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Adventist supporting ministry

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Launched in 1978, NEWSTART is an acronym for nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, air, rest, and trust in God.

The center has assisted more than 11,000 guests in regaining wellness through natural means, according to its website.

Weimar officials announced the launch last month at a dinner attended by guests from the Adventist Church headquarters, including President Ted N. C. Wilson, Assistant to the President for Evangelism Mark Finley and Ministerial Association Secretary Jerry Page.

"Helping local churches to become centers of influence and health centers for the Lord, this is what our church needs," Wilson told meeting attendees.

Weimar President Dr. Neil Nedley said, "Jesus is coming soon and he has told us that medical ministry will be one of the final avenues for reaching people. God needs us to equip His people to do that work."

Denominational health leaders said the updated version of NEWSTART will better meet health needs from those who are outside of North America.

"The modern world presents many new health challenges that are better addressed in the updated portion," Dr. Allan Handysides, Health Ministries director for the Adventist world church, said later in an interview.

"I am confident that NEWSTART Global will help those seeking to serve beyond North American borders," Handysides said. "Those using NEWSTART Global will need to meet people where they are and demonstrate flexibility as they work with cultures different from the North American mentality."

Handysides said the updated program would also better enable church health leaders the addressing of modern health issues such as HIV/AIDS and substance abuse.

Katia Reinert, Health Ministries director for the Adventist Church in North America, said NEWSTART has been "instrumental" in promoting health principles among Adventists and