

REPORT OF THE HEALTH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

Director's Name: Dr. Alexander Isaacs

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Place: University of the Southern Caribbean, Maracas Royal
Road, Maracas Valley, St Joseph, Trinidad and Tobago

REPORT

Mr. Chairman, delegates, specially invited guests, and church members present at this 18th quinquennial session of the Caribbean Union Conference (CARU), I greet you in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I would like to present to you at this time, the report of the Health Ministries Department of CARU for the period under review.

Executive Summary

During the quinquennium under review, the activities of the Health Ministries Department of the Caribbean Union were captured under three (3) major categories: i) Visits from the higher organization, ii) CARU programs and activities, and iii) Highlights from the local fields.

1. Visits from the Higher Organization

The Health Ministries Director of the IAD/President of Adventist Healthcare Services – Inter-America (AHS-IA), Dr Franck Génés, visited CARU from June 8-16, 2024. The purpose of his visit was to get acquainted with the main SDA healthcare institutions in the Caribbean Union namely the Community Hospital in Trinidad and the Davis Memorial Hospital in Guyana. His visit also involved brief stops in Barbados and St Kitts.

Dr Génés made another visit to the East Caribbean Conference from May 25th – June 2nd, 2025, as the featured speaker at two important initiatives of the Health Ministries Department of the Conference.

2. IAD Programs

Participation in IAD Health Ministries Advisories

During the quinquennium, the Health Ministries Director of CARU attended two advisories/summits convened by the Health Ministries Director of the Inter-American Division where he was apprised of developments in the Health Ministries Department of the IAD. These were very informative and engaging.

Health Ministries Week Celebrations

The annual Health Ministries Week of Emphasis was observed by all the fields of CARU during the quinquennium.

CARU Programs

In keeping with the planned programmatic initiatives of the Caribbean Union Conference Health Ministries Department for the quinquennium under review, the Department hosted an advisory for health directors from the local fields from January 24 - 26, 2023. The advisory was held on the campus of the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) under the theme, *“I Will Go: Enhancing the Health and Well-being of the Church and the Community”*.

Honoring a promise made to delegates at the 17th quinquennium session of CARU in 2022, the Health Ministries Department expanded its Health Promoters Training Program to six additional conferences/missions, bringing the total number of participating fields to nine. These were

memorable occasions. Over 250 persons have been trained and certified so far as health promoters.

In an effort to highlight the work of Health Ministries in the Caribbean Union, the Department collaborated with the Communication Department to prepare a special issue of the *Gleanings* which was released during the second quarter of 2025. The Health Ministries Department was the main contributor to this special edition.

One of the major accomplishments of the Health Ministries Department during the quinquennium was the preparation of the adult readings for CARU's Holy Spirit Emphasis Week, 2024.

The Caribbean Union participated in the special commemoration of the 162nd anniversary of the Health Reform vision by Ellen White, organized by the IAD Health Department and held on June 6, 2025.

The University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) partnered with United Hands Inc., the Caribbean Union Conference, the South Caribbean Conference, the Community Hospital, and a number of governmental and non-governmental institutions to host the FreeDOM Clinic from March 13 to 16, 2023. This initiative was dubbed "*A Mission of Hope & Healing*".

Dr Isaacs visited the islands of St. Croix and St. Thomas in the North Caribbean Conference during Health Ministries Week, observed from September 17 to 27, 2023, and conducted a special health series on the islands.

Dr Alexander Isaacs was the featured speaker at the Tobago Adventists Health Professionals Association (AHPA) Chapter's Annual Prayer Retreat held from March 3 - 5, 2023, at the Bellissimo Boutique Hotel in Buccoo. The event was conducted under the theme, "**Mending the Broken Right Arm**".

Highlights from The Fields

This section features highlights from the local fields of CARU, showcasing the commendable work being done under the outstanding leadership of our local field Health Ministries Directors.

Mission and Strategic Context

Mission Statement

The mission of the Health Ministries Department of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is to foster a healthy lifestyle among the Seventh-day Adventist church members and the communities in which the church operates, through health education and the promotion of Christian temperance, healthful practices, and all aspects of Adventist health evangelism as may be appropriate.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Health Ministries Department of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is for every member to achieve abundant health and every Seventh-day Adventist church to become a center for wholeness where church and community members alike can reach their full potential.

Achievements over Reporting Period

3. Visits from the Higher Organization

IAD Health Ministries Director visits to CARU

The Health Ministries Director of CARU, Dr Alexander Isaacs, extended a special invitation to Dr. Franck Génés, Health Ministries Director of the Inter-American Division and President of Adventist Healthcare Services – Inter-America (AHS–IA) to visit the Caribbean Union in his new role at the IAD. Dr Génés graciously accepted the invitation and visited CARU from June 8-16, 2024. His itinerary included stops in Trinidad, Guyana, Barbados, and St Kitts, in that order.

The main purpose of his trip was to visit the Community Hospital in Trinidad and the Davis Memorial Hospital in Guyana. However, he also visited the dental clinic in St Kitts, and Barbados was included in his itinerary because the IAD Health Ministries Department and the East Caribbean Conference were at that time, vigorously exploring the possibility of establishing a Primary Health Care Clinic there.

In Trinidad, Dr Génés held a virtual meeting with all the Health Ministries Directors of the local fields of CARU on the morning of June 9. During that meeting, the directors shared briefly about the health work in their respective fields. In the afternoon, Dr Génés met with health professionals from Trinidad and Tobago, with participants from Trinidad attending in person at the Mt D’Or SDA Church and participants from Tobago joining virtually.

On June 10, Dr Génés was the devotional speaker at CARU’s morning worship, after which he paid a courtesy call on President, Dr Kern Tobias. During that visit, he shared some of his plans and projections for health ministries in the IAD. The remainder of the day was spent at the Community Hospital during which he was conducted on a guided tour of the physical plant and engaged in meetings with the hospital administration.

On June 11, Dr Génés paid courtesy calls on the president of South Caribbean Conference, Pastor Leslie Moses, and the president of the University of the Southern Caribbean, Dr Colwick Wilson. Dr Wilson and Dr Génés discussed how USC and the IAD Health Ministries Department could collaborate to advance the work of health ministries in CARU and the other parts of the IAD.

On June 12, Dr Génés and Dr Isaacs visited the Davis Memorial Hospital in Guyana where they were graciously welcomed by the CEO and her team. Dr Génés was the devotional speaker at the hospital's morning worship session and afterwards made a courtesy visit to the administrators of the Guyana Conference. The visiting team then toured the DMH, after which Dr Génés held meetings with the hospital's administrative and supervisory teams, and interacted with staff. Dr Isaacs hosted that day's *Prayer at Noon* session. The hospitality and congeniality extended to the visiting team were copious. It was heart-warming to witness the workers' dedication to their responsibilities and the progress that had been made at the hospital.

Dr Génés pledged a monetary gift from his department towards the acquisition of a new elevator for the hospital. The visit climaxed with a brief stop at the Millicent Greaves Home for the Elderly, located opposite the hospital.

Dr Noel Brathwaite joined the team in Barbados the following day, and their first stop was the headquarters of the East Caribbean Conference where Dr Génés was the devotional speaker for the morning's worship session. He presented on the Total Health Movement initiative developed by the IAD Health Ministries Department. This was followed by a meeting with the administrators of the conference to discuss plans for the establishment of a Primary Health Clinic in Barbados using the Primary Health Care model developed by the IAD. He also met with the management committee appointed by the conference to oversee that project.

From Barbados, the team traveled to St. Kitts where they toured the SDA Dental clinic and held discussions with the missionary resident dentist. It was very encouraging to see the dental clinic in operation and boasting some modern dental equipment.



The Missionary Dentist at the SDA Dental Clinic in St Kitts, doing a routine demonstration on Dr Franck Génés, IAD Health Ministries Director. [Photo: St Kitts Dental Clinic]

Dr Génés described his CARU tour as productive, for the most part, and ended it with a stirring message at the Stanmore Avenue SDA Church in Port-of-Spain on Sabbath, June 15. The fields all expressed appreciation for his visit.

Visit of the IAD Health Ministries Director to the East Caribbean Conference

Dr Génés was specially invited once again to visit the East Caribbean Conference in 2025. During the period May 25th to June 2nd, he visited Dominica from May 25th to 27th, accompanied by Dr Alexander Isaacs. They received a warm welcome from Health Ministries Director of the ECC, Sis Priscilla Prevost and his itinerary on the island included meetings with the church membership, the ministerial team, and SDA health professionals

and their counterparts from the public and private sectors. Dr Génés also made presentations on the Primary Health Care Multi-disciplinary team, Total Health Movement initiative that was being rolled out in the fields of the IAD, the Primary Health Care system currently in existence, and the new model that the IAD Health Ministries Department was planning to implement.

The team traveled on to Barbados where they were joined by Dr Noel Brathwaite, the Director of Philanthropy of the IAD Health Department and a member of the IAD Health Advisory team. The Barbados itinerary included a workshop on Primary Health Care Multidisciplinary team at the ECC Conference Centre, Friday morning worship with the office staff, a meeting with the pastors, and a special training program involving the health leaders on the island. Presenters at the training included Dr Génés and his support team from Montemorelos University, Sis Priscilla Prevost, and Dr Alexander Isaacs. During the Friday evening meeting, the Total Health Movement was launched. That was a memorable occasion interspersed with presentations from the IAD Health Ministries Department. The visit culminated with a grand health convention on Sabbath, May 31st. The participants left the convention motivated to continue spreading the SDA health message far and wide.



Front Row from Left to Right - Dr Franck Geneus, IAD Health Ministries Director, Mrs Priscilla Prevost, Health Ministries Director of the East Caribbean Conference, and Dr Alexander Isaacs, CARU Health Ministries Director. [Photo: East Caribbean Caribbean]

4. IAD Programs

Participation in IAD Health Ministries Advisories

During the quinquennium, the Health Ministries Director of CARU attended two advisories/summits convened by the Health Ministries Director of the Inter-American Division. These gatherings served primarily to keep Union health directors apprised of developments in the Health Ministries Department of the IAD, assess the progress of the Total Health Movement and fine-tune it to make for a more impactful implementation of the initiative by the fields of the IAD, harness the resources for health ministries in the IAD to meet the needs of our congregations, and strategize for future initiatives of the Health Ministries Department. These meetings were either in-person, hybrid, or virtual.

5. CARU Programs

Health Ministries Week Celebrations

The annual Health Ministries Week celebrations continued to be observed by all the fields of CARU during the quinquennium. Materials for these special observances were provided by the Health Ministries Department of the Inter-American Division. This special annual focus on health across the IAD territory is much anticipated by the fields.

CARU Health Ministries Advisory Held in Trinidad

In keeping with the planned programmatic initiatives of the Caribbean Union Conference Health Ministries Department for the quinquennium under review, the Department hosted an advisory for health directors from the local fields from **January 24 to 26, 2023**. The **advisory** was held on the campus of the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) under the theme, **“I Will Go: Enhancing the Health and Well-being of the Church and the Community”**.

Field directors were granted the opportunity to hear first-hand the proposed initiatives of the CARU Health Ministries Department for the new quinquennium. These initiatives incorporated the strategic direction of the Inter-American Division Health Ministries Department, as well as the Caribbean Union’s Strategic Plan for this quinquennium. Devotional speakers for the advisory included the Union President, Dr Kern Tobias, Treasurer, Pastor Bertie Henry, Dr Clive Dottin, Parliamentary Affairs and Religious Liberty Director, and Dr Alexander Isaacs, the Health Ministries Director.

During the discussion forum segment of the advisory, the CARU Health Director accommodated reports from the directors on the progress of the health work, and concerns

and challenges impacting health ministries in their respective fields. Some of the concerns raised and recommendations made by the Plans and Recommendations Committee from the 17th Quinquennial Session of the Caribbean Union were also addressed in this forum. One such recommendation made by delegates at the Session was the repackaging of the Seventh-day Adventist health message to make it more relevant and appealing to members and the wider community.

This was an opportune time to re-connect with the directors from our fields after being denied that opportunity in the previous years because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It also served as an induction exercise for new health directors from the local field who had recently come on board, and allowed for meaningful exchanges among the directors. The directors were afforded the opportunity to share best practices with their colleagues.

Continuation of the Roll Out of the Health Promoters Certification Training Program in CARU

As stated in my report at the 17th quinquennium session of CARU in 2022, the Health Ministries Department continued the rollout of the Health Promoters Training Program in the local fields. To reiterate, the objectives of the program are:

1. To train health promoters so that every church in the IAD territory becomes a community center for integral health, and every member a minister of health
2. To proclaim the gospel of health throughout the Inter-American Division territory
3. To promote a healthy lifestyle according to the instructions received in the Holy Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy.

This certification for health promoters equips church members who wish to share the health message that can be beneficial to themselves and to others who wish to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

During the quinquennium, training was conducted in the following fields:

- South Caribbean Conference
- South Leeward Conference
- St Lucia Mission
- Tobago Conference
- St Vincent and the Grenadines Mission
- Suriname Mission

This brings the total number of fields in which the training has been conducted so far to nine (9) out of the ten (10) fields in CARU. Similar training had previously been conducted in the Grenada, East Caribbean, and Guyana Conferences.

This remarkable achievement was due in no small part to the continued support given by Mrs Belkis Archbold, retired IAD Health Ministries Director, who has served as one of the main facilitators of the training since its inception during her tenure as IAD Health Ministries Director. Mrs. Archbold made a commitment to continue providing support to CARU to roll out the program in all the fields of CARU and has been faithful to her commitment in this regard.

Dr Claudette Mitchell, Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Science, School of Science, Technology and Allied Health at the University of the Southern Caribbean also assisted with the training and did a remarkable job by serving as the facilitator of the nutrition component. A main feature of the training was the hands-on experience gained by participants who were involved in the Food Preparation and Demonstration session held on the final day. Also, each field prepared a booklet containing recipes of a few local dishes from their field.

The training culminated with a graduation exercise during which successful participants received a certificate of completion, health promoter's pin, and a flash drive containing all the presentations made during the training from the Health Ministries Department of the Inter-American Division. Participants also received a copy of the recipes used to prepare the meals for the food demonstration component.

In an effort to break the language barriers and expand the reach of the training, the program booklet, presentations, and recipes were translated into Dutch for the benefit of the participants from the Suriname Mission's cohort. Participants were pleasantly surprised and expressed their appreciation for the effort to reach them in their native language.



Participants from the Health Promoters Certification Training in the St. Lucia Mission. Seated in the front row from left to right are Pastor Leeroy David, Health Ministries Director, Dr Claudette Mitchell (facilitator), Mrs. Belkis Archbold (IAD Health Ministries Director - retired) and Dr Alexander Isaacs, CARU Health Ministries Director [Photo: St Lucia Mission]



Health Promoters Certification Training Session in Progress at the South Leeward Conference. Standing is Dr Eulalie Semper, Health Ministries Director of SLC. [Photo: South Leeward Conference]



Attendees participate in the Food Preparation and Demonstration Session of the Health Promoters Training in the St Vincent and the Grenadines Mission [Photo: St Vincent and the Grenadines Mission]

The training programs generated a lot of interest from the fields and were all memorable occasions. On one occasion, more than 150 individuals were on the Zoom platform on the opening night of the training. It was truly delightful to see the degree to which the participants were engaged. The leaders of the local fields gave tremendous support to the program. Over 250 persons from the Caribbean Union have been trained as health promoters so far.

Literature / Publications

Contribution of Articles to the Special Edition of the Caribbean Union Gleanings

In an effort to highlight the work of Health Ministries in the Caribbean Union, the Health Ministries Department collaborated with the Communication Department of CARU to prepare the special issue of the *Gleanings* which was released during the second quarter of 2025. The Health Ministries Department was the main contributor to this special edition of the publication which featured articles that focused on the history of two of our flagship health care institutions in the Union; the Community Hospital in Trinidad, and the Davis Memorial Hospital and Clinic in Guyana. The St. Vincent Dental Clinic, and the Cave's Nursing Home in Barbados were also featured. Articles were obtained from the local fields, educational institutions and individuals.

Preparation of the Adult Readings for CARU's 2024 Holy Spirit Emphasis Week Observance

One of the major accomplishments of the Health Ministries Department during the quinquennium was the preparation of the adult readings for CARU's Holy Spirit Emphasis Week of Observance 2024. The readings highlighted the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist health message using the acronym **NEWSTART: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in Divine Power**. The Adventist lifestyle offers these eight gifts of health or natural remedies in one package. These secrets of vitality, energy, and long life which have been demonstrated by Seventh-day Adventists for more than 163 years, are now being verified by scientific research. The readings were well received by the CARU constituency and further afield.



Commemoration of the 162nd Anniversary of the Health Reform Vision by Ellen White

On June 6, 2025, the Health Ministries Department of the IAD staged a special activity; the commemoration of the 162nd anniversary of the Health Reform vision by Ellen White. Her vision highlights that part of our religious duty is to preserve and promote health. This forms a major part of the foundation upon which the Health Ministries mission of the SDA Church rests.

In commemoration of this anniversary, the IAD shared two sermons and some ideas for celebrating this milestone of the Adventist health message. These sermons were made available to each local field through their respective Health Ministries Directors who were encouraged to feature them at all levels, as far as possible, to highlight the occasion.

E. G. White reminds the Church in Gospel Workers (p 18.3) that “the greatest work, the noblest effort in which man can engage, is to point his fellow men to the Lamb of God.” As the SDA Church continues promoting the message of health reform, it points people to God and helps fulfil His intended purpose for all humanity.

Outreach

Collaboration with USC to host the United Hands Inc. FreeDOM Clinic Mission

As a testament to the power of community collaboration and selfless service, the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) partnered with United Hands Inc., the Caribbean Union Conference, the South Caribbean Conference, The Community Hospital and a number of governmental and non-governmental entities to host the FreeDOM Clinic from March 13 to March 16, 2023. This initiative, organized by United Hands Inc., reached a significant milestone by offering free dental, optical, and medical care to the public at the USC Auditorium on USC’s main campus in Maracas Valley.



Members of the United Hands Inc. Team and Representatives from USC pose for a picture.

[Photo: University of the Southern Caribbean]

United Hands Inc., known as FreeDOM Clinic USA, has a remarkable track record of delivering vital healthcare services to uninsured or underinsured patients, serving countries including the USA, Antigua, Ghana, South Africa, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Patients began lining up as early as 2:00 a.m. each day, with doors officially opening at 6:30 a.m. to commence service. The FreeDOM Clinic's team of 15 volunteer dentists, optometrists, and medical doctors worked tirelessly to serve the community, embodying the spirit of humanitarianism dubbed "*A Mission of Hope & Healing*".

Over the course of four days, the FreeDOM Clinic's dedicated team provided services to an astonishing 1,225 individuals. This included addressing 214 medical cases, aiding 495 individuals with vision services, and providing dental care to 516 people. These numbers not only underscore the pressing need for affordable healthcare, but also highlight the incredible dedication of the medical professionals and volunteers who made it all possible.

The mission was graciously hosted by MP Esmond Forde who, alongside other contributors, facilitated community transportation, promoted the clinic in various communities, and provided essential volunteer assistance.

The United Hands and FreeDOM Clinic extended their outreach through a week of prayer at the Caribbean Union College Secondary School and hosted other outreach programs at various SDA schools in Trinidad. They also donated 14 laptop computers to the Maracas SDA Primary School, thereby ensuring that the gift of education continues to uplift the community. These initiatives reinforced United Hands' commitment to holistic health and spiritual nourishment.

The impact of this mission is profound and enduring. Their work, which seamlessly blends medical care, spiritual nourishment, and community upliftment stands as a shining example of the profound impact of selfless service.

In the words of Ann Burnett, Executive Director of United Hands, “Helping those in need is not just a motto, it’s a calling that has transformed countless lives.” The unity of hands in service has woven a tapestry of hope, healing, and community care that transcends the present and inspires us all to continue working together for a better future. The USC and its partners are immensely proud of this impactful collaboration, and they look forward to future endeavours that will continue to transform lives.

CARU Health Director Conducts Special Health Emphasis Week Program in the North Caribbean Conference

At the invitation of the Central SDA church in St Croix, North Caribbean Conference, and with the facilitation of the Health Ministries Director of that field, Pastor Danny Philip, Dr Isaacs visited the islands of St Croix and St Thomas during Health Ministries Week observance 2023, and conducted a special health series on the NEWSTART SDA Lifestyle. The health observance program which ran from September 17 to 24 on St. Croix, was spearheaded by the Health Committee of the church.

Initially, attendance at the nightly meetings was low, but steadily increased as members from other churches, as well as the wider community, joined the congregation for both the nightly services and the Sabbath program.

Concurrent with the nightly meetings, a health fair which attracted a large cross-section of the community, was held at one of the sister churches in the Central district. Attendees were provided with a range of free health services including blood pressure checks, screening for diabetes, medical check-ups, vegetarian cooking demos and sampling, and massages. The program culminated on September 24, with a grand health fair held at the Central SDA Church.

Subsequently, Dr Isaacs traveled to St. Thomas where he spent two days conducting nightly sessions on a number of health topics at one of the main churches. He spoke on nutrition, as well as the relationship between diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, and nutrition. Those nightly meetings were well attended, and the sessions were very interactive.

Overall, the messages on both islands were well received, and the administration of the NCC were very supportive of the programs. The members were challenged to heed the messages presented in order to receive the benefits of embracing the SDA health message. To God be the glory!

CARU Health Ministries Director Attends Adventist Health Professionals Association (Tobago Chapter) Annual Prayer Retreat

The CARU Health Ministries Director, Dr Alexander Isaacs, was the featured speaker at the Tobago Adventist Health Professionals Association (AHPA) Chapter's Annual Prayer Retreat held during the weekend of March 3 to 5, 2023, at the Bellissimo Boutique Hotel in Buccoo, under the theme, **"Mending the Broken Right Arm"**. Attendees included health secretaries and health professionals.

Some of the weekend's highlights included a consecration service on the Friday evening during which Dr Isaacs presented on "What is the Right Arm?" At the Sabbath service, he spoke on "How was the Right Arm Broken?" and as the main feature for the day, presented the "Importance of Mending the Right Arm". Bro Dave Simon, the AHPA president also presented his report for 2022.

On the Sabbath afternoon, Bro Ricardo Babb did a presentation on "Chronic Disease and Your Faith", and Dr Isaacs spoke on "Working the Right Arm" for the vespers segment. A planning session for the Chapter was incorporated into the afternoon program as well.

Throughout the weekend, participants engaged in special seasons of prayer and introspection, including Sunday's devotion segment on the beach where Dr Isaacs presented "Strengthening the Right Arm". The morning's activities also included breakfast, the appointment of individuals to fill vacant positions on the executive, and another planning session before the culmination of the weekend's activities.

The AHPA Tobago Chapter has served the Tobago public for many years through the Health Ministries Department by conducting health fairs, lectures, religious programmes, and other initiatives. The 2023 Annual Prayer Retreat provided an opportunity for health professionals to be refreshed and refocused to continue in service to both God and humanity.

Highlights From The Fields

SVG Mission's Health and Youth Ministries Departments Launch "MOVE TO LIVE" Initiative 2023

What was meant to be a simple launch catering to the health needs of members, evolved into one of the biggest health and fitness events on the island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Partnering with the Health Promotions Department of the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, the Health and Youth Ministries Department of the SVG Mission embarked on a health fair and glow walk to launch its "Move to Live" initiative. The event which began at 4:00 pm on a Sabbath, saw more than 2000 persons being screened and evaluated by medical professionals from disciplines including obstetrics, ophthalmology, dentistry, and general medicine. More than 3000 persons participated in the glow walk, moving from Kingstown to the decommissioned ET Joshua airport.



Part of the crowd at the “Move to Live” Health Fair and Glow Walk in St Vincent. [Photo: St Vincent and the Grenadines Mission]

The event concluded with an “old school” Adventist-style social which was appreciated by Adventists and non-Adventists alike, many of whom were experiencing an Adventist social for the first time.

East Caribbean Conference Health Ministries 2023



Barbados Black Rock Health March. [Photo: East Caribbean Conference]

In 2023, Drug Awareness Month, observed in May under the theme, “I Want to Live Healthy”, extended through August, reaching several communities with information and demonstrations on the impact of drugs and substance abuse on the individual, the family and the society.

In Barbados, the SDA Church partnered with the National Council on Substance Abuse while Dominica partnered with the Drug Prevention Unit there. Health Ministries teams organized a series of marches and motorcades, supported by Pathfinders, Adventurers, Master Guides and the Personal Ministries Department. In Barbados, the Pathfinder Band played a significant role in leading the marches.

Along the routes, participants made several stops to deliver brief presentations and distribute *Priority* magazines and educational leaflets on substance abuse. The initiative began in Barbados on May 21 with the Silver Hill Church. It continued in the Northeastern, City and Central districts in Dominica on May 27 and 28. In Barbados, the Black Rock and Grazettes churches conducted their march on June 25, and the St. Lucy District on July 16. On August 5, Pastor Julius Henry led out in the Kalinago Territory in Dominica. This Drug Awareness march revitalized drug prevention outreach in the East Caribbean Conference and established what is expected to become an annual event.

Grenada Conference

The Health Department of the Grenada Conference of Seventh-day Adventists supported the St. Andrew’s Development Organization (SADO), the Pink Ribbon Society, and other stakeholders, in hosting a church service at the Mt. Rose Seventh-day Adventist Church as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The month’s activities were observed under the theme, “***Empower Families to Thrive, Heal, Hope and Cope***”. The service was marked by praise and worship and testimonies by cancer survivors. Pastor Edward Guillaume, Health Ministries Director, delivered the sermonette, and special prayer sessions were conducted by Pastor Dwight Bowen and the elders. Attendees described the service as a tremendous blessing.



Photo opportunity for participants at the church service held at the Mt. Rose Seventh-day Adventist Church in Grenada. Pastor Edward Guillaume, Health Ministries Director of the Conference is at the far right. [Photo: Grenada Conference]

South Caribbean Conference

“HEALTH IS SALT”

Following His baptism, Jesus began His ministry by training twelve disciples to continue the work of proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom (Matthew 10:1 - 4). In a similar spirit, the South Caribbean Conference Health Ministries Department partnered with SDA health professionals, non-profit organizations, medical doctors, educational institutions, geriatric homes, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders to extend its health outreach across districts and communities.

Through these partnerships, individuals were educated and empowered to combat non-communicable diseases by adopting the Eight Laws of Health as part of their daily lifestyle. Some of the services provided included vision screenings, First Aid and CPR training, basic home-nursing courses, online and in-person health lectures, hearing assessments, and the distribution of health aids such as wheelchairs.

The words of Jesus, “Ye are the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13), remind believers of their calling to positively influence the lives of others. Through acts of service and compassionate outreach, people who may not share the Seventh-day Adventist faith can experience God’s love firsthand and be drawn to know and follow Him, just as many were inspired through the ministry of Christ and His disciples.



Mr. Andy Mayers, FEEL Representative, handing over some wheelchairs to Mrs. Victoria De Coteau, SCC Health Ministries Director. [Photo: South Caribbean Conference]

South Leeward Conference

Created to Move

The South Leeward Conference in Antigua and Barbuda recently celebrated a vibrant season of health, energy, and spiritual renewal through the “Created to Move” challenge, held in partnership with Design to Live. This was a ten-day challenge based on the principle found in Daniel 1:5-16.

This dynamic ten-day initiative was built around the well-known NEWSTART principles -Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in God - encouraging participants to embrace a holistic lifestyle. Each day, individuals across the conference

intentionally stepped out of their routines and into movement, choosing activities such as walking, running, and cycling as practical expressions of healthier living.



The challenge brought together persons of all ages and fitness levels, creating a spirit of unity and motivation throughout the community. From early morning walks to evening rides, participants demonstrated commitment, discipline, and joy as they prioritized their well-being. Beyond physical benefits, many reported improved mental clarity, stronger spiritual focus, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Indeed, the “Created to Move” challenge was more than just an exercise program; it was a celebration of life, health, and community. The South Leeward Conference extends heartfelt appreciation to all participants and partners who made this initiative a resounding success. It truly was an awesome experience, reminding everyone that we were created to move and to thrive.

St. Lucia Mission

Move to Live - Bike Ride

The Move to Live brand has been active in St. Lucia since 2014, bringing together participants from across the island to walk along a designated route. On this occasion, the brand was extended to include a bicycle ride called “Move to Live Bike Ride”.

On August 1, 2023, while the island celebrated Emancipation Day, over 40 riders ranging in age from seven to sixty-five, rode over forty kilometres from the grounds of the Zion SDA Church to Sunny Acres and back. Riders were then treated to a hearty breakfast.

Along the route, bikers stopped in the community of Faux A. Chaux to distribute copies of The Great Controversy and other literature on health, as well as food hampers. As a result, the activity served not only as an opportunity for exercise, but for evangelism and fellowship.

At the conclusion of the event, riders expressed how much they enjoyed themselves and indicated a desire for similar events to be organized in the future.



Participants in the Move to Live Bike Ride [Photo: St Lucia Mission]

Suriname Mission

Launching of a Vegan Cooking Class

In October, 2023, the multi-purpose room of the Suriname Mission was transformed into a culinary lab as the Health Ministries Department launched its Vegan Cooking Class. This initiative helped the Department to meet its strategic objective of equipping individuals to practice the Edenic way of life in relation to diet. The initiative debunked myths about the nutritional value and flavour of plant-based dishes.

A total of 27 enthusiastic participants graduated on December 7. The graduation exercise included the preparation and presentation of three dishes to a team of judges. In attendance were the President of the Suriname Mission, Pastor Guno Emanuelson, and the Executive Secretary, Pastor David Daniel, who used the occasion to congratulate the participants on their achievement and to encourage them to maintain a holistic and healthy lifestyle. Six of the participants were non-Seventh-day Adventists and expressed their appreciation for the acceptance, knowledge and fellowship experienced during the sessions. Several of the participants registered for the Healthy and Happy Programme, which was scheduled for 2024.



Participants on day 1 of the Health Promoters Certification Training. [Photo: Suriname Mission]

Guyana Conference

Ten (10) Days of Wellness Program

This program promoted a plant-based diet, along with the assessment of participants' blood pressure, blood sugar, BMI, and cholesterol level before and after the 10-day period. The results indicated significant improvement in blood sugar control and blood pressure regulation, weight loss, and a general sense of wellness during and after the program. Participants were supported through nightly Zoom sessions covering various aspects of nutrition and wellness, which provided encouragement and guidance to help participants complete the 10-day plant-based dietary program.

The training was conducted by the UZIMA Lifestyle Center in collaboration with the Health Ministries Department of the Guyana Conference.



Team members of the UZIMA Lifestyle Center pose for at Picture. [Photo: APC Community Services]

Tobago Conference

Sharing the SDA Health Message on the Island of Tobago

In an effort to remind the brethren of the applicability of the health message, (the right arm of the gospel) to the holistic gospel message, the Health Ministries Department of the Tobago Conference embarked on a Health Caravan initiative.

This initiative by Health Director, Sister Tracy Dick-Noel aims to: (1) reaffirm that the Adventist health message is God-breathed, (2) emphasize its role as an effective entering wedge for Christian witness, and (3) highlight its value as an enduring guide to healthy living, rather than a list of dos and don'ts.

The execution method entails visiting every church/district on the island and sharing the principles of the Adventist health message alongside current health statistics, and demonstrating God-given solutions to modern health challenges. To accomplish this, the Conference engages Adventist health professionals including doctors, nurses, dietitians, anaesthesiologists, and medical missionaries to provide education on nutrition, natural remedies, and healthy lifestyle practices.

Faced with an increase in mental health challenges since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Health Caravan team also has mental health nurses on board who share tips for improvement of

people's mental and emotional wellbeing. Presentations highlight topics such as maintaining optimal health, annual check-ups, NEWSTART principles, and avoiding extreme diets. With the rise in cases of Alzheimer's/dementia among our brethren and the wider community, presentations focus on engaging in simple daily activities such as reading aloud, quick maths, and journaling. Additionally, due to an increase in the number of stroke cases, the Department brought on board a dietitian and visiting district health doctor to educate individuals on ways to reduce their risk of suffering a stroke.

Through the combined efforts of Adventist health professionals and medical missionaries, the Tobago Conference continues to wage war against health misinformation and seek ways to improve the lives of our fellow men.



Dr Alexander Isaacs, CARU Health Ministries Director, delivering the divine hour message at the Health Caravan Programme at the Belismiso SDA Church. [Photo: Tobago Conference]

PROJECTIONS

The work of the health ministries is making significant progress across the Caribbean Union. As the work advances, greater emphasis should be placed on strengthening its initiatives and motivating the SDA membership to fully embrace the SDA Lifestyle so that they can enjoy the many benefits that result from living in harmony with these health principles.

APPRECIATION

To Dr Franck Génés, Health Ministries Director of the Inter-American Division, thanks for your support during the quinquennium.

I wish to express sincere thanks also to Mrs. Belkis Archbold, IAD Health Ministries Director (retired) for her unstinting support in helping the Department continue the rollout of the Health Promoters Certification Training Program in the fields of CARU. She has kept her promise to CARU in this regard even though she is retired.

To the administrators of the Caribbean Union and, by extension, the Caribbean Union Executive Committee, for their wholehearted support and encouragement throughout the period.

Thanks to Sis Avril Henry-John who served as my Administrative Assistant for the first six months of the quinquennium before accepting a call to serve in a new role at the University of the Southern Caribbean.

A big thank you to my indefatigable Administrative Assistant, Sis Jadia Joseph, who came on board after Sis Avril Henry-John's departure. Her work in the department has been outstanding

Thanks to all the Health Ministries Directors of the local fields for their support and for leading the charge in advancing the cause of health ministries in their respective jurisdictions. They form a great cadre of health ministries leaders.

Special thanks is also extended to Dr Claudette Mitchell for her support in the rollout of the Health Promoters Certification Training, serving as facilitator for the Food Preparation and Demonstration component, which was an integral part of the training.

Thanks to my family for their constant support, prayers, and understanding as I sought to execute my duties, which at times required me to be away from home. Their support has meant a lot to me.

Above all, thanks be to God for granting me the opportunity and privilege to serve as Health Ministries Director of CARU. I deem it a privilege and an act of God's grace to have been able to do so.

