

## **PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT**

By Danille Turissini on Monday, February 28, 2005

360-301-4134 • [danille.t@werg.org](mailto:danille.t@werg.org)

Washington Evangelicals for Responsible Government will host a Mayday for Marriage Rally on Tuesday, March 8, 2005, in Olympia. The rally will take place on the same day of the Washington State Supreme Court hearing of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), passed in 1998 and ruled unconstitutional last year by judges in Thurston and King Counties.

**What:** PRESS CONFERENCE

**When:** TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005, AT 10 AM

**Where:** WASHINGTON STATE CAPITOL STEPS, OLYMPIA

**Who:**

- JOSEPH B. FUTEN, Cedar Park Assembly of God, Bothell, Mayday for Marriage, and WERG president
- KEN HUTCHERSON, Antioch Bible Church, Redmond, and Mayday for Marriage
- LINDSAY FOSNER, Student Body President, Northwest University
- ALEC ROWLAND, Westgate Chapel, Edmonds, and Sound the Alarm
- JEFF KEMP, Families Northwest and Allies for Marriage and Children
- BILL RITCHIE, Crossroads Community Church, Vancouver
- JAN HETTINGA, North Shore Baptist, Bothell, and Mayday for Marriage
- Numerous others, including pastors, community leaders, and key legislators

**Why:** Thousands are expected to rally in Olympia on March 8<sup>th</sup> in support of authentic marriage, according to Joseph Fuiten, President of Washington Evangelicals for Responsible Government (WERG) and rally organizer. The event is scheduled to precede the Supreme Court hearing on overturning the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

“The rally has three messages for the Legislature and the Courts: marriage by definition is between a man and a woman; it is the birthright of every child to be raised in a healthy family by the child’s mother and father; and if the courts strike down the current legal definition of marriage, it will improperly usurp the role of the legislature,” Fuiten said.

The rally, called the March 8<sup>th</sup> Mayday for Marriage Rally, seeks to educate legislators and citizens about the importance of authentic marriage. Previous Mayday rallies included 20,000 at Safeco Field on May 1, 2004, in what was considered the largest political rally in Washington State. In October of last year, 250,000 gathered in Washington DC in support of authentic marriage.

The March 8<sup>th</sup> Mayday for Marriage Rally is being organized by WERG, an 11-year-old political lobbying organization representing biblical and moral values in Washington State. The organization has launched a major effort to contact and mobilize social conservatives, like-minded churches, and people who support traditional marriage.

“We are organizing to keep a small but vocal minority from imposing their vision of homosexual marriage upon an unwilling society. Even though the efforts began with Evangelicals, it quickly included a much wider aggregation of secular and religious voices,” Fuiten said.

For more information, please contact Danille Turissini at 360-301-4134 or [danille.t@werg.org](mailto:danille.t@werg.org), or Joe Fuiten at 425-939-1302, (cell) 425-770-5220, or [joe.f@werg.org](mailto:joe.f@werg.org).