



Catch The Fire Ministries

To reach people from all walks of life into the Kingdom of God

Media release

For immediate release

AOG churches in danger of compromise on consumption of alcohol and status of marriage urged to vote 'NO' at AOG National Conference

Australian Catch the Fire Ministries president and **AOG Pastor Danny Nalliah** has issued a strong warning to AOG pastors and church leaders to distance themselves from an amendment by the AOG Executive to policies concerning alcohol and marriage which would open the floodgate to easy divorces and drunkenness within the church.

Pastor Danny, who has credentials as an AOG Pastor and also spearheads an interdenominational prayer movement around Australia, has urged a "NO" vote against the two issues AOG delegates will vote on at the upcoming AOG Conference to be held on the Gold Coast from 23 to 25 April.

Pastor Danny Nalliah, said it was important to preserve the sanctity of Marriage as set out in the Word of God. Standard AOG policy for divorce involves sexual immorality. The AOG is now proposing two further grounds - physical abuse and abandonment.

"Allowing divorce must be kept in line with Scripture and remarriage should only be on the grounds of sexual infidelity, as upheld by Christian leaders for the past twenty centuries," Pastor Danny said.

"Of course each individual case can be looked at by merit but one can't take a blanket approach on this. Not only are these two reasons not supported by Scripture but it would inevitably lower the standard of marriage. Vote 'NO' to preserve and support marriage and to give it every opportunity to flourish," he said.

"The floodgates to easy divorces would open if the amendment to divorce and remarriage was accepted. A person might feel 'hurt' at their spouse, they might decide this is emotional abuse and so on. That would pave the way for that person, with the support of the AOG leadership, to decide that was good enough grounds for divorce. It clearly is one step further down that slippery slope and far too nebulous an area for us to enter. It is moving further and further away from what the Lord Jesus allowed, and following a pattern of the world," Pastor Danny said.

He also said the AOG leadership should be exemplary and distance itself from the consumption of alcohol which was a prevalent drug in our society. Though pastors were urged by AOG leadership to exercise caution and avoid drunkenness, "how does one define what drunkenness is exactly?" Pastor Danny said.

“Imagine seeing AOG pastors potentially drinking at events or trying to remember to keep under the limit. If anything, it makes it a whole lot easier for pastors and others within the church to be at risk of drunkenness,” Pastor Danny said.

Expressing similar sentiments, former President of the AOG movement, Pastor **Andrew Evans** is concerned about the tear this policy amendment could cause to the fabric of our society – the family unit, either a husband and wife or a husband and wife and their children. **Attached is his official response to AOG Constitutional Amendments.**

“A legal definition for abuse can be just a raised voice. Where will we all stand? Hurt feelings will become emotional abuse, and an angry word will become verbal abuse; and where will it end,” said Pastor Andrew Evans.

Consider the floodgate that these unscriptural reasons for divorce will open and vote “NO” to this policy directive. In view of the social damage that alcohol has caused in this nation we encourage AOG Pastors, in accordance with 1 Cor.10:31-33 not to be a stumbling block to others and therefore abstain.

In cases where a Pastor chooses to consume alcohol, and drunkenness is proven, that Pastor’s credentials should be suspended for a period of 12 months,” said Pastor Andrew Evans.

The Australian Coordinators of ‘Families for Life Australia’, a national Christian ministry providing marriage and parenting education, **Michael and Alison Goode**, who have been members of the AOG for over 15 years and who have extensive experience in this field, said they believed that the issue of marriage and divorce needed to be examined far more thoroughly before considering any change of policy.

“Marriage is to reflect the New Covenant, that between Christ and His bride. Our lives need to be committed to reflecting who Jesus is. Modeling covenant faithfulness in our marriages is vitally important because it is a salvation issue to our children and the world around us. Jesus came to renew all things including God’s original plan for marriage. (Matt 19:4-6)

Allowing the justifications for divorce of abandonment and abuse exalts contemporary battles above the word and truth of God. There will always be compelling circumstances to dissolve marriages. We are to walk by faith and His victory over everything contrary to His word,” Michael and Alison said.

Please encourage your pastor and delegates to vote “NO” to these amendments and forward this email to all AOG Pastors and friends!

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