

Essential Elements of Successful Health Ministry



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



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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.
- The Seventh-day Adventist health message, can bring the dead to life.
- Eternal health benefits ONLY come from Jesus.



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Share Jesus as the Only Effective Agent of Change



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"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



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"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



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- 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.



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Our Condition

"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others." Ephesians 2:1-3

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Should We Set a Good Example?

- Model good exercises?
- Eat right around him?
- Show him that you don't smoke?
- Avoid depressive speech and attitudes?



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Should We Educate Him?

- Educate him about portion control?
- Importance of avoiding trans fats?
- Dangers of cheese?
- Stress management?
- Depression recovery?



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Should We Give Him Encouragement ?

- You can do it!
- Don't give up!
- This is important!
- You will be glad once you succeed!
- No time to be discouraged!



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Should we Provide a Better Environment?

- Remove him from a bad environment?
- Put him with other successful people?
- Surround him with positive role models?
- Create an encouraging setting?



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NO!! These DO NOT Bring the Dead to Life !!

- ❑ Example
- ❑ Education
- ❑ Encouragement
- ❑ Environment




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The Real Answer is GOD

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:4-7



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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 mission 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.”




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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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"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

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Focus on Building Long-term Relationships

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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!

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"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

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“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

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- ✦ Recognize that health ministry is a process not an event.
- ✦ Must have structured follow-up activities.

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Love People More Than Health Principles!

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“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

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“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

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Best When Conducted
in the Local Church

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“In every place where a church has been established, let the church members walk humbly before God. Let them seek to enlighten the people with health reform principles.” CDF 470

“The medical missionary work is to occupy its rightful place, as it ever should have done, in every church in our land. .” 1MR 235

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Advantages of Church

- The church is the Christian's home.
- Supports the wise use of resources.

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Based on Sound Science

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- Evidence-based information
- Accurate in our teachings

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Why Be Accurate?

"If they see that we are intelligent with regard to health, they will be more ready to believe that we are sound in bible doctrines." Counsels on Health p 452

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"Their [extremists] works and words can be spared; for they do more injury than the wisest and most intelligent men, with the best influence they can exert, can counteract. It is impossible for the best-qualified advocates of health reform to fully relieve the minds of the public from the prejudice received through the wrong course of these extremists, and to place the great subject of health reform upon a right basis in the community where these men have figured." CD 209

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"The door is also closed in a great measure, so that unbelievers cannot be reached by the present truth upon the Sabbath and the soon coming of our Saviour. The most precious truths are cast aside by the people as unworthy of a hearing. These men are referred to as representatives of health reformers and Sabbathkeepers in general. A great responsibility rests upon those who have thus proved a stumbling block to unbelievers." CD 209

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"But when men advocate reform, and carry the matter to extremes, and are inconsistent in their course of action, men and women are not to blame if they do become disgusted with the health reform... These men are doing a work which Satan loves to see go on." PH101 3.2

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Sell Only Information
(Avoid Conflict of Interest)

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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

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Greed

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

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Solution

"...not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved." 1 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 most effective agents of change.
2. Recognizes HM is a process, not an event; and is therefore 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. Offers accurate, evidence-based health programs.
6. Sell only solid, accurate information.

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