

The Lutheran Malaria Initiative

The Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI) is an unprecedented collaborative effort among the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, and Lutheran World Relief, in partnership with the UN Foundation, to mobilize the nearly 8 million Lutherans in the United States to join the battle against malaria — a preventable and treatable disease that kills more than 1 million people a year.

The LMI will educate people about malaria, advocate for global health initiatives, and raise funds to help combat malaria. Malaria affects much of Africa and is spread by mosquitoes. Children are most vulnerable. A child dies from it every 30 seconds, according to Elizabeth Gore, executive director for the United Nations' Partnership Alliances.

One example of a program that directly benefits those at risk of contracting malaria is the UN Foundation's *Nothing But Nets* program, which distributes long-lasting, natural-insecticide-treated bed nets to children in Africa as a form of prevention. *Nothing But Nets* is working closely with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to send urgently needed nets to more than 1 million refugees in 15 countries.

Nothing But Nets supporters have already helped to purchase 275,000 bed nets for refugees in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Sudan.

The objective of the LMI, with its \$75 million fundraising goal, is to eliminate malaria in south-Saharan Africa by 2015. The LMI will respond to malaria with comprehensive and sustainable community development efforts. "This is a monumental partnership," according to the Rev. John Nunes, president and CEO of Lutheran World Relief. Pointing to the link between poverty and malaria, he said, "When you're sick, you can't work. When you can't work, you can't provide for your family." The LMI partner organizations will work together with the shared understanding that malaria is a disease of, and is intensified by, poverty.

Malaria is treatable. The Rev. Richard T. Wintersteen, of the ELCA Southwestern Minnesota Synod, said, "It's critical we provide rural clinics for those infected. If you get the [anti-malaria] medicine, you get well. If you don't get it, you die."

Information adapted from www.elca.org (search subject: LMI) and www.NothingButNets.org.

To donate to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative:

Send your check, made out to Living Lord Lutheran Church (memo line: LMI), to:

Living Lord Lutheran Church,
1044 Congress Drive,
Bartlett, IL 60103.

Questions? Call the church office:
630.830.3630

Thank you for your help!

LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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