

## *The Need for Marriage Ministry*

We ask pastors and church leaders during our workshop, *Strengthening Marriages in the Church*, "Should the church have a role in marriage?" We know that more than 80% of marriages take place in a "church", but is that the only responsibility or authority the church has? The church does have some duty in this area, but it is the parent's *responsibility* to prepare their children for adulthood – including marriage. But the sad fact is that parents are *not* preparing their children for marriage and very often set a poor example of the marriage relationship for their children.

It may not be the church's responsibility to prepare young people for marriage or teach couples about God's plan for marriage, but if the church doesn't do it, who will? The church is in a position to teach Biblical principles for marriage and challenge couples to live for Christ in their marriage. Many couples today are hungry for solid teaching about marriage – they desire to have strong, flourishing marriages, but don't know how to achieve it without guidance. The rampant divorce in society today rips apart families and affects children, the extended family and the church profoundly. It is time to turn the tide of divorce and the local church is the best place for a start.

One couple with a passion to build strong marriages *can* make a difference. With their pastor's support, a couple can find the information and training to help them build a marriage ministry in their church. A model is available that will not only strengthen marriages within the church but will draw couples to the church as they seek to find something better than the dysfunctional, hurting marriages so prevalent today. Contact us if you would like to learn more about this marriage ministry model.

*The Marriage Minute*

*By Chris Garner*

*Copyright © 2006 Fortified Marriages Ministry*