



HTCC Delivers Couples ADVANCE! @ Santa Fe Church

*Transform your union into unity
(of purpose)! Learn how unity is
oneness of purpose, but not
sameness of persons.*

By Ron & Geri Swingle, Founders of HTCC



ADVANCE!



*ADVANCE Promo Video
(Click Image to Watch)*

Christ Church Santa Fe (CCSF), a congregation of 200 people, located in Santa Fe, New Mexico asked Hidden Treasure Coaching and Consulting (HTCC) to partner with them in delivering a Saturday workshop centered on building up the married couples in the church – an event we call ADVANCE!.

ADVANCE! is different than other marriage events that use an emotional-processing focus for couples struggling or in crisis. ADVANCE! is more about practical help to move good marriages forward.

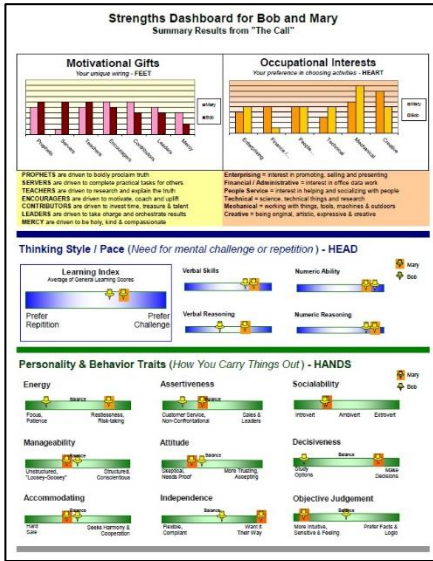
From a high-level perspective, goals for ADVANCE were threefold:

1. Provide tools to help make your marriage better

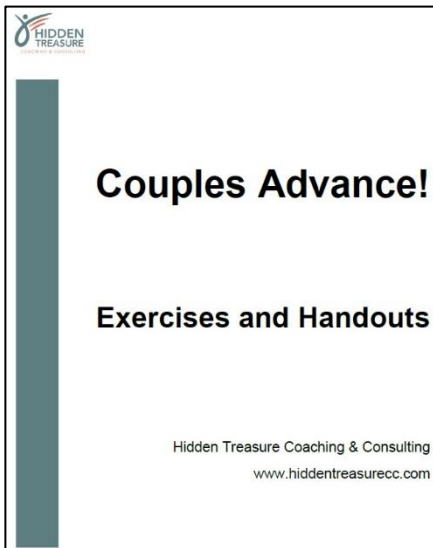
2. Learn how to operate as a team within your marriage
3. Discover God’s calling for your team/ marriage

During the planning phase of ADVANCE!, a number of key questions were asked of Ron and Geri in an effort to get an understanding of what was going to happen at this event – what were the expectations, outcomes and key messages being delivered by HTCC. Here are excerpts from that important dialogue:

Goal 1: Tools to make your marriage better. “How, more specifically, can these tools help make my marriage “better”? In other words, what is the problem marriages in this day and age most fundamentally need to solve?”



Sample Couple's Assessment Report



ADVANCE Workshop Workbook

We desire to address the common issues that find their source in not knowing, understanding and embracing, 1st your own wiring, and then your mate's. Acknowledging being different than your spouse is not a broken thing to be fixed; but rather, a point of leverage, if those differences are brought together and seen as complementary strengths- the whole being stronger than the individual parts. In this day and age, what is often admired and modeled is living independently and self-sufficiently - even within a marriage – instead of interdependently and aware of our need for one another. God designed us for the latter.

Goal 2: Learning how to operate as a team. “I wonder if teamwork is an obvious and naturally intuitive way that people realistically think about and evaluate the health of their marriages. At the risk of understatement, what are the advantages (benefits) of teamwork in a marriage? Said another way, what are the most challenging problems in healthy marriages that are solved by “operating as a team”? I was fascinated by something you wrote about our “God Given Wiring” . . . are we

wired for operating as a team?” *Marriage as a team is another way of looking at the transformation of two becoming one, as Genesis sets up in the 1st model of the marriage relationship. Adam and Eve had different roles, but a common mission/calling: to populate the earth and have dominion over all living things = what they were to do. And having unabashedly intimate relationship with God = what they were to be about. Where there is a uniting or union, there can be a unity of purpose that causes the unit – or team – to be able to think, dream and act in larger ways than is possible as an individual. As that translates into mission and calling: Operating as a team is essential for God-sized visions.*

Goal 3: Discovering God's calling for your team / marriage. “Do you mean by this that God has a unique calling for each marriage? And that this calling is grounded in teamwork? Are there some archetypes that you can share with me about couples who have found God's callings as a team? Couples who have discovered a calling to (service) (gratitude) (outreach) (teaching) (edifying) . . . I'm trying not so much to get at what these callings

Church Feedback:

“I thought the strength assessment, the presentation and the presenters were great!”

“My favorite was understanding the layers of my wiring and my spouse’s and seeing ours side-by-side...So much stuff that can be applied in everyday living as a couple.”

“The best part was watching the couples’ connections deepen as the day went on...And the group discussions.”

“The workshop was very valuable...a great investment in our marriage. And Ron and Geri’s enthusiasm and authenticity really made it engaging.”

“I appreciated the perspective they presented about differences – they can be used as a positive, to lean into one another, instead of seeing it as something broken that needs fixed.”

look like, but the fruit that comes out of them. . .(patience) (goodness) (long-suffering) . . .does this make sense to you?” *In a word: yes. We believe that just as God has uniquely designed us as individual men and women for specific life missions/purpose, that He preordained a unique calling or mission for each marriage. In both cases, we are made in His image, and are to reflect His character. Our calling can be found inside of the specific part of His nature we are designed to reflect. Scripture has a lot to say about being distinctly different parts of the same Body; and the necessity of each of us playing our part in order for the whole Body to work well. (As far as examples of couples who have found God’s calling as a team, we have lots of couples we have had the honor of working with on this very subject of discovering God’s calling/mission for them as a couple...Stories better shared across a table...)*

One Additional Question:

“Which of these three outcomes are most important and why?” *The most important outcome is the next one! These outcomes attempt to cover different stages/seasons of our journeys in which we may be currently working*

out our understanding of how our God-given strengths are part of His intentional equipping for us to fulfill His purposes through our life mission(s) – as men, women and couples who desire to follow Christ’s model.

The Approach

Weeks before ADVANCE!, each participant completed an online assessment questionnaire for The Call™, a faith-based tool used to uncover each person’s unique wiring. Participants then used their results during a group training and debrief session covered during ADVANCE!, focusing on the layers of each person’s wiring: Motivation Gifts, Occupational Interests, Thinking Style, and Personality & Behavior Traits.

After people learned about their own wiring, the discussion moved up a level to focusing on their wiring as a couple. To facilitate this, one additional tool was used: each couple’s assessment results were plotted on the same graph making it very clear where their wiring is similar and different. This data-centered approach proved to be a very powerful framework for discussion, learning and future planning for the couples.

“I liked that it was a workshop format, not a lecture. We could all engage with the material through exercises, which will help make the concepts stick.”

“The best part for me was viewing marriage as a team and learning tools that can be practically used.... Also, learning more about my strengths.”

“I really liked the open discussion time, and Ron and Geri’s honesty about their own marriage challenges.”

“Learning about having a mission statement as a couple really challenged me.”

“I embraced this [workshop] as a catalyst for movement towards God’s purpose for us a couple.”

“I liked that we had time to process things and do exercises individually and as a couple.”

Next, the discussion moved up another level to learning some best practices for Teams – and stretching their thinking about their marriage being a team.

Finally, the focused shifted to the highest strategic level; that is, couples learned about, and worked on, completing a Couple’s Mission Statement. Suffice it to say, discussion during this time was lively and rich!

The Results

The success of this event was already visible when 23 couples signed up to attend. Even the pastor was surprised at that response! The pastor’s sponsorship and involvement in ADVANCE! –from the 1st planning discussions to the day of – was a key success factor. He had even laid the ground work for the event by doing a sermon series on marriage topics during the weeks beforehand.

Another success factor we could verify by the enthusiastic sign-ups and the feedback, was the vital engagement of the men of these marriages. We were intentional in using the framework of “marriage as a team” and focusing on tangible tools & data for the basis of our program to

overcome possible objections relating to a preconceived expectation of the event being emotionally focused.

We used a feedback survey at the end of ADVANCE! to gather data that we used to measure the success – in terms of participants’ satisfaction levels. Here are a few takeaways from those surveys:

Top 3 “most enjoyed” parts:

1. Presenters/presentation/ material covered
2. Group & couple discussion times
3. The Call Strength Assessment debrief

About Hidden Treasure Coaching & Consulting:

Our mission is to help men, women, married couples and teams find and fulfill their God-given mission by facilitating and coaching them to exceed their own limitations. We accomplish this through workshops, retreats, seminars, and keynote speaking, as well as individual coaching and Life Planning. We are passionate about working with teams, churches and organizations ready to be mission-driven as well.

www.hidden-treasurecc.com