

Health Ministries News



Chain of Goodness team rendering care

Local Church Saves Lives Responding to a COVID-19 Crisis

Manaus, Brazil | South American Division (SAD)

Brazil has been severely hit during the pandemic, and the city of Manaus had some of the worse death rates in the country. In January 2021 hospitals were full and basic equipment such as oxygen was lacking. People were sent home without hope. It was during this time that members of an Adventist church plant called "Alpha Space" made the difference. The group had attended an Adventist Recovery Ministries training in December 2021, and were motivated and united in purpose to serve their community. They created the "Chain of Goodness" project with the mission to bring needed health resources to the homes of the sick. Their vision was to be God's instruments in the mission to save as many lives as possible. Leliane, the leader who first envisioned the project, shared that "with the values of serenity and faith we went on to rely on God to provide the resources we needed." Over 100 volunteers – many of them health professionals from the local church and community – raised over \$50,000 dollars purchasing oxygen tanks and other medical equipment. They also cared for people in their homes days at a time. Over 80 people recovered from COVID-19 and no one in their care perished. More than 200 families received food and other basic goods. Pr. Ricardo Coelho shared the excitement of seeing his church members actively involved: "God did for us what we asked and much more. We praise Him and hope to continue serving the community."



Participants of the Israel Field Webinar series

Health Leaders Empowered for Comprehensive Health Ministry

Virtual | Israel Field

Since the pandemic started in 2020, Israel Field (IF) Health Ministry director Oksana Stoyanova, realized people had many questions about accurate health information. This brought immense opportunities for health education and outreach. In collaboration with the GC Health Ministries team, a series of health webinars was planned to equip the health leaders for the Adventist churches in Israel to minister in their church and community. The first webinar was presented by Dr. Katia Reinert, on December 3, 2020 on the topic of "COVID-19: Sorting fact from fiction." She provided timely principles on how to recognize evidence-based health information and sort through accurate information versus from disinformation. On February 25, 2021, Dr. Torben Bergland and Dr. Reinert shared important information about the mental and behavioral health impact the pandemic has had among youth and adults, while sharing resources for addiction recovery and mental health awareness. The third program in the webinar series took place on April 22, 2021, presented by Dr. Fred Hardinge. He introduced principles of healthy nutrition. A second part webinar on nutrition is scheduled for July 8, 2021 in order to answer nutrition questions from the leaders. "There is a need to share this information with all church members and pastors" said Oksana. "We must take hold of a grace filled approach to health in our mission."

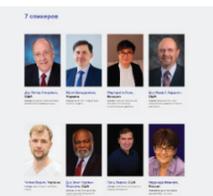


Global Campmeeting Youth Alive and Mental Health Panelists

Global Campmeeting

Virtual | General Conference Health Ministries

The very first global virtual campmeeting took place from May 21-25, 2021. Originally meant to be used for the live GC Session which was postponed to 2022, the online platform was adapted to bring together thousands of people to worship, learn, access resources and network with one another. During this time, GC ministries and institutions shared main stage presentations and seminars under six different areas of interest: from spiritual growth and theology to health ministries, discipleship and training, mission outreach, media ministries, and education, among others. A large virtual exhibit hall contained booths for various ministries and organizations. At the booths attendees could network with leaders virtually or by chat and also access and download various resources. Attendance was free and available live or pre-recorded in three different times zones. The GC Health Ministries department sponsored various presentations relevant for the pandemic, including a youth and young adult program entitled "Youth Alive and Mental Health." One attendee wrote, "This was one of the most excellent programs on mental health and youth I have seen this year. I wish more people can see these programs and be inspired." (See page 2 for resource links of the pandemic).



Some Palliative Care Conference Speakers

Equipping Leaders in Palliative Care

Ukraine | Euro-Asia Division (ESD)

From May 21-23, ESD Health Ministries and Angelia Clinic (Ukraine) sponsored a virtual conference themed "Outpatient Palliative Care: More days to live, more life to days!" In many countries, relatives and even health practitioners are unable to provide the comfort and competent care needed by seriously ill loved ones in their last moments. Palliative care involves active, comprehensive, compassionate, and competent care for patients suffering from incurable diseases. Relief of pain and suffering through such interventions in all dimensions of health – physical, mental, social and spiritual - is the main task of Palliative Care. It excludes intention of delaying or hastening death and aims to ensure, as far as possible, the best quality of life for the patient. Practitioners in various health disciplines provided insightful approaches and practical tips as well as inspiration and encouragement to engage in and learn more about palliation. Also emphasized was how to attend to neglected psycho-socio-spiritual needs of children, parents and other close relatives. About 600 people attended and by now it attracted over 2200 post conference views.



THE HEALTH CONNECTION

Every church a center of hope and health.

REACH UP

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Focus on a Spirit Led Revival



United in Prayer

"I will go...to the end," praying. The church is *United in Prayer*: A global prayer movement including 100 Days of Prayer and 10 Days of Prayer, in which hundreds of thousands of people have participated. With the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping our world, and with many unsettling events now taking place, what better time to be pressing together as a Church in prayer as we seek strength in time of crisis as well as Holy Spirit power for the mission before us? www.revivalandreformation.org/100days/blog/100

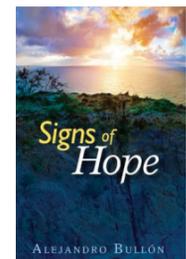


Believe His Prophets

Believe His Prophets, the sequel to *Revived by His Word*, is a five-year program reading through the Bible and selected Ellen White writings, including *Steps to Christ*, *Christ's Object Lessons*, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Prophets and Kings*, *The Desire of Ages*, *The Acts of the Apostles*, and *The Great Controversy*. You can receive daily Bible readings, participate in interactive blogs and read select inspirational writings. Sign up at www.revivalandreformation.org/signup

Books

Signs of Hope, by Alejandro Bullón. In a world in which life is no longer sacred, hunger and poverty are rampant, and natural disasters are worse than ever before, people need hope that things will get better. As it turns out, the current crisis is itself a sign of hope. www.sharinghope.com/book/signs-of-hope



Sharing Wholeness and Serving All During a Pandemic



Disease, discomfort, disconnection, disparities and death! The COVID-19 Pandemic has shone a discouraging light on all of these issues. The statistics become "old news" - 178,000,000 cases, 3,845,000 deaths, 196 countries, and 2.5 billion doses of vaccines administered globally. The global economy has been devastated impacting mainly communities and populations which are under-resourced and underserved.

During this time, General Conference Adventist Health Ministries (GCAHM) and health ministries departments and initiatives around the world have had the opportunity to share Comprehensive Health Ministry (CHM) on this broken planet. CHM is meeting people's needs in a practical way by sharing God's love and compassion (*Ministry of Healing* p.143). Hospitals, clinics, dispensaries and, importantly, health education initiatives all are vital means of sharing health and wholeness; during the Pandemic, all of these modalities have been deployed to extend the Healing Ministry of Jesus.

Collaborative effort and team work has flourished! GC and GCAHM, have partnered with ADRA and Adventist Health International (AHI) to provide emergency support to many of our health entities around the world. The Chinese Union Mission has provided strong support in finance and in kind. Donations from members around the world have provided much-needed personal protective equipment (PPE), medications and even helped meet payroll.

ADRA and our hospitals (where vaccines are available) are helping to provide vaccination facilities and vaccines to communities. Much more needs to be done- more supplies of vaccine needed, but also distribution logistics and personnel are essential to ultimately ensure the "shot/s in the arm." You and I are the Church; let's advocate for equitable vaccine distribution, let us give of our means and donations (donations.adra.org), volunteer our time and expertise, and make the difference in this crisis. "Night is coming, when no man can work." John 9:4

Maranatha



Peter Landless
Peter Landless, MD
 LandlessP@GC.adventist.org
 Director
 GCHealthMinistries

Health Ministries Resources

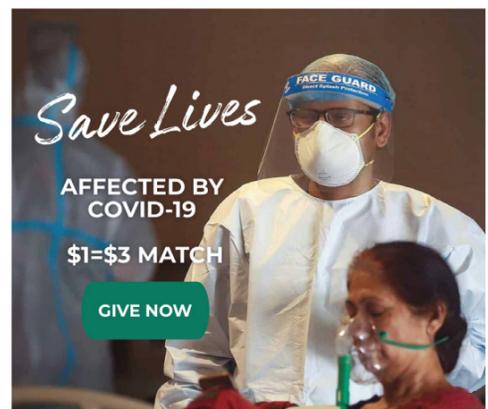
• **Campmeeting Program Health Presentations.** If you missed the global campmeeting health presentations, here is your chance to still watch them. You may access all health presentations for the global campmeeting by registering on the link below and clicking on the health presentations. You may also download various resources for health ministries at the GC Health Ministries booth at the James White Pavilion Exhibitor's hall. Don't miss this opportunity to gain free access to a wealth of health topics such as immunization and the Christian faith, addiction prevention and recovery during COVID-19, the issue of fanaticism and health, and many more topics. <http://www.2021.GlobalCampmeeting.com>

• **Youth Alive and Mental Health.** Access a full program discussing the pressing issue of Mental Health impacting youth and young adults during the pandemic. Check the conversations of youth, experts and youth leaders discussing their own experiences and sharing resources that can make a difference for the mental wellbeing of the youth. This program was presented live during the campmeeting and is available for sharing and viewing at the GCHM youth alive channel. https://youtu.be/_TGBNhpl_Ic

• **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (July 31).** Many victims of human trafficking have experienced ignorance or misunderstanding in their attempts to get help. This year's world day against trafficking in person theme is "Victims' Voices Lead the Way." It highlights the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking. This is true for all forms of abuse. As a church we can speak up and raise awareness through the enditnow

campaign. Access resources at <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/endht/index.html> and plan for an enditnow day in your church or community. Sermon, and seminar materials are available at: <https://women.adventist.org/enditnow-day>.

• **World Humanitarian Day (August 14).** This year World Humanitarian Day comes as the world continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic over recent months. Aid workers are overcoming unprecedented access hurdles to assist people in humanitarian crises in 54 countries. The Adventist Church through ADRA and the GC Health department have been helped areas in need such as India, South America, Africa, and more. Your \$1 dollar gift will be matched so \$1=\$3. Be part of the solution and help save lives by donating to ADRA at <https://donations.adra.org/globalhungerpandemic-ws>



Dates to Remember

2021

July 19-24
Lifestyle Coaching Skills Training
Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD)

September 3-5*
ARMin Global Training
Portugal, Portuguese Union (EUD)

September 19-23
Lifestyle Coaching Skills Training IV
Middle-East North Africa Union (MENA)

September 24-26*
Lifestyle Coaching Skills Training
Estonia and Lithuania, Baltic Union (TED)

October 3-7
Lifestyle Coaching Skills Training
West-African Division (WAD)

October 7-13
GC Lead Conference and Annual Council | Virtual

October 19-20*
Lifestyle Coaching Skills Training
Adriatic Union (TED)

November 6-7 and 12-13*
ARMin Training
New Zealand Union (SPD)

2022

February*
Youth Alive Training and Conference
Franco-Belgium Union (EUD)

June 6-11, 2022
GC Session
St Louis, Missouri

August*
Youth Alive Training and Conference
Middle-East North-Africa Union, Egypt

*Tentative in person training date

RESEARCH UPDATES

Share Facts with Hope and Positive Choices



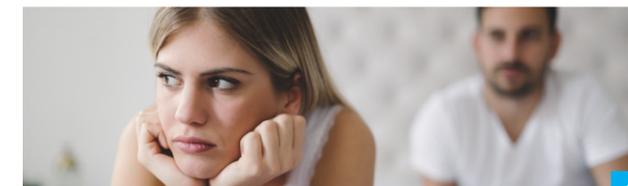
• **Go Nuts. It is actually good for you!** A research study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found that people who regularly consumed a one-ounce daily serving of walnuts, almonds, cashews or other tree nuts had a 20 percent lower risk of dying from any cause during the three-decade long study compared to those who did not eat nuts. The study found that nut eaters enjoyed longer lifespans even if they did not exercise, avoided fruits and vegetables, and were overweight. By replacing some empty calorie foods with a handful of nuts, you can reduce your risk of dying from cancer, heart disease, and a number of other causes. So go nuts, and live better. <https://factswithhope.org/> (video 31).

• **Forgiving Others Helps Your Blood Pressure.** High blood pressure is a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease and mortality, as well as among the top causes for other chronic health conditions. Anger and frustration has been shown to raise the level of stress hormones in the body, triggering negative health effects such as high blood pressure. But those with hypertension have seen dramatic benefits from learning to forgive. In one study, those who scored high on anger test no longer required blood pressure medication when participating in a forgiveness program. As someone said: you simply cannot swallow a poison pill and hope the other person dies. So forgive others now, and you will likely see your blood pressure going down too. <https://factswithhope.org/> (video 32).



• **How you treat your child will have lasting health effects.** A series of studies looking at Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) such as child abuse or neglect, has showed that it can lead to obesity, cardiovascular disease, and even diabetes in the adult life. Some parenting practices are associated with more favorable health behaviors in children. A study of 805 child-parent dyads showed that when kids perceived their parents to be very warm and responsive they had higher intake of healthy nutritious food, while kids who perceived their parents to be less warm or responsive had a higher intake of unhealthy high caloric food. So love your children and give them a healthier future. <https://factswithhope.org/> (video 34).

• **Your attitude can make or break your relationship.** A positive attitude can enhance your marriage. Research has found that if positive encounters between a married couple-such as smiles, compliments and laughter-do not outnumber negative encounters-such as complaints, putdowns or expressions of anger-by a ratio of 5 to 1 it is likely the marriage will end. Another research study found that each unit of improvement in expressed appreciation decreased by half the odds of the couple breaking up in six months. So if you want to strengthen your marriage have a goal of counting at least five blessings for every one complaint, and remember to express that gratitude to your spouse to ensure a lasting and loving relationship. <https://factswithhope.org/> (video 37).



WHO and UN Health Calendar Emphasis



July-September 2021

July 28
World Hepatitis Day

July 30
World Day Against Trafficking in person

August 1-7
World Breastfeeding Week

August 12
International Youth Day

August 19
World Humanitarian Day

September 17
World Patient Safety Day

EDITORIAL
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DIRECTOR : DR. PETER LANDLESS

EDITOR: DR. KATIA REINERT
DESIGNER: SYNESTHEZIA.COM

GENERAL CONFERENCE | ADVENTIST HEALTH MINISTRIES
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 | USA
Phone: (301) 680-6716
Editor's contact: ReinertK@gc.adventist.org
www.HealthMinistries.com