November 24, 2009

Dear Global Conference Participant:

It has been about four months since the Conference in Geneva. Hopefully, your life is back to normal and you still have good memories of the Conference and of its many attendees and speakers.

You may be interested in a few of the outcomes of the Conference.

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**Short Report on the**

**Global Conference on Health & Lifestyle in Primary Care**

*July 6-11, 2009 | Geneva Switzerland*

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**Statistics**

The Global Conference on Health & Lifestyle was a seven-day conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, July 6-11, 2009. The conference included 20 tracks and seminars and over 250 presentations by 140 international specialists, for over 750 guests from 95 countries. It provided evidence-based information, working models, and target strategies to meet the pressing needs of the global community for improved health and spiritual care.

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**Primary Goals of the Conference**

- To demonstrate from evidence-based data that positive lifestyle choices can reduce the costs and improve the quality of primary care.

- To provide a venue for World Health Organization (WHO) and its Branch offices such as the Pan American Health Organization to become acquainted with the medical assets and the networking capabilities of Adventist Medical Hospitals, clinics, and churches.

- To educate Adventist health care workers about the expertise and resources available at the World Health Organization and its branch offices.

- To provide a venue for Adventist health care workers to network with WHO, other faith-based organizations, and each other.

- To demonstrate, in a practical way, the integration of scientific health principles and practices and spiritual care and beliefs into primary care.
Outcomes of the Conference

August 2009

At the end of the Geneva Global Health Conference, Dr. Carissa Etienne called us to set up an appointment with her at WHO. She wanted to visit the General Conference World Headquarters. On August 27, the Health Ministries Department hosted her over lunch, followed by a couple hours of dialoging. She stated that Africa needs more midwives, and wanted to know if the Department could help train them. Dr. Handysides responded affirmatively, adding that he’d like to see the training be a part of a larger curriculum. Once the trainees have received a Certificate, they could go into practice or pursue their studies further. Dr. Handysides spoke with Dr. Patricia Jones at Loma Linda University, since the Loma Linda School of Nursing operates several nursing schools in Africa. Dr. Jones has been actively working on dialoging between the African universities and Loma Linda University. Several universities, including one in Europe, have indicated an interest in setting up a program for training midwives.

October 2009

The statement voted at the 2009 Annual Council of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA reads as follows:

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church affirms the commitment and objectives of its Health Ministry aiming to achieve the well being of its members and the communities it serves, and improving global health.

The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists reiterates its commitment to the principles of human dignity and equity, social justice, freedom, self-determination, access to clean food and water, and non-discriminatory universal access to available health care. Through its ministry of preaching, teaching, healing, and discipling, the Church seeks to represent the mission of Jesus Christ in such as way as to be:

· Regarded globally as teaching a wholistic model of evidence based healthful living in primary health care.

· Seen at all times as a trusted, transparent ally of organizations with compatible goals and vision, in alleviating suffering and addressing basic health and well-being.

· Recognized for the unconditional scope of its embrace of all persons seeking this basic health and well-being.

· Involved not only administratively but also functionally at every level including each congregation and church member in this ministry of health and healing.”

(Comments by this reporter: The addition of the word discipling may be best understood in the health work as mentoring.)

November 2009
November 10-12, 2009, the World Health Organization Office of Partnerships and UN Reform and the Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty called a two-day meeting in Geneva to initiate an open consultation between WHO and international partners including non-government organizations and faith-based organizations, academic partners, and international organizations, toward agreeing on a standard protocol for assessing, monitoring, and mapping religious health assets.

Meaningful input was given to WHO toward improving the Health Facility Core Questionnaire that will be used by more faith-based organizations in geographic information mapping and collecting information on the medical assets of FBOs’ facilities.

This information will help WHO map meaningful responses to global epidemics, increase national governments’ awareness of the medical assets of faith-based institutions, and improve quality and coverage of medical care.

Over 40 organizations were represented at this conference. Stoy Proctor represented the General Conference Health Ministries Department, and Martine Polycarp represented the Adventist Development and Relief Agency. Both representatives are graduates of Loma Linda University.

Cooperative dialog has started with at least four branches of the World Health Organization and four Division Health Ministries Departments: The Inter-American Division and PAHO, the Euro-African Division and WHO, and the Southern Asia Pacific Division and the South Asia Pacific Division of WHO and the regional office of Africa and the Eastern Africa Division.

The Organizers are very grateful for the splendid cooperation and support of the World Health Organization, University of Geneva, Salève Adventist University, Loma Linda University, the General Conference Administration, including Treasury, the Euro-Africa Division – especially Viriato Ferreira – and several departments of the General Conference. Three or four Divisions sent a large contingent to the Conference, and ought to be mentioned. The three African Divisions worked extra hard in recruiting members; the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, and (for its size of membership) the South Pacific Division, and of course the North American and Inter-American Divisions. We are specifically thankful for the 750 plus individuals who financed their registration, food, travel and lodging for seven days. We must express our disappointment for over 200 individuals who were denied visas to Geneva.

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