



Bishop Janice Riggle Huie
President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

March 13, 2007

Dear Friend:

I am asking you to join me and my colleague United Methodist bishops around the world in taking a simple step to begin reducing the burden of malaria in Africa. This mosquito-borne disease kills a child every 30 seconds in Africa.

President George W. Bush has designated April 25 as Malaria Awareness Day in the United States in conjunction with the observance of Africa Malaria Day. On that day, we are going to skip lunch and donate \$10 to purchase lifesaving bed nets for children in Africa. Bed nets have been shown to be a cost-effective way to protect children from this disease.

The people of The United Methodist Church are a founding partner in the *Nothing But Nets* initiative. Other founding partners include the United Nations Foundation, the National Basketball Association's NBA Cares, and *Sports Illustrated*.

The Council of Bishops has endorsed *Nothing But Nets* and the efforts of congregations, annual conferences and our general agencies to raise awareness of this disease. We believe Christ is calling us to witness for the children of Africa and to make a long-term commitment to improving health care for the people of developing nations.

Local congregations can easily get involved by organizing a lunchtime worship service that day around malaria and diseases of poverty throughout the world. Instead of eating lunch, participants can donate \$10 to buy a bed net. Every dollar given to the initiative is used to buy bed nets in Africa.

This is an occasion where we can put our faith to work through a simple action.

Join me. Skip a lunch. Send a net. Save a life.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice Riggle Huie".

Janice Riggle Huie

To send a net and save a life, visit www.NothingButNets.net or www.umc.org/nets. A \$10 donation will pay for the purchase and distribution of an insecticide-treated bed net. United Methodists can also give to *Nothing But Nets* through churches by designating their gift for Advance #982015.