

Imagine No Malaria: Nothing But Nets *PLUS!*

There's mounting evidence that United Methodists in Western PA are saving lives half a world away through the Nothing But Nets campaign to eliminate deadly malaria. The disease is spread through the bite of a tiny, female anopheles mosquito, so a bed net can protect sleeping children and family members. Ten dollars gets an insecticide-treated net to someone who needs it in Africa.

When a country is "blanketed" with nets, the change is dramatic, according to Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, who leads our denomination's efforts. In Rwanda there was a 55 percent reduction in malaria deaths; in Tanzania, a 60 percent drop.

But children are still dying from a disease that has been eliminated in many countries, so more must be done!

"It's a justice issue," the Bishop says. "Why are we allowing innocent children to die every 30 seconds when we have the capability of preventing it?"

He dreams of eliminating malaria by 2015. Through coordinated efforts by faith-based, secular and government organizations, that dream can come true.

On April 25, for World Malaria Day, a new United Methodist Church ministry, Imagine No Malaria, will publicly launch.

Imagine No Malaria is our commitment to help those in need and eliminate death and suffering from malaria. The Bishop sees it as Nothing But Nets PLUS.

While providing bed nets continues to be a vital part of the solution, it will take im-

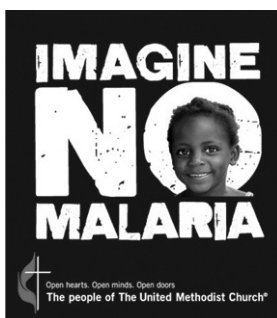
proved education about malaria, communication and treatment to overcome this disease. Visit www.ImagineNoMalaria.org for more information and look for a preview soon in Western PA.

Meanwhile, get involved in saving lives!

March Madness is nearly upon us. It's a perfect time to team up with others in your community, have fun, and "net" some contributions to sink malaria! Our Bishop and a Conference Nothing But Nets team encourage congregations to partner with a school, Scout troop, club, business or other community group to sponsor a one-time event to raise money for Nothing But Nets. It's a natural to tie it to the NCAA tournaments or World Malaria Day, so start planning now!

Once you share the story of how a \$10 bed net can save a life, people young and old are excited to get involved! Are you the person in your church who can get the ball rolling (or bouncing)?

By Jackie Campbell, WPAUMC News



Bible Study and Prayer

Join United Methodists throughout Western Pennsylvania in studying these Bible passages from the *Revised Common Lectionary* and praying for these ministries and persons:

February 7-13

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany - Green

Read: Is. 6:1-13; Ps. 138 (UMH 853);
1 Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Pray for:

- ✠ West Homestead UMC, Pittsburgh Dist., Robert L. Critchlow, pastor
- ✠ Harrison City:Community UMC, Greensburg Dist., John E. Ciampa, pastor; Patricia E. Ciampa, deacon
- ✠ Connoquenessing UMC, Butler Dist., Nancy K. Shute, pastor
- ✠ Grove City:Grace UMC, Franklin Dist., Paul R. Milliken, pastor
- ✠ Brookville:Evangelical UMC, Timothy C. McConville, pastor
- ✠ Dawson UM Charge, Connellsville Dist., David A. Bell Sr., pastor

February 14-20

Transfiguration Sunday - White
Disability Awareness Sunday & Offering
Scouting Ministries Sunday

Read: Ex. 34:29-35; Ps. 99 (UMH 819);
2 Cor. 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Pray for:

- ✠ Brown Hill & Teepleville UMCs, Erie-Meadville Dist., David L. Acker, pastor
- ✠ Summerville & Kingsville UMCs, Indiana Dist., William P. Saxman, pastor
- ✠ South Fork:First UMC, Johnstown Dist., Paul B. Morris, pastor
- ✠ Avery UMC, Washington Dist., Ruth L. Simmons, pastor
- ✠ Arnold UMC, Greensburg Dist., Karen L. Prescott, pastor

February 21-27

First Sunday in Lent- Purple

Read: Deut. 26:1-11; Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16 (UMH 810); Rom. 10:8b-13;
Luke 4:1-13

Pray for:

- ✠ Shipperville UM Charge, Franklin Dist., Elizabeth S. Cooper, pastor
- ✠ West Hickory UMC, Kane Dist., Larry R. Neal, pastor
- ✠ Johnstown: Bethany UMC, Johnstown Dist., Jeffrey A. Vanderhoff, pastor
- ✠ Swisvale UMC, Pittsburgh Dist., Dai D. Morgan, pastor
- ✠ Waterford:Asbury UMC, Erie-Meadville Dist., Dennis A. Fetter, pastor
- ✠ Slippery Rock UMC, Butler Dist., Pamela S. Gardner, pastor

February 28-March 6

Second Sunday in Lent- Purple
March 5 - World Day of Prayer

Read: Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps. 27 (UMH 758); Philip. 3:17-4:1;
Luke 13:31-35

Pray for:

- ✠ Somerset: Wesley Chapel UMC, Connellsville Dist., Denton R. Lester, pastor
- ✠ Emporium:First UMC, Kane Dist., Gary B. Atkinson, pastor
- ✠ Centerville & Taylor UMCs, Washington Dist., Nancy G. Zahn, pastor
- ✠ Braddock: Muhleman Memorial UMC, Pittsburgh Dist., Edwin D. Pope, pastor
- ✠ New Covenant UM Charge, Franklin Dist., Robert P. Hernan, pastor; Kenneth E. Hughes, associate