H ealthy E ating. A ctive L iving. T ogetherness. H anging loose.

Healthy Lifestyles for Wellness

Dr. E. Anthony Allen (M.B., B.S., MDIV, MRC PSYCH, DM (PSYCH) Consultant Psychiatrist & Consultant in Whole Person Health and Church-Based Health Ministries • Live healthy lifestyles, • Live longer! • Live better! Try the 4 best self-help methods for your wellness-building programme:



Healthy

${\it E}_{ m ating}$

- 1. *Eat mainly* "Rainbow Coloured Foods": <u>vegetables</u>, fruits, legumes, nuts, seeds.
- 2. <u>Avoid refined (white) or processed foods, sugary and fatty</u> <u>foods</u>.
- 3. Use whole grains, (oats, brown rice, corn, etc.) and <u>ground</u> <u>provisions</u> in modest amounts.
- Avoid red meats. Eat <u>chicken breast</u> or (preferably) <u>fish</u>, and <u>meat substitutes</u> (i.e. plant-based protein products such as: tofu or peas and beans combined with grains).
- 5. Less of salt. Use herbal seasonings.
- Vitamins and minerals: <u>multivitamin</u> plus <u>vitamins C</u> (500-1000 mg daily in divided doses) and <u>E</u> (200-400 I.U. daily), <u>Calcium and Magnesium (with vitamin D)</u> (500-1000 and 100-500 mg daily) and <u>Selenium</u>.
- 7. *Fish oil or Ground flaxseed* and *chlorella* (for Omega 3 fatty acids).
- 8. Water: 6 to 8 glasses daily. Avoid soft drinks.
- 9. <u>Sunlight</u>: Get 15 minutes daily (vitamin D)
- 10. Eat smaller portions (as many as 5 times per day)
- 11. Healthy snacks (e.g. fruits and vegetables) between meals
- 12. Avoid toxic chemicals and radiation

Active

Living - Exercise, Recreation and Hobbies

Regular exercise at least 5 times a week for 30 minutes <u>Aim</u> for 45 to 60 minutes if overweight.

Recreation: Get out, have healthy fun. Get close to nature. **Hobbies:** Do creative and enjoyable things with your hands, voice, etc. Play games.

Togetherness - With others and God

Reach out:

- 1. <u>Reach out to friends and relatives</u> for mutual emotional and social support. Share your feelings and concerns. Build healthy mutual relationships and healthy support systems.
- 2. <u>Volunteer</u> to help others.
- 3. For those who are religious, you can <u>reach out **to God**</u> as well, through <u>scripture</u>, <u>prayer</u>, <u>worship</u> and using activities for <u>fellowship</u>, education and support. Attitude of gratitude and forgiveness.

Hanging loose - Rest, Sleep, Relaxation

Rest and Sleep: (at least 7 hours per night)

Relaxation exercises:

- 1. Close your eyes. Pause for a few seconds.
- 2. Breathe in deeply through your nostrils *to the count of four* until your lungs are filled with revitalizing Oxygen.
- 3. Hold to the *count of five*.
- 4. Breathe out Carbon Dioxide and tension through your mouth to the *count of seven*.
- 5. Repeat four times.
- 6. Relax all your muscles from your toes up. Let all the tension drain out of your body until you feel loose and limp. Visualize feeling as limp as a wet towel on a clothes line.
- 7. Do this complete set of relaxation exercises as follows:
 - 1. A practice session 10 minutes daily
 - 2. Distributed sessions 3-4 times a day:
 - a. on getting up in the morning relax to face the rest of the morning
 - b. during your lunch break relax to face the afternoon
 - c. coming home from work relax to face the evening
 - d. before going to bed at night relax to have a good night's sleep
 - 3. When necessary for anxiety

Also ensure:

- 1. <u>Safe Sex.</u> i.e. <u>condom use</u>, <u>abstinence</u>, or <u>mutual fidelity</u>. *Know your HIV status*.
- 2. <u>Substance Avoidance.</u> No <u>tobacco</u>, regular <u>alcohol</u> or <u>drugs</u>.
- 3. <u>Socio-economic Management for Wellness</u>.

Improve productivity skills, budgeting, saving, and planning

AIDS TO HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHANGES

* **Self-Monitoring**: Daily **centering time**. To: <u>Review</u> yesterday and <u>plan</u> lifestyle activities for today. Use an <u>activity chart</u> and <u>journal</u> to keep track or <u>Tick [] boxes</u> on right daily or weekly.

Keep track of weight. **Do annual medicals!** (If over 25)

* **Support Network**: Seek support from family and friends to ensure success.

Join a wellness support group or a fitness and putrition club. Have a walking partner Use the

* **Lifestyle Counsellor**: Use a fitness trainer and nutritionist to help change patterns.

Visit: <u>www.dreanthonyallen.com</u> for full information on wellness Use the booklet: Simple Steps to Wellness for only \$900 from Dr. Allen's office.

SETTING UP YOUR OWN PROGRAMME

These are some helpful steps that you can take in setting up your own lifestyle programme Tick each box with a pencil each weekend to monitor your progress.

[] Recognizing (the problems faced)

- <u>Evaluate</u> your health lifestyle needs
- Identify your concerns and feelings
- *Inform* yourself (through reading, talks etc)

[] Resolving by risk/reward analysis

- Analyze the pros and cons of the habits you neglect and of those being suggested to you
- Make a *commitment* to self to follow through, as you see fit
- <u>Visualize</u> the "new you" (how you will feel)

[] Resource seeking and Goal Planning

- <u>Seek resources:</u> (e.g. gymnasium, places to walk or to get fresh food)
- Seek the help of <u>professionals</u> when need arises (e.g. personal trainer, nutritionist or lifestyle consultant)
- Set performance goal and plan activities:
 - how
 - where
 - when
 - how much

[] Reinforcing (strengthening your new habits)

- <u>Seek support</u>
 - Use a "<u>buddy"</u> system.
 - Have an encouraging "accountability partner" (someone to keep you on the ball).
 - Join a <u>fitness and nutrition group</u> or gym.
 - <u>Have fun!</u>
- <u>Monitor:</u>
 - a. lifestyle activities
 - b. food intake
 - c. weight
- Use a progress chart, food diary and journal. Start with an initial assessment and monitor progress.
 - Accept relapses (slipping back) as 'steps to success' and not as failures
- *<u>Reward yourself</u>* with compliments and healthy treats e.g. a nice healthy meal

Make it fun; Take your time: Start small; Use prayer (if you believe in this). Be optimistic. You can do it!

For more information on wellness activities, visit Dr. Allen's Website at <u>www.dreanthonyallen.com</u>