

# Essential Ingredients for Successful Local Church Health Ministry



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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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## 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."*

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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**Health?**  
**OR**  
**Evangelism?**

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**Which is More Important?**

Health	Evangelism
Benefits are temporary.	Benefits are eternal.
You still die.	Doesn't matter if you die.

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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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## Individual Needs Matter

- One sheep out of a hundred
- One coin out of many
- One blind man in a crowd
- One planet out of billions

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## Small Deeds are Important

- The widow's mite
- The cup of cold water
- A visit with a prisoner
- A meal to relieve hunger...

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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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## 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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"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

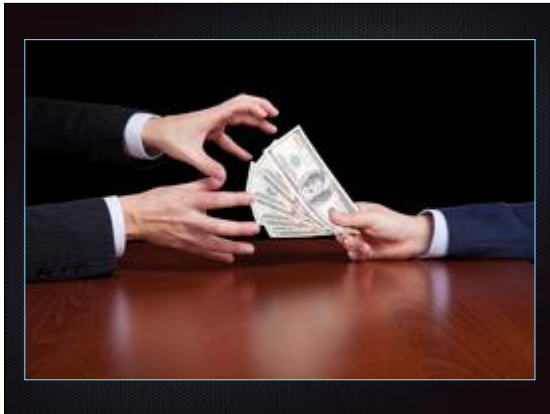
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## Sell Only Information (Avoid Conflict of Interest)

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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." I Cor 10:33 NKJV

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## Markers of Christ-like Nutrition Ministry

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

***Comprehensive Health Ministry***

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