

Training Center - Voice of Zion

Ministry: "The Voice of Zion"

February 2017



INTRODUCTION

We are undergoing a very solemn moment of earth's history. We need to be working together as the body of Christ, using the gifts that God has blessed us with for the glory of His righteous name. Instead of trying to evangelize the whole world on our own, we should, first of all, prepare our minds and bodies as vessels that must be emptied of every impurity and filled with the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, to join forces redirecting people to ministries that are dedicated in making a healthier, happier, and more sanctified life a strong possibility.

The third angel's message, embracing the message of the first and second angels, is the message for this time. "The medical missionary work is as the right arm of the third angel's message which must be proclaimed to a fallen world; and physicians, managers, and workers in any line, in acting faithfully their part, are doing the work of the message. Thus the sound of the truth will go forth to every nation and kindred and tongue and people". **{CH 331.2}**

The health message, as written about by Ellen G. White, uses the eight laws of health as a doorway to complete the work of Jesus Christ in making man whole, and it will be a powerful instrument for spreading the Gospel in the end times. Science and medicine are just catching up to what God has revealed to her over 150 years ago with all the scientific information supporting exactly what she has said in regards to God's Natural Remedies: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Rest, Air and Trust in God. She wrote extensively about them. As early as 1868 she was telling people that meat eating was the cause of infirmities such as cancer and was not safe to eat. In 1899, she said it wouldn't be long and milk and dairy products would no longer be safe. **{CD 380.2; CCh 223.5}**

According to her, every person should have knowledge of nature's remedies and how to apply them. It is essential both to understand the principles involved in the treatment of the sick and to have a practical training that will enable one rightly to use this knowledge. "Too little attention is generally given to the preservation of health. It is far better to prevent disease than to know how to treat it when contracted. It is the duty of every person, for his own sake, and for the sake of humanity, to inform himself in regard to the laws of life and conscientiously to obey them. All need to become acquainted with that most wonderful of all organisms, the human body. They should understand the functions of the various organs and the dependence of one upon another for the healthy action of all. They should study the influence of the mind upon the body, and of the body upon the mind, and the laws by which they are governed". **{MH 128.1}**

We are rapidly facing the fact that soon there will be no more work done in ministerial lines but medical missionary work, therefore efforts should be made in order to fulfill this plan, that is, "many of the sick are to be given the opportunity of separating for a time from harmful associations and surroundings and of placing themselves in institutions where they may receive health-restoring treatments and wise instruction from Christian nurses and physicians. The establishment of sanitariums is a providential arrangement, whereby people from all churches are to be reached and made acquainted



with the truth for this time.” {CH 470.3; 533.1}

Along with the arrangement of sanitariums, training schools should be established so that young men and women should be trained in the area of sciences and natural treatments as well as the “Spirit of Prophecy”, specifically the health reform and the study of prophecies. The set-up and design of this school originates from the instruction of E.G. White, “let the school be conducted along the lines of the ancient schools of the prophets, the word of God lying at the foundation of all the education given”. {CT 208.1}

We are also told that these institutions should be established outside the city, that they should be situated in the country, in the midst of surroundings as attractive as possible: “...we plead for sanitariums, not expensive, mammoth sanitariums, but homelike institutions in pleasant places. {CH 211.3}

God uses human instrumentalities to accomplish His work to the limit of their ability. We need the Lord’s cooperation in order to gain success in any area, since all true knowledge comes from Him. “By the partnership of God and man, the work of warning the world is to be carried to completion.” {PUR May 8, 1902 Par. 4} With every enterprise God is concerned, but He is especially interested in the institutions consecrated to the advancement of His work.

OBJECTIVES/ METHODOLOGY

General Objective

The ministry “A Voz de Sião” (The Voice of Zion) is a non-profit organization whose goal is to prepare the remnant church and the world for Christ’s imminent return by going back to the original blue print of the Seventh Day Adventist mission in health, agriculture, publishing and spiritual areas.

It is the scope of this project:

- a) To give a general foundation on what the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy say about the importance of this work in the last days;
- b) To demonstrate the preliminary results already obtained by this ministry in the past years related to the areas above;
- c) To request fund raising to buy a property in the countryside of the southern region of Brazil where a training center will be established.

Specific Objectives

1. Training Center “The Voice of Zion”

There will be two programs at the base of this ministry to be offered at different times during the year:

a) Home Lifestyle Program:



- **What for:** designed for a small group of people interested in experiencing a better way of living through the practice of the eight natural remedies (Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Rest, Air and Trust in God) and how these can be used to prevent or treat the most common chronic diseases.
- **How:** in the beginning, the program will be offered to a group of four to six individuals, five to six times a year, for a period of one or two weeks.
- **Who:** the program will not include patients with serious illness or who require intensive medical care, since the Home Lifestyle Center is not intended to work as a clinic.
- **Activities:** during the program, the students will also have a routine of morning exercises, agriculture and cooking classes as well as lectures on the physiological importance of the eight natural remedies. All therapies will be applied under the supervision of a physician.

b) Prophecy School Program:

- **What for:** designed to guide the students in the study of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy in preparation for the final events.
- **How:** in the beginning, this program will be offered to a group of four to six students, three times a year, for a period of two weeks. Subsequently, the duration of the program could be extended to one month.
- **Who:** anyone who is interested. Applicants must go through a background check.
- **Activities:** all students will have three to four hours of intellectual studies in the morning and practical/hands-on work in the afternoon. This practical training will involve construction, gardening/organic agriculture, food preparation/cooking, cleaning, and helping to run the place.

“When God becomes the teacher, he will be acknowledged, his name will be magnified; the students will be as were the young men in the schools of the prophets, who caught the Spirit of God, and prophesied.” {SpTEd 168.2}

The Center already counts with a small group of missionaries prepared to do this work. Depending on the interest of the groups, this program could be mingled with the Home Life Style Program described above. The set-up and design of this school originates from the instruction of E.G. White, and nowadays it has been put into practice by many ministries in the world.

Both programs should be set at a minimal price to cover the expenses of the course itself (food and other material fees), besides helping with the teacher’s expenses.

The diet designated to the students and workers of the establishment will be strictly vegetarian, consisting of fruits, vegetables and grains, with no meat or dairy products. Drinking plenty of water as well as selected decaf teas at night will also be recommended.



JUSTIFICATION

The world today needs to learn an alternative medicine based on prevention, since the traditional ways of healing have not been proved efficient in solving the causes of many diseases. As Israel in the past had to abandon the flesh-pots of Egypt during their journey in the desert, experimenting a new diet instructed by God before entering the Promised Land, so will be with modern Israel before entering the heavenly Canaan. Therefore, a healthier lifestyle and an uncontaminated mind are essential if we want to be part of the remnant people preparing ourselves and others, mostly through the study of prophecies, for the final crisis that is soon to come.

"All that we have belongs to God, and is to be used in the Master's service. All that we have and are is to be consecrated to God. Then will Christ be glorified. Then will His prayer for His followers be answered. They will be one with Him and with one another, and the world will see that God did indeed send His Son into the world." {PUR May 8, 1902 Par. 2}

Correct environmental settings that are conducive to the development of good habits are the key in the output of dedicated missionaries. A cleansing of body and mind needs to take place through these good habits- the eight laws of health. According to inspiration, sanitarium and training school establishments should be one to two hours outside major cities and it would be ideal to have a small town near (around 30 minutes away) for needed supplies and evangelism purposes. Dwelling in nature would benefit the individual in a great extent facilitating the influence of the Holy Spirit among the heart, mind, and soul.

"Small local sanitariums are to be established in connection with our training schools". {CH 220} "It is not by the largeness of an institution that the greatest work for souls is to be accomplished. A mammoth sanitarium requires many workers. And where so many are brought together, it is exceedingly difficult to maintain a high standard of spirituality". {CH 239}

In southern Brazil, there is a special area in the countryside well suited to fulfill these goals. There is a property in the surroundings of a small city called Bom Retiro (Santa Catarina state), 140 km from the capital Florianópolis, that seems to be the ideal place for this project. The total property area is about 131 acres (53 hectares), 40% of it is native forest with abundant water resources, including a beautiful waterfall. The area is 17 km (30 min drive) from Bom Retiro (the nearest town) and is characterized by a large green plain trimmed by a few hills. There are two houses already built in the property, which would initially be used to start the program. **(see Photo Gallery on website www.avozdesiao.org).**

"... These words are spoken to the teachers in all our schools, which are established, as God designed they should be, after the example of the schools of the prophets, to impart knowledge of a high order, not mingling dross with the silver". {CT 281.3} E. G. White is very emphatic on this matter: "...let me tell you that you must not take what the world calls the higher education and bring it into our schools and sanitariums and churches. We need to understand these things. I speak to you definitely. This must not be done." {FE 536}

In order to begin the Home Life Style and the Prophecy School Programs, we estimate an initial cost of US\$ 300,000. We already secured US\$ 150,000, which leaves an outstanding balance of US\$ 150,000. Thus, if this is God's will, we trust in the divine providence and hope that through His faithful stewards this amount will be acquired.



PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Health Area

For the past eight years, one of the stakeholders of this project, who is a professor doctor in Physiology at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) in Brazil, has held a community project with the participation of medical students in the area of health prevention. The activities involved in the project consisted of door to door visitation with orientation about the eight natural remedies, promotion of seminars/courses, Health Expos, vegetarian cooking and natural therapy classes.

Very similar to this, another project, now aiming elderly people, was held at the university by the same professor during the period of two years through a course called "Life Quality" comprising the same activities (**see Photo Gallery on website www.avozdesiao.org**).

The experience obtained with the projects above were of extreme importance, since it served as a good trial for the future work to be done in the Training Center with the Home Lifestyle Program. Besides, it aroused interest of former students of both projects that are now looking forward to participate as soon as we have a place in the countryside. This altogether is a way of promoting our work.

Spiritual Area

Since 2013 this ministry has been organizing Camp Meetings with the purpose to gather people from all over the country interested in learning more about prophecies related to the end of times. A total of three meetings were organized in Santa Catarina (2013, 2014 and 2015). Preachers were invited from Brazil and abroad. The videos, audios and syllabus can be found in our website [avozdesiao.org](http://www.avozdesiao.org). It is part of our goal to continue offering these Camp Meetings annually, which promote our work and open opportunities for new students to enroll in our Prophecy School Program.

Publishing Work

Complementing the two sections above, a Publishing Ministry will also be included and it is currently being accomplished:

- Translating Spirit of Prophecy material that is only available in English and that has not been translated to the Portuguese language.
- Publishing newsletters and booklets with health information and topics related to the present truth message.
- Maintenance of the website www.avozdesiao.org in order to disseminate material such as audios, videos, books, newsletters and other documents.

Website



The creation of the website avozdesiao.org provides fast and efficient means to disseminate different types of health and spiritual material: audios, videos, books, newsletters, syllabus and other documents, as well as to inform about future events.

CONCLUSION

We strongly believe our main purpose as Christians is to be missionaries working to relieve our brethren sufferings as well as to prepare ourselves and others for the events related to Jesus second coming. So far, this work has been done to the best of our abilities with the resources currently available in the cities. However, there is an urgent call to leave the cities and flee to the country side. Amongst the green mountains, we have found a beautiful place that fulfills all our expectations as a natural refuge. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will move our hearts and minds toward the heavenly Canaan as we purpose to serve Him and our fellow man during the last scenes of this earth's history.

PHOTO GALLERY

Photos of the property, community project and camp meetings can be found at www.avozdesiao.org

To support this project please contact:

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REFERENCES

Ellen G. White

CH Counsels on Health

CD Counsels on Diet and Foods

CCh Counsels for the Church

MH Ministry of Healing

CT Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students

PUR Pacific Union Recorder

Sp.TED Special Testimonies on Education

FE Fundamentals of Christian Education

