

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Imagine No Malaria?

In 2008, the General Conference adopted global health as an area of focus for the entire denomination. The Global Health Initiative is the vehicle through which we will work to counter the devastating effects of diseases of poverty. Imagine No Malaria, a program of the Global Health Initiative, is a global health effort with a focus squarely on the goal of eliminating malaria forever. Imagine No Malaria will direct resources, supplies and the passion of our people to Africa to save lives.

How is Imagine No Malaria different from Nothing But Nets?

Imagine No Malaria is The United Methodist Church's comprehensive effort to end death and suffering from malaria. Nothing But Nets has been a critical and successful program, and will remain a key component of the campaign against malaria. Working closely with leaders in global health, Imagine No Malaria will provide a holistic approach in the fight against malaria that includes prevention, education, and better access to treatment.

We already did a Nothing But Nets campaign – are we done?

We encourage churches who have completed a Nothing But Nets campaign to embrace the passion sparked by Nothing But Nets and harness it to do even more. Continue to help us save lives by carrying out new fun and educational activities that will engage both your church and your community!

What impact can we really have?

The worst part about the deaths caused by malaria is that they are entirely preventable. The world already possesses the treatment and preventative measures to eliminate deaths from malaria. Fifty years ago, more than 2 million people were dying each year from smallpox all over the world. Today, ZERO. Imagine what we will be able to say about malaria in 20, 10 or even five years. 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. One person can save thousands of lives. Just imagine what 11.5 million United Methodists can accomplish!

How is Imagine No Malaria reaching out to the people of The United Methodist Church?

Imagine No Malaria is an extraordinary grassroots effort to raise \$75 million through The United Methodist Church. With more than 11.5 million members, we have the opportunity to engage many people in a small way to make a big impact.

Over the coming months and years, we will be working directly with conferences to conduct Imagine No Malaria efforts at the local level. Resources will be available to aid in planning fun and educational activities designed to engage the entire church body in the fight against malaria.

Imagine No Malaria is more than an opportunity for our members to contribute to a worthy cause. It is an opportunity to learn about malaria and how it may be eliminated and to share this information with our neighbors. Imagine No Malaria reconnects United Methodists with our Wesleyan roots, celebrating a long tradition of doing all the good you can, to all the people you can, in all the places you can.

Why is this effort focused on malaria?

Each year, malaria infects more than 500 million people and takes more than one million lives. While a danger to all groups, malaria disproportionately affects young children and pregnant women. In addition to loss of life, the illness prevents sustainable employment for companies and employees and has a significant impact on health-care systems, costing the continent of Africa \$12 billion in health care each year. Now is the time to take action. Together, we can make a difference.

Why are we focusing on Africa?

Today, more than 90 percent of the deaths caused by malaria occur in sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria was eliminated in the United States in the 1950s, but it remains a serious health issue across the globe, particularly in developing African countries. In Africa, increasing drug resistance and frail health systems have actually led to an increase in malaria infections over the past three decades.

What can we do besides providing nets to help eliminate malaria?

Other necessary elements in eliminating malaria include promoting prevention and education activities, strengthening our health-delivery systems, training health-care workers in recognizing and treating malaria and, of course, distributing bed nets. These activities, when combined, will inevitably create a path to a stronger infrastructure, coordinated communications networks and human-resource bases.

More importantly, our efforts to eliminate malaria will build the capacity of our church in Africa to address a much wider range of health initiatives: combating HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, lowering maternal mortality rates and preparing community health workers.

My church supports malaria programs through The Advance. How will this affect our preferred projects?

We are grateful for your generous support of The Advance, which makes UMCOR projects like the Community-Based Malaria Control Program and Hospital Revitalization possible. Your support of **Imagine No Malaria** directly helps the growth and development of these critical, life-saving programs.

With whom is The United Methodist Church collaborating on this endeavor?

With support from the United Nations Foundation (UNF), The United Methodist Church was offered the opportunity to conduct a fund-raising and educational campaign. The effort will support United Methodist malaria projects and programs in Africa and will establish a strategic partnership between The United Methodist Church and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is recognized as the world's leading funder of malaria prevention and treatment. This partnership with the Global Fund links The United Methodist Church with one-quarter of international funding for AIDS programs, as well as two-thirds of international malaria and tuberculosis funding in the developing world.