WHOLE PERSON HEALTH

Through Congregation-based Healing Ministries

WHAT EACH CONGREGATION CAN DO:
An introductory outline

REACHING

- Individuals
- Families
- Churches
- Communities
INTRODUCTION

No congregation is too small or limited in resources to have some form of a Whole Person Healing Ministry. The purpose of this sharing is to provide a basic outline that could provide encouragement to each and all churches to make a start.

This outline will focus on Possible Healing Ministry activities including:

1. Possible Types of Services and
2. Stages of Developing Services
HEALING MINISTRY ACTIVITIES
For Congregations and Communities

POSSIBLE TYPES OF SERVICES

These are some services that your church could set up:

1. **Health Promotion Activities** - for lifestyle change
2. **Health Screening** - for prevention
3. **Prayer Ministry** - for Divine Healing
4. **Wholistic Services** - medical, counseling, spiritual and social work care
   (through lay and professional workers)
5. **Community Organization** - for community self-development
   E.g. education, economic, community health and recreational services

STAGES OF DEVELOPING SERVICES

Many churches may have limited resources. All attempts at a basic Ministry will grow with time. The listing below shows a progression of what can be done from a stage of limited resources to one of greater supplies of personnel, finance, training etc.
STAGE 1
First start with the following:

- **HEALTH PROMOTION,**
- **SCREENING** for common chronic diseases,
- **PRAYER** activities

- **INVOLVE THE WHOLE CONGREGATION IN PRAYER AND WELLNESS-PROMOTION**
  - Divine healing, prayer and Whole Person Health Promotion are for the total congregation: singles, couples, men, women, elderly, youth etc. These roles are not just for professionals.

  *“Let Every member be a Prayer Partner and Health Promoter.”*

- **DEVELOP WELLNESS SUPPORT GROUPS** for ‘participatory health and healing’
  - This can involve group of persons in everyday living wishing to support each other for a richer life. Persons can also meet for special needs. Members together reflect on their challenges, pray for one another and help each other develop their own solutions. Groups can be formed for women, men, singles, couples, bereavement, challenging physical illnesses and recovery from abuse or addiction.

STAGE 2
Next, move to **LAY WHOLISTIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES** - involving lay workers.

Involve them in activities within the congregation, homes and the community. Using professionals alone is neither feasible nor cost effective.

Seek to identify and train:

a) Lay Health Workers

b) Lay Counsellors
c) Prayer Partners

d) Community Organisers

a) Lay Health Workers

These are trained volunteers who are resources for:

- health education and promotion for individuals, groups and community
- basic health care.

b) Lay Counsellors

would provide non-professional counselling to people ‘where they are’ and facilitating support groups and prayer.

c) Prayer Partners

would be involved in prayer for healing and spiritual counselling in whole person clinics, or visits and in communities.

d) Lay Community Organisers

These persons (volunteer or paid) can facilitate community cohesion and collaboration for self-help action through “conscientization” and “community building”.

**STAGE 3**

Then, your church could identify an underserved geographical community nearby or otherwise, and try to develop a Community Organization for self-help.

This self help would include community development in all areas of the Whole Person. This would involved the services of the lay community organizer and a church team.
STAGE 4

Lastly, as resources come into place, the congregation could sponsor **Professional Wholistic Services**. This would involve the following activities:

- Medical care
- counselling
- prayer
- social work

All these services could be provided in the same building which could be called a “Healing Center” or “Whole Person Health Center”. Services would involve not only professionals but also the relevant lay workers described above.

These services will need to be integrated with each other. In this way, the congregation could contribute to “Total Healing for the Whole Person.”

**COMMISSION AND EMPLOY PERSONS FOR SPECIAL MINISTRIES.**

For the sustainability of the ministry it is helpful to employ and commission one or more full time professional care agent. Such persons could be a “congregation nurse”, church counselor, church social worker or community organizer. Any of these persons could function as the church’s “Health and Development Associate Minister” or “Healing Ministry Director” providing and managing services to individuals, groups, families and communities.

“Let us have a Healing Ministry in every church!”

What more can your congregation do to improve the Whole lives of its members and its community?