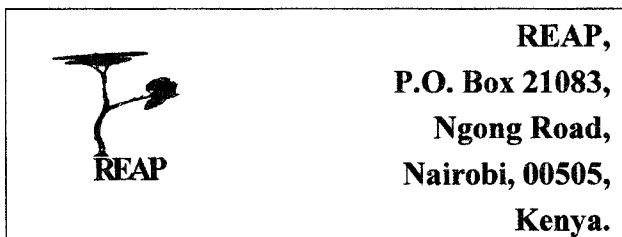


## ***A Biblical approach replaces Spiritual Problems of Traditional Medical Practitioners with Positive Christian Values***

- We must not compromise with the devil. (Genesis 3:5; Daniel; Ezra 10; I Samuel 28; II Kings 18:4)
- Sharing open Knowledge brings freedom from fear. (Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 61:1-2; Acts 15; Romans 8:18-21; II Kings 7:9) But this freedom must be used in the right way for the benefit of others. (Galatians 5:13)
- As Christians we should emphasise Service not Power. (John 10:11-12; Matthew 20: 25-28; Isaiah 58:6-7)
- The Bible condemns Exploitation. (Mark 5:26; Proverbs 22:22; II Kings 5 19 forward; Amos 2:7a; Amos 5:11-12; Micah 6:8b; Proverbs 29:7; Zechariah 7:9-10)
- NB Charging for service is not exploitation: (I Corinthians 9:9; Deuteronomy 25:4)
- God not money needs to be central. (I Timothy 6:10)
- Avoiding Syncretism. (Isaiah 56:1-2)
- We need to address traditions that are against God's way. (Mark 7:6-10)
- Jesus liberates some things that the devil or godless men have bound. (Acts 10:14-15)



## **Guidelines for Teaching on Natural Medicines through the Church**

### ***Why are Natural Medicines relevant for the church?***

- They are Biblical.
- When you are physically sick, your spiritual ministry is affected.
- The good pastor is concerned about the health of his people. (contrast Ezekiel 34:4)
- They portray God's plan for man - working with creation (Genesis 2:15)
- They are using what God has given us in creation, and by using them we are also learning to take care of creation.
- They are practical for serving one another - they help us care and so show love.
- It is our holistic responsibility – God is concerned about the whole person and whole community. The Bible, as does African culture, sees people as a whole.
- The approach focuses upon teaching, which is much less divisive in churches than projects are.
- Their use is a strategy for the poor - the poor can use them for themselves without money and the Bible tells us to be concerned for the poor.
- They are locally found and the church is strong at the local level

### ***When is it Appropriate to Use Natural Medicines?***

- When people cannot easily access (afford) conventional medicine.
- They are particularly relevant for common straightforward complaints.
- External use is particularly easy because dosage is not very significant
- They have a particular place in "First Aid" and as medicines for home use
- They are not second best - they are often the preferred choice (e.g. Frangipani for Herpes Zoster) - so they fit in every situation
- It is important however to know the limitations - available knowledge on natural medicines does not enable us to treat everything - they are appropriate for some conditions and for others referral should be used.
- They need always to be linked with sharing knowledge, including when other medical help is needed.

### ***Biblical Support for Using Natural Medicines***

In the Bible we find some themes that help us use natural medicines with confidence, knowing that we are not going against God's will:

- The Bible has a holistic view of health. (Proverbs 13:12; Proverbs 17:22; III John v2)
- The pastor is expected to have concern for the health of his congregation. (Ezekiel 34:4)
- Natural medicines are part of creation
  - God looked at what he created and it was 'good'. (Genesis 1:31)
  - The way that creation is used and the motivation is important. (I Timothy 4:4)
  - God created variety for our use. (Genesis 1:29)
- The Bible recognises the healing potential of leaves. (Ezekiel 47:12; Revelation 22:1-2)
- Natural Medicines were the medicine of Biblical times. (II Kings 20:1-7; Isaiah 38:21; Luke 10:34)
- Jesus recognised that it is normal and appropriate to be growing herbs, being part of the garden. (Luke 11:42)
- We should redeem what the ungodly have taken by basing our use of natural medicines on scripture. (Acts 10:14-15; Romans 8:20-21)