

LITTLE CHILDREN, LET'S NOT LOVE WITH WORDS OR SPEECH  
BUT WITH ACTION AND TRUTH. —*1 John 3:18*

# WORSHIP RESOURCES *for* WORLD MALARIA DAY

IMAGINE  
**NO**  
MALARIA

**BRING CHANGE**



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®







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## CENTRAL CONGO

**THIS LITTLE BOY** is alive because of Imagine No Malaria and our comprehensive effort to save lives.

He was admitted to the Health Center of Kananga II on April 4, 2013, with a case of severe malaria and anemia.

Our work has helped to fund a project in six health facilities in the Central Congo Episcopal Area, including this health center. There, the little boy received a blood transfusion to correct the anemia and drug treatments to combat the malaria itself.

For a poor family, the cost of that intervention is too great to bear, but Imagine No Malaria is working to fund precisely these kinds of treatments to save lives.

The father of this child arrived with tears streaming down his face because of the pain his child was experiencing. They had walked 25 kilometers (15 miles) to reach this health facility and find treatment. Those tears turned into smiles with the full recovery of his son.

The father offered a profound testimony of gratitude both for the staff of the health center and the leaders of UMCOR/Imagine No Malaria.

This family never would have known about the treatment options available were it not for the effective communications that are part of our Imagine No Malaria efforts. Thanks to The United Methodist Church, remote areas of the Kasai Annual Conference and the country benefit from information about prevention and ways to access treatment.

*The details of this story are from the Imagine No Malaria End of Project Report – July 2013, from the team in Central Congo.*



(Read aloud during church and/or print in the bulletin.)

**NEXT SUNDAY**—in honor of World Malaria Day, April 25—we will take a special offering for Imagine No Malaria. Malaria is a disease of poverty that kills a child every minute, even though we know how to prevent and treat it. As United Methodists, we are committed to stand against this needless suffering. Our efforts are making a difference! Since 2010, the death rate from malaria has been cut in half!

We need your help to amplify and support the work done through Imagine No Malaria. Our theme for World Malaria Day is #BringChange:

- #BringChange to church. Bring your spare change (or cash or checkbook) with you next Sunday. Every dollar you donate goes to save lives in Africa.
- #BringChange through advocacy. Sign our petition or write a letter to your U.S. representatives. Tell them that malaria is important to you.
- #BringChange in your life. In what ways, have you been richly blessed? What do you take for granted? Sometimes, a shift in perspective is all we need to start changing the world.

Join us next Sunday for a joyful celebration as we #BringChange and save lives from malaria!

## INTRO FOR SUNDAY BEFORE WORLD MALARIA DAY



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## OLD FASHIONED LETTER WRITING: A FORGOTTEN BUT MOST EFFECTIVE TOOL

### ADVOCACY INVOLVES SPEAKING UP AND LETTING OTHERS HEAR YOUR VOICE.

**IT IS OUR DUTY** as followers of Jesus to stand up for the oppressed and to defend “the widow, the orphan, the stranger and the poor” (Zechariah 7:10, CEB) – not to take away their voice, but to amplify their voice by our supportive presence and witness.

How do we do this? Nowadays, we have numerous tools – telephone, email, texts, snail mail and even marching in the streets. All of these convey our message to the people who represent us in the halls of power. All are effective; however, we would like to make a case for good old-fashioned letter writing.

On Capitol Hill, as a rule of thumb, you can figure that the power of a particular advocacy action is comparable to the effort involved in taking the action.

Emails work to some degree, but sending an email is very easy to do and Congress gets 200 million emails every year. Because they are easy and the numbers are so large, the impact is minimal.

Telephone calls are a little better and can help. They are especially effective when a bill is coming before Congress that day or very soon. Same-day faxes are also effective.

If the issue you are addressing is being considered for an extended period and does not have to get there “absolutely, positively tomorrow morning,” old-fashioned letter writing is an excellent way to go. Because it takes more effort, it carries more weight. A personal letter written from your heart sends a message that you really care about this issue. It also conveys an expectation that you will watch to see how your senator or representative responds.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

O God of healing:  
When where you're born predicts whether you'll live,  
Help us to bring change.  
In our country, where preventable diseases  
are often "out of sight, out of mind,"  
Help us to bring change.  
When the gifts we take for granted can make  
the difference between life and death,  
Help us to bring change.

## PRAYER

*(From Leslie Brant's interpretation of Psalm 119 in "Psalms Now"*

*© 1973 Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri.)*

You have shown me how much you love me, Lord;  
Now show me how to love you.  
Your standards for me are clear.  
I am to translate your love into terms that others can comprehend,  
To demonstrate it before [others] about me.  
I can truly love you only inasmuch as I proceed  
To love your children in this world.  
I can serve you only as I commit my life to service  
On behalf of my brothers and sisters.  
I can offer sacrifices to you only by way  
Of the altar of my neighbor's need.  
This is your law, your standard,  
Your design and will for my life.  
This is the way in which I will be pleasing to you.

## RESPONSIVE READING

*(by Julia and Drew Frisbie, based on The Beatitudes, Matthew 5)*

Blessed are the poor; the parents who can't afford a \$5 cure for their children's malaria;  
for the kin-dom of God belongs to them.  
Blessed are those who mourn the loss of a loved one to a preventable disease,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the little children, tucked in tight under bed nets,  
for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are the educators, those who hunger and thirst for the equal opportunity  
that comes from knowledge,  
for they will be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful health workers, who make it their life's work to heal,  
for they will be shown mercy.

