

Health Ministries report 2021 - 2024

Mr. Chairman, Union President, Dr. Kern Tobias, and the Administration of the Caribbean Union (CARU), representatives from the Inter-American Division (IAD), delegates and delegates-at-large on the virtual platform, members, I am very happy to be able to report to you on the progress of the work in Health Ministries for the period January 2021 to December 31, 2024.

The quadrennium began amidst a turbulent period, with the COVID-19 pandemic stretching into 2021. It was a time filled with immense challenges, yet also an abundance of opportunities. Health Ministries seized many of these opportunities, continuing to leverage technology to further the mission.

The focus of the ministry was on **Comprehensive Health**, a holistic approach that addresses all aspects of life - physical, mental, social, and spiritual - caring for individuals throughout their entire lifespan.

2021- Key Highlights

Senior Care Training (Virtual)

Several programmes were conducted via the Zoom platform. On February 14, 2021, the first virtual Senior Care training kicked off with 170 participants from Barbados and Dominica joining the 6-week program (2hrs /week). The graduation ceremony took place virtually on April 12, 2021. As a result, some individuals found employment in care homes in Barbados or the “Yes, We Care” program in Dominica, while others became more skilled caregivers for elderly family members, neighbours, or friends at home.

Adolescent Health Programme

In collaboration with the Youth and Adolescent Ministries, **an adolescent health program** was launched on August 27th, covering topics such as Nutrition, Personal Hygiene, Physical Activity, Grooming, and Time Management among others. Fifty-four 54 adolescents registered for the training. Additionally, Reproductive Health training was also conducted that year.

COVID-19 Vaccine Panel Discussion

To address the widespread debates surrounding **COVID-19 vaccines**, a **virtual panel discussion** took place in September 2021

- Topic: Effective Health Ministry and Vaccines: Friend or Foe?
- Panelists:
 - o Dr. David Johnson (Chief Medical Officer, Dominica)
 - o Dr. Damien Henry (Public Health Physician)
 - o Dr. David Williams (Associate Health Director, GC & Harvard Professor)
 - o Dr. Colin Thorne (Executive Secretary, ECC)
- Moderator: Priscilla Prevost (Health Coordinator, ECC)

The event attracted a full audience of 300 devices and was streamed on YouTube, where it has been archived for future reference.

Local Church Initiatives

Meanwhile, **the Health Ministries teams** at Belleplaine, led by Sis. Jacqueline Yearwood; Black Rock, with Pamella Payne Wilson; Breath of Life, under Sis. Veronica Grandison; and Maranatha, led by Dr. Cambridge Maxwell and Sophia Price, and Nurse Clara Richards with her team at Roseau stood out for their dedication. Sis. Jeanette Babb and Rodney O'Neal from Mile and a Quarter, also played key roles in ministry. On October 2, 2021, a virtual Health Convention concluded Health Week, with Associate Health Director of GC, Dr. Zeno Charles Marcel, delivering the sermon.

Health Nuggets were shared nightly during the My Forever Friend Evangelistic Series in Barbados, while several presentations were made at protestant churches in Dominica. Thanks to all contributors and presenters.

The Health Power Seminar #1, held at the Salisbury SDA Church from April 25 to May 23, 2021, was a collaborative effort by Health, Personal Ministries, and Literature Ministries. With 31 participants and an average of 21 attendees, the seminar attracted 9 visitors and resulted in 19 book sales. Additionally, 3 individuals attended the Sabbath services.

Health Power Seminar #2, launched on July 25, 2021, at the Coulibistrie Government School, initially began with 15 participants and 4 facilitators. Over time, attendance grew, peaking at 36 participants while following COVID-19 protocols. Unfortunately, by the 7th session, the seminar had to be cut short due to the rise in COVID-19 cases and curfew restrictions. This program was a joint effort between the Health Ministries of the ECC, the Salisbury SDA Church, Home Health Education Service, and the Dominica Diabetes Association (DOMDA).

From October 31 – December 19, a **virtual Health Power Comprehensive Health Seminar** was conducted for participants in Barbados and Dominica. To the knowledge of the Health Director, 9 persons in Dominica have been baptized either directly or indirectly from the Health Power programmes.

The Health Coordinator was given the mandate to continue serving as Health Director at the session held in 2022.

2022 -2024: Strategic Focus Areas

Between 2022 and 2024, the focus of the health ministries was on the following key initiatives:

1. **Drug Prevention & Management** – Addiction recovery efforts at the Bourne SDA Church saw 6 individuals participate. Drug awareness marches with presentations took place in both Barbados and Dominica, accompanied by literature on drug prevention from the substance abuse unit in Barbados and the Drug Prevention Unit in Dominica.

2. **Increased Physical Activity / Let's Move to Live** – Local churches and districts organized health walks and hikes. A collaborative *Move to Live* programme with the St. Lucia Mission Health Ministries was held in Dominica from August 6 – 14, 2025, featuring hikes to the Boeri Lake and a walk from Dublanc to Portsmouth. Sixteen St. Lucians including Health Ministries Director Pastor Leroy David and his wife participated.
3. **Encouraging Healthy Eating / Cooking Classes** – These classes promoted healthy eating as the cornerstone of healthy living, with a focus on the combination of nutrition and physical activity. The Breath of Life church conducted ongoing cooking schools, covering vegan cooking and other health topics. Cooking classes were hosted in Pte Mitchel and St. Joseph, with virtual classes held in Wesley and Workmans.
4. **Comprehensive Health Screening** – A total of 489 individuals, including parents and teachers from the SDA schools, and the Goodwill Primary School in Dominica, as well as elders at the Caves Medical Clinic in Barbados were screened. A partnership with the Government of Dominica's Health and Wellness Programme also facilitated screenings for staff.
5. **Support of Evangelistic Campaigns** – Health components such as screening, food sampling, and health tips were integrated into the ASI Mission 2000 in Barbados and Homes of Hope & Healing in Dominica.
6. **School Health Programme for Parents and Teachers** – A Health Week of Prayer was held at all SDA schools in Dominica. On February 14, 2024, over 300 students and staff at the Isaiah Thomas Secondary School in Dominica were provided with breakfast. Additionally, a Healthy Snack/Fruit Day was held across all four SDA primary schools in the ECC in October 2024, including mainly local fruits such as banana, papaya and watermelon, and other fruits including apples, grapes and dragon fruit were served to students and teachers. A total of 1,169 students and 107 teachers were served.
7. **Development of the Caves Primary Health Care Clinic** –
 - Men's and Women's Health Clinics were conducted at the Caves Diagnostic Centre, in partnership with Barbados Reference Laboratory and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Laboratory, offering PSA, lipid profiles, HbA1c, and pap smears along with weight and body mass index (BMI), blood pressure & pulse, blood sugar and total cholesterol. A total of 69 clients were seen, leading to early diagnoses of cancer, diabetes, and hypertension, which allowed for timely intervention and treatment.
 - A proposal was submitted to IAD for the development of a Primary Care Clinic at the Caves facility, following the DREAM model, which was approved. On June 13, 2024, we hosted the IAD Health Director Dr. Frank Geneus, along with Dr. Alexander Isaacs - CARU Health Director and Dr. Noel Brathwaite, fundraising consultant with IAD. A business plan has been created and is awaiting IDC's review for funding to renovate the clinic.
8. **Health Fairs** – Health fairs made a strong comeback in 2022, post-pandemic, especially in Barbados, and were even more widespread in 2024 in preparation for the ASI Mission 2000 in Barbados.

9. **Training** – Health ministry leaders participated in the Global Conference at Loma Linda in 2023 and the Breathe Free training in Guyana in 2024. Following this, a hybrid training session was hosted at the conference centre and streamed to Dominica via Zoom in October 2024.
10. **Health Impact via Broadcasts** – The Healthy Living Broadcast, Power Breakfast, and health tips on DBS radio continued to make a weekly impact on Dominicans both at home and abroad.
11. **Recognition & Appreciation** – At the close of 2023, recognition dinners were held in Barbados and luncheons in Dominica for Health Ministry leaders and professionals. During these events, the Adventist Health Professional Association (AHPA) was re-established. The officers elected were voted by the executive committee. The Barbados association has remained very active.
12. **End of Quadrennium Fellowship**– The quadrennium ended in December with a bus ride to scenic spots in Barbados and visits to the Cabrits National Park and Belle Hall Beach in Dominica.

Conclusion / Gratitude

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the spirit of collaboration, partnership, and cooperation. Special thanks to the administrators, both past and present, the executive committee, and fellow directors, especially Sis. Andrea Hudson-Hoyte and Pastor Victor Marshall.

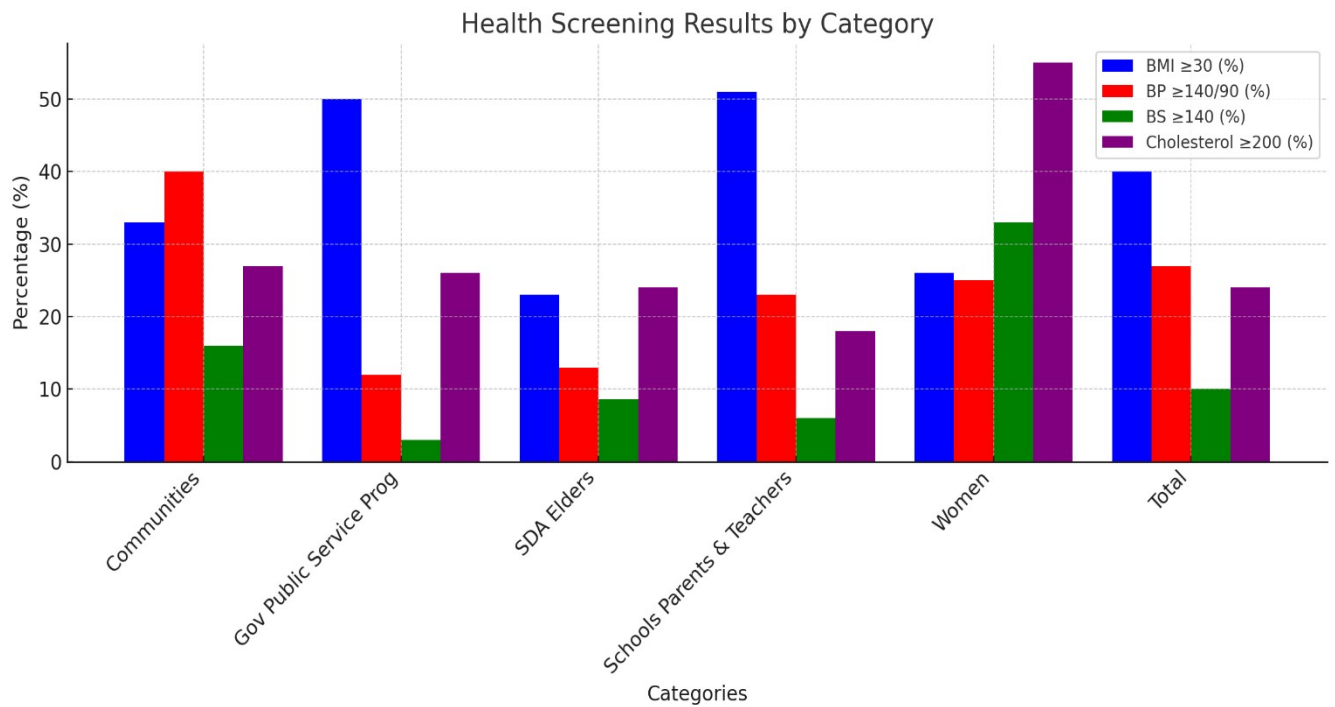
We also thank the dedicated pastors, elders, and especially the tireless health ministry leaders, Adventist health professionals, and medical missionaries. I would like to specifically acknowledge Nurse Donabel Pierre & Mrs Beverly Shillingford (Friends in Mission), Nurse Clara Richards and her team, Adora Toussaint, Nancy St. Ville, Nurse Keturah Joseph, Alina Reeve, Gayle Robinson, Antonia Samuel, Martha Jarvis and Dr. David Johnson, as well as the members of the Salisbury SDA Church in Dominica. Thanks to Pamella Payne-Wilson, Drs. Marcia Cambridge-Maxwell and Luxberg Maxwell, Drs. Natalie Greaves, Arthur Phillips, Beverly Toppin, Deborah Joseph, Jeanette Babb and other members of AHPA across the conference.

We are also grateful for the support of agencies like the Dominica Diabetes Association, the Dominica Cancer Society, the Healthy Caribbean Coalition, IADPA book stores and the Principals and staff of our SDA schools and the Goodwill Primary School.

Thanks to my immediate and extended family, especially my daughter, Careen, for their tremendous support and understanding. Above all thanks to my Heavenly Father for health, traveling mercies, wisdom and the spirit of discernment. I am grateful for the secretaries assigned to the department: Sis Cecile Connell, Amanda Paris and Julia Thorne.

I am thankful for the opportunity granted me to serve the East Caribbean conference from 2005 to present. As I make my exit, “I wish above all things that you prosper and be in health as your soul prospers” and that my successor will receive greater support from the constituents to push the mission forward. I Thank you.

Here's a bar chart visualizing the percentage of individuals screened in each category with BMI ≥ 30 , BP $\geq 140/90$, BS ≥ 140 , and Cholesterol ≥ 200 .



**The above results do not reflect screening at health fairs but specifically planned screening programs.*

Priscilla Prevost MPH; FNP; RN Midwife

Health Director