GENERAL OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION TO NATIONAL FORGIVENESS WEEK

The Vision

- To introduce National Forgiveness Week (NFW) to a nation, an annual week designed to promote relational forgiveness.
- To encourage churches to teach and practice one-on-one forgiveness within their congregations and into their communities.
- To promote the principles of heartfelt forgiveness openly to the population of an entire nation.

The Need

- Unforgiveness has adversely impacted our relationships, our communities and our nation.
- Everyone has been offended, hurt or abused by someone. Likewise, everyone has offended, upset or abused others. Consequently, the value of forgiveness can be clearly understood and practised by the willing.



Potential Benefits and Outcomes

- Unifying churches across the nation in one annual endeavour;
- Resolving tensions within our personal lives;
- Promoting peace and genuine reconciliation between individuals, spouses, siblings and across families in general;
- Healing destructive rifts in society, such as marital friction, interracial strife, religious discrimination, personal biases and conflicts of all kinds; and
- Fostering unity and cooperation within communities, creating of an atmosphere of peace and harmony over nations, and promoting healthy relationships across all facets of our existence.

What is National Forgiveness Week?

- National Forgiveness Week is an 8-day week, running from Sunday to Sunday annually where people, both in churches and across the entire population, are exposed to the value of interpersonal one-on-one forgiveness.

- National Forgiveness Week focuses on forgiving one another. During the week people are reminded to forgive offences and settle differences.

- The best way to get the message of forgiveness out to needy people is through storytelling (personal testimonies) by those who have themselves forgiven.

- NFW applies to forgiving more than significant and traumatic events. It also applies to the little insignificant offences and subtle attitudes that regularly arise in the hearts of us all to decimate harmonious relationships.

- On the first Sunday, churches teach on the topic of forgiveness and encourage its practise amongst their congregations, families and all relationships where offences and hurts might be resolved.

- During the following six days church leaders teach forgiveness in their surrounding communities.

- On the final Sunday churches celebrate the joys of forgiveness.

- NFW is held annually because people are apt to forget the value of forgiveness and simply need a refresher.

- NFW is not a one-size-fits-all event. It can grow and develop from the ground up in different ways through various institutions and collaborations. Or, ideally, it can be introduced as a church/state initiative.

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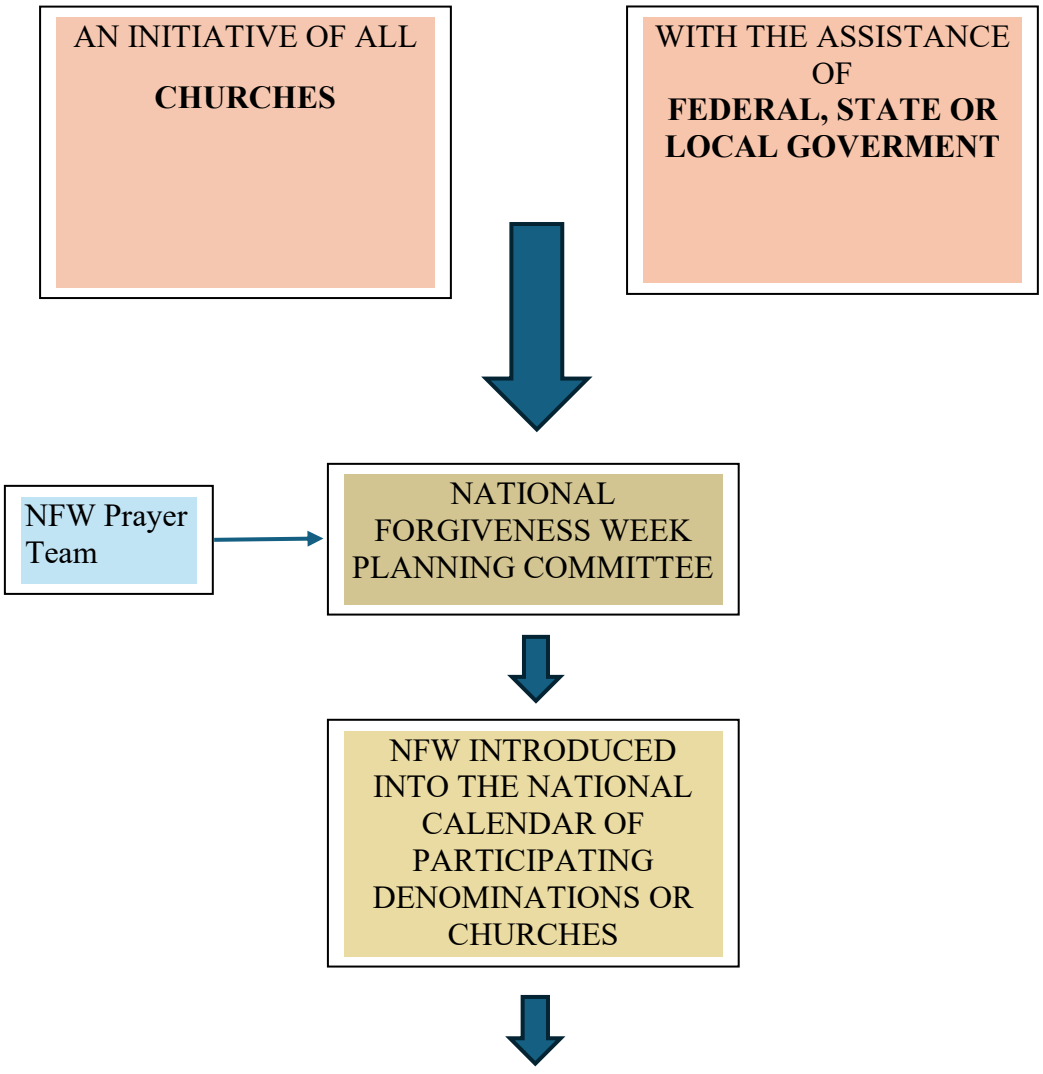
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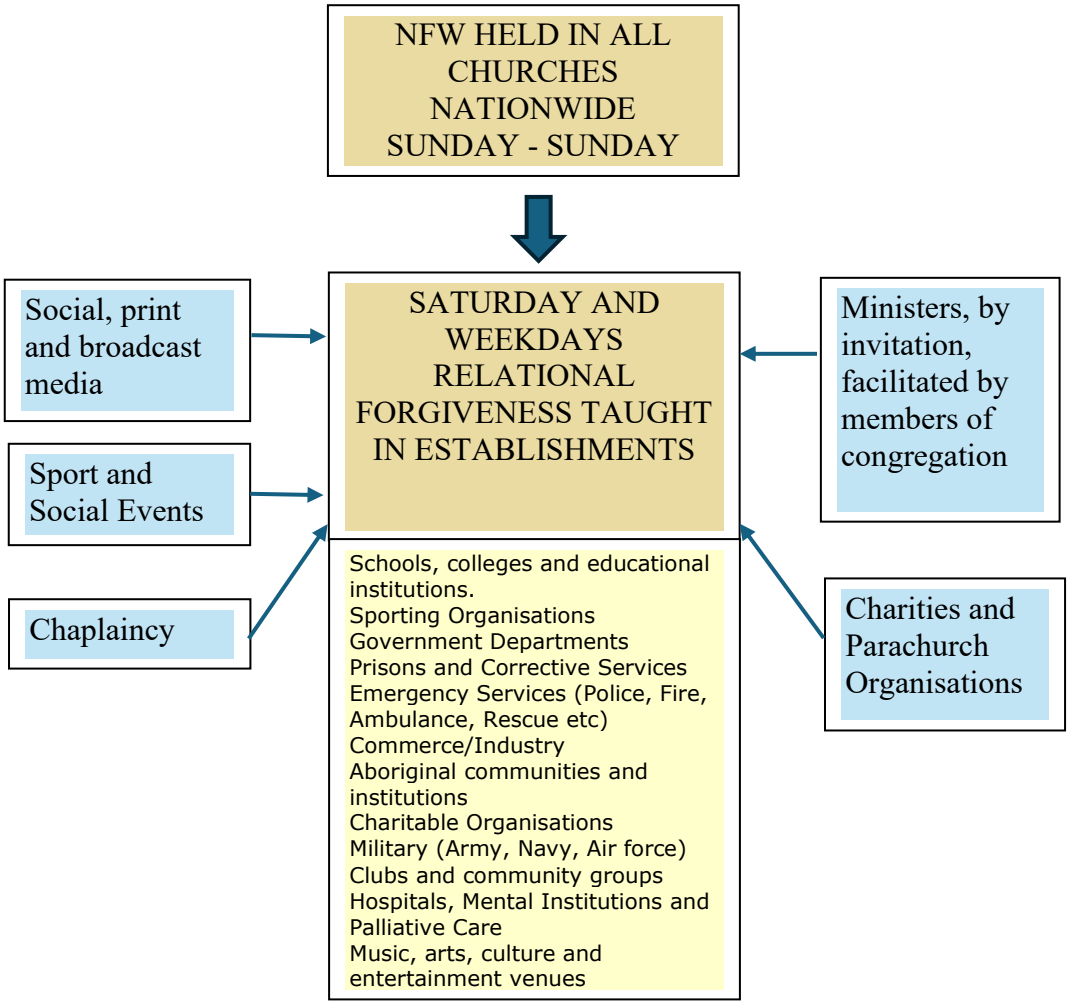
How to Do NFW

There are several ways that NFW can be introduced to a nation …

Ideally, NFW is a collaborative effort of combined churches and government to promote relational one-on-one forgiveness throughout your nation. The government provides support and church herald the message. Thus, NFW becomes an initiative of the churches within your nation.

This works well in Christianised nations where governments recognise the value of openly teaching forgiveness to their population. Government endorsement through inclusion in their national calendar provides creditability to NFW. Even so, it is only when churches work together around this cause can NFW be effectively outworked throughout a nation; here is the value of church and state working in collaboration.





Interpersonal forgiveness is essential to foster love within a church congregation, addressing issues within family and church relationships. In fact, the local church is the means of getting the message of forgiveness out into their surrounding community.

Other Ways to Introduce NFW

NFW preferably flows as a top-down Church/State collaboration, but it can also be introduced in various ways and at different on-ramps as circumstances demand …

- NATION
- STATE/PROVINCE
- CITY OR TOWN
- COMMUNITY OR VILLAGE
- CHURCH DENOMINATION
- INDIVIDUAL CHURCH

If the government won't engage, then the *Church Unity* group (Ministers' Fraternal) can carry NFW by itself. If they are unwilling, then the heads of individual denominations might cooperate. And if they are unresponsive, then individual churches can set the example for others to follow. In these latter cases, NFW should eventually filter out to the nation and not remain corralled behind church walls. In any case, it is the local church that is the means of spreading the message of one-on-one forgiveness into their surrounding communities.



Resistance to NFW is encountered when governments fail to comprehend the importance of forgiveness to their populations. It also becomes problematic if churches are unwilling to act together in unity around the fundamental message of forgiveness. In such cases, church denominations or individual churches can take the lead by introducing NFW into *their* own annual calendars.

Dates for NFW

The dates will alter slightly each year to ensure NFW fits into a Sunday-Sunday format and will be published on the NFW website. [However, dates could be set for a more suitable time if required by each participating church or nation].

2027	Sunday 3rd October to Sunday 10th October
2028	Sunday 24th September to Sunday 1st October
2029	Sunday 9th September to Sunday 16th September
2030	Sunday 29th September to Sunday 6th October

Recommended reading *When Angry Hearts Forgive* by Robert Warren available on Amazon.

For more information see …

nationalforgivenessweek.com

OR contact us by email …

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