

**POSITION STATEMENT OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE HEALTH
DEPARTMENT IN REGARD TO QUESTIONABLE ALTERNATIVE HEALTH
PRACTICES**

(Voted at Silver Spring, April 4, 1996)

Scientific progress offers good perspectives in health care. At the same time there is a growing number of approaches using evolutionary, and spiritualistic philosophies.

For this reason and with the desire to assist and orient the church, the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference Health and Temperance Department World Advisory agrees with the following convictions:

1. Human beings were created in the image of God. Man is a whole, indivisible unit, so the suffering of every part will affect all the other areas.
2. The basis of diagnostic and therapeutic systems used in the prevention and treatment of diseases is established on human physiology, Bible, and inspiration.

Adventists promote the teachings of living in holiness, including the use of natural resources that Ellen White calls "true remedies" in maintaining and recovering health.

3. We believe that the Lord has given to man the resources and mental power to increase knowledge in the area of biology, physiology, and the mechanisms of disease causation. For this reason we believe that the development of scientific medicine be incorporated in the medical missionary work as far as it does not contradict the principles of revelation.
4. In reference to healing procedures of uncertain ideologies and multiple origins, known as alternative health practices, we should be very cautious.
In view of the great number and variety of existing alternative health practices, and considering that there are constantly appearing new methods on that market, we

RECOMMEND that the Adventists neither practise, nor use, nor promote any kind of procedures

! the philosophic and ideologic bases of which are in opposition to the principles of Christian revelation, and

! which are not consistent with known scientific laws.

We also

RECOMMEND that continuing study be given to these matters and the church be informed about new criteria and recommendations.