



**Prosperity
Development**

for

Ministries

WELCOME to prosperity development for ministries...

This manual is intended to support the development of prosperity consciousness among churches and individuals. It was first conceived by a dedicated team of individuals, and introduced at the June 2005 Prosperity Summit. At the Summit, Edwene Gaines and Harriet Valliere shared their thoughts about prosperity with a crowd of over 100 Unity people. An audio recording of these talks is available, along with a video of the presentation of the first ever Prosperity Consciousness Award to Catherine Ponder, at the Association of Unity Churches (contact email below). As a bonus, an interview with Catherine Ponder is include on the video—a great presentation for any prosperity class.

This is a downloadable manual for prosperity consciousness and fund development for the ministry. Created by the Association of Unity Churches International Prosperity and Fundraising Ministry Team, we are releasing a chapter at a time. Future releases are scheduled for every quarter of the year, until it is completed. This printed form includes the introduction and the first chapter. Please check www.unity.org and go to the link with the title.

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We wish you abundant life in all ways!

Introduction

By Harriet Valliere

This workbook was created to assist you in your fundraising. It is also a mirror to gently reflect into your awareness your attitudes about prosperity and how they affect your ministry. As you begin to use this workbook, I want to share some ideas that will place the task of fundraising in the larger context of prosperity consciousness. I am involved with Unity Institute on an ad hoc committee, and the Association of Unity Churches International® on the Fundraising Team. In both organizations, the largest issue seems to be the expressed need for more money. This introduction is presented because if the appearance of lack is present, it may be time to look deeper into what is necessary to prosper. Before I go on, please understand that the ideas presented here are not mine alone, but the ideas of Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, Catherine Ponder, Mary Katherine MacDougall, Eric Butterworth and others, who have given us the tools and rules. Yes, there are rules.

Consciousness

In *The Revealing Word*, Charles Fillmore defines consciousness as “the sense of awareness, of knowing. The knowledge or realization of any idea, object, or condition. The sum total of all ideas accumulated in and affecting man’s present being.” He adds that, “Divine ideas must be incorporated into our consciousness before they can mean anything to us. An intellectual concept does not suffice.” Consciousness is knowing that God will supply. It means having a relationship with the One Presence so powerful that all substance that is necessary flows into the situation. It is not knowledge, but a complete surrender to God emotionally, spiritually, and physically.

The following chapters of this manual give many ideas for fundraising. For many they will work initially. However, in

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times of stress, we are never as effective as we can be when we are “prayed up.” To begin creating, select those congregants whose consciousness is already dedicated to fundraising and prosperity. They need to be tithers and willing to take part in an on-going prayer group. I usually suggest that the prayer group be made up of at least seven and no more than twelve participants. Spiritual law will work with us to make the work not only a joyous experience, but will release the struggle and challenges of financing God’s work.

We in Unity have a mighty mission out there, and it begins with PRAYER. In churches I served, the first thing I did was to start a prayer group. Prayer groups served the Fillmores well in the early days. It may seem trivial; however, many people showed up for the prayer groups and the results were always positive, not only for the church, but for what was expressed in the lives of the individuals.

My personal feeling is that we short-circuit the energy of abundance when we continually rely only on programs that insist that the tithe be committed during a class. These programs are good for a time, but are not the entire answer. The energy is misdirected because the emphasis is placed on the physical and mental attitude of giving rather than on increasing the true spiritual understanding of prosperity, healing and well-being. Folks who are forced to tithe during a class do not always come to the true consciousness of tithing.

Serving God and each other is the reason for Unity to exist. Teaching and role-modeling the kindness and compassion we expect for ourselves is a perfect expression. I am not telling you that this is easy. However, it is necessary to have Spiritual

awareness to make it in the world as a Unity minister. Otherwise, the question of who will pay for this work goes unanswered.

In the most successful evangelical churches, the people automatically tithe. It is a taught and learned concept, which seems a bit difficult for the kind of free souls who are a large part of the Unity movement. The principle of tithing can and must be taught and role-modeled by the minister and board. I remind you also that Unity ministers, board and committee members who do not tithe cannot in any way expect the congregation to follow through by tithing—whether or not there is a class experience of tithing. The board and minister are, after all, the role-models, and their energy is felt, even though it may not be verbalized.

The old practice of the DAILY use of Prosperity Banks and appropriate affirmations were the “training wheels” of understanding the role of comfortable tithing. Available from Unity®, these were used by individuals who established the spiritual practice of daily giving their spare change into the bank. Once the bank was full, it was contributed to Unity®. The purpose of the Banks is to establish regular giving until it becomes a way of life. The practice of Prosperity Banks should begin in the earliest years as a part of Sunday School and Y.O.U. education. If you think that this Unity principle does not pay, then my belief is that you do not have the consciousness to be a successful leader of a Unity church. If these observations offend you, I will ask you to offer a better explanation. Ministers who are taking a new church often feel that they inherit “lack consciousness.” This feeling must be banished. Through prayer, teaching, modeling, and perseverance, the consciousness can be changed to one of harmony and abundance.

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If congregants are well-taught, the ministry will be well-supported.



After almost twenty-five years as a minister, I would be remiss if I stated that the minister has nothing to do with this learning process. By becoming less interested in your pulpit appearance and more interested in who and how you are as a spiritual leader, you will understand that you are fully responsible to perform your services by allowing Spirit to move through you with the Divine Ideas. "My Father never stops working, and so I keep working, too." (John 5:17 NCV)

I also know in my experience as an Interim Minister, that I entered a few congregations who were not as schooled as they could have been in the basics of Unity. This makes the job difficult for the new minister. They are often talking to people who do not fully understand Unity. I believe if congregants are well-taught, the ministry will be well-supported.

OTHER FACTORS

There are a number of other factors that interact with our prosperity consciousness. I have found the following ideas helpful as well.

Stewardship

Related to the principle of prosperity is the subject of stewardship. As funds flow into the ministry, do we use our wisdom to structure our priorities? Is the property in disrepair? Does the church environment need improvement? How do we decide where and how to use our resources? The answer is to go to God first, then to man as directed by Spirit. As we follow the guidance, our priorities will be clear and in order.

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Church Management

Good church management is also vital to the health and well-being of the entire church. Everyone's talents are different. Ministers who are not skilled in business management need to find a skilled manager who understands Unity principles. In addition, the manager and staff must be trained and furnished with appropriate job descriptions.

Good communication and mutual respect are paramount to avoid micro-managing by any party. The minister, because of his role, recognizes the skills and talents of his community and encourages volunteers to serve with their strengths. Harmonious relationships between and within the paid staff and volunteers is essential to the prosperity consciousness.

It seems that when a larger need is before us, if we do try to solve it quickly, the endeavors will be short-sighted, and often a Band-Aid™ instead of a solidly conceived plan. Plans without extensive thought and prayer often end up shelved, postponed, or just ignored. Without loving maintenance and continuous care of the buildings, grounds, and equipment, you will find apathy developing. The thought will be, "If no one can keep up the church now, why get all excited about future building and long-term debt?"

Each individual has his own ideas of what is appropriate. It is often helpful to recruit good planners within your own group, or to go out of the church proper to create the Master Plan. Even long-term Master Plans that must be changed are better than just a hit-and-miss type of consciousness that often prevails in churches without a deeper grasp on a real Prosperity Consciousness.

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Success

I also believe that general fundraising, just to keep afloat, is unwise. It is vital that any church who wants to succeed already be able to claim that supply and demand are equal. If the fundraising is always done in fear, and trying to make a monthly goal, that energy is passed on to the congregation, and the flow of money just to support the General Fund is constricted. Folks who are enthusiastic become that way by seeing growth and expansion ahead of the actual need to fundraise. Success IS as profound as failure. People know and eventually are willing to support even small successes, because they know it predicts the future.

Given all this, we look at the biggest asset and the biggest drawback you may face. The success and prosperity depends here on a big factor. Is the minister willing and committed to stay for a long enough time and make it work, or are there hidden agendas? For instance, “If this church does not grow, I will leave.” Actually some churches make an inappropriate choice when choosing a minister. It works best when there is a spiritual match, with a good sense of where folks are willing to live, and to be at peace. It is, however, appropriate for ministers to do as much as they feel they can accomplish, and then to leave with a clear awareness that there is more to do. Whatever is left to accomplish can then be left to the following leader. In this case, the people skills of the leadership are vital in the ongoing life of the Church.

Debts

Charles Fillmore, in *Prosperity*, reminds us that timely payment of debts is necessary for our church to prosper. We should not be looking to others to pay our debts. An example is churches that pass their bills and obligations on to congregants who are willing

to take that responsibility. Think for a moment what this practice does to the prosperity consciousness of the group. Surely there are better ways to serve the community and to raise the Spiritual consciousness of abundance.

Integrity

Often overlooked is the personal integrity of those who are involved in fundraising, ministering, and teaching Unity principles. For example, those who are unable to keep and handle their own banking and money, or do not take care of taxes, or are in any way dishonest, have no business acting on the church's behalf when involved in fundraising. Because the consciousness of lack affects the eventual outcome of any effort, it is unwise to appoint anyone with such a consciousness to handle money or to be responsible for any fiscal business.

Conclusion

This brings us back to consciousness. Spiritual consciousness is arrived at by going within and staying in that mode until the still, small voice can be heard. It takes time and effort to find the answers, although you will be richly rewarded if you are willing to do the work. We can lull ourselves into believing that this is not necessary, yet I have observed so many successes when the principles are applied. The excuse that we cannot succeed, because of some force outside ourselves, is pure nonsense. Establishing a powerful inner connection is our true work and, when that is manifest, All Good follows.

I honor all those who have taught me, and I fully give thanks for the opportunity to share my ideas with you. Stick with the progress of this manual, and put ideas to the prayer test. With prayer, what is right and perfect for you will be revealed and you will be provided with the perfect plan as well as all the zeal and energy needed to implement the Divine Ideas.

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