

# **A Strong Nation**

By Dina Castillo

There is a need to strengthen marriages in our nation, let's start here in our home town of Salinas, to restore, heal and strengthen our marriages.

A strong nation is not possible without strong states, and strong states are not possible without strong cities, and strong cities are not possible without strong communities, and strong communities are not possible without strong families, and strong families are not possible without strong marriages. The strength of our nation is dependent upon strong marriages.

It is time to take seriously our marriages. Our nation, our states, our cities, and families need the benefits of strong marriages. It affects every area of our lives; children with only one parent in the home suffer financially and emotionally. Furthermore, the economy suffers as single parent families often have to seek government and financial assistance to make ends meet.

The church is to lead in this endeavor for we cannot have strong churches without strong families and strong families come from strong marriages.

For more resources to strengthen marriages and for the singles so you can be better prepared to have strong marriages go to the below links.

<http://www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org/>

Attend a Friday/Saturday "Love and Respect" seminar by best selling author and entertaining speaker Dr. Emerson Eggerichs. Locate an upcoming conference at

[http://www.loveandrespect.com/content/calendar\\_index.php](http://www.loveandrespect.com/content/calendar_index.php)

Find a Marriage Class near you by clicking on your state/area at this directory of classes provided by Smart Marriages, a national clearinghouse of marriage education resources:

<http://www.smartmarriages.com/app/Directory.BrowsePrograms>

Family Life "Weekend to Remember" conferences are offered nationwide. For dates and locations, check

<http://www.familylife.com/site/c.dnJHKLNNFoG/b.3082787/k.BF6A/Home.htm>

PAIIRS trained practitioners teach a wide range of curriculum-based marriage education, marriage skills, and relationship skills programs. There are Christian version and non-sectarian versions of this course. Locate a PAIIRS class (Practical Application of Intimate Relationship Skills) near you at this link:

<http://consumer.pairs.com/>