

Health Ministries News



THE HEALTH CONNECTION

Every church a center of hope and health.

REACH UP



Attendees at the Southern European Union Lifestyle Coaching Skills workshop in Belgrade, Serbia.

Pastors and Health Advocates join for Lifestyle Coaching Training in Serbia

Southern European Union | Trans-European Division

Pastors and health promoters representing Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, joined together at the Adventist Theological Seminary in Belgrade, Serbia, from November 4-6, 2022, to be equipped for comprehensive health ministry. They were eager to learn coaching skills in an effort to support people in the process of lifestyle change and also to build deeper relationships in the community. Southern European Union Health director, Vlado Havran, envisioned the lifestyle coaching training as a catalyst for a more effective ministry through the health clubs and other ongoing health outreach efforts. "This will be a game changer for us," he noted, as we expand our effectiveness and help people cut through the difficulties of behavior change. The training was led by Dr. Reinert, GC Associate Director, and emphasized current coaching skills and biblical principles to help health promoters provide personalized support that can cut through common barriers to a lifestyle change.



Participants of the Health Congress in North Colombia Union.

Health Ministry Congress in Colombia Equips Health teams for Mission

North Colombia Union | Inter-American Division

The North-Colombia Union brought together hundreds of health professionals, lay health promoters, and supporting organizations for a joint health ministry congress in Santa Marta, Colombia, from December 6-10, 2022. The goal was to equip participants with a biblically sound, evidence-based, and unified approach to the health ministry work in that territory. Attendees received training on the core philosophy of comprehensive health ministry from experienced health professionals currently active in outreach programs. They organized a health professionals association with the aim of better coordinating the work in the various regions. Leaders enjoyed early morning exercises, inspirational worship, practical workshops, and exchanged best practices in ministry. Pr. Mauricio Buitrago, Health Director for the Union and event organizer, noted that a priority was to unite the various levels and types of ministry in one focus under a compassionate, Christ-centered, balanced ministry approach modeled after Christ's example. Participants left inspired to extend Jesus' healing ministry and use His method.



SSD Health Advisory attendees pose for a picture in Bali, Indonesia.

Health Ministries directors Join for Renewal and Training

Bali, Indonesia | Southern Asian-Pacific Division

Health ministry leaders for countries of the southern Asia-pacific division came to Bali, Indonesia, from February 5-9, 2023, for a division-wide Health Advisory. The goal of the advisory was to equip and align all health leaders in the framework of comprehensive health ministry. Dr. Peter Landless and Dr. Katia Reinert from GC Health Ministries provided presentations on focusing on a Christ-centered compassionate approach to ministry that uses evidence-based, biblically sound resources for outreach and teaching. Several resources were shared, and new leaders were welcomed and equipped. Reports were presented by union leaders from various countries demonstrating the vast work currently being done with a positive impact. Dr. Lhalaine Alfano, SSD Health director and organizer, noted her joy that the goal of the advisory was met as leaders left inspired and united in the mission for such a time as time.



Pastors and their spouses pose with guest presenters and administrators of Israel Field.

Israel Field Pastors Renew Vision for Health Work

Migdalía, Israel | Israel Field

Ministerial families in Israel participated in a health retreat on February 18-21, 2023, organized by the Israel Field administration. The retreat occurred at the Migdalía Lifestyle Center, near the lake of Galilea, in a beautiful, restful setting close to where Jesus ministered healing to many. According to Pr. Daniel Stojanovic, field President, the retreat's goal was two-fold: first, to provide an opportunity for pastors and their spouses to consider their own health needs, resting from the demands of the ministry while enjoying nutritious tasty food, massage, and health consultations. Secondly, time was also dedicated to seminars aimed at renewing the vision and resources for an effective, comprehensive health ministry in the context of the mission in Israel. Plans were developed for collaboration with the center of Jewish friendship to translate and contextualize several health resources for use in Israel. In addition, plans were made to further train pastors and health promoters in coaching skills and addiction recovery programs. Pastors shared about the community needs, and opportunities for meeting the whole person needs of refugees, immigrants workers, as well as native Israelis and Palestinians.

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Focus on a Spirit Led Revival



United in Prayer

Join in our Quarterly Days of Prayer. We invite you to pray with your local church family. Check the tips for fasting or the quick guidelines to leading united prayer. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/2QoKCNg>



Believe His Prophets

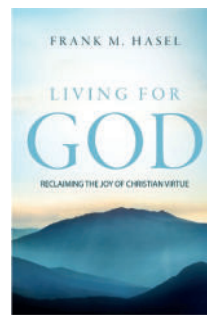
Believe His Prophets, the sequel to Revived by His Word, is a five-year program of reading through the Bible and selected Ellen White writings, including Steps to Christ, Christ's Object Lessons, Patriarchs and Prophets, Prophets and Kings, The Desire of Ages, The Acts of the Apostles, and The Great Controversy. You can receive daily Bible readings, participate in interactive blogs, and read select inspirational writings. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/40M1Rva>

Books

Living for God: Reclaiming the Joy of Christian Virtue, by Frank Hasel.

Living for God explores the beauty of simple biblical virtues, such as gratitude, courage, patience, humility, contentment, and more. It contains true stories and practical tips to help you apply these virtues to your life and relationships.

<https://bit.ly/3M8Pjdm>



21st Century Sanitariums



In 2018, Style Magazine of the New York Times published an article entitled "In Search of Lost Time in Europe's Sanatoriums." In it, the author, Alice Gregory, gives a brief history of the "old" tuberculosis treatment centers and the parallel rise in the popularity of thermal spas. The combination was a natural outdoor setting with a thermal spring, massage treatments, and pampering luxury. The combined Sanatorium-spa or Hydro(thermal)therapy treatment centers abounded across Europe, with a synchronous explosion of "water-cure institutes" in America.

These spas and hydrotherapy centers were some of the earliest examples of modern tourist destinations in that a client did not have to be sick to receive large doses of social, mental, and physical benefits from visiting. Gregory claims that the luxury and grandeur of "sanatorium-spas" are not what is sought after today. Rather, it seems that people crave medically informed repose, peace and quiet, rest, restorative treatments, and natural beauty that fosters an escape from the usual din of modern life. People are looking for WELLNESS in the 21st Century!

As we survey the global market for "Medical Spas" we cannot be blind to its approximate value of \$16.4 billion (US dollars) in 2022. This value is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate

of almost 15 percent from 2023 to 2030, according to Grandview Research. Much of the growth is expected to be related to consumer awareness of self-care, anti-aging potential, and cosmetic and wellness services. According to one internet survey, everybody is trying to live longer.

Yet, according to science, there are only a few outstanding populations that have achieved remarkable longevity. Among them are "health-reforming" Seventh-day Adventists! We have something that the world is looking for, and we have new ways of reaching them to go beyond their wants and get to their ultimate need - a healthy, transformative introduction to their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our new initiative, "The 21st Century Sanitarium", seeks to meet the people where they are, scratch where they itch, and fulfill the biblical mandate of Matthew 28:19-20.

May God's will be done!



Zeno Charles-Marcel

Zeno Charles-Marcel, MD

Associate Director, GCHealthMinistries

Health Ministries Resources



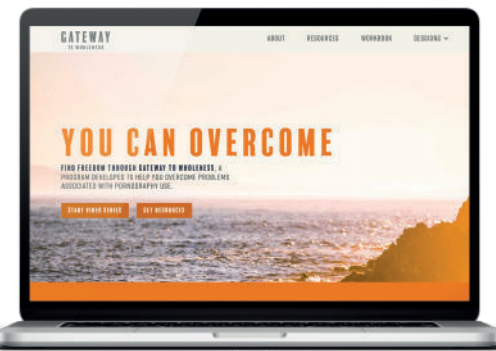
• **World Health Day (April 7).** The World Health Organization (WHO) will observe its 75th anniversary this year, and the theme of World Health Day is "Health for All." Health For All envisions that everyone will have good health for a fulfilling life in a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. The right to health is a basic human right. Everyone must have access to the health services they need when and where they need them without financial hardship. However, 30% of the global population cannot access essential health services. Health Ministries can help change that by ministering to the health needs of people through healthcare institutions and lifestyle centers. <https://bit.ly/42Xle2>

• **World Immunization Week (24-30 of April).** World Immunization Week highlights the collective action needed to protect people from vaccine-preventable diseases. Go to <https://bit.ly/3TXsYB4> for helpful videos and general evidence-based information on immunizations. Under the theme of 'The Big Catch-Up,' WHO is working with partners to accelerate rapid progress in countries to get back on track to ensure more people, particularly children, are protected from preventable diseases.

• **World no Tobacco Day (May 31).** This year's theme is "We need food, not tobacco." The 2023 global campaign

aims to raise awareness about alternative crop production and marketing opportunities for tobacco farmers and encourage them to grow sustainable, nutritious crops. It will also aim to expose the tobacco industry's efforts to interfere with attempts to substitute tobacco growing with sustainable crops, thereby contributing to the global food crisis. Learn more at: <https://bit.ly/3G7yjAp>. We can help others quit tobacco by hosting a Breathe-Free2 stop smoking program in your church, hope center, or school. Motivate people to say no to Tobacco.

• **Gateway to Wholeness.** Pornography addiction is very damaging and an extremely difficult habit to break. Gateway to Wholeness is a program designed to help people recover from the destructive cycle of porn. Based on a wealth of research on addiction and psychology, Gateway to Wholeness provides relevant emotional, social, and spiritual resources to help participants find freedom from pornography. This free and anonymous program is designed to be the first step in recovery. Access videos and the resources journal at <https://bit.ly/3zjy6pM>.



Global Health Calendar Emphasis 2023



April-June 2023

7 April
World Health Day

Last week of April
World Immunization Week

25 April
World Malaria Day

31 May
World No Tobacco Day

14 June
World Blood Donor Day

HM CALENDAR 2023

* Online

April 2-8, 2023
NAD Health Summit
Kentucky, USA

April 7-11, 2023
GC Spring Meetings
Maryland, USA

April 14-14
SID ARMin Training
Kwekwe, Zimbabwe

April 21-23
SID ARMin Training
Victoria, Seychelles

April 28-30, 2023
IAD Lifestyle Coaching Training
Medellin, Colombia

May 2-7, 2023
IAD Youth Alive Training/Conference
Medellin, Colombia

May 30-June 3, 2023
European Congress on Lifestyle Centers
Coimbra, Portugal

June 4-8, 2023
Lifestyle Coaching Training*
Euro Asia Division

June 18-22, 2023
NSD Health Advisory Advisory
Taipei, Taiwan

June 25-27, 2023
NSD Lifestyle Coaching Training
Seoul, South Korea

June 28-30, 2023
NSD ARMin Training
Seoul, South Korea

RESEARCH UPDATES

Share Evidence-Based Health Information



The last week of April is World Immunization Awareness week. Help educate others about immunizations by sharing some facts below:

• **Vaccination prevents deaths.** According to the World Health Organization (WHO), immunization currently prevents between 2-3 million deaths every year in all age groups from diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), and measles. It is one of the most successful and cost-effective public health interventions. An additional 1.5 million deaths could be avoided, however, if global vaccination coverage improves. <https://bit.ly/42SE0vI>

• **Meningitis A eliminated through vaccination.** Meningitis A is an infection that can cause severe brain damage and is often deadly. Since introducing the meningitis vaccine in Africa in December 2010, mass vaccination campaigns have led to the control and near elimination of the deadly meningitis A disease in 26 African "meningitis belt" countries. The vaccine is now being integrated into routine national immunization programs. <https://bit.ly/3JRQA5G>



• **Reduction of Global Measles due to vaccines.** Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus, which usually results in a high fever and rash and can lead to blindness, encephalitis, or death. Global measles deaths have decreased by 84% from an estimated 550 000 deaths in 2000 to 89 780 in 2016. Accelerated immunization activities have had a major impact on reducing measles deaths. <https://bit.ly/3JRQA5G>

• **The world is closer to eradicating polio.** Thanks to a steady polio immunization program, in 2016, fewer children were paralyzed by polio than in any other year, with the virus restricted to a few areas of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. Two of the three strains of wild polio seem to be eliminated, India and the entire WHO South-East Asia Region have been declared polio-free, and outbreaks that started in 2013-2014 in the Middle East and Horn of Africa have been stopped. <https://bit.ly/3JRQA5G>

