

WORKING
TOGETHER FOR
JESUS

WORKERS IN CENTERS OF
INFLUENCE WILL BE GIFTED IN
ONE-ON-ONE AND SMALL
GROUP PERSONAL MINISTRY
AND BRIDGE BUILDING ACROSS
CULTURES, LANGUAGES AND
RELIGIONS.



Join the Vision

Life Hope Centers
Throughout
Central California Conference

Let's Do This Now

Register to be involved
<http://ccchealth.adventistfaith.org>
For more information
Email: ministries@cccsda.org
Phone: 559-347-3142

Share with
Central
California
Conference

YOUR

Talent:

There is something for everyone to do.

Treasures:

Every gift is needed. No gift is too small.

Temple:

Come, be blessed, and receive a blessing.

Time:

Your time is your life. Thank you for sharing it!

We can develop
Life Hope Centers
That will draw many
People to Jesus

USING
CHRIST'S
METHOD
TO REACH
THE CITIES



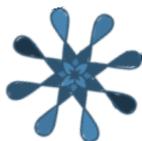
Limited funds will be available to help start Life Hope Centers in strategic urban areas. However, funding must be a partnership among various organizations and institutions of the church. The centers should be supported projects, not something financed from the General Conference.

FUNDING



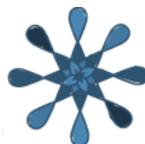
“THERE IS MEANS NOW TIED UP THAT SHOULD BE IN USE FOR THE UNWORKED CITIES IN EUROPE, AUSTRALIA, AND AMERICA, AND IN THE REGIONS BEYOND. THESE CITIES HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED FOR YEARS.”

- ELLEN WHITE, *MANUSCRIPT 11*, 1908



The goal is for centers to become financially self-sustaining. Often they can be linked to some revenue-generating enterprise such as a medical or dental clinic. However, not all centers will be able to become self-sustaining.

Initial financial assistance should help with personnel and resources rather than purchase buildings. In many places, where doing so will not create a barrier, an existing church building located in an urban area can be a springboard for community-based ministry.



A center could be in a simple rented room, a public hall or something more sophisticated.

The shape or size of the center is not so important-as long as it provides a platform for reaching out and meeting the needs of the community.



USING CHRIST'S METHOD In the Ministry of Healing, Ellen White writes that Christ's method alone will bring true success. She summarizes that method in five steps.

1. MINGLE WITH PEOPLE

Centers of influence place us where people live. Literature, public evangelism, radio, TV and internet will play a vital role in the mission of the church. But while they can support other ministries, they can never replace personal, hands-on, mingling ministry. Workers in Centers of Influence must be prepared to move out of their comfort zones and form relationships with people who are different from them.

“YOU MUST COME CLOSE TO THOSE FOR WHOM YOU LABOR. THAT THEY MAY NOT ONLY HEAR YOUR VOICE, BUT SHAKE YOUR HAND, LEARN YOUR PRINCIPALS, FEEL YOUR SYMPATHY.”

- ELLEN WHITE, *GOSPEL WORKERS*, 192

2. SHOW SYMPATHY

Types of ministry will vary from place to place. They will include services such as counseling, feeding the hungry, caring for children, teaching life skills, conducting community activities and teaching language-learning groups. The possibilities are as varied as the needs. Health ministry will almost always connect to people's needs. Jesus spent time ministering to people's needs, physically touching their lives.

3. MINISTER TO PEOPLE'S NEEDS

Through mingling, showing sympathy, and ministering to needs, we show people that we care. Of course, we hope and pray that the Holy Spirit will touch their hearts and lead them to a full commitment to Him. But our care and love does not depend on them accepting Jesus. When we show people that our care has no strings attached, we build confidence.

4. WIN PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE

5. BID THEM TO FOLLOW JESUS

This is a vital step in Jesus' method. Leading people to Him is a natural result of holistic ministry. It arises from the first four steps, where relationships are built. When people start questioning our motivation and why we live the way we do, it is natural to start talking about the Source of our spiritual commitment. Every center will include intentional plans to start small groups and plant new Seventh-day Adventist congregations.



Today the rapidly growing urban areas of the world loom as our greatest mission challenge. In most parts of the world, Adventist churches, institutions, and services tend to be located outside cities instead of where the majority of people live.

CITY MINISTRY WAS A PRIORITY FOR ELLEN WHITE

More than 100 years ago Ellen White told leaders that the church had “neglected” the cities. She recognized that there are certain classes of people “who cannot be reached by public meetings.” She championed holistic urban ministry centers, called Centers of Influence, which would connect the church to the community.

These centers will feature a wide variety of activities such as lifestyle education, treatment rooms, bookstores, reading rooms, restaurants, literature ministry, lectures, medical clinics, small groups, instruction on preparing wholesome food, and more. The activities of each center will vary depending on an accurate assessment of local community needs.

Centers of Influence follow Jesus' holistic method of ministry. Ellen White says, “The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'. (MH 143) **It is through the social relations that Christianity comes in contact with the world.**” (MH 496) These centers will facilitate that vital contact.