

Health Ministries News

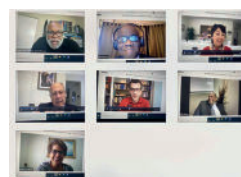


Dr. Yuri Bondarenko along with other health professionals in Kiev during the pandemic

Health Professionals Conference

Kiev, Ukraine | Euro-Asia Division (ESD)

On May 5-7, 2020 the Angelia Clinic in Kiev, Ukraine led by Dr. Yury Bondarenko in collaboration with the Euro-Asia Division hosted an online conference for health professionals. The theme was "Mental Health of Medical Workers and Their Patients During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic." The conference was well attended each evening by physicians, psychologists, nurses and students from the Division and beyond. Presenters from Europe, Africa and USA (15 in total) shared their perspectives and counsel on how healthcare workers can and need to prioritize and care for their own mental health. In service for others, and especially in times like these when many health professionals are under extreme pressure because of the COVID-19 pandemic, intentionality in caring for oneself and one's family is paramount if the life of service is going to be sustainable, short-term and long-term. Attendees and the presenters were blessed and left encouraged to share wholeness and serve all amidst the pandemic.

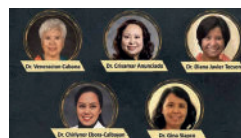


Presenters who shared messages during the virtual healthcare administrators meeting

Healthcare Workers Find Encouragement And Support

Miami, USA | Inter-American Division (IAD)

On May 13, when the COVID-19 Pandemic was at its peak in many places around the world, Adventist Healthcare Services-InterAmerica (AHSIA) held a special day of meditation, orientation, encouragement and prayer to the benefit of the workers of the 14 hospitals in the Inter-American Division and their ministry in their respective countries of operation. The presentations by Dr. Peter Landless, Dr. Zeno Charles Marcel, Dr. Katia Reinert and Dr. Torben Bergland brought hope to Institutions, health professionals (nurses, doctors, administrators) and personal peace and resilience interwoven with prayer seasons. Then, on Sunday May 31, virtual Conference gathered together the GC Health Ministries team, the IAD administrators and departmental team, the hospitals' leadership, board chairs, the AHL (Adventist Health International) president and a representative from AdventHealth. "We've come together in solidarity, during this time of unprecedented challenge, grief, loss and opportunity.... We are here to entrust and rededicate our health institutions and their staff into the faithful and loving hands of the Master Physician and caregiver, Jesus Christ," noted Dr. Landless. Dr. Elie Honoree, president of AHSIA, reported the gratitude of participants for the inspiring interventions.



Presenters of the Virtual Cooking Show

Virtual Cooking Show And Scaling Up Health Ministries Training

Philippines | Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD)

This summer with the rising of the pandemic, the health ministries department of SSD under the leadership of Dr. Lalaine Alfonso hosted several virtual health programs in order to reach people all over the globe concerning health amidst the COVID-19 crisis. Between June 16,17, 23 and 24, several health webinars entitled SCALING UP: Comprehensive Health Ministry were held, organized jointly with health directors of the 14 countries in SSD. Presenters from the General Conference, World Health Organization (WHO), Department of Health (DOH) and other government organizations in the Philippines shared timely information relevant for health and wellbeing during the pandemic. Over 10,000 viewers enjoyed health webinars on topics such as health tool box and comprehensive health ministry; mental health; disaster risk reduction management; and sexual abuse prevention. In the month of July, designated as the Nutrition Month, the SSD health ministries department held its first virtual cooking show consisting of five weekly sessions throughout the month. Chefs, young and old, from different unions and missions of the 14 SSD countries showcased their respective cuisines prepared as plant-based meals. "Nearly 10,000 people watched on various social media platforms, learning healthy vegetarian recipes and its importance for a healthy body," reported Dr. Alfonso. She added "SSD Health Ministries envisions every individual, young and old, to be of good health while being able to come to Christ Jesus amidst this COVID-19 pandemic."



Marcia McEdward poses with some of her new friends during a visit

Making Friends Amidst A Crisis

Beirut, Lebanon | Middle-East North-Africa Union (MENA)

Lebanese people in Beirut have been experiencing difficult times. They are facing not only a pandemic like other countries, but also political and economic uncertainty, and more recently, a major accidental explosion that caused widespread injuries and loss of homes. Marcia McEdward, Health Ministries director for MENAU, reported that "Because of the multiple issues and current events in Beirut—COVID-19, political and economic crisis, and the August 4 blast—there is a collective wound in the hearts of the people. Many have lived through wars and privation in the recent past and have fears that continue to surface. Many have been waiting for months to emigrate to another country. Right now it is the toughest time we have seen, and most people's salaries are being spent on food alone. Though [people's] spirits are down, there is a lot of joy that can be shared just by caring." Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) volunteers have joined hands with others in Beirut helping to bring relief and meeting the felt needs of those who are hurting. Marcia is one of them. "It has been my privilege to befriend many beautiful people as they await a move from Beirut to another country. Every week I target some friends I know who are in need of food. It gives me a chance to see how they are doing, listen to their concerns and pray with them."



THE HEALTH CONNECTION

Every church a center of hope and health.

REACH UP

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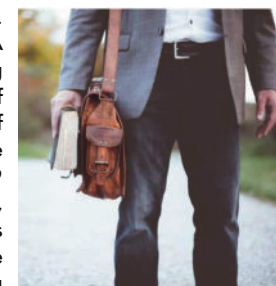
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Focus on a Spirit Led Revival



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

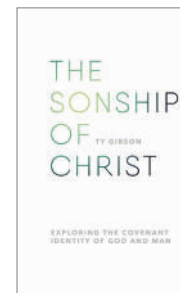


Believe His Prophets

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

The Sonship of Christ by Ty Gibson. Why is Christ called "the Son of God"? Discover an answer so simple you'll wonder why you never saw it before—and so beautiful it'll take your breath away. <https://bit.ly/2HJkwoe>



Quo Vadis, Health Ministries... Where are you going?



It is the worst of times, it is the best of times. Quo Vadis (Where are you going). This paraphrase of Charles Dickens's famous novel is a solemn description of the COVID-19 pandemic era. This public health crisis has overshadowed but not replaced the mental health, loneliness and non-communicable disease pandemics that were brewing long before the SARS-Cov-2 virus was known. The vital importance of adequate health and healthcare to our global society and therefore to the Adventist ministry has been laid bare.

Underlying health status has emerged as the issue around which the severity and lethality of COVID-19 revolves. The world leaders sat on potential solutions before the problems were known and affirmed that healthful living is helpful living. Health behavior, the main focus of health ministry currently, accounts for less than 50% of the actual determinants of health; so, should we additionally address social determinants squarely as risk-reducing strategies?

COVID-19 has disrupted facilities-based healthcare, uncovered the usefulness of digital, social media, and communication technology to all things health: from information-promotion to delivery (except for places challenged by resources or access). The post-COVID landscape includes telehealth, and the home and "trusted" community settings are emerging as optimal sites for health care. Artificial intelligence, point-of-care diagnostics, and wearable biometric monitoring are decentralizing care

delivery. Should health ministry of tomorrow not intensely invest, embrace and innovate in the digital space for in-reach and outreach?

Eschatologically, peace and safety will be just façades. Worldwide catastrophes involving the earth, heavens and the seas; microscopic and macroscopic pestilences; human-inflicted and environmental aberrations are on the prophetic horizon. Surely health ministry at every organizational level plays a part in building awareness and resilience in preparation for the final onslaught. Could not Health Ministries actually be effective agents in preparing people inside and outside the church for upcoming catastrophes, and serve them when the only work along ministerial lines is "medical missionary work?"

Prayer, preparation informed by study and inspiration, power from on high, and perseverance despite the odds are needed if we are to prosper in fulfilling our divine purpose. Let us not grow weary in doing good and doing well better, by God's grace!



Zeno Charles-Marcel, MD Associate Director, GCHealthMinistries CharlesMarcelZ@gc.adventist.org

Health Ministries Resources



• **Adventist Health Ministries New Website.** The General Conference Health Ministries (HM) department has launched a new website portal. The HM portal contains many resources, articles, health statements, as well as information about our healthcare and health education institutions. A special COVID-19 page contains many resources to educate family and friends in effective prevention strategies using evidence-based and biblically sound information. Register as a HM leader/director and you will access additional resources for leaders only. The page is <https://www.healthministries.com>.

• **World Mental Health Awareness Day (October 10).** This year's World Mental Health Day, comes at a time when our daily lives have changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have had many challenges: for health-care workers, providing care in difficult circumstances; for students, adapting to taking classes from home and anxious about their future; for people with mental health conditions, many experiencing even greater social isolation than before; for many, losing someone without being able to say goodbye. The need for mental health and psychosocial support will increase in the coming months and years. Investment in mental health programs at the national

and international levels is now more important than it has ever been. The goal of this year's World Mental Health Day campaign is increased investment in mental health. Learn more at: <https://bit.ly/3n80ROK>

• **World Diabetes Day (November 14).** This year's theme is Diabetes: Nurses make the difference. The campaign aims to raise awareness around the crucial role that nurses play in supporting people living with diabetes. Nurses currently account for over half of the global health workforce. They do outstanding work to support people living with a wide range of health concerns. People who either live with diabetes or are at risk of developing the condition need their support too. People living with diabetes face a number of challenges, and education is vital to equip nurses with the skills to support them. Access resources and help to promote awareness at <https://worlddiabetesday.org/resources>.

• **World Day for Prevention of Violence Against Children (November 19).** Worldwide, one in two children ages 2-17 years suffered violence in the past year. Violence against children includes all forms of violence against people under 18 years old. Physical and sexual abuse are common, but emotional abuse is one of the most common forms of child maltreatment. The ENDitNOW initiative is an effort of the Adventist church to speak up and advocate against violence of all forms, including violence toward children. On this World Day for Prevention of Violence against children, take advantage of the resources at <https://bit.ly/2ELbYvO>, <http://enditnow.org/> and register to attend the free EnditNow summit on November 13 at <https://bit.ly/3kY7n92>

Dates to Remember

2020

October 6-7, 2020

LEAD Conference

General Conference

October 8-14, 2020

Annual Council

General Conference

October 9

24-hr March for Mental Health

www.unitedgmh.org

November 13

Virtual Summit on Abuse 2020

North American Division

<https://bit.ly/3cJMfk0>

November 20-22

Virtual Health Professionals Summit

Southern Asia Pacific Division

2021

May 20-25, 2021

GC Session

Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

WHO and UN Health Calendar Emphasis



October-December

September 29
World Heart Day

October 10
World Mental Health Day

November 14
World Diabetes Day

November 19
World Day for Prevention of Violence Against Children

December 01
World AIDS Day

December 03
International Day of Persons with Disabilities

RESEARCH UPDATES

Share Facts with Hope and Positive Choices



• **Is it true that only people who show COVID-19 symptoms are contagious?** According to some data from hospitalizations, in some cases 4 in 5 people admitted to hospitals with covid-19 were exposed by people who did not know they had it. Many are asymptomatic but are passing on the virus to others without knowing. Universal precautions are key. Stay socially distant, wear a mask and wash your hands before touching your face. https://youtu.be/oOh2UcDaS_Q

• **Can I protect myself against COVID-19 through my diet?** While a healthy diet cannot be a 100% guarantee of protection against COVID or other viruses, it does increase your chances to fight it off if you are exposed. The antioxidants, vitamins and nutrients can support a strong immune response and promote health and wellbeing that can make a difference for prevention. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nfp-Wbn49gQ



• **Does hydroxychloroquine help treat COVID-19?** Hydroxychloroquine has been under study as a possible treatment for COVID-19 but current data shows that this drug neither reduces deaths among hospitalized COVID-19 patients nor helps people with moderate disease. Thus, studies show this drug does not have clinical benefits in treating COVID-19. <https://bit.ly/2HNF5jv>

• **Should people wear masks while exercising?** People should NOT wear masks when exercising as masks may reduce the ability to breathe comfortably. Sweat can make the mask become wet more quickly which makes it difficult to breathe and promotes the growth of microorganisms. The important preventive measure during exercise is to maintain a distance of at least 1 meter or 3 feet between others. <https://bit.ly/3jgSQVH>

