

Revival & REFORMATION

The Official “United in Prayer” Weekly Blog and Prayer Requests
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God Miraculously Provides 4,000 Euros in Portugal

By Viriato Ferreira

A serious dilemma unexpectedly emerged one Friday morning. The architect of our VitaSalus Wellness Center announced that we urgently needed to put up railings around several buildings. “If someone falls, you’ll be in trouble,” he warned.

We knew that he was right. VitaSalus — a clinic that works in harmony with the ethical, professional and spiritual values upheld by the Seventh-day Adventist Church — is located atop a mountain near the town of Penela, about 115 miles (185 kilometers) north of Portugal’s capital, Lisbon.

The architect put the total cost of the railings at 8,000 euros (\$9,850 USD). But he said we could pay only 4,000 euros by restricting the railings to the highest places.

I turned to our chief financial officer. “Do we have the money?” I asked. “Absolutely not,” he said. “There is no money.” Worried thoughts filled my mind. Suddenly, a conviction struck me. It’s God’s project! “Whose project is this?” I thought. “It’s not mine. It’s God’s project!”

I shared this conviction with chief financial officer and other people present at the meeting. “God will supply the means for these railings,” I said. “We will not put the railings everywhere, just where they are absolutely necessary. Are you comfortable in going ahead and ordering the railings?”

They nodded their heads in agreement, and I prayed, “Lord, we are going to order these railings because they are really needed.” We ordered the railings.

Five days later, on a Wednesday, I received an e-mail from someone whom I had never met. “Doctor,” he wrote. “I just want to tell you that I have deposited 4,000 euros into the VitaSalus bank account.”

“Praise the Lord!” I exclaimed out loud.

I wrote him an e-mail describing the events of the previous Friday morning. He replied immediately. “Doctor, this confirms that the money is for this project,” he wrote. “On Friday morning, I woke up with a desire to help VitaSalus. I have never been there, but I just had that feeling. Still, I wasn’t sure whether my wife would agree with me, so I prayed a short prayer, ‘Lord, if this is Your will, put the same desire in my wife’s heart.’ As soon as I finished praying, my wife came into my office and said, ‘Honey, you know that project in Penela? I think we should help them.’ I couldn’t believe my

ears and I asked her, 'How much do you think we should give?' 'I think 4,000 euros would be good,' she said."

What a lesson for me! Had we stopped our work at VitaSalus because we lacked the funds, we would have lost out on a big blessing brought about by trusting in God. It was not about the railings. It was about God showing us how His work can be fulfilled when we trust in Him.

We opened VitaSalus because Adventist Church cofounder Ellen White wrote that Adventists should establish these kinds of "centers of influence" outside major cities around the world to provide the sick with relief from physical suffering and also spiritual help. We have treated about 250 people since 2014, and at least five people have been baptized. We are now in the process of looking to expand and to open similar wellness centers elsewhere.

If the Lord says wellness centers should be opened outside every major city, we just need to trust in Him, and He will make everything possible. He knows the cities. The railings taught me that we should make careful plans and then say, "Lord, if these are Your plans, it is up to You now to provide."

Dr. Viriato Ferreira is director of the VitaSalus Wellness Center in Penela, Portugal, and honorary assistant director of the health ministries department of the Seventh-day Adventist world church. This story was originally shared in Adventist Mission and is reprinted with permission.

World Church Prayer Requests

June 3-10, 2018

- **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for the Inter-European Division (EUD), which is made up of 20 countries, including Portugal. The total population in the EUD is 350 million people, and boasts a great diversity of languages, historical backgrounds, cultures, and traditions.
- **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for Mario Brito, division president; Barna Magyarosi, secretary; and Norbert Zens, treasurer. Pray also for Union and Conference leaders, and the local pastors of the EUD.
- **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for immigrants and refugees in the EUD, as some are receptive to the Gospel. Church members who minister to the newcomers are being blessed.
- **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for the Inter-American Division (IAD) which has 38 countries in its territory. The IAD consists of 24 Unions with 3.8 million members making up 21,000 congregations. Their members speak English, Spanish, French and Dutch.
- **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for Elie Hentry, division president-elect, and Filiberto M. Verduzco, division treasurer. Pray also for the Union leadership, and many pastors of the IAD.
- **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for IAD members as they actively embrace Total Member Involvement through the division's emphasis on, "Lord Transform Me." The lay members in IAD are very involved in mission and are enthusiastically working and waiting for the return of Jesus Christ.
- **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray also for the Guerrilla and Paramilitary groups that incite violence throughout this region of the world. Pray for conversions and a "Damascus Road" experience for these fighters, that they will be transformed and begin "fighting" for the sake of Christ.