

SAMPLE CHURCH-WIDE APPEAL LETTER

Name

Address

City, State Zip

Dear [SALUTATION]:

“Watching a small child die from malaria is a horrific experience. First come the headache, tiredness, weakness in the joints and general malaise, followed by a very high fever. Then the fever’s effect on the brain causes the child’s muscles to jerk, just before the end.” ~Tom Gillem, *Interpreter Jul/Aug 2009*.

Our church has the opportunity to change this image and help eliminate deaths from malaria. Through **Imagine No Malaria**, we can save thousands of lives. “It is possible to give without loving,” said John Wesley, “but it is impossible to love without giving.” **Imagine No Malaria** is our opportunity to respond to our calling—to show our love through our generous gifts.

We have embraced the message “Send a Net, Save a Life” through Nothing But Nets for three years, and in doing so ignited the passion of our members for global health. With the promise and the hope of the people of The United Methodist Church, we have an opportunity to collaborate in a global effort to overcome malaria – a goal world leaders hope to accomplish by 2015. **Imagine No Malaria** kicked off this year with a special effort that made possible, with our partners, coverage of the entire vulnerable population of Sierra Leone with insecticide-treated bed nets. Our efforts to overcome malaria may start with a net, but they do not stop there.

Now we are called to strengthen the infrastructure of malaria treatment and prevention to ensure the greatest impact of this effort. We will revitalize hospitals and health-care clinics that treat malaria and distribute medication. We will support and train additional community health-care workers who educate communities about proper net usage and other simple ways to prevent malaria. We will build communications networks to spread health information. Finally, we will enhance partnerships with leaders in global health to leverage the greatest impact of our resources in Sierra Leone.

On Sunday, [DATE] join us in a **Sunday to Save Lives** and help our church reach our goal to save [XXX] lives by raising [\$X,XXX]. During all services on this day, members can return gifts to support **Imagine No Malaria** by using the special envelope provided and placing it in the offertory.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8, NRSV says, “If there is among you anyone in need . . . do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.” Though we find ourselves now in difficult economic times, we are blessed to live in a country where diseases of poverty like malaria do not touch our lives on a daily basis. In Africa, a child dies from malaria every 30 seconds. We can help to provide hope through this effort. Can you save 10 lives with a gift of \$100? Can you save 50 lives with a gift of \$500?

The spirit of Christ is in our church as we care for each other in our times of need.

Blessings,

[INSERT PASTOR NAME]