




Essential Elements for Effective Health Ministry



Fred Hardinge, DrPH, RD
Associate Health Ministries Director
General Conference of SDA




1



What is the "Health Message"?

- More than a set of scientifically established health practices.
- More important than its component parts.
- Does far more than modern science can demonstrate.
- Eternal health benefits ONLY come from Jesus.
- The Seventh-day Adventist health message, can bring the dead to life.




2




Work under the unction of the Holy Spirit.




3




"The influence of the Holy Spirit is needed that the work may be properly balanced, and that it may move forward solidly in every line." CH 516



4



"He uses the gospel ministry, medical missionary work, and the publications containing present truth to impress hearts. All are made effectual by means of faith. As the truth is heard or read, the **Holy Spirit sends it home** to those who hear and read with an earnest desire to know what is right." Ev 547



5



Focus on Building Long-term Relationships

6



Traditional Health Ministry

- Host an event that happens 4 nights a week for 4-6 weeks
- Professionals do the presentations or use videos/DVDs
- This event interrupts the life of the church...
- When it is over we breathe a collective “Whew!”
- Evaluate its success on the basis of immediate baptisms!



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Free Time Status Has Changed

- 20-40 years ago people had more free time
- A program that convenes 20+ times in 4-6 weeks excludes a majority of people
- Attract primarily the retired, unemployed, and socially unique
- There are exceptions, but they are rare!



8



“For years light has been given upon this point, showing the necessity of following up an interest that has been raised, and in no case leaving it until all have decided that lean toward the truth, and have experienced the conversion necessary for baptism, and united with some church, or formed one themselves.” Ev. 324



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Low-Intensity Programs Provide...

- Continual influence in the community from month-to-month, year-to-year
- Tend not to wear out the talent pool of church members
- Maximizes the church/community interface when done properly
- Can be conducted in any church regardless of talent mix



10



“It is through the social relations that Christianity comes in contact with the world... Social relations, sanctified by the Spirit of Christ, must be improved in bringing souls to the the Savior.” MH 296



11



- Recognize health ministry is a process not an event.
- HM is not a magic bullet.
- Must plan structured follow-up activities.
- God’s Word and prayer are the only way to bring about permanent transformation in lives.




12




**Share Jesus as
the Only
Effective Agent
of Change**




13





"Medical missionary work is in no case to be divorced from the gospel ministry. The Lord has specified that the two shall be as closely connected as the arm is with the body. Without this union neither part of the work is complete. The medical missionary work is the gospel in illustration." CH 424




14




"The gospel of health is to be firmly linked with the ministry of the Word. It is the Lord's design that the restoring influence of health reform shall be a part of the last great effort to proclaim the gospel message." MM 259


15



- There are a lot of godless behavior change programs.
- Goal of our programs must be to introduce people to the only Power that can effect permanent change.




16




What is the Real Problem?


- Poor food choices?
- Lack of exercise?
- Anxiety or depression?
- Too much television?
- A weak experience with God?
- High fructose corn syrup?
- Too much wheat?
- GM foods?



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"To arouse those spiritually dead, to create new tastes, new motives, requires as great an outlay of power as to raise one from physical death. It is indeed giving life to the dead to convert the sinner from the error of his ways..." RH March 12, 1901 (Emphasis mine)



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Jesus is the Life Giver

- Health message is not to be separated from the gospel message.
- The most skillful and perceptive scientist cannot bring the DEAD TO LIFE.
- Only the Gospel actually brings the dead to life.
- Jesus is the health giver.



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Our Mission

- Our health message loses its power if it is separated from the gospel message.
- Health principles alone may yield a few years of additional life.
- Our commission is teach and demonstrate that the power to change comes from Jesus.



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Medical Malpractice

“Medical malpractice is professional negligence by act or omission by a health care provider in which the treatment provided falls below the accepted standard of practice in the medical community and causes injury or death to the patient, with most cases involving medical error.” -- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_malpractice



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Spiritual Malpractice

Spiritual malpractice is negligence by act or omission by a Christian who fails to share the availability of God’s power to change and heal, thereby causing continuing pain and injury and eventual eternal death.



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Gospel and Health Reform United

“The gospel is to be bound up with the principles of true health reform. The gospel and the medical missionary work are to advance together. Christianity is to be brought into the practical life.” 6 T 379



23



Inability to Change is the Basic Human Problem

“But man cannot transform himself by the exercise of his will. He possesses no power by which this change can be effected. ... All the culture and education which the world can give will fail of making a degraded child of sin a child of heaven. The renewing energy must come from God.” Christ’s Object Lessons 96-97



24



"We should ever remember that the object of the medical missionary work is to point sin-sick men and women to the Man of Calvary, who takes away the sin of the world." CDF 458



25



Love People More Than Health Principles!

26



"We don't make the health reform an iron bedstead, cutting people off or stretching them out to fit it. One person cannot be a standard for everybody else. What we want is a little sprinkling of good common sense. Don't be extremists. If you err, it would be better to err on the side of the people than on the side where you cannot reach them." 1SAT 12



27



"When those who advocate hygienic reform carry the matter to extremes, people are not to blame if they become disgusted. Too often our religious faith is thus brought into disrepute, and in many cases those who witness such exhibitions of inconsistency can never afterward be brought to think that there is anything good in the reform. These extremists do more harm in a few months than they can undo in a lifetime. **They are engaged in a work which Satan loves to see go on.**" CD 195.3



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Troublesome Classes

"Two classes have been presented before me: first, those who are not living up to the light which God has given them; secondly, those who are too rigid in carrying out their one-sided ideas of reform, and enforcing them on others. When they take a position, they stand to it stubbornly, and carry nearly everything over the mark." CD 196.1



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"Let them find out what constitutes true health reform and teach its principles, both by precept and by a quiet, consistent example." CH 449



30



Promote Only Information
(Avoid Conflict of Interest)

31



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Naaman

- 2 Kings 5: Story of Naaman
- What healed Naaman?
- *"...it was only through following the specific directions of the prophet that he could find healing. Willing obedience alone would bring the desired result."* Prophets & Kings 249



33



Greed

- Wonderful story has a sad chapter...
- Gehazi's greed=conflict of interest
- Temptation to sell something to those disadvantaged and personally profit.



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Examples for Today

- Unproven health products
- Multi-level marketing schemes
 - ◆ nutraceuticals
 - ◆ botanicals
 - ◆ Ad nauseum



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Gehazi's Conflict of Interest

"Solemn are the lessons taught by this experience of one to whom had been given high and holy privileges. The course of Gehazi was such as to place a stumbling block in the pathway of Naaman, upon whose mind had broken a wonderful light, and who was favorably disposed toward the service of the living God." PK 251



36



Solution

“...not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.” I Cor 10:33 NKJV



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A Most Effective Work

1. Passionate about sharing the power of Christ, His Word and prayer as the only agents of change.
2. Recognize HM is a process, not an event; and is committed to building long-term relationships through structured follow-up activities.
3. We love people more than we love the health message.
4. Conducted in the local church where possible.
5. Offer accurate, evidence-based health programs.
6. Sell only solid, accurate information.



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Markers of Christ-like Health Ministry

1. It will look as if Jesus is back in town!
2. Is a ministry not just a program or a methodology.
3. Focuses on wellness, not just disease treatment.
4. Offers a continuum of whole-person care—physical, social, spiritual and mental wellbeing.

Comprehensive Health Ministry



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