



February 7-14, 2010

National Marriage Week USA

Let's Strengthen Marriage

Dear Pastor and Marriage/Family Leaders:

Please take a moment to save the following date and time on your calendar:

"National Marriage Week" Informational Webinar

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

(marriageweek.com)

9 AM Pacific - 10 AM Mountain - 11 AM Central - 12 Noon Eastern

New research reports that the percentage of United States' adults who are married has dropped from 78 percent in 1970 to 57 percent in 2008, according to the recently released report, *"The Marriage Index,"* co-published by the Institute for American Values and the National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting (NCAAMP). Even more concerning, 40 percent of all American children today are born out-of-wedlock and 71 percent of African American children are born without married parents.

Research also shows that single mothers have only one-third the financial assets as married mothers.* Children not brought up by both a mother and father have lower graduation rates, higher incidence of incarceration, and lower performance in school.** For the sake of women and children, the church must get involved to strengthen, enrich, and repair marriage.

There is no question that more needs to be done within our congregations to create a more thriving marriage culture and assist marriages and families to remain happily intact. **The church can play a truly unique role as a "school" for marriage. National Marriage Week USA (February 7th to 14th) offers a relevant new way for the church to reach out beyond its own doors into the needs of its community. (www.nationalmarriageweekUSA.org)**

**National Marriage Week USA, February 7-14,
2010, provides an ideal opportunity!**

On January 13, 2010, join with pastors and other interested marriage and family leaders from coast-to-coast to discover how you can incorporate a National Marriage Week USA emphasis into what you are already doing at your church to strengthen and support marriage and families. In a historic webinar gathering via computer, you will hear from a wide-range of participants sharing about opportunities, programs, tools and resources available as you plan a sermon series, develop an ongoing marriage enrichment program for your families, make marriage education materials and resources more widely available to your congregation and community, expand discussions with your youth about what it means to be a godly husband and wife, host or co-host a marriage conference in your area, learn about the successful implementation of National Marriage Week in other countries, and much more.

Please register for this FREE webinar at (marriageweekusa.com) if you would like to be kept informed about how you can take part in this powerful one-hour audio and visual webinar presentation. You can join from your computer with broadband connection or project on a screen if you would like to invite others—especially pastors—to join you from your community.

We look forward to this important gathering as together we strengthen and promote marriage and family! Contact Sheila Weber at sheila@letsstrengthenmarriage.org with questions or for more information about what you can do now to prepare for National Marriage Week USA. **You will find the National Marriage Week USA website at nationalmarriageweekusa.org.**

Chuck Stetson
Let's Strengthen Marriage Campaign

Sheila Weber
National Marriage Week USA
nationalmarriageweekusa.org

Jim Garlow
Pastors' Rapid Response Team (*formed in 2003 to launch a local Billy Graham Crusade; focuses on civic engagement, community service and emergency preparation*)

Sources: **The Case for Marriage* by Maggie Gallagher and Linda Waite. ***Wisconsin Department of Health 1993 and documentary "Demographic Winter."*