

IMAGINE NO MALARIA

Our Faith In Action.



West Ohio Conference

January 17, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The West Ohio Conference has joined 45 other annual conferences from across our denomination who have come together to save lives by preventing needless deaths from malaria.

Our conference goal is to save 350,000 lives over the next several years by raising 3.5 million dollars. Many churches have already made a commitment to saving lives through the *Imagine No Malaria* initiative. Thank you for those commitments; it's why we're almost half way to our goal today!

We invite you and your church to join the West Ohio effort in saving lives!

This initiative is about more than just raising money; it's a unique breakthrough time for every local congregation to reach out with the healing message of Jesus Christ and love of neighbor. **Valarie Willis of Gaines United Methodist Church in Madisonville**, traveled with a West Ohio mission group to the North Katanga Annual Conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa during 2013; here is some of what she saw:



When we are annoyed by mosquitoes, we dash to our local store and grab up repellent, candles and wipes. We can usually get there and be back within 15 minutes or so. Then we go back to relaxing in our lounge chairs. That is not the way the world turns deep in the North Katanga Conference. There are no stores within walking or driving distance that give them the luxury of vaccinations or repellents.

Babies, mothers, fathers, and children fight for their lives when infected with malaria, a mosquito carried disease. In the clinic, we saw little babies connected to IVs strung on a makeshift wooden stand. The babies rested on soiled lumpy thin mattresses, while parents anxiously awaited. They were the lucky ones. So many more, never see the inside of a clinic, or receive treatment. They don't get the \$2.00 vaccine that could save their lives.

I don't know the outcome for these children, but I do know that through Imagine No Malaria, we can make a difference for many babies, children, mothers and fathers. In the time that it takes us to spray on our repellent and settle in, someone has died from malaria. We can give hope and save lives.

Give hope and save lives!



Across our denomination churches are building hope using *Imagine No Malaria* as an opportunity to host spaghetti dinners, 5k runs, basketball games, wellness fairs, golf tournaments and more. In doing so they've raised millions of dollars in simple ways to save lives in sub-Saharan Africa where someone dies every 60 seconds from malaria. And, they've used these times of outreach to tell the story of who we are as United Methodists, of our passion for the Gospel and of our love of neighbor, those nearby and those thousands of miles away.

We stand on the threshold of eliminating deaths from malaria and *Imagine No Malaria* will help make that happen through a sustainable, accountable program of Education, Prevention, Treatment and Communication.

We invite you to join your brothers and sisters in Christ here in West Ohio who have already committed to raising funds for *Imagine No Malaria*.

Will you save 50, 100, 200 or more lives from death due to malaria?

Commit to saving lives. One easy way to do so is to commit to saving lives by raising \$100 per worship attender over the next three years. That's only \$2.78 per worshipper, per month over the next three years. And for each \$100 you'll save 10 lives. Churches committing at this level we call **Barnabus Churches** as they are *encouragers* of us all. Churches that are able to commit to \$25,000 or more are recognized as **Luke 9:6 Churches** like *those who go through the towns preaching the Gospel and healing the sick*.

Malaria does not discriminate between rich and poor, rural and big cities, it strikes those without the means to protect themselves. This is a ministry with room for all of us, regardless of economics. **Every gift makes a difference and goes 100% to help end deaths from malaria.**

How can we give hope and save lives?



- Pray! Enter into a time of intentional prayer. Jesus told us to heal the sick and love our neighbors as ourselves. Here is the prayer I've been using: *Use us O God, let it be your will, and show us how to imagine, to imagine no malaria right where we are planted.*
- Educate yourself about malaria and the impact it has on human lives. Visit westohioumc.org/imagine for local church resources, stories and more.
- Next, look at what you do well, how you make the Gospel of Jesus Christ come alive to your neighbors, how you serve. How could you include these gifts in your commitment?
- Dream a God-sized dream! Commit to an annual season of mission focus for *Imagine No Malaria* over each of the next 3 years. Many churches focus around **World Malaria Day** which is April 25.
- How many lives will your church save?
- Find at least one person (or more) who will lead this initiative and send us their name. Through our district coordinators or through the Council on Development we'll be in contact and able to support.
- [Complete this form](#) and send it to me at West Ohio Conference, Attn: Imagine No Malaria, 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, Ohio 43085 on or before March 1, 2014.
- Pray again, a prayer of thanks to God.
- Go forth and save lives!
- Questions? Need help in creating your goal? - Check out the website at westohioumc.org/imagine for more information or contact me, Dave Boling, at the contact information below.

Thank you for engaging in the healing presence of Jesus Christ through *Imagine No Malaria*. Thank you to the congregations who have already committed. Thank you to those who are praying about it. Thank you to all!

Each day, **1,440 people**, mostly children and women who are pregnant **die** in sub-Saharan Africa **from malaria**. Through your commitment and ministry, **everyone can save a life!**

Thank you and may 2014 truly be a year of giving hope and saving lives!

In Christ,

Dave Boling

Conference Field Coordinator - Imagine No Malaria
Associate Director, Council on Development

**West Ohio Conference
of The United Methodist Church**

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*PS: I hope you've had a chance to see this great
Imagine No Malaria video with Bishop Palmer.*



cc: Bishop Gregory V. Palmer
Rev. George Cooper, Executive Director, Council on Development
West Ohio Conference Superintendents & Leadership Team



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