

HEALTH MINISTRIES LEADER

A MINISTRY DESCRIPTION FOR LOCAL CHURCH LEADERS

Introduction

Health ministries are an integral part of the mission of the Adventist Church. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31). Health ministry is the gospel of Christ illustrated, the message of God practiced. Without it, the gospel witness is muted; it is merely a theory, an idea.

The most important objective of health ministry is to help men and women reach their full potential, mentally, spiritually and physically. To reach full potential, health principles must be practiced.

The more closely these principles are followed, the better health the person enjoys. The more active a church is in public health education, the more effective will be its public evangelism, for health is the most universal entering wedge.

Duties of the Health Ministries Leader

The ministry to which a person is called when he or she becomes the health ministries leader in a local church can be described in the following ways:

1. *Health promotion.* Keeping church members aware of the importance of health and educating new members on the significance of health and temperance is one of the major responsibilities of the health ministries leader. This responsibility should be carried out at every opportunity; however, in the second week of October, a special program and emphasis should be planned. The Health Emphasis Week is a unique opportunity to increase the level of awareness and practice of health principles in your local church. Ministry is most effective when there is adequate personnel and financial resource. Request a budget from your church board early in their fiscal year. Get the support of your pastor and church leaders for any project you undertake. The last Sabbath in February of each year is set aside to create an awareness of our health and temperance journals: *The Winner* for children, *Listen* for teens, and *Vibrant Life* for adults.
2. *Continuing health education.* There is a question asked in the New Testament, "How can they learn without a teacher?" This is especially true regarding the health education of new church members. The health ministries leader is responsible for the health education of the new members in the Adventist lifestyle. Here are a few suggestions:
 - a. Provide each new member with the pamphlet *Good Health in One Package*. This little pamphlet, available from *The Health Connection* catalogue, explains the eight basic principles of health and temperance. Call (1-800-548-8700).
 - b. Invite the new church members systematically, for the first few months at least, to your home or to the church's fellowship dinners, to acquaint them with vegetarian food.
 - c. Loan or give them one of the Ellen G. White health classics, especially *Ministry of Healing*.
 - d. Ask them to assist your local church in outreach programs.
 - e. Invite them to training seminars on health ministry; invite them to camp meeting or other special meetings on health.
3. *Committees.* You are the chairperson of your local church health ministries committee, and a member of the church board and the church ministries council. Your committee is the place to plan particular activities and events. On the board you will represent the interest of health ministry in the policy and financial decisions of the local church. If your church has a church ministries council, you will coordinate your activities with those of the other leaders in these meetings to plan a comprehensive, balanced church program.

4. *Program development.* It is your responsibility to take the initiative in coordinating the planning and organization of health screening and health seminars for the public. Everywhere Adventists are known as providers of stop smoking plans, cooking schools, and seminars on nutrition, heart disease, stress management, cancer prevention, physical fitness, weight control and the Bible basis for healthful living, as well as screening projects for high blood pressure, coronary heart disease and other health problems. Constant attention is given to these programs in the press across the United States and Canada. Major corporations and civic leaders often request the help of Adventists in these areas. Unless you bring together your committee and develop programs, these will not be available in your community. You cannot do it alone, but you can recruit and coordinate a team that can make it happen, using the proven guidebooks and kits available.

Resource Materials

The following resources are recommended for your ministry. You can purchase these by calling *AdventSource* (800-328-0525), the Adventist Book Center (800-765-6955) or your local Christian bookstore.

60 Ways to Energize Your Life, compiled by Jan W. Kuzma, Kay Kuzma, and DeWitt S.

Williams. This sharing book gives readers 60 ways to boost their spiritual, physical, and mental health.

A Physician Explains Ellen White White's Counsel on Drugs, Herbs, and Natural Remedies, by Mervyn Hardinge.

Better Health: New Beginnings. A nine-part video series featuring Dr. Hans Diehl's revolutionary lifestyle guidelines.

Health Power, by Hans Diehl and Aileen Ludington. This exciting new health book helps readers take responsibility for their own health. Color photographs throughout—easy to use format and large size makes it ideal for public seminars and classes.

Ministries of Health and Healing, is the handbook for health ministries. Includes overall mission and objectives, and chapters on specific ministries.

Ministries of Compassion, is a handbook for inner city programs and social action projects.

Step Fast Lifestyle Series. Everything you need to present a Step Fast Lifestyle Seminar—includes 12 dynamic 30-minute presentations plus the Step Fast Resource Guide on CD-ROM.

The Health Connection catalog lists a complete line of resources for wellness, drug, and alcohol prevention. Call 1-800-548-8700.

The Ministry of Healing by Ellen G. White, is the most fundamental statement of the goals and methods of Adventist Health ministry.

Check the Health Ministries web page for the latest information, events and activities:
www.nadadventist.org/hm.

Visit *AdventSource* On-Line at www.adventsource.org for a complete list of the latest resources available for local church leaders. You can place an order or request a catalog by calling 1-800-328-0525.

For information about additional resources and answers to your questions call the Adventist Plusline at 1-800-732-7587 or visit them on-line at www.plusline.org.