

SUNDAY TO SAVE LIVES - BULLETIN INFORMATION

Week 1 Bulletin Information

IMAGINE NO
malaria
PREVENTION - TREATMENT - EDUCATION

"I look on all the world as my parish."

John Wesley

With the promise and the hope of the people of The United Methodist Church, we have joined a powerful global response against the disease of malaria.

Earlier this year, Imagine No Malaria kicked off with an effort that harnessed the passion of United Methodists for Nothing But Nets to help cover the entire country of Sierra Leone with insecticide-treated bed nets.

As we work together as a denomination to increase our focus on global health, we have an exciting opportunity to further our impact for our brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer from malaria in Sierra Leone and across Africa – and potentially significantly reduce the number of deaths caused by this preventable disease.

[INSERT CHURCH NAME] is among a select group of congregations being asked to lead the way in this movement. I look forward to sharing the exciting project details with you in the coming weeks.

Blessings, [INSERT PASTOR NAME]

IMAGINE NO
malaria

In Sierra Leone, only 5% of the children under the age of 5 sleep under bed insecticide-treated bed nets. Without this protection, the rate of malaria cases in Sierra Leonean children is staggering, and 40% of childhood deaths are a result of this devastating – yet preventable – disease.

Week 2 Bulletin Information

IMAGINE NO *malaria*

PREVENTION - TREATMENT - EDUCATION

"The goal of wiping malaria off the face of the earth is more realistic than ever."

*Bill Gates Sr.
UMC General Conference 2008*

For three years, The United Methodist Church has sent nets and saved lives in Africa through Nothing But Nets. Earlier this year, we paved the way to cover the entire country of Sierra Leone with these nets, saving thousands of lives.

Our efforts start with a net, but they do not end there. Established United Methodist programs and projects will support the nets distributed in Sierra Leone. These programs include community health care workers who teach about proper net usage and simple ways to prevent malaria, as well as hospitals and clinics and communication networks to spread health information.

Building the capacity of these programs through Imagine No Malaria and expanding our partnerships with leaders in global health will help leverage our capacity for change as we work to reduce deaths from malaria from more than 1 million each year to nearly zero.

In the weeks ahead, I look forward to sharing more on this exciting project with you.

Your participation will be **saving lives**.

Blessings, [INSERT PASTOR NAME]

IMAGINE NO
malaria

Years of civil conflict and war added to the cycle of poverty that

creates fertile breeding grounds for mosquitoes in many communities. Education on the cause and prevention of malaria as well as access to affordable health care is vital to reducing deaths from malaria and breaking this piece of the cycle of poverty. Now, without these resources, families in Sierra Leone simply accept malaria as a tragic part of everyday life.

Week 3 Bulletin Information

IMAGINE NO malaria

PREVENTION - TREATMENT - EDUCATION

"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power... he went about doing good..."

Acts 10:38a, NRSV

Imagine: thanks to the recent attention by faith groups like the UMC and world leaders, malaria rates in some African nations are falling for the first time. Prevention, education and treatment have brought the goal of overcoming malaria within reach.

We have the opportunity to scale-up the impact of The United Methodist Church by joining our resources with those of other leaders in global health, enhancing our programs and saving more lives.

[INSERT CONGREGATION] has been invited to be part of a select group of congregations to lead The United Methodist Church in **Imagine No Malaria**. Our church set a target to save a minimum of [INSERT GOAL] lives by raising [INSERT MONETARY GOAL], becoming a model for United Methodists around the world.

This week you will receive a letter describing how you can help those suffering from malaria in Sierra Leone. Next week we will celebrate a **Sunday to Save Lives**. During all services, members will have an opportunity to help us reach our goal for **Imagine No Malaria**. We ask congregants to consider saving 10 lives through a gift of \$100 or more. Please be as generous as possible and pray for the success of our effort.

Blessings, [INSERT PASTOR NAME]

IMAGINE NO
malaria

Sierra Leone ranks as having one of the highest maternal and child mortality rates in the world – 40% of these deaths are a result of malaria. If adequate education, protection and access to quality health care are available, we can eliminate deaths from malaria in a decade.

Week 4 Bulletin Information – Sunday to Save Lives

IMAGINE NO malaria

PREVENTION - TREATMENT - EDUCATION

Jesus said, "Bring health to the sick.... You have been treated generously, so live generously."

*Matthew 10:7-8,
The Message*

The United Methodist Church has the hope, the people, and the power to facilitate change. We can invest in a changing world to make a difference.

Earlier this year, we launched the **Imagine No Malaria** movement with a special project that will help provide 1.2 million insecticide-treated bed nets to Sierra Leone, covering an entire country and saving thousands of lives. Now, we are working to expand the scope of our health programs and partnerships to increase our efforts in the fight against malaria.

Our congregation has set a target to raise a minimum of [INSERT GOAL] and become a model for UMC congregations around the world in the **Imagine No Malaria** effort.

Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider the letter sent to your home [modify if included in bulletin] this past week. During worship today, please remember your brothers and sisters in Christ in Sierra Leone by praying for their health and safety, and by prayerfully consider a gift to support our congregational goal as we work to reduce deaths from this preventable disease. Can you impact 10 lives with a gift of \$100?

Your gifts will be **saving lives**.

Blessings, [INSERT PASTOR NAME]

IMAGINE NO
malaria Simple tools like bed nets backed by education and access to medication have enabled Rwanda and Ethiopia to reduce deaths from malaria by more than 50%, providing strong examples for success in Africa. Adequate resources, malaria education, and access to quality health care can eliminate deaths from malaria in Sierra Leone within a decade.

Week 5 Bulletin Information

IMAGINE NO malaria

PREVENTION - TREATMENT - EDUCATION

*"God is not unjust; [God] will not forget your work and the love you have shown...as you have helped his people and continue to help them."
Hebrews 6:10*

Thank you for your prayers and gifts that helped [INSERT CONGREGATION] reach a goal of saving [INSERT # LIVES SAVED] by raising [INSERT AMOUNT RAISED] that will help to expand the scope of our health programs and partnerships in Sierra Leone and increase our efforts in the fight against malaria.

Community Health Care workers in Africa, trained by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), distribute insecticide-treated bed nets and educate communities about malaria. These attendants and other programs of The United Methodist Church such as hospitals, clinics, and communication programs help to bring affordable and comprehensive health care to our brothers and sisters in Christ in Sierra Leone and across the continent of Africa. Thank you for helping to support their ministry through your generosity.

*"Those who are generous are blessed."
Proverbs 22:9a, NRSV*

Blessings, [INSERT PASTOR NAME]