Opportunity Knocks

Marriage is hard work; keeping the marriages of your congregation strong requires even more work. In signing the Clackamas County Marriage Policy, you agreed to "Provide marriage enrichment opportunities, such as classes, small groups, and/or retreats, to build and strengthen marriages." Doing a good job is a challenge. There are a number of great programs available offering the very best of biblically based marriage encouragement. One special offering of resources is through FamilyLife, a division of Campus Crusade. The have a variety of print and DVD program opportunities worth investigating, and a very special one, their Weekend to Remember Get-Away (WTR).

Several years ago Bethany Evangelical Free Church in Canby found they had a surplus $2,000 (a God thing) and decided to partially scholarship the first 20 couples who applied. The fund was oversubscribed and Bethany found a way to support all comers. Oregon City Evangelical Church similarly partially scholarshiped couples to keep registration fees below $100. Consider it a great investment, building kingdom-focused marriages. Getting a good financial ROI is the "frosting on the cake", if you consider the implications of decreased giving often associated with distressed couples.

This fall the local Weekend to Remember Get-Away is scheduled for November 16-18 at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion Hotel. If you choose this opportunity it's now time to start planning. There are probably several couples in your congregation that have attended a WTR, one or two who would enjoy leading toward this event. FamilyLife has brochures, posters and a great promo DVD to make promotion easy. And there is a Group Rate that helps to keep costs down. See details at www.familylife.com/group.

Pastors are eligible for free registration. Find a pulpit replacement for November 18, register you and your wife, and encourage other couples to join you. Envision the excitement of couples returning to church filled with hope and determined to work toward godly goals.