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TEENS RALLY TO PROMOTE SEXUAL ABSTINENCE UNTIL MARRIAGE

(City, State), (Month, Date, 2005) – Local teenagers will take a stand for sexual abstinence until marriage at a True Love Waits® ceremony on (Date) at (Church Name, Location). As part of the ceremony, teens will be asked to sign a commitment card pledging to refrain from sex until they are married.

(Insert local information, such as speaker, entertainment, etc. Example: The popular rock group “Switchfoot” will be in concert. Dr. Richard Ross, a founder of the True Love Waits campaign, will be the featured speaker.)

“There is a growing movement in our nation, as well as other parts of the world, where young people are challenging themselves and their peers to remain morally pure until their wedding day,” said (Name of Local Church Pastor). “It’s appropriate that the date of our commitment ceremony is during Valentine’s Week, because true love really is about waiting to enjoy God’s gift of sex with one’s spouse,” he added.

Created more than a decade ago by LifeWay Christian Resources, True Love Waits was designed to encourage moral purity by adhering to biblical principles. This youth-based international campaign utilizes positive peer pressure by encouraging those who make a commitment to refrain from pre-marital sex to challenge their peers to do the same.

More than one hundred organizations and thousands of churches have adopted the use of True Love Waits to promote sexual abstinence, in large part because they have seen how well the campaign works and the potential it has to reverse negative trends in communities.

For example, teen pregnancies and births are down about a third nationwide from their peaks in 1991, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Dr. John Santelli, a Columbia University public health professor and the lead author of a recent analysis of the decline, attributes about half the drop to teens saying no to intercourse.

The first True Love Waits national celebration took place in July 1994, when more than 210,000 covenant cards were displayed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. More than a decade later, an estimated 2.5 to 3 million youth have signed commitment cards pledging sexual purity until their wedding day, and that number continues to grow worldwide.

As part of (Church Name’s) True Love Waits event, (Pastor’s Name) will introduce “Takes the Town,” a new phase of the True Love Waits campaign that encourages cities to take a unified, community-wide approach to promoting sexual abstinence by involving schools, government, businesses, churches, health organizations and others.

