

Building a Prayer Ministry

By Rev. Dr. Robert Winterhalter

A Prayer Ministry is made up of members of the church or study group who have a high spiritual consciousness, and who are willing to meet regularly to pray scientifically with and for those who have made prayer requests. To have others working with you in Spirit and in Truth can be a great help. You will find that when you have an attuned, dedicated group to work with you in the healing ministry, your success will be amplified and the consciousness of the church or study group will be progressively purified and uplifted.

Exactly how you go about setting up your local prayer ministry, to work with you in the vital healing ministry of Divine Science, will differ with the people who are available to assist you in this way.

It is strongly recommended that you give your prospective prayer workers a course, to include at least six hours of instruction plus actual practice in spiritual prayer treatment. Since you are seeking active volunteer workers by means of this course, it would be best to offer it at no charge. You can use parts of the Practitioner Course that you took while a student in one of the Divine Science schools of education. Be sure, also, to acquaint your students with *Divine Science: Its Principle and Practice*; *Divine Science and Healing*, by Malinda E. Cramer; and *In the Light of Healing*, compiled from the writings of Nona Brooks.

There are two ways you can recruit a group of prayer workers:

(1) Seek Divine guidance in meditation, and then hand-pick the people for the group; or,

(2) Make a six-week class available to all who wish to attend, and then let the individuals screen themselves as to whether they want to commit to being a part of the prayer ministry group. Either method is proper. Regarding the second option, however, we have found that people know intuitively, upon completion of such a course, whether this activity is “right for them” at the time. Inform them that it is no reflection on their good character if they give an honest “no” answer.

Upon graduation and acceptance into the prayer ministry, members would meet together with the Minister/Spiritual Leader once a week at a mutually convenient time. The meetings would include prayer treatment for individuals who have requested it, for the progress of the local ministry, and on a larger scale as Spirit directs. This is the core of the group’s work.

Meetings would also include continuing education in scientific prayer treatment and other topics tending to deepen spiritual consciousness and insight. Members can take turns, each reading a paragraph of a book or article, and then allowing any member of the group to comment. This procedure is certain to elicit relevant questions, which members will ask the leader, and this will lead to greater clarity for all concerned. Other resources that can supplement--but should not replace--the use of written materials include relevant audiotapes and videotapes. These can, of course, be stopped at any time during a meeting, to allow for discussion and questions.

And now, a few specifics:

A *locked* box with a slot on the top, with the words “Prayer Requests” or the equivalent, is conveniently placed where members and guests of the group can deposit prayer requests. The contents of this box must be removed by the leader, or by a designated member of the group, at least once a week. There is absolutely no excuse for failing to do so.

Of course, the Minister/Spiritual Leader or a member of the group may also receive prayer requests at any time in person, by mail, by e-mail, by phone, at a worship service, or by some other means of communication.

It is essential that those requesting help be assured that their prayer requests will be held in strictest confidence. The importance of this, and of actually adhering to this standard, cannot be overemphasized. People who cannot keep their mouths shut are unqualified for this work.

Design a Prayer Request Form. Such a form will include the three basic categories of health, illumination and prosperity, and may also include others. Make these forms readily available, and specifically mention them at worship services, classes, and other public meetings. It is also a good idea to include a prayer request form in your newsletter, along with a free will offering form. These forms may be included in other mailings as deemed appropriate. Be sure to include a self-addressed envelope for convenience in replying.