

Subject: Church Growth & Management

Midweek Services

Annie

revgrn2@aol.com

The best format I have seen thus far is Mile Hi's Wednesday night service. They have a terrific band called "The Most Dangerous Church Band" who leads off the service with a theme for the week and then one of the Associates Ministers does a talk. There is singing along with words on screens so people are not looking down at their programs. It's fun, lighthearted most of the time, unless the occasion calls for some seriousness. Maybe your practitioners could speak?

Carol

We have been doing drumming, facilitated meditation with percussive instruments, An evening of Rumi and Mystical poetry and of course the occasional visiting speaker.

People seem to really love the variety.

Soni Cantrell-Smith

We are doing "There's no place like OHM". It is a chanting service in which we not only ohm but do different chants from other spiritual paths. It only last an hour. Each person sets an intention (takes about five minutes) we ohm or chant for 40 minutes. We then share our experience.

People usually wear sweats and bring a pillow. The room is saged first and we use candlelight. It is really powerful when you have twenty to thirty people all chanting the same thing. It doesn't have to be a song or written chant. Sometime it is just a word like Shalom or Allah. Maybe the word Holy or Amen. I usually change the word after 5 minutes.

Cynthia James

At Mile Hi, our mid week is mostly music and then a small message. We use themes (ie. Motown, Jazz, Celtic, etc) We have a band every week and have the message connect with the music. It has proven successful especially since themes came in. We also incorporate dance or poetry when appropriate.

Joan O'Keefe

We've got our drumming circle and mystical poets' night--Rumi, Hafiz and other favorites. There's a bit of ecstatic dance once in awhile to go along.

Milli Bradley

We are in a large circle with me in that circle. I start with an invocation, then have reporting from anyone who has a breakthrough or a "brief" sharing.....Then, I ask for prayer requests.....I then take them through a guided visualization that is geared to take them to a place where it is easy to visualize themselves free from conditions mentioned in prayer request.....

I end with a Spiritual Mind Treatment while they are still in their sacred place. (I find they embody more from that place). Bringing all consciousness fully present, there is time for a couple of reports. This whole process lasts about an hour and perhaps five minutes over from time to time.

I do not pass a basket, or put one out anywhere.....I tell them this is my gift to me and they are welcome to come and listen in.....It has made a great deal of difference in many lives.....

Sandhi

We are a small group on Wednesdays and its really a spiritual smorgasbord. We begin by chanting and then read from Hindu, Buddhist and Course in Miracles teachings – one at a time. We end with chanting. I love it because my prior Wednesdays were repeats of the Sunday service. It draws people from the community that do not attend church.

Sharon M. Ramey

Up in Seattle, we're doing "deepening." Meditation, chanting, taize, etc.

Bonnie Rose

I know that you already do Taize - I've done Taize, midweek healing. I'm also thinking about doing something that is more focused on "demonstrations" - kind of like Christian Scientist midweek testimonial - but haven't worked out the details yet.

We also have a gal who has singing bowls mid-week.

Rev. Ron Threatt**A Proposal to Conduct Midweek Evening Services**

Brief Synopsis

Purpose:	To teach SOM Principles to the <u>non-church</u> community in an innovative self-enlightening learning process.
What:	Rise Up : a contemporary Midweek Evening Service which offers an interactive communication learning process.
Duration:	50 weeks
Who:	Rev. Ron Threatt, MDiv, Catherine Espinoza, RScP
When:	Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, 5:30 to 8:00 P.M
Benefits:	Community recognition, Development of home groups, Additional Income, External Church Marketing, Focused Visioning Core, Innovative Service/Gatherings, New market growth

What is Rise Up?

The theme of **Rise Up** is **RENEW, REPLENISH and ACHIEVE**.

The purpose of **Rise Up** is to teach and share the principles of SOM using common language and tools people can use in their daily life practices.

Rise Up was developed to attract both the non-churchgoer as well as those who are interested in building community, in spiritual development, and/or in the acquisition of methodologies which further their personal wellbeing.

The **Rise Up** format has been successful in attracting church membership growth and in creating a continuing attendance commitment to a midweek service. The core messages focus on building a deeper inner relationship with Spirit as a foundation for empowering personal, familial and community relationships. **Rise Up** targets the fostering of community by encouraging the creation of “sangas” or home- based groups, built around shared personal interests and service opportunities.

RENEW

Rise Up begins with a 45 minute Visioning session, usually at 5:30 P.M. The Visioning group is composed of Practitioners, church members and other interested individuals who focus on the expanded vision of the **Rise Up** service in their community.

A 20- minute silent meditation with harp music, led by Catherine Espinoza, RScP, follows the Visioning session.

REPLENISH

We encourage the communal sharing of food and conversation prior to the service/gathering. A light repast provides substance to those who come from work, and

it is a great methodology to build relationships and establish home- based groups. These home groups, or *sangas*, collectively create and develop an aspect of the greater vision of **Rise Up** and support each other in the integration of the weekly assignments.

ACHIEVE

Rise Up is a coordinated, whole- brain, worship process. **Rise Up** is a service/gathering complete with a brief curriculum- based message and appropriate musical inspiration.

Rise Up is organized as a course of study as well, with an integrated learning/teaching module and weekly integrated spiritual learning homework. **Rise Up** is an interactive fellowship; each service/gathering has opportunities for congregants to respond and share vocally and artistically, as questions, testimonies and hidden talents surface. **Rise Up** is a ritual- based experience to deepen and open the heart. One service each month is designed as a Taize or devotional ritual evening, giving individuals an opportunity to contemplate and reflect.

Rise Up has developed five basic curriculums incorporating the teachings of Ernest Holmes, founder of Science of Mind.

The first series is a 20 week curriculum, ***The What, When and How of Personal Success and Abundant Living***. This series is based extensively on the book, Creative Mind and Success, by Ernest Holmes.

The second series is a four week practicum which focuses on ***Compassionate Communication – The Language of the Soul***.

The third series, which begins the third week of November, is a 6 week program entitled, ***The Season of Light- The Spiritual Masters series***. Here we explore the works of several great mystics of different faiths and practices with an interpersonal re-dramatization perspective. Jesus the Christ is featured the last weeks of December.

The fourth series is a six week, **40 day plan for a Purpose Driven Life**. This series is a metaphysical adaptation of the Rick Warren Christian series, where SOM teachings supplant Bible Scriptures.

The fifth series is a four week **Journey of Faith** program to assist the sponsoring church in its Giving and Tithing programs.

Proposed Agreements

Rev. Ron will provide:

- **Rise Up** Services
- Development and Funding of all marketing (both external newspaper and internal church)

- All Out- of- Pocket Expenses associated with **Rise Up**, including musical talent, programs, telephone, and mailing costs.

The sponsoring Church will provide:

- Church sanctuary
- Kitchen and eating facilities
- Classroom for visioning
- Sound and duplication resources.

The Church will provide the above resources to **Rise Up** between the hours of 6:00-9:00 P.M. on the agreed- upon evening for 50 weeks, designating a minister or practitioner as the supervising authority.

Rev. Ron and Infinite Ministries will pay to the sponsoring Church each month 40% of revenues generated from services after expenses. Expenses are defined as the cost of marketing, musical talent, food, materials, program expenses, child care, telephone and mailing costs. Records will be provided.

R E V . R O N T H R E A T T
126 MERK RD – WATSONVILLE, CA 95076
(831) 768-7957 HOME • (831) 970-6252 CELL
<mailto:revronthreatt@sbcglobal.net>

Core Competencies: Youth and Family Ministries
Rise Up Midweek Service/Gatherings
Community Development and Outreach
Church Organization and Planning

Faith based and Church Affiliations:

Special Focus Ministry: Infinite Blessings – A Workplace Ministry

2004 -

Unity Care Group

Spiritual Leader and Regional Director

Directs activities for four at-risk youth group homes and community wraparound and foster care programs.

Huntington Beach Church of RS

Rev. Peggy Price Sr. Minister, (Retired)

Revs. Jack and Ruth Deaton, Interim Ministers

2003 – 2004

Assistant Minister

Responsibilities:

Sunday Service Speaking and Platform

Wednesday Night Rise Up Service
Youth and Family Ministries
Education and Spiritual Studies
Mentoring Ministerial Interns

Seaside Church of RS

Rev. Christian Sorensen. Sr. Minister

1992 – 96, 99 -2003 **Practitioner, Member**

Classes taken: Practitioner I

Service: Practitioner 1999-2003

Board of Director 1993-6, President, Treasurer

Family and Youth Ministries, Co-Director, Men's Group, Director

Agape Intl Center of Truth

Rev. Dr. Michael Beckwith, Sr. Minister

1998-9

Practitioner

Inner Light Ministries

Rev. Deborah Johnson,

Minister

1997-8

Practitioner

Service: Board of Directors

Santa Cruz Church of RS

Rev. Sandy Summers, Minister

1996

Practitioner

Classes Taught: SOMI

Pacific Church of RS

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hearn, Sr. Minister

1988 – 92

Member

Classes taken: SOM I, II, III

Education

1966–1970 UCLA

Los Angeles, CA

• B.A./Psychology

1970–1972 UCLA

Los Angeles, CA

▪ M.A/Social Research/Statistics

1974 – 1975 University California

Berkeley, CA

▪ MPH/ Health Administration and Planning

2000 – 2003 Holmes Institute

Encinitas, CA

M.Div /Spiritual Consciousness Studies

Ministerial Internships

Holmes Institute, San Diego Campus

Rev. Alice Bandy

Hemet Church of RS

Rev. Michael Summers

Pacific Church of RS

Rev. Duchess Dale

Guest Speaker Engagements

- Whittier Church of RS
- Golden Circle Church of RS
- Huntington Beach Church of RS
- Pacific Church of RS
- Seaside Church of RS
- Laguna Nigel Church of RS
- Ventura Church of RS

Program Developments

- Co-Created and implemented a RS Youth Ministry program and curriculum for 6yr – preteens – Seaside, Huntington Beach.
- Developed Church Prosperity and Membership Growth program for RS Churches
- Created Business Blessings – an outreach program to support businesses and employees
- Shared Values Team Leadership enrichment and commitment program
- Developed a Weeknight Healing and Revealing service - PCRS
- Created a Practitioner Pastoral Care program – PCRS

Workshops and Classes

- Betrayal to Trust Forgiveness Workshop –an annual Easter event
- Resolutions to Reality – an annual New Years workshop
- Classes Taught
 - Treatment and Meditation class – PCRS
 - Foundations – Santa Cruz

Summary of Secular Experiences

Division V.P. Medicus Systems

- Developed infrastructure and managed the County Medical Services (CMS) Primary Care program, providing medical services to 500,000 uninsured in San Diego.
- Primary responsible for system contracting of 400 physicians and 23 medical facilities and centers.
- Managed a staff of 57, with operations budgeted at \$40M.

Chief Executive Officer – Comprehensive Health Centers

- Overall management responsibility for three clinics and 27 medical professionals


- Directed a staff of 97

Family

Life Partner – Catherine Espinoza, RScP. – Musician, Adult and Children’s Choir Director, Noted Storyteller, Co-Creator of Youth and Children’s SOM curriculum.

Children – Malcolm, 37; Yusef, 27; Saffronia, 17, freshman, Stanford University

Rise Up Wednesdays



Rev. Ron Threatt

A Spiritual Experience of
**Renewal, Replenishment
and Achievement**

Need a mid week spiritual pick-me-up? Are you looking for a place where you can experience warm, caring and wonderful people having fun with lots of laughter? What about eating a delicious wholesome meal with outrageous desserts?

And while we are at it, how about enjoying wonderful upbeat music with fabulous artists who will open your heart?

I am personally extending an invitation for you to join us as we explore the works of Spiritual Masters, during November and December . You will not want to miss any of this month’s powerful tools for abundant living.

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|---------------------------|---|
| November 5th | <i>Howard Thurman – African American Mysticism</i> |
| November 12th | <i>Hildegard von Bingen – Feminine Mysticism</i> |
| November 19th | <i>Ernest Holmes – Science of Mind Founder</i> |
| November 26th | <i>A Special Thanksgiving Gratitude Service – starting with 5:30 Meditation; 5:45 Turkey Potluck Meal</i> |
| December 10 th | <i>Jesus Christ – Finding the messages of the Parables</i> |
| December 17 th | <i>Jesus Christ –Special Music and Dramatic Presentations</i> |

Your Heart will Open, Your Mind will Expand and your Soul will Rejoice



- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 6:15 – 6:35 | Meditation: a time of <i>Renewal</i> of Spirit and rest for the Mind |
| 6:45 – 7:10 | A Community Pot Luck Meal Sharing: A time to <i>Replenish</i> the Body with great and beloved recipes and outrageous deserts. |

7:15 – 8:30 Tools for Successful Living: a joy-filled fun experiential process of individual and community goal *Achievement* with uplifting music and stories

Possibilities in Action

LIVING IN TRUST AND GRACE

1. Spend 15 minutes, TWICE DAILY, seeing and speaking your mental image or idea.

2. My Daily Work

- Each day for 10 minutes sit still and see your life as fulfillment of every wish and dream you currently have.
- Write a letter or note someone you hold in gratitude for a week.
- Give freely and gratefully \$1 (or \$5-\$20) to someone or some cause or organization you do not know or familiar with.

Rise Up! Wednesdays

The Gathering

October 15, 2003

Prelude.....Catherine Espinoza, RScP

Singing from the Heart OM Shanti

Raising the Light.....Maxine Garret

Welcome/Invocation.....Rev. Ron

Musical Inspiration.....Catherine Espinoza, RScP

Greetings..... Rev. Ron

Tales of WisdomCatherine Espinoza, RScP

Lessons of Success and Power Rev. Ron
"Gratitude as A Way of Life "

**Creating Wealth and Abundance in our Life -
The Sharing of our Tithes and Offerings**

Affirmation for the week

Benediction..... Rev. Ron
"The Praising, Raising Prayer"

THE PINCH HITTER

1. Describe an experience you had at age 13 that changed your perception of the world in some way.
2. When and from whom have you received the opportunity to "pinch hit?"
3. Describe a time in which you were thrown grapefruits and/or Bayer Aspirins to hit.
4. Where in your life are you "crutching and legging" along?
5. What is your metaphysical take on the game of baseball?

Affirmation for the Week

All that I AM is about God. My mind only holds the visions and thoughts of the Divine Mind. I stand for God in all my affairs.

I AM free to expect and receive all my good with humility and gratitude.

I AM whole, complete and loved. And So It is.

October 15, 2003

Evening Inspirations

Minister.....Rev Ron Threatt
Meditation/Wisdom Tales.....Catherine Espinoza, RScP
Practitioner Welcome.....Shem Sandefur, RScP
Inspiration of Light.....Maxine Garret
Sound Technician.....Richard McLaughlin, RScP

Inspiration for the Week:
*Qualities: **Gratitude***
“Gratitude as a Way of Life”

Study Points:

1. LIFE IS A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DIVINE.
2. WE ATTRACT TO OURSELVES WHAT WE MOST THINK ABOUT.
3. TRUST IN THE HIGHER LAW.
4. BE GRATEFUL; BE PATIENT..

References: Ernest Holmes, *Creative Mind and Success*, pages 83-85

Growth Success List

- ✓ **Clearing the Land for growth**
 - **Removed boulders and stumps of the past**
 - **I see my fruit as already complete**
- ✓ **Planting the Seed**
 - **My seed are planted in fertile soil**
 - **I Speak my word and it is done as I believe**
- ✓ **Nurturing New Growth**
 - **Taking risk and going deep**
 - **All in my life supports me**
 - **Weeding out Doubt**
- ✓ **Harvesting the Fruits**
 - **Opening to my Good**
 - **Receiving my Good**
 - **Attitude of Gratitude**