Comprehensive Health Ministry: Goals & Objectives

Peter N. Landless, Director
General Conference Department of Health Ministries
The Seventh-day Adventist Church:

Sharing Wholeness, Serving All
Comprehensive Health Ministry

• In November 2011, General Conference President Ted Wilson sent a clear message to world church and division leadership:
  • Time was ripe for renewed study, application, and implementation of the extensive counsel in the Spirit of Prophecy regarding the need for medical missionary work.
  • First international planning session at the church’s world headquarters was held April 19, 2012.
  • Health and Ministerial leaders from around the globe came to plan and implement Christ-centered, evangelistic medical missionary work.
Comprehensive Health Ministry

• This initiative would engage the members, the leadership, and the communities we serve.
• Medical missionary work would also be a vital part of comprehensive urban evangelism as part of “Mission to the Cities.”
• The term Comprehensive Health Ministry (CHM) was adopted to reflect and embrace in a more modern parlance the meaning of “medical missionary work.”
• CHM includes not just health workers, but pastors, teachers, administrators, and every church member.
Comprehensive Health Ministry

“Every member of the Church a medical missionary.”

• What does that encompass?
• What does it look like?
Comprehensive Health Ministry

Meeting people’s needs in a practical way by demonstrating God’s love and compassion.
Sharing Wholeness, Serving All
Why Comprehensive Health Ministry?

- Matthew 9:35
- John 10:10
- 3 John 2

- Christ’s example of healing, preaching and teaching, and His great commission
Comprehensive Health Ministry

• When incorporated into the “Mission to the Cities” initiatives, the result could be “the setting in operation of a mighty movement such as we have not yet witnessed.” (*Medical Ministry*, p. 304)

• A primary objective is to keep Jesus as our “Pattern Man.”

• To follow Christ’s method, ministry, and mission alone.
“The gospel ministers should preach the health principles, for these have been given of God . . . That as a people we might be prepared in both mind and body to receive the fullness of God’s blessing. The medical missionary work [i.e. health ministry] has its place and part in this closing gospel work.
The Blended Ministry

“The Christian physician has a high calling. With his fuller knowledge of the human system and its laws, he is in a position to spread the gospel of salvation with much efficiency and power.

“The first and chief object of the gospel and all that pertains to it is to seek and to save that which is lost. The ministry of the gospel whether by the minister or the physician, is to reach out to man a helping hand wherever it is needed. It is to minister to the sick and suffering physically as well as to the sin-sick soul.
The Blended Ministry

“Here the gospel ministers and the Christian physician unite, and the Bible worker in her visit from house to house as well.”

The Blended Ministry

“No line is to be drawn between the genuine medical missionary work and the gospel ministry. These two must blend. They are not to stand apart as separate lines of work. They are to be joined in an inseparable union, even as the hand is joined to the body. . . . A solemn dignity is to characterize genuine medical missionaries. They are to be men who understand and know God and the power of His grace.”

Ellen G. White, Letter 102, 1900.
Not just programs and plans –
Focus on our relationship with Jesus;
   to know Him,
   to experience His love and grace,
and then become the conduit of these characteristics.
Sharing Wholeness, Serving All
Goals

• A world team comprising numerous church departments and administration.
• To promote physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.
• To model the self-sacrificial ministry of Christ in a broken world.
Comprehensive Health Ministry

Several initiatives have already been implemented:

1. The 2015 Missionary Book of the Year, produced by GCHM in collaboration with the GC Publishing Department.
   - The title is *Health and Wellness: Secrets That Will Change Your Life*.
   - Mark Finley and Peter Landless designed and edited the book.
   - Addressed the wholistic well-being of body, mind, and spirit.
   - Emphasized mental health, spirituality, relationships, and physical well-being.
   - 40 million books have been printed and distributed worldwide.
Comprehensive Health Ministry

Several initiatives have already been implemented:

2. A series of 24 health/evangelistic sermons
   - Developed as companion resources to the 2015 Missionary Book, *Health and Wellness*.
   - These high-quality, user-friendly, and ready-to-use materials and resources will help facilitate the collaboration between pastors, health professionals, and trained church members.
   - GCHM, the GC Ministerial Department, and GC Presidential guided this process.
Comprehensive Health Ministry

Several initiatives have already been implemented:

   - This demonstrated the concept of wholistic health and well-being as well as the inextricable link between Christian spirituality and health.
   - This includes wholeness even in our brokenness.
   - The Geneva conference served as a global “launch” of CHM and a training of trainers.
   - Many resources were demonstrated and shared with all Church ministries at this meeting.
Several initiatives have already been implemented:

4. Fall 2014 Week of Prayer Readings.
   - Based on the beloved and practical counsel given in Ministry of Healing; namely, “Christ’s Method Alone.”
   - The readings emphasized CHM as a binding theme across the ministries.

5. Major evangelism initiatives modeled the blended ministry.
   - Collaboration between gospel ministers and physicians, nurses, and healthcare workers.
   - Initiatives included New York 13, Manila, Peru, Ireland, San Antonio, Zimbabwe and many other integrated evangelism endeavors and pastoral training events.
   - Training of thousands of pastoral and healthcare workers and students in these respective disciplines has been conducted in many divisions.
Comprehensive Health Ministry

Several initiatives have already been implemented:

6. A strong partnership with many world church departments and Global Mission has been fostered.
   • There has been production, streamlining, and updating of resources for collaborative use in CHM
Several initiatives have already been implemented:

7. Focus on the leader’s wholistic health and well-being:

- Two LEAD programs, 2013 and 2014 have been dedicated to understanding general and best health principles, risk factors, Non-communicable Diseases, wellness of body, mind and spirit
Sustainable health ministry

• Important to separate the event versus the lifestyle of the local Church and each member (TMI).
Comprehensive Health Ministry

Meeting people’s needs in a practical way by demonstrating God’s love and compassion.
Events vary

• Your Best Pathway to Health (YBHTH)
  • San Francisco
  • San Antonio
  • Spokane
• High tech, interventional, and treatment oriented with prevention and screening.
• Can be costly.
• Can process large numbers (up to 6,200 so far) in four days.
Events vary

• Chitungwiza, Harare, Zimbabwe.
• Not high tech.
• Some treatment/surgical intervention.
• Largely screening, prevention, and education.
• Can process even larger numbers (34,000 in 10 days).
• Costly – but less so.
Events vary

• Despite variations in size and cost – events have one crucial component in common: MEMBER INVOLVEMENT.
• Volunteers worked assiduously and seamlessly to make the events happen.
• One of the most-repeated phrases from these workers: “I am so proud of my Church!” (note: they are doing the work!)
Sustainable health ministry

• Every church a center of hope and healing.
• Every member living and sharing life and wholeness to the full.
• This translates to Total Member Involvement!
Sharing Wholeness, Serving All
How?

• Believe the message
• Live the message.
• Teach the message.
• Share the message.
What next for Comprehensive Health Ministry?

• Consolidation
• Expansion of implementation
• Total Member Involvement
• Relevant, affordable and sustainable ministry and caring
Comprehensive Health Ministry

Our prayer is that every Church will be a Community Health Center, and every member a Comprehensive Health Minister – a medical missionary in deed and word!

Total Membership Involvement – To Reach the World!
The Seventh-day Adventist Church:

Sharing Wholeness, Serving All