

AN EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

a WAKE-UP CALL

"While it may be alarming to discover that... Christians are more likely than others to experience a divorce. . .

Even more disturbing, perhaps, is that when those individuals experience a divorce many of them feel their community of faith provides rejection rather than support and healing.

But the research also raises questions regarding the effectiveness of how churches minister to families. . . the high incidence of divorce within the Christian community challenges the idea that churches provide truly practical and life-changing support for marriages."

George Barna of Barna Research, Inc.

the FACTS

Four out of five weddings in Washington State have been performed by a clergy member.

Nearly three-quarters (72%) of Washington adults indicate they have a Christian religious preference and four out of five adults (79%) attend religious services throughout the year.

Over half (51%) of adults believe churches can do the most to promote strong, healthy marriages.

Families Northwest
1997 and 1998/99 Washington Marriage Report and Family Time Report

a MANDATE

"It is quite obvious to everyone that the major crisis facing America today is the breakup of the family.

The church ought to be equipping people for strong marriages. . . That is the front-line Christian work today.

It is one of the most urgent tasks and highest priorities of the church."

Chuck Colson of Prison Fellowship

AN UNPRECEDENTED COMMITMENT BY NORTHWEST CHURCHES

The Northwest leads the nation in environmental beauty, airplane construction, and software production and sports shoes.

It now leads the nation in something else . . .
Our region has the largest number of churches in any state committed to preventing divorce by investing in the relational health of their congregations and their community.

*Over 1600 churches
serving 260 cities & towns
throughout Washington, Oregon and
Idaho
have signed one of
48 Marriage & Family Agreements!*

To schedule a
Community Strategy Roundtable
for the church leadership in your community,
contact:

 **families**
NORTHWEST
...because your family matters.

FAMILIES NORTHWEST
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Bellevue, WA 98015

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Healthy Relationships STRATEGY

ROUNDTABLES

EMPOWERING
Church Communities
to Transform
the Relational Health
of their community

*Unifying Communities,
Equipping Leaders, and
Improving the Cultural Environment
for Marriage & Family Life*

 **families**
NORTHWEST

THE STRATEGIC NECESSITY OF THE ROUNDTABLES

In recent years, the model of Community Transformation Plans have been launched in communities across the Northwest to rally local churches and organizations to uphold proven standards for strengthening marriages and relationships, empower families, and reduce divorce in their community.

To form a strong CTP, it is crucial for the church community to become pro-active rather than remain reactive; act to prevent bad relationships while rebuilding hurting ones; to think comprehensively about enhancing, supporting, and fostering a community of healthy relationships.

This requires pro-active, and strategic brainstorming!

In the midst of busy church calendars, who has the time to rally local churches, find reliable research on marriage and families, discover resources that meet the diverse needs of couples and families, and then help the churches structure a strategy with a community-wide focus?

**FAMILIES NORTHWEST
BRINGS THIS RESOURCE TO YOUR COMMUNITY**

THE TARGETED FOCUS OF THE ROUNDTABLES

The **Community Strategy Roundtable** is a private, eight-hour strategy session amongst clergy and leaders for creating a community-transforming plan to raise the relational health of singles, couples, and families. Facilitated by Families Northwest, participants will interact together, pray together, and strategize together at the Roundtable.

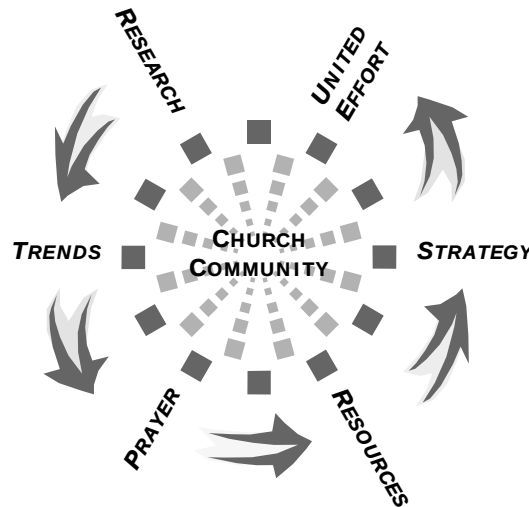
Instrumental to community-transformation is broadening the scope of ministry beyond the walls of an individual congregation to a comprehensive strategy that includes the unique talents, passions, and capabilities each church offers to the broader church community.

By embarking on such a united effort, relationship ministry will become more effective, church efforts will become more efficient, and the impact on the marriages, families, singles and other relationships will be overwhelmingly positive.

THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE ROUNDTABLES

The investment of time, energy, and brainpower by church leaders will pay off with great dividends for the marriages, families, singles, and churches in the community for years to come.

The agenda for the **Community Strategy Roundtable** is six-fold:



➤ ASSESS CURRENT CONDITIONS

Pastors will take a look at the most recent research and reliable data on marriage, divorce, and families, to form an accurate assessment of the present condition of relationships, the needs that exist, and their impact on the community.



➤ DETERMINE FUTURE TRENDS

After attaining a firm grasp on the current research on various relationships, pastors will look at current trends to gain foresight into tomorrow's family dynamics facing churches and communities. Detecting future trends allows for productive planning today, and positive results tomorrow.



➤ INITIATE FOCUSED PRAYER

After establishing a firm grasp on the current conditions and the future trends of family dynamics, pastors will pray for marriages, families, relationships, healing for hurting people, and for God-directed solutions by the church community.



➤ DISCOVER USEFUL RESOURCES

A plethora of resources exist to prepare, empower, and reconstruct most relationship issues and dynamics. Pastors will discover ministries, books, curriculums, web sites, and services to help churches in their quest to impact marriages and families.



➤ DESIGN A COMMUNITY STRATEGY

This brainstorm session enables pastors to deliberate on the opportunities and possibilities to establish a community-wide strategy that leverages the cooperative efforts of the extended church body. Pastors will formulate a practical strategy.



➤ EMBARK ON A UNITED EFFORT

Once the strategy has been decided upon, the pastors will determine how the strategy will be implemented, when it will begin, in what stages it will be deployed, where responsibilities will fall, how the strategy will be promoted, and other relevant factors. This will be the master plan for transforming the relational health of the community.

THE CLARK COUNTY CTP ROUNDTABLE SCHEDULE*

Round Table #1 May 18th at Crossroads Community Church 7708 NE 78th St - Vancouver, WA
8:30 AM—12:30 PM

Round Table #2 June 2nd at City Harvest Church 8100 NW 9th Ave - Vancouver, WA
8:30 AM —12:30 PM

* You are encouraged to attend both sessions