

WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT?

Frequently Asked Questions



What is *Nothing But Nets*?

Nothing But Nets is a global, grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. Sportswriter Rick Reilly first challenged his readers to donate \$10 for the purchase of an anti-malaria bed net. Since 2006, tens of thousands of people have joined the campaign. Nothing but Nets was created by the United Nations Foundation. Founding campaign partners include the people of The United Methodist Church, Sports Illustrated, and the National Basketball Association's NBA Cares.

Nothing But Nets receives support from The United Methodist Church's Global Health Initiative, one of the church's Four Areas of Focus, to eliminate diseases of poverty and improve health conditions for people in the United States and around the world.

Why did The United Methodist Church get involved in this cause?

The people of The United Methodist Church have been in mission across Africa for more than 160 years. Our commitment to preventing malaria makes Nothing But Nets a natural partner for us. Through educational campaigns and raising money to buy bed nets, congregations, conferences and agencies can make a difference and save lives.

What is World Malaria Day?

In March 2007, the World Health Assembly, attended by delegations from all 192 member states of the World Health Organization (WHO), considered the latest malaria reports and observed that global awareness of malaria remains low despite the high death toll and cost of the disease.

The World Health Assembly thus resolved that World Malaria Day should be commemorated annually to provide "education and understanding of malaria" and to share information on "year-long intensified implementation of national malaria-control strategies, including community-based activities for malaria prevention and treatment in endemic areas." (WHA 60.18) World Malaria Day is commemorated April 25 each year.

What is The United Methodist Church doing for World Malaria Day?

The theme for 2009 World Malaria Day is: **"To Lunch or Not to Lunch: Skip a Lunch, Send a Net, Save a Life.** We are asking congregations to raise awareness of malaria by challenging members to skip a lunch and send \$10 to Nothing But Nets to save a life. We will announce the amount raised April 25, World Malaria Day. Visit UMCNothingButNets.org for free resources.

What else can I do?

Continue to save lives by spreading the word and getting your friends, family and church involved. Below are three simple things you can do:

1. Plan a fund-raising walk for malaria during the noon hour April 25, World Malaria Day.
2. Collect nickels for nets. Encourage people to fill a jar with pocket change until April 25, World Malaria Day.
3. Select a Scriptures theme that highlights how Jesus used nets in his ministry ("Cast your nets on the other side of the boat") that you might explore in worship and education ministries for the events.
 - a. Jairus' daughter – not too late to save a child

- b. Elijah, widow and boy
- c. Abraham – Isaac (God provided a ram to save a child)
- d. Moses – saved from certain death with the basket on the river
- e. John 6 – little boy offers his lunch as part of a miracle

For more suggestions, visit our Web site: UMCNothingButNets.org for free downloadable resources.

Can I donate to Nothing But Nets through The Advance?

The Advance number for Nothing But Nets is 982015. To donate through The Advance, mail checks to: Advance GCFA; P.O. Box 9068, GPO; New York, NY 10087-9068. One hundred percent of your donation made through The Advance goes to purchase, distribute and educate about the proper use of an insecticide-treated bed net.

Send a net. Save a life. You can save a life by making a \$10 donation at UMCNothingButNets.org. It's that easy. Each \$10 donation goes directly toward the purchase, distribution and education about the proper use of an insecticide-treated bed net.

How does my \$10 donation get to Africa?

Nothing But Nets works with the Measles Initiative to purchase, transport and distribute the nets to families in Africa. The Measles Initiative, a long-term effort to control measles deaths, has delivered more than 200 million vaccinations and other health services to sub-Saharan Africa. The Measles Initiative partners—the people of The United Methodist Church, the American Red Cross, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, UNICEF and the United Nations Foundation—are experts in accessing remote, hard-to-reach areas throughout Africa.

How do the bed nets save lives?

Bed nets work in two ways. They stop mosquitoes from biting during the night and spreading the disease, and the insecticide on the nets kills the mosquitoes when they land on them, stopping them from flying to find their next victim. Bed nets can prevent malaria transmission by 50 percent.

How many people die of malaria every year?

Malaria is one of the most serious global health issues. Each year malaria infects approximately 500 million people, and more than a million of those die. Malaria is particularly devastating in Africa where the disease is a leading killer of children, accounting for 20 percent of all childhood deaths.

Why should I donate money for nets and not vaccinations?

There are many different ways to prevent malaria. Bed nets, vaccinations, spraying efforts and water treatment are important tools. Nets are one of the most effective ways to prevent malaria and are an easy way for individuals to make a difference in combating this disease. At this time, no consistently effective malaria vaccine exists. The parasite Plasmodium, which carries the disease, changes rapidly and can become drug resistant.

What other organizations are involved in the campaign?

In addition to the people of The United Methodist Church, founding campaign partners include the United Nations Foundation, the National Basketball Association's NBA Cares and Sports Illustrated.

How much of my donation goes to overhead for the campaign?

None. One hundred percent of your donation goes directly toward the purchase, distribution and education about the proper use of an insecticide-treated bed net.