

MARRIAGE WEEK 2021 Update Maria Kane

As 2020 came to an end with yet more discouraging news of the spread of the corona virus pandemic, our thoughts turned towards all the various friends and nations around the world involved with the Marriage Week project. This is normally held in February of each year. Surely the pandemic would diminish any possible activity in February 2021?
Oh, You of little faith!

I have spent the last few weeks desperately trying to keep up with all the numerous activities that took place in so many nations. Instead of letting the pandemic stop or slow things down, many nations have been super creative; thinking outside of the box, and having greater impact than ever. For example, this creative idea by a couple in Romania.

<https://youtu.be/MCGXQGw9ENY>

Many of the nations have been using social media platforms and also creating their own YouTube TV channels to provide a range of activities such: seminars, webinars and workshops, date nights online, couples games nights, chess competitions, dance and fitness classes online. Culinary cooking classes on the theme of “Marriage Flavours” proved a success and other competitions with great prizes. There’s much, much more, the list is endless.

Local radio and TV stations were streaming jazz and classical concerts. The composition of a Marriage Week song in Serbia can be heard on this Youtube clip.

<https://youtu.be/bAuxGjrZoVY>

Where possible social distancing outdoor events took place. For example, in Poland couples were encouraged to go for a fancy dress swim in the Baltic! There were Church blessings, city games on the theme of “the love trail”, romantic meals, interactive walks, honouring jubilee couples planting a tree in the municipal park. A group of elderly residents in a retirement home shared their marital memories and



advice. There were also many TV and Radio appearances. Newspaper articles on numerous topics including interviews with local couples. The list keeps going on....

I am still collating information and writing up summaries. And so, I am now more multilingual than I was before, listening and watching clips, and reading articles thanks to Google translate.

Richard and myself are humbled and blessed by the dedication and commitment that so many are giving to this project. We know for many it's a cost, both physically, spiritually and financially. Its tiring and exhausting. Each February I am stunned by what God can do with five loaves and two fish, just like the miracles of feeding the 5000 and 4000 in Matthew 14 and 15.

Today we received a beautiful card from Marriage Week South Africa. One section in the card brought me to tears where they said: "thank you for your role in bringing Christ's hope and healing to families across Africa"! God's favour seems to be smiling on this very simple idea using it to bless couples and families around the globe.

My favourite promotional clip of February 2021 has to be family from Poland filming their small son promoting Marriage Week in Poland. Don't forget to click the sound.

<https://fb.watch/3Px171vGkX/>

I have enclosed a composite summary from 13 different nations in PDF format. Each country representative has summarised in English their various activities this February 2021. There are links in the reports so you are able to watch and listen to things if you so wish. There were limited programs in Switzerland, Austria, Bosnia, Bermuda and Israel this year due to Covid. Ukraine in May taps into an old Communist Family Day holiday. The UK MW is at the moment in transition from February to May.

Marriage Week runs in South Africa in September due to the difference in climate zone February is their summer holidays, September equals our February. It has seen some changes due to Covid and the main driver is now Focus on the Family. This has given MW in Africa a real lift as Focus on the Family has connections and good understandings of culture all around the African continent. They are capable of supporting and help developing any versions of Marriage Week that already exist in some African nations.

As lockdown and travel restrictions are easing Richard and myself should be able to do some trips to visit a few nations that really could do with some input for example: Czech Republic, Romania and Albania.

On another note, you all will be pleased to know that Miki Kamberovic who runs the OAZA project and Kindergarten in Serbia organised a Marriage Week Event in Jagodina, as part of MW Serbia.



Thank you goes to you all at the Mission Committee, the Lantern and wider parish for your continued support of the Marriage Week project. We appreciate your valuable care and gracious commitment, and look forward to see God's incredible power continuing to change lives, change the weather in communities all around the Globe, through the MW concept. Bringing God's Kingdom qualities to a needed world.

Blessings

Richard and Maria Kane