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Health Ministry empowerment coming to Georgetown Oct. 25

Hundreds of women are expected to turn out for free health screenings and life management workshops as well as to hear pastor and motivational speaker Rev. Telly L. Gadson share her uplifting and inspiring story of how she lost nearly 100 pounds without surgery.

The three-city Health Ministry Empowerment Tour will make its third and final stop in Georgetown on Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Choppee Health Complex.

The tour, which targets minority women in rural communities, is a collaborative effort between Select Health of South Carolina and IMARA Woman magazine and offers health education and quality of life resources.

Rev. Gadson's incredible weight loss story will blend with the tour's focus on mind, body and spirit. Gadson credits her faith and changes in her lifestyle and diet for her dramatic weight loss. Rev. Gadson's participation in the empowerment tour is part of her vow to help others who, like her, have struggled with obesity.

Empowerment Tour

workshops are conducted by licensed professionals of local and regional organizations.

"The response from our audience has grown to overwhelming numbers since the Health Ministry Empowerment Tour's inception in 2002. That in itself is a clear indication that the women who attend

are driven to improve their lives," said Wendy Brawley, IMARA Publisher and CEO.

And that's another reason why the tour is a free community event. "This outreach program is important because it allows us to reach underserved communities where we see the greatest need for quality-of-life resources and life-saving health information," said Kathy Stone, Select Health Vice President of Public Affairs.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, American Cancer Society, South Carolina Community Bank, Best Chance Network, CW 47 and the Susan G. Komen Foundation provide sponsorship support for the Empowerment Tour.

For more information or to register for the Health

Ministry Empowerment Tour online, visit www.imarawoman.com.

Select Health

Incorporated in 1995, Select Health was licensed as a Health Maintenance Organization by the South Carolina Department of Insurance in 1996. Later that year, the company contracted with the Department of Health and Human Services to offer First Choice, the state's first Medicaid managed care health plan.

Select Health is accredited by URAC and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ameri-Health Mercy. The Ameri-Health Mercy Family of Companies touches the lives

of more than 6.2 million members nationwide. For more information, visit www.selecthealthofsc.com.

IMARA

IMARA Woman magazine is a statewide Columbia-based publication. The magazine, which is 8 years old, focuses on lifestyle empowerment for women of color. The word "imara" means powerful in Swahili. For more information, visit www.imarawoman.com.

