

# World Malaria Day—April 25



**Nets are essential in saving people from malaria, as is medication, education and training.**  
*Ginger Cooper/GBGM*

"I spent every day with 34-year old Laurina. She was eight months pregnant and was dedicated to our work, taking accounting classes and learning QuickBooks. She was a hard worker and put in many long hours," recounts Carol Kreamer, coordinator for the Mozambique Initiative, a ministry of the Missouri Annual Conference that combats malaria.

In May, 2006 Laurina delivered a healthy baby girl named Ylva Marvet. The following month, Laurina began experiencing fever and chills—symptoms of an all too familiar malaria she had suffered before. Her condition took a turn for the worse and she died. She left behind her husband Fernando, two-year old son Fernando Jr. and her new one-month-old baby girl.

## Malaria is Preventable

World Malaria Day is April 25. Malaria-related stories don't have to end like Laurina's, but it's one that must be told in observance of this event. Worldwide 300 to 500 million people contract malaria each year. Malaria is also one of the biggest killers of children in Africa, accounting for nearly one in five deaths throughout the continent. One United Methodist ministry that is on a mission to increase efforts in malaria education and training to prevent this disease from taking one more precious life is taking place through the efforts of the Missouri Annual Conference's Mozambique Initiative.

## The Beginning of Hope

Last year, the Mozambique Initiative coordinated a pilot program to inform the United Methodist Church all about malaria during the December Annual Conference. Educational discussions on malaria, its causes and prevention were held and a total of 1000 mosquito nets were distributed to the church. Today, the ministry is on a two year assignment to distribute bed nets throughout Mozambique in orphanages, women shelters, seminaries, hospitals and clinics, and more.

## Community-Based Malaria Program

Like the Mozambique Initiative, the Community-Based Malaria Program is committed to eliminating malaria's deadly sting. This program supports United Methodist and ecumenical health workers and hospitals as they work to combat malaria in their communities. The program provides communities with comprehensive plans to combat malaria that are tailored to their specific needs. This initiative includes community training on basic measures to prevent sickness, free medications and consultations to those who are ill or who are especially vulnerable to malaria and providing insecticide treated nets to pregnant women and families with young children.

## About Malaria

Malaria is caused by microscopic parasites which are transmitted from person to person by female anopheles mosquitoes. When an infected mosquito bites a person, she transmits malaria parasites to that individual who then falls ill. The first signs of malaria are usually fever, aching and headache. Untreated malaria can lead to severe anemia, organ damage, convulsions, coma and eventually death.

## How to Give

Observe World Malaria Day by supporting the **Community-Based Malaria Program, UMCOR Advance # 982009** with your gifts. Write the Advance # and name on the memo line of your check.

**By Offering** For local church and Annual Conference credit, put your gift in the offering plate on Sunday.

**By Check** Make your check to **UMCOR** and mail to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087

**By Credit Card** Call toll-free (800) 554-8583



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