

MARRIAGE RESOURCE

PRAYER DIARY October - December

October

Prayer and the Nation

- 1 Pray for the use of this Prayer Diary, that it will encourage more prayer for marriage. Ask The Lord to show you anyone whom you might encourage to start using it.
- 2 Give thanks to God for the people and organisations committed to praying for marriage and family issues, both individually and in groups. Ask Him to encourage them.
- 3 Ask The Lord to call more people to pray for marriage, that He will lay it on the hearts of many to join together in intercession. Pray that married couples will read the One Accord booklet "When2Pray" and be encouraged to pray together regularly.
- 4 Prayerfully consider how to encourage prayer for marriage activities in your church.
- 5 Pray that the leaders of the church, both locally and nationally, will be a clear voice calling for repentance and prayer for the state of marriage and family life.
- 6 Thank The Lord for Christian leaders who do speak out a clear message for the need for Christian values in marriage. Pray that He will protect them as they make a stand.

Marriage and the Media

- 7 Thank God for the potential power and influence for good of the media. Pray that it will be used for promoting healthy images of marriage.
- 8 Pray that The Lord will change the hearts of those who expressly seek to undermine wholesome family life because of their own hurts.
- 9 Pray that those who write and produce unhelpful programmes and articles will repent.

Pray for staff of local and national papers that they will refrain from printing stories that undermine or cheapen marriage. Pray that couples will offer them personal accounts of the benefits of marriage, and people will write to thank editors for good articles.
- 10 Pray for script writers of the soaps, that they will increase the profile of good, healthy, stable marriages and home life, and thus reflect life as it really is.
- 11 Pray that the benefits of marriage will be made known widely, so that support of marriage becomes a General Election issue.
- 12 Pray for the production of good, well researched documentary programmes which promote marriage by demonstrating its advantages over other relationships.
- 13 Praise God for marriage, and pray that people in the limelight will set examples of enduring marriages.

The Government

- 15 Pray for your local MP - for those who are married, that they will protect their marriage from the stress of their duties; for those who are not married, that they will have a clear understanding of God's design and intention for marriage.

- 16 Prayerfully consider attending your MP's surgery, either as an individual or to represent your church, in order to encourage him/her to support marriage, and so that you can pray in a more informed way.
- 17 Pray for the Prime Minister and spouse, that their marriage and family will be protected from the many strains and tensions of high political office.
- 18 Pray for all members of the Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet that their home lives will be blessed and enriched.
- 19 Pray that MPs and Lords will turn the tide regarding legislation that has been damaging to family life. Ask that those who have promoted unhelpful legislation will repent.
- 20 Pray for those MPs who have suffered marriage breakdown, that God will so meet them and their spouses, and that forgiveness will be sought and given and marriage renewed.
- 21 Pray that Government funding for marriage organisations will be increased.
- 22 Pray that the Tax and Benefit disadvantages for the married will be removed.

Counselling and Care

- 23 Give thanks for the many organisations providing counselling for people in need. Pray specifically for any in your area.
- 24 Pray for anyone you know who is struggling in their marriage but who feel unable to seek help. Pray about giving them "First Aid" (see page on Marriage Resource website) and about encouraging them to seek further help.
- 25 Pray for those currently receiving counselling, that they will be able to work through their difficulties, giving and receiving forgiveness, and will seek new life in their marriage.
- 26 Give thanks to God for those who have been through difficult times and who have been reconciled and restored. Pray that they will be bold to bear witness to what He has done in their lives and so encourage others.
- 27 Pray for those who work for counselling organisations that The Lord will give them compassion, wisdom and insight. Pray that He will bless them in the sacrifices they make their time and energy.
- 28 Pray for the work of organisations which seek to help with healing and restoration for marriages which have broken down.
- 29 Pray that The Lord will call more people to be trained in caring for others' marriages, including using Marriage First Aid.
- 30 Pray that the book "The Divorce Remedy" (Michele Weiner-Davis) will be the means of saving many marriages.
- 31 Pray that local churches will find ways of pointing couples in difficulty to appropriate means of help.

November

Your Church and Community

- 1 Give thanks for all those who have been married in your church this year. Pray for them, especially for any whom you know.
- 2 Pray for the leaders of your church, whether married or not, that their understanding of marriage may be deepened, and that they will give sound and encouraging teaching on marriage.
- 3 Pray that your church and other churches will adopt a strategy for marriage, as described on the Marriage Resource website.
- 4 Pray for the different ways that your church ministers to marriage through marriage preparation, mentoring, enhancement and help for those in difficulties. Pray for those responsible for these ministries, that their own marriages will be protected and enriched.
- 5 Give thanks for initiatives taking teaching on marriage into schools. Pray for wider use of the resources described on our website page "Marriage Education for Young People".
- 6 Pray for the marriage ministry of other churches in your area.
- 7 Pray for all those living locally who will be married at a Register Office or other location next year, that they will be informed about marriage preparation and will seek it.
- 8 Pray for an increase in the mentoring of marriage, and for use of Harry Benson's book "Mentoring Marriage".

Broken Marriages and the Widowed

- 9 Pray for those who are separated but not yet divorced. Ask The Lord to break into their lives with compassion and grace and to bring healing and restoration. May they hear of the unhappy consequences of divorce before embarking on it.
- 10 Pray for any children who have suffered pain and insecurity because their parents no longer live together. Pray that they may receive help to enable them to have a stable future.
- 11 Ask God to comfort those who mourn the loss of a spouse, that in their loneliness they will be met by Him, who is the Comforter.
- 12 Pray for all those who live in hope of a returning spouse. Especially pray for those who believe that they have failed too badly to be accepted back into the family home, that they would be assured of forgiveness and love.
- 13 Pray for those currently involved in divorce proceedings, especially any known to you, that spouses would treat each other with mercy despite their own hurts and grief.
- 14 Pray for any families known to you who have suffered the trauma of divorce, either recently or in years gone by.

- 15 Pray for those who have suffered the loss of a spouse through accident or sudden illness, that God will help them as they mourn the lost future and dreams.
- 16 Remember those whose spouses are suffering from dementia or brain damage.

National Marriage Week

- 17 Give thanks to God for the idea to have a week to focus on and to celebrate marriage, and for all that has happened in the Weeks since 1997.
- 18 Pray for David Percival and those who meet with him, as they plan and prepare for NMW in February.
- 19 Pray for the production for the media of informative and interesting materials about marriage and its benefits.
- 20 Pray that national newspapers and magazines will respond to requests to carry prominent and positive editorial and/or article space for NMW.
- 21 Pray that TV and radio producers will be aware of NMW and make it a priority.
- 22 Pray for local events to be planned for National Marriage Week, and that they will attract many participants and the local media, and will be well organised.
- 23 If your church or organisation has not already planned an event, ask The Lord how you could be involved with promoting marriage during the Week in February.

Marriage Resource Branches and Area Representatives

- 24 Give thanks to God for the Branches in South-west and South-east London, Sussex and the West Midlands and for all who have been helped through them.
- 25 Pray for those in leadership of the Branches, that they will be led by The Lord to do His work in their locality, that they will remain in good health, and that they will find others to work with them and take over from them in due course.
- 26 Branches are in the front line of working with marriages. Pray for their protection and a real sense of God having His hand upon them.
- 27 Pray for an increase in volunteers to help Branch work, to be trainers, counsellors, administrators, intercessors and to fill other useful roles.
- 28 Pray both that Branches' work will not be held up for lack of funding, and that it will be well supported by prayer.
- 29 Pray for our Area Representatives in East Dorset, East Midlands, East Yorkshire, Southampton and West Surrey, that they will know The Lord's leading and directing.
- 30 Pray for your locality, for your Branch or Area Representative, if you have one, or for greater networking amongst the churches if not. Ask The Lord to show you what He wishes you to do in your area.

December

Those newly-married

- 1 Pray for those considering engagement and marriage, that God will help them to be open to Him, and will clearly lead and guide them.
- 2 Give thanks to The Lord for all those He has led to decide to marry. Ask that they will find good marriage preparation, including use of PREPARE or FOCCUS questionnaires, which will help them get to know each other and their expectations fully.
- 3 Pray for anyone known to you who was married this past year, that they will work through any problems they meet.
- 4 Pray for those who struggle to adjust to marriage, especially those who carry hurt and damage from their previous family experience; pray that they will seek and find any help they need.
- 5 Pray for those who have re-married, that they may happily adjust to their new life, that there will be no unhelpful comparisons, and that any past mistakes will not be repeated.
- 6 Pray for relationships with parents and in-laws, both that there may be a right sense of leaving, and also that the parental families will welcome and care for their new son-in-law or daughter-in-law.
- 7 Pray for those for whom marriage has created a move far away from friends and family, that the couple will quickly become established in their new community.

Law and Lawyers

- 8 Give thanks that our laws have in the past supported marriage, and still do so in the present in various ways.
- 9 Pray that the present trend of introducing laws and other measures that weaken marriage may cease and be reversed.
- 10 Pray for the work of the Law Commission which considers what new legislation is needed.
- 11 Lawyers involved in helping those with marriage difficulties need to make them aware of the many unhappy consequences of divorce and to encourage reconciliation, where possible. Pray that they will.
- 12 Pray that lawyers for those involved in divorce will act in the best interests of all concerned, especially any children.

Marriage Organisations

- 13 Thank the Lord for all the organisations involved in marriage education, preparation, enhancement, and helping those in difficulties.
- 14 Pray that organisations offering marriage preparation courses will make them widely known and improve them further.
- 15 Give thanks for the growing use of Holy Trinity Brompton's Marriage Preparation Course and Marriage Course, and pray for more churches to use them.

- 16 Give thanks for organisations which run residential marriage enhancement events, and pray for more couples to go away on them.
- 17 Give thanks for the work of Care for the Family, and pray for guidance for its leaders.
- 18 Thank the Lord for the work of The Association of Christian Counsellors, and pray for continued guidance for them in upholding standards in marriage counselling, without making too many administrative demands on counsellors.

Christmas Holiday Season

- 19 Pray for those for whom Christmas is a sad and difficult time through bereavement, broken family relationships or other loss, that they will be comforted, and will have someone with whom to spend at least part of Christmas.
- 20 Pray that during this holiday period many spouses and families may discover new joys in spending time together.
- 21 Pray for those who do not know what or whom they are celebrating, that The Lord Jesus will open their hearts and eyes to the truth. Pray especially for children in families where Jesus is not known.
- 22 Pray for relationships within families, especially for those who have strained or difficult relationships with relatives. Pray that this will be a time of healing and restoration.
- 23 Pray for children who are caught up between two parental homes. Pray too for parents left alone while children spend time with the other parent.
- 24 Pray for newly-married couples, that spouses will appreciate the different good ways their partner's family-of-origin celebrates Christmas.
- 25 Give thanks and praise to God that Jesus came for all people and loves all, whether or not they acknowledge and love Him in return.

The New Year

- 26 Pray that more people of influence will speak up for marriage and its benefits.
- 27 Pray for those who long for a spouse with whom to share their lives, that God will hear the cries of their heart, and that they will find joy in Him.
- 28 Pray that next year will see the celebration of some high profile marriages that will last, and that everyone who is to be married in the coming year will receive good preparation.
- 29 Ask The Lord to call more married couples to be involved together in serving the marriages of others, and that couples will respond to His call.
- 30 Give thanks to God for the answered prayers of this past year, remembering all His blessings to us and to our families.
- 31 Praise the Lord for the new opportunities of the coming year. Pray that He will show you what continued or greater involvement He wishes you to have in marriage ministry.

This Prayer Diary is updated each year, so please download this quarter's prayer Diary again in nine months time.