



WEEK FIVE Networkers

Malaria Prevention Evangelism Project

Malaria is a disease caused by mosquito-borne parasites. In the developed countries of the world, mosquitoes are little more than a nuisance, but in the undeveloped world, they carry the disease, which sickens more than 500 million people annually

Net Save Lives

The NetWorkers Malaria Prevention Program was developed by International Health Ministries in response to the tragic human toll of this disease. For poor people living in often remote rural areas, preventing malaria is the key to protecting their health. Use of insecticide treated mosquito nets has been shown to dramatically reduce the incidence of malaria infection, especially in young children. Nets are effective, inexpensive, and easy to use. NetWorkers projects are community-based, implemented by the women of our PC(USA) partner churches overseas. At each project site, NetWorker committees use



Christ-centered educational materials to teach their neighbors how to prevent malaria, and they make nets available at locally-affordable prices. The word of God's love and care is delivered by NetWorkers, along with the life-saving malaria prevention lessons.

Led by the Presbyterian Women's groups, congregations in the U.S. support the NetWorkers projects by helping to purchase nets, insecticide and educational materials, and by sewing mosquito nets from kits. In the past two years, PW groups have sewn 5,000 nets for shipment to their sister groups in our partner churches.

Christian NetWorkers Coalition

The NetWorkers Program is part of the global campaign "Roll Back Malaria" organized by the World Health Organization. The goal of Roll Back Malaria is to reduce the toll of malaria on the undeveloped world by 50% by the year 2010. Presbyterians are already playing an important role in this effort. Last year, the NetWorkers Program was expanded into the Christian NetWorkers Coalition, an ecumenical partnership facilitated by International Health Ministries and Presbyterian Women to support malaria prevention work in Africa. The focus of the Christian NetWorkers Coalition is malaria prevention for pregnant women, which, next to young children, are the group most susceptible to serious or even fatal cases of malaria.

In support of the Roll Back Malaria campaign, the Christian NetWorkers Coalition is developing a NetWorkers Safe Motherhood Project at two

locations in Malawi. Directed by PC(USA) missionary nurse Jodi McGill, the Safe Motherhood Project will provide prenatal malaria prevention and mosquito nets to pregnant women.

Thought for the Day

Sunday: Worldwide, 3,000 people die from malaria each day and 300 million people contract malaria every year.

Monday: Seven out of 10 of childhood deaths in developing countries can be attributed to just five main causes, or often to a combination of them: pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, malaria and malnutrition. Around the world, three out of every four children seen by health services are suffering from at least one of these conditions.

Tuesday: More than 700,000 children under 5 years of age will die this year from malaria and every 40 seconds a child dies as a result of malaria, which is one out of every 20 children.

Wednesday: In addition to suffering and death, malaria penalize poor communities, as they perpetuate poverty through work loss, school drop-out, decreased financial investment and increased social instability – creating sizable social and economic costs. For example, Africa's GDP would be up to \$100 billion greater if malaria had been eliminated years ago.

Thursday: In parts of Africa where malaria is high, pregnant women are more than four times as likely to suffer clinical attacks of malaria during pregnancy than at other times; but only half as likely to survive bouts of this life-threatening illness.

Friday: The well-being of a newborn depends almost exclusively on the health of the mother. 24 million pregnant women run the risk of complications and miscarriages each year due to malaria.

Saturday: Current estimates now suggest that sums in the order of \$1 billion are needed for malaria prevention alone. But the pay-off could be as much as \$3-12 billion a year in terms of a boost to the combined GDP of countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Getting Involved

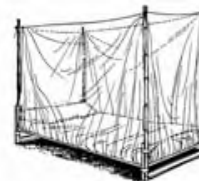
How Can You Help?

A \$10 mosquito net means the gift of health for a child or a pregnant woman. To learn more about the NetWorkers program Contact::

The Synod of the Trinity

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or log onto:

www.pcusa.org/health/international/networkers.htm