

Purpose of HEALING STREAM MINISTRIES

The Three Angels Messages for Natural Church Development and Healthy Congregations

Church Growth

Current research on church growth in North America indicates that the primary factor in church growth is the *spiritual health* of the local congregation. These findings come not only from reliable sources outside of our denomination (Barna, Schwartz, *Natural Church Development*), but also from sources within our own church (G. Oesterwal, *Mission Possible*, 1972). The data indicates that the spiritual health of the local church, as evidenced through the personal friendship factor among our own members, far outweighs the results of radio/television, evangelistic meetings, periodicals etc. in attracting and retaining new members, and that the results of conventional evangelism and radio/television ministries are significantly improved when the spiritual health of the local congregation is enhanced. Many years ago Ellen White put it this way, “*If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one.*” (9T189)

Many of our people have come to feel that they are not equipped to witness to others about their faith. Some say it is because they do not know all the right reasons for our beliefs, but the truth is closer to the fact that many do not have a living and personal testimony about what Jesus Christ has done for them personally. We must equip such individuals to give a ‘life message’ and not just a ‘this is what my church believes message.’

The Power of the Gospel

The purpose of HEALING STREAM MINISTRIES is to teach Seventh-day Adventists about how to personally experience the power of the gospel, both for assurance of salvation as well as the problems of everyday living, and how such personal testimonies about Jesus will become the most powerful tools in winning others to Christ. Such testimonies will break the power of Satan.

“*And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony*” (Revelation 12:11). “*The thought that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, not because of any merit on our part, but as a free gift from God, is a precious thought. The enemy of God and man is not willing that this truth should be clearly presented; for he knows that if the people receive it fully, his power will be broken*” (The Faith I Live By, p. 111). “*...justification by faith...it is the third angel's message in verity*” (Review & Herald, April 1, 1890).

HEALING STREAM MINISTRIES seeks to give Seventh-day Adventists practical and experiential knowledge about the power of Christ as being sufficient to handle all of life's problems and challenges. The seminar seeks to exalt Jesus Christ as we take the messages of the three

angels of Revelation 14 as medicine for our own lives. The contents of these seminars do not replace the time-tested truths of these prophetic messages, but rather challenges people to dig deeper in God's word to discover and apply additional truths for the challenges and problems of everyday living.

In addition to the historical-prophetic applications of ‘Babylon’ and the ‘beast,’ the seminar also looks at the traits of these last-day powers as they may occur in our own lives. (Do we ever use the methods of the beast to do the work of the Lamb?) Consequently, the seminar deals with these areas of practical godliness for everyday living (all found in the three angels messages):

positive assurance of salvation · overcoming fear, anger, pride, self-sufficiency, worry, bitterness and unforgiveness · the healing of woundedness · discovering genuine freedom in Christ · genuine self-worth · how to discern deception · protection against Satan's identity theft · dealing with control, manipulation, intimidation and coercion · how not to look for love in the wrong places · the abuse of love · the abuse of power · genuine love · patience of the saints [and patience with the saints] and much, much more.

The Power of Personal Testimony

By giving our church members actual hands-on-experiences about the life-transforming power of Jesus Christ and His cross for their everyday personal problems, we are effectively equipping them to give solid, personal and spontaneous testimonies about Jesus Christ. The multiplication of such joyful and authentic testimonies will produce healthy congregations, which contagiously will attract others to Jesus Christ.

“*Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world...that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience. We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality. These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christlike life, have an irresistible power, that works for the salvation of souls.*” (The Desire of Ages, p. 347).

“*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself*” (John 8:32)
“*Of all professing Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in uplifting Christ before the world.*” (Gospel Workers, p. 156)
“*The strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian.*” (Ministry of Healing, p. 470).