees Ask for Help' to be valuable guidance.

### **Holy Trinity Brompton**

- 25 Give thanks for the work of Nicky and Sila Lee in developing their Marriage Course and Marriage Preparation Course at HTB, and in publishing the courses for others to use.
- 26 Pray for Nicky and Sila, that they will have good time for each other, despite all that they are giving out.
- 27 Pray for others at HTB and in the regions who work with the Lees in promoting the courses.
- 28 Give thanks that many churches are using The Marriage Course, including some outside Britain, and pray for them. Pray that more churches will do so.
- 29 An increasing number of churches are using The Marriage Preparation Course. Pray that more will do so.
- 30 Pray that many will attend the next Training Conference for potential leaders for both courses in London in the autumn, and come away enthused.