

District 7 outreach overview

We are proposing an innovative approach to evangelism to engage and better the Greater Lansing area. Specifically, we want to address the physical, mental and spiritual determinants of health. There was a tremendous need before COVID-19. However, with the additional challenges to physical, mental and social health during the pandemic, the need has greatly increased. This campaign will include spiritual, physical and mental growth for individuals.

The Evangelism and Health Conference

Start: Friday, September 24, 2021.

Location: We are currently in negotiations with the Lansing Center to host the meetings there.

Schedule: September 24, 2021 – October 30. Five Evening meetings (4 biblical and one health) per week. There would also be a lifestyle clinic that would operate on sight (Family Health and Lifestyle Medicine). It will be open 8-16 hours per week.

Speaker: Elder Chris Holland, former speaker with IIW Canada. He currently serves as part of Elder Mark Finley's training school and Hope Channel. He brings decades of experience in public evangelism.

Broadcasting: Hope Channel will be broadcasting the meetings to downlink sights across Michigan (and around the world).

Michigan Conference: will be sponsoring \$30,000 in funds as well as working closely with us to broadcast these meetings to downlinks across Michigan.

Family Health and Lifestyle Medicine will provide free lifestyle medicine consultations, at-cost health services, health partners and cross trainers to foster community engagement.

Church Members: Will be involved in connecting with general public during the meetings and also volunteering to be "health partners" with the community members who come through the health clinic. This partnership is vital to the success of the meetings.

Additional Rally Weekends: Two rally weekends in preparation for the meetings, approximately one per quarter (starting this spring). COVID-19 allowing.

Pre-work:

Seminars: Several additional topics being explored in light of COVID19. For example: a marriage weekend, parenting series, financial budgeting & management, etc.

Beginning in March: Dina Mojica, will arrive and begin forming the Lansing Church into various outreach teams. These teams will begin the important roll of reaching out into our community and ministering to people's felt needs.

May: Training seminars for church members to prepare them to be health partners. Training will be conducted by Dina Monica with Dr. Azelton. Prior to the meetings, they will be able to put their training to work ministering to their local community through various health and community initiatives.

COVID-19 Allowing: Several rallies will be held this spring and summer to create momentum, awareness and training in our adventist community.

Company Health Evangelism Team: In addition to trained and equipped members, plans are in formation to have a group of young people here from August to December 2021 who will conduct company health evangelism in the greater Lansing area. They will Colporteur two days per week (to cover their living expenses) and conduct health evangelism the other 4 days per week.

Budget

As you can imagine, conducting a series at this level requires a significant budget. Thankfully the Lord has been providing funds. Currently, between the General Conference and Michigan Conference, around \$60,000 has already been raised. The Lansing Church is considering a budget of \$35,000. Grand Ledge and Holt have also voted to be a part of this series and are considering their budgets as well.

Funding goal is \$130,000 for this campaign.

Follow-up Plan

Post meetings, there will still be a great amount of work.

Church members: Will be coordinated to work with Dina and Seth to follow-up the many interests from the meetings. Newly baptized individuals will be encouraged to sign-up and join different outreach teams and become apart of the ministry of the Lansing Church. Seth Robert's Health Evangelism Teams will continue working in the Lansing Area till the beginning of May.

COVID-19 Plan B

We understand that we live in a different world. It is hoped that by the summer of this year, we will be able to hold in-person meetings. However, if this is not the case, there are contingency plans that are being formulated. Specifically, the meetings will be moved to the Lansing church and conducted virtually for people who are meeting in small groups in homes (ie virtual meetings). The medical clinic will be even more critical, as this should be allowed to continue even with current restrictions in place.

Advance in Faith - Means will Come

“Can we expect the inhabitants of these cities to come to us and say, “If you will come to us and preach, we will help you to do thus and so”? They know nothing of our message. The Lord desires us to let our light so shine before men that His Holy Spirit may communicate the truth to the honest in heart who are seeking after truth. As we do this work, we shall find that means will flow into our treasuries, and we shall have means with which to carry on a still broader and more far-reaching work.

Shall we not advance in faith, just as if we had thousands of dollars? We do not have half faith enough. Let us act our part in warning these cities. The warning message must come to the people who are ready to perish, unwarned, unsaved. How can we delay? As we advance, the means will come. But we must advance by faith, trusting in the Lord God of Israel.

Night after night I am unable to sleep, because of this burden resting upon me in behalf of the unwarned cities. Night after night I am praying and trying to devise methods by which we can enter these cities and give the warning message. Why, there is a world to be warned and saved, and we are to go East and West and North and South, and work intelligently for the people all about us. As we undertake this work, we shall see the salvation of God. Encouragement will come.—Manuscript 53, 1909

Follow God's Opening Providence—*If we would follow the opening providence of God, we should be quick to discern every opening, and make the most of every advantage within our reach.... There is a fearfulness to venture out and run risks in this great work, fearing that the expenditure of means would not bring returns. What if means are used and yet we cannot see that souls have been saved by it? What if there is a dead loss of a portion of our means? Better work and keep at work than to do nothing. You know not which shall prosper—this or that.*

Men will invest in patent rights and meet with heavy losses, and it is taken as a matter of course. But in the work and cause of God, men are afraid to venture. Money seems to them to be a dead loss that does not bring immediate returns when invested in the work of saving souls. The very means that is now so sparingly invested in the cause of God, and that is selfishly retained, will in a little while be cast with all idols to the moles and to the bats. Money will soon depreciate in value very suddenly when the reality of eternal scenes opens to the senses of man.

God will have men who will venture anything and everything to save souls. Those who will not move until they can see every step of the way clearly before them will not be of advantage at this time to forward the truth of God. There must be workers now who will push ahead in the dark as well as in the light, and who will hold up bravely under discouragements and disappointed hopes, and yet work on with faith, with tears and patient hope, sowing beside all waters, trusting the Lord to bring the increase. God calls for men of nerve, of hope, faith, and endurance, to work to the point.—The True Missionary, January, 1874.