

The Growth of Adventist Sanitariums

The success of the unique health center in Battle Creek—and a widespread craving for the healing therapies found there—launched an Adventist health care movement that soon extended throughout the world. Today, more than 550 Adventist hospitals, clinics, and other medical facilities care for people around the world.



1 OBJECTIVE

Team members will understand that although technologies, services, and amenities have changed dramatically through the years, the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of our patients are very much the same and our mission to healing the whole person remains unchanged.

2 VIDEO



Growth of Sanitariums

2:33 minutes

youtu.be/1r1ZrE5kzQQ

3 DISCUSSION

- Why would a church, small in numbers and lacking resources, attempt to open a health care institution?
- As a group, discuss why growth is important for Adventist health care.

4 PRAYER

Thank You for being by our side always—in the past, the present, and in the future. We ask You to reach down and fill us with a love that only You can provide. Bless those we serve, providing courage and hope where needed.

In Your name, Amen

DID YOU KNOW?

- In the mid-1800s, when Adventist health care began, the United States had only about 200 hospitals, one-third for the mentally ill. Because of the absence of hygiene and the lack of understanding of germs, patients generally did not recover. However, the Battle Creek Sanitarium was different. Sanitation was a priority, and Dr. John Harvey Kellogg's patients had a significantly higher survival rate after surgery.
- In the late 1880s only two-percent of New York homes had running water; people rarely bathed. The campaign for a "Saturday night bath" was sweeping the country and having some effect. Early health reformer, Ellen White, advocated that people should bathe as often as twice a week for their health—counsel that significantly improved the health of those who followed this advice.
- In 1971, President Richard Nixon gave a speech sharing details of his trip to Asia. He talked about the Adventist hospitals in Asia where dedicated caregivers were helping to improve systems of medicine in that country. He went on to say, "I (can) think of nothing that does more to make friends for America abroad than that kind of selfless service..."

