

One child forever changed our world.

Will you change one child's life? www.imaginenomalaria.org

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29

Advent 2015 What is on your Christmas wish list? Many wants, wishes and needs probably come to mind. In Mark 10 Jesus asks twice, "What do you want me to do for you?" Or, "What do you want?" First Jesus asks the disciples and then he asks a blind beggar, Bartimaeus, the same thing. If Jesus asked you that question, what would you say? What would you ask Jesus to do for you? What do you really want? The disciples selfishly ask for glory, and Bartimaeus asks to regain his sight. Jesus must again remind his disciples that "whoever wants to become great must become a servant," and to Bartimaeus, Jesus says, "Your faith has made you well." Bartimaeus wanted to see Jesus, and he believed Jesus was the promised Messiah who is, as Charles Wesley's Christmas hymn says, "Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings." Do you have Bartimaeus' wants and beliefs this Advent season? Bartimaeus wasn't even a follower of Jesus when twice he cried out to Jesus. We're told upon regaining his sight that Bartimaeus became Jesus' follower. I imagine Bartimaeus was like the shepherds on Christmas morning who left the manger glorifying God for all they had heard and seen because they knew that their wishes, wants, needs and hopes were fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus is our only hope for a better world free from disease, poverty, greed and violence. Is such a world on the top of your wish list this season?



Jeri Katherine Warden Sipes is Coordinator of the Imagine No Malaria Task Force for the South Carolina Conference.

Imagine No Malaria

http://www.umcsc.org/home/ministries/imagine-no-malaria/



Imagine No Malaria

- Malaria killed an estimated 1 Million soldiers in the US Civil War.
- Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy had malaria. Ask your grandparents if they had malaria.
- Malaria is a disease of poverty.
- The UMC has more than 300 hospitals, clinics and health posts in Africa as a part of a comprehensive program to fight malaria.
- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets have proven to be the best way to prevent malaria. One bed net costs \$10. The UMC has distributed more than 2.3 million nets.
- Imagine No Malaria is an extraordinary, comprehensive initiative of the UMC to help end deaths from malaria through prevention, education, communication and treatment.
- Malaria mortality rates have fallen by more than 47% globally since 2000.
- Five times, the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded for work associated with malaria: to Sir Ronald Ross (1902), Charles Louis Alphonse Laveran (1907), Julius Wagner-Jauregg (1927), Paul Hermann Müller (1948), and Youyou Tu (2015).
- April 25 is world malaria day.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30

Advent 2015

Blessed be GOD—
he heard me praying.
He proved he's on my side;
I've thrown my lot in with him...

8-9 GOD is all strength for his people, ample refuge for his chosen leader;
Save your people and bless your heritage.
Care for them; carry them like a good shepherd.

Psalm 28:6, 8-9 (MSG)

On June 13, we invited people of faith to North Charleston for The Response to pray for the strength and grace we can only find when we turn our hearts and minds to the Lord. We acknowledged the need, in our state and nation, for healing and divine help. Four days later, the faithful and loving people of Mother Emanuel AME's Wednesday Bible study took in a visitor they didn't recognize, and they prayed with him before he took nine innocent lives. We suffered a devastating wound when evil visited Mother

Emanuel that night. But with God's help, we showed the world how to confront evil and hatred with love and compassion. Together, we grieved. We lifted up the families of those we lost in prayer, and we wrapped our arms around them, and each other, in ways we've never seen before. And the people of South Carolina inspired the world. Truly God is the strength of all His people. When we call upon His name in times of tragedy, loss and grief, the Good Shepherd will carry and comfort His people.



Nikki Haley is Governor of South Carolina and is a member of Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church in Lexington.

Imagine No Malaria

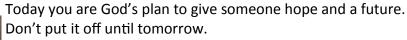
TUESDAY DECEMBER 1

Advent 2015 I don't know about you, but I hate waiting. Worse I hate the idea of people waiting on me. There are many reasons we get kept waiting in our lives, from traffic to people, the act of waiting has become a daily occurrence. But what if you weren't just waiting on something trivial like an email or phone call. What if you were waiting for someone to save your life or save your soul? Now, what if you were the person people were waiting on?

Hebrews 11:13 says, "All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance..."

This advent season is someone waiting on you to share the story of Jesus Christ before it's too late? Is there someone you've put off, or an act of giving or kindness you just haven't found the time to do? Perhaps today is the day you can check off some items on your spiritual "to do" list. The least of these are waiting desperately for someone to live and reflect the light of Christ. Don't make them wait for another "tomorrow". Don't assume the next person will do it. Jeremiah 29:11 says

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.





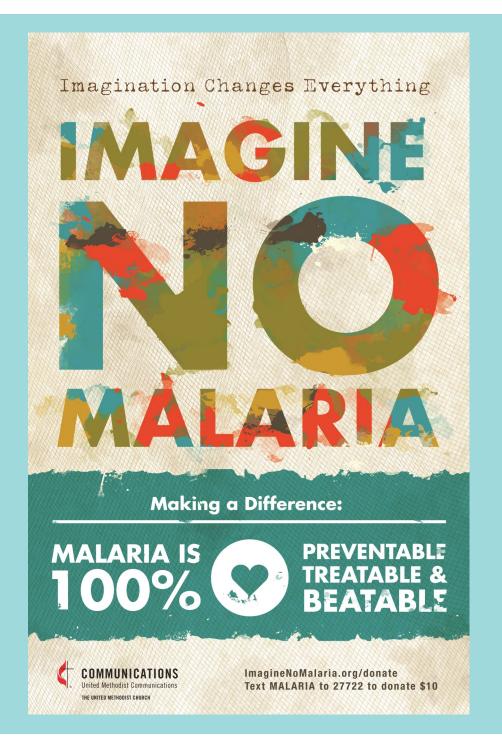
Matt Brodie is Director of Communications for the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church

Imagine No Malaria

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THE FACTS OF MALARIA

- Malaria is caused by a parasite transmitted to people through the bite of a mosquito.
- Malaria has been around as long as humans have. Some Egyptian mummies show signs of malaria.
- Malaria kills 584,000 people every year.
- Half of the world's population is at risk from malaria.
- Over 90% of the world's deaths from malaria are in Africa, and 78% of those are in children under 5.
- Pregnant women and children are the most at risk of malaria.
- One child dies every 60 seconds from malaria in Africa.
- Malaria is the number one cause of school absences worldwide.
- Malaria causes a \$12 Billion economic loss in Africa ever year.
- Malaria symptoms include: fever, headache, chills and vomiting.
- Malaria is 100% Preventable, Treatable and Beatable!
- Malaria was eliminated in the USA in the 1950s, but prior to the 1950s malaria was a serious public health problem in the US; it led to the creation of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2



"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25: 40

Can I just say that I hate mosquitos? Those pesky little insects can take the joy out of picnic or outdoor event in a skinny minute. Maybe it's because I'm actually a mosquito magnet. They always seem to find me and then proceed to make my life miserable! So the idea of traveling to Kenya, a country with malaria carrying mosquitoes was a bit unnerving. But thankfully, a trip to the doctor and pharmacy resulted not just in a medicine bottle filled with malaria preventative medication, but also in a giant dose of peace of mind. For me, malaria prevention was an option.

Jesus teaches that we are to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22: 27-39) and "do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). If preventing and curing disease is what I would do for myself should I not then do it for my brothers and sisters who cannot do it for themselves?

As we celebrate the gift of Christ this Advent, let's consider how we can demonstrate our love for Him by demonstrating our love to others.

Heavenly Father,

Today, I am thankful. I am thankful that the mosquito buzzing around my home is just a pest and not a killer. Today, I am thankful.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen.

Janis Albergotti is Children's Ministry Director and Director of Mission & Outreach with Mt. Horeb UMC in Lexington, SC

Imagine No Malaria

THURSDAY DECEMBER 3

Advent 2015 Each Advent season I find myself drawn to a word or theme of the season. This year the word is "light." We find lights everywhere during this season, whether on a tree, decorating a house, or the light of candles

on Christmas Eve. One of my favorite things to do with my family is to drive around and look at Christmas lights on houses. We are surrounded by light during the Advent season.

The Hanging of the Greens service in the United Methodist Book of worship reminds us that, "whenever you see a lighted Christmas tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him." We find numerous places in Scripture where Jesus is described as light (John 1:3-11; 8:12; 1 John 1:7, Ephesians 5:14, etc.) We are also called to be the light as Jesus is the light (Matthew 5:16). It is my prayer that we as Christians are a light this Advent season. That we may be more than lights on a house that are pretty to look at, but that we are the light of love, hope, joy, and expectation. For many Advent is a time of celebration, for some it is a time of darkness. May we be that light to shine and focus the celebration, and the light that shines the way in the darkness.



Gene Aiken is pastor of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Central.

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 24



It was an exciting time. The last day of school before the Christmas break. A day of celebration as students brought "thank you" gifts to their teachers. As our son shared his gift, another student ran in front to give the teacher his present. At first glance, this gift was no more than an unwrapped and worn children's book. Yet, who could forget the excitement on this child's face as he delivered his present into the teacher's hands. When she moved the huge stack of gifts to her desk, this old and worn book fell to the floor. Retrieving the book, the teacher noticed a note written inside by the child's mother. The note simply said, "Thank you for teaching my son to read. We don't have much but he wanted to give you a gift. This is my son's favorite book and he wanted to give it to you." With tears of joy in her eyes, this teacher declared that this was the best gift ever.

While this child's gift was one of wonderful significance, The season of Advent reminds us that the best gift ever" was received into this world more than 2000 years ago. God's angel proclaimed to shepherds in a field that a "Savior was born in David's town who is Messiah and Master." Lying in a manager, this bundle of unconditional love represented the good news of imagined joy for all who believe.

In this this time of expectation, many of our neighbors in sub-Saharan Africa imagine a

world where there is no more malaria. The elimination of this deadly disease is a gift of joy and hope. As the shepherds responded to the request of the angel, let us make the sacrifice of \$10 that can save a life from malaria. For many, that too is a wonderful gift of significance.

Table Talk Question:

What are you willing to sacrifice to make this world a place of joy and hope?

> Bishop Jonathan Holston is the Resident Bishop of The South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church

Imagine No Malaria



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23

Advent 201E For graduate school I attended Scarritt College for Christian Workers. I credit Scarritt faculty and fellow students for helping me grow and gaining a clear understanding of my call. If you have been to Scarritt

Retreat Center (as it is known today) in Nashville, Tennessee you are inspired by the beautiful architecture and the serene campus. It was an inspiration to go to school there. There is a bell tower that marks the center of the campus. It connects a classroom building, the administration building and the cafeteria. You walk through the arches under the tower to cross the campus. If you look up as you walk through those arches, you will see a quote from William Carey who many consider to be the father of modern missions. It is a statement that has a major effect on my life and ministry. On one side of the arch it says, "Attempt Great Things for God" and on the other side it says, "Expect Great Things from God". Any time I face a daunting task I remember that quote. It points me to our real source of strength, God. Many people think we are out of our mind to try to raise \$1,000,000 for stopping malaria. The need is certainly there. No one can argue the need. But to raise one million dollars?

When you face a seemingly overwhelming task just remember that God takes the limits off. Remember William Carey.



Table Talk Question: Name a time when you attempted something great thing for God. What happened?

Rev. Jim Arant is Connectional Ministries Congregational Specialist for the Greenwood and Orangeburg Districts.

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FRIDAY DECEMBER 4

Howent 2015 "There was also a prophet, Anna.... She was of a great age, having lived...as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem."

Luke 2:36-38

One of the ways I can tell if life has gotten too busy and chaotic at my house is to see if the bed has been made. Did I wake up and hit the ground running, never to look back? Or did I take that extra couple of seconds to pull up the sheets and guilt? I have vague memories of arguing with my mom as a child about making the bed—"but Mama, why does it matter?" I wonder if Anna ever thought that. "It's ok to skip one day of prayer, I have too many other things to do."

Anna was able to recognize Jesus as holy because she had spent time every day praying and listening to God. We can learn much from Anna about the major impact made by a simple habit. Imagine No Malaria is evidence of the fruit of that kind of perseverance as well. The death rate of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa has already been cut in half because we, as United Methodists, are committed to beating the disease. As we

prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus this season, let us also open our eyes and ears to the ways God is calling us to rejoice in the lives of children all around the world.

Table Talk Questions:

- How can you add prayer as a daily habit for yourself and for your family?
- When would be the best time for you to pray?

Lollie Haselden is Administrative Assistant for the Rock Hill District of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Imagine No Malaria



SATURDAY DECEMBER 5

2015 has been a year with a myriad of challenges—the killing massacre of the Emmanuel Nine (9), flooding in South Carolina, and increasing cases of

police brutality. With such challenges, persons continue to lose **HOPE** and wonder if and when relief or restoration will come? As believers, we must continue to focus on **HOPE** and not allow life and its circumstances to minimize our level of **HOPE**.

This was one of the challenges of Psalm 131. David, a man after God's own heart, reminded and challenged Israel during her post-exilic days to **HOPE** in the Lord. This **HOPE** was needed to face the challenges of the day as well as to move toward restoration.

As ambassadors of the Kingdom of God, this attitude of **HOPE** should be our daily affirmation as we strive to restore lives in our communities, churches, and our world that have been affected by adverse situations. We must help persons to understand that we are to have **HOPE** in the Lord, the One who is able to sustain us and transform our lives holistically.

During this season of Advent, let us join together with **HOPE** in the campaign of **Imagine No Malaria** and provide **HOPE** to persons that have been affected by Malaria. It is imperative that we help people to understand that we are the hands and

feet that have been commissioned by God to serve as agents of **HOPE** as we strive to eradicate Malaria and transform communities and the world.

Question: What can I do to help persons affected by Malaria have **HOPE**?

Jackie G. Jenkins is Conference Director South Carolina Conference Lay Servant Ministries .

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TUESDAY DECEMBER 22



"I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning." Psalm 130:5-6—NIV

My twin brother and I were always anxious and excited for Christmas to come. One year, we knew what we were getting, 'GI Joe everything!" We saw the presents under the tree and we could not wait to open them. So much so, that we begged and begged our dad to let us open them early. He did let us open them with this warning, "There will be no presents on Christmas day" We tore open our gifts and played with them the two weeks before Christmas and sure enough there were no presents for us to open. I found that I had an empty place that Christmas, not because I did not have a present to open, but because I couldn't wait for the day to celebrate with everyone. I felt left out of the celebration of the coming of our Lord.

Today I think about the children in Africa who wait for a net to cover them at night while they sleep. They have no choice anxiously wait , not for a GI Joe and his command center, but they anxiously wait for a life giving gift. In the waiting they trust God to protect them and provide for them. In the waiting , I believe they experience God. When the gift of a net comes , everyone celebrates. They celebrate the provision that God gives through others who love him. In the waiting we , they experience the

living Christ. In the waiting we prepare to celebrate for God's provision found in Jesus Christ.

Lord,

help us to wait on you trusting your provision for our lives.

Amen

Table Talk Question:

What do you do while you wait for Christ to provide?

Rev. Cathy Joens is Congregational Specialist for the Greenville and Anderson Districts.

Imagine No Malaria



MONDAY DECEMBER 21

In a Perfect World

"The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion will feed together, and a little child will lead them." Isaiah 11:6—CEB

"In a perfect world..." – a phrase that I have often used to describe a utopian existence for humankind that could become a reality, if all the world's pain and suffering was preventable, treatable and beatable. The prophet Isaiah gives us hope for such a perfect world with the image of animals that typically prey on one another, begin to live in perfect peace together. The little child that leads them would soon be understood to be the Christ child that came to lead us into that perfect world.

In a perfect world, malaria infected mosquitoes would no longer prey on the young and old of Sub Saharan Africa. Rather, children and adults would be able to sleep without fear. They would live each day without having to worry about whether the dreaded disease would take yet another life in their family. We have been given the perfect gift in the Christ child who leads us toward the perfect world – one where we faithfully and generously serve and give ourselves to the mission to no longer have to imagine no

> malaria, but one where we realize no malaria. May we continue to follow the Child who leads us toward the perfect world. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Table Talk Question:

What are some ways we can serve Jesus and help create a better world for the children in Africa?

Rev. Fran M. Elrod is pastor of Wesley UMC in Hartsville, SC.

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SUNDAY DECEMBER 6

Flowent 2015

When my parents were growing up, they were always told they were poor. They lived on a farm in rural South Carolina and had no electricity or running water. However, they never thought they were poor because they had food to eat, clothing and shelter. Their parents, my grandparents, were loving and caring.

Several years ago a good friend of mine went on a mission trip to Jamaica. She saw firsthand what it meant to be poor, and her stories about the poor were much like that of my parents. They did not think they were poor either. Many children were unable to go to school, because they lacked clothes and the money to get them. Many had no electricity or running water either. However, they were happy.

I think of people around the world, especially children who go to bed hungry or who do not have nets to protect them from the malaria-bearing mosquito, and I wonder, what I can do?

I see children collecting money for mosquito nets for children who would otherwise be in danger of malaria. Others collect books, clothing and medical supplies to be sent where it is needed. United Methodist Women use mission dollars to support women, youth and children around the world. Again, I wonder, what more can I do? The scripture reminds us that we need to do more than wonder or wish them well.

I can share what I have by praying, sending money to help, and actually doing mission work. We can all put our faith, hope and love into action by doing something.

Dear Lord,

Open our eyes to the world around us. Give us ears to hear your voice, eyes to see the need, hearts to care, and the faith, hope and love that moves us to action. Amen.

Marlene Spencer is President of South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women.





MONDAY DECEMBER 7

Advent 2015 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you." (Isaiah 43:2)

Water is life-giving. We can't live without it and yet it sometimes brings destruction and despair. After the floods in October, many of our impacted areas had a sudden problem with mosquitoes. So much water lying in ditches, creeks and lowlying areas in yards and fields resulted in an explosion of the mosquito population. For families dealing with flooded homes, mosquitoes represent one more frustrating hurdle in the midst of finding temporary housing, repairing their homes and otherwise caring for their families.

Even so, for the people of our state, mosquitoes are no more than a pesky nuisance. In other places around the world, too many mosquitoes mean something very different. Their mosquitoes carry life-threatening malaria. For us, an abundance of mosquitoes can mean fussy children with too many mosquito bites. For God's children in sub-Saharan Africa, any mosquitoes can mean the possibility of the death of a beloved child. Through the efforts of Imagine No Malaria, this reality is changing. This passage from Isaiah reminds us of God's promise to care for God's people. During the Advent season, we sing, "O come, O come Emmanuel." Emmanuel means "God

> with us." We celebrate in the coming of Jesus the coming of God's son to be with us in our very human lives. God is with us when the waters rise and God is with our neighbors in Africa as they battle malaria.

Table Talk Questions:

Read: Isaiah 43:1-3a and discuss as a family:

- When have you been afraid?
- What are some of the ways we know that God is with us?

Rev. Kathy James is Director of South Carolina Conference Connectional Ministries .

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SUNDAY DECEMBER 20



Love is an action verb Read John 13:34-35

In John 13:34-35, Christ commands us to love one another just as He has demonstrated love toward each one of us. This love continues to be exhibited beyond our human frailties, weaknesses, shortcomings, insecurities, socioeconomic background, past life issues, current hang-ups, as well as our religious affiliation. This love was evident in Christ's love for the outcast and sinner; the marginalized, the battered, the bruised, and the oppressed. And the same way Jesus Christ loves us beyond measure, then, we are to do likewise with each other as we fulfill the mandates of the Kingdom.

In this season of Advent, a season of expectation, we can provide a glimpse of love for our fellow brothers and sisters representing the Kingdom of God. Some of our brothers and sisters have been affected by Malaria, personally and communally, and our Savior commands us to reach out beyond our walls and demonstrate love toward them. As United Methodist, Disciples of Christ, let us demonstrate the love of Christ aiming to transform lives, individually and collectively. We can transform one life at a time by purchasing bed nets, providing funds for treatment of Malaria, and advocating on behalf of those affected by Malaria. Remember, when we reach out and

demonstrate love toward our neighbors, men and women will know that we are Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Table Talk Questions:

- What word or phrase came to your attention?
- What is God calling you to do in this passage?

Rev. Jeffrey Salley is Congregational Specialist for African American Ministries/Congregational Specialist Columbia and Hartsville Districts.

Imagine No Malaria



SATURDAY DECEMBER 19

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news." (Isaiah 52:7) I remember beautiful feet:

My mother's bare feet padding softly into our bedroom in the dim early winter morning as she came to stoke the fire in the stove so that we, her children, would have a warm room to greet us when we got out of bed...

...my wife's feet bathed by the sandy foamy surf as we walked on the beach hand in hand back in the days when we were newlyweds...

...the feet of my little girl, newborn and wrinkled and red, wriggling in the basinet as I watched her through the window in the hospital nursery.

Beautiful feet...

...your feet, as you enter the sanctuary on Sunday morning to worship...

...your feet, taking you to the lonely neighbor who needs a bit of company. How beautiful upon the mountain – upon the sidewalk, upon the doorstep, upon the hospital corridor, upon the aisle of the sanctuary, upon the aisle of the bus – how beautiful the feet of the one who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who proclaims, "Our God reigns."

Beautiful feet...

...the feet of the baby Jesus, cupped in his mother Mary's hand, so tiny and so

precious and so miraculous...

...the feet of the shepherds running through the dusty streets of Bethlehem, telling the people about the strange and wonderful things they had seen that night...

...the feet of the three wise men, making their way across the desert, bringing their gifts to the baby Jesus, newborn King of Israel.

Table Talk Question: When have you seen the feet of someone bringing good new to you?

Rev. Paul Harmon is Spartanburg District Superintendent.

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TUESDAY DECEMBER 8

Howent 2015

Each year as it gets close to

Thanksgiving, I begin to think about Christmas. As a child I remember the excitement and anticipation of gifts that would come. My parents were hardworking folks of modest means, yet always managed somehow to get us all that we needed and even some of what we wanted. I remember waiting to hear the sounds of movement in the house on Christmas night because surely it would mean the arrival of surprise and wonderment. Many years later I would come to understand the true meaning of the Season. Learning that the material things I awaited were often necessary and brought me great joy, were also a great sacrifice for my parents. As a young parent, I began to feel that responsibility to provide and meet the needs of the little lives that God had placed in my care. They counted on me and lit up when they saw the gifts under the tree. They counted on me when there was food on the table and in the fridge. They counted on me when there were bad dreams in the middle of the night and they cried out. My feet ran. Someone is waiting for you.

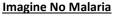
Somewhere right now as you read this, a child is dying from malaria. You can make a difference. How beautiful are the feet of one who comes bearing good news. We are God's feet and can run swiftly to the aid of those in need. Imagine a child in danger; needing to be rescued; and you show up just in time. That's what we do when we

give to Imagine No Malaria. We rescue a child. Someone is waiting for you.

Just as the world awaited the birth of Jesus, our Savior, who came running to rescue the whole world, someone waits for you. And as we await His glorious return, we are called to serve him. Our God reigns!

Table Talk Question: What can I/we do this Christmas to bring good news to a child or children in need?

Rev. Millie Smith is Congregational Specialist Florence-Marion Districts.



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9

이사야서 52:7 - 10 성탄절에 대해서 이야기

할때에, 어떤 생각이 드시나요? 일반적으로, 우리는 아기 예

수님을 떠올립니다-(A). 아기 예수님께서 가져오신 기쁨을 가지고는, 아마도

가족과 친구들과 함께 나눌 즐거운 시간과 신년에 대한 즐거움을 떠올리시도 할 겁니다-(B). 이와 동시에, 지난 해가 잘 마무리 되길 바라면서, 다가올 새해에 대한 소망을 갖기도 하겠지요-(C). 이러한 우리들의 생각을 도식으로 만들어 보면 이렇습니다. [A=B=C: 축성탄 = 가족들/ 친구들 과의 즐거운 연말 분위기=희망찬 새해에 대한 기대감] 12월의 인사, "즐거운 성탄과 희망찬 새해 를 갖으세요?"라는 말을 이런 마음으로 나누고 계신가요? 이것이 성탄절을 기다리는 올바른 마 음일까요? 우리는 성탄절을 맞이하며 행복해해야 합니다. 왜냐하면, 예수님의 탄생으로 인해서 우리의 죄가 사함을 받았기 때문이지요. 이로 인해서, 죄를 고백하고 회개하고 용서받기에, 우리 에겐 새로워질 기회가 주어졌습니다. 새로운 삶을 살수 있는기회가 새해와 함께 진정으로 열리게 된 것입니다. 대강절에 우리는 예수님의 삶과 가르침을 기억합니다: 소망, 평안, 기쁨 그리고 사랑 으로 오신 예수님. 예수님의 오심은 나와 내 가족/친구들만을 위한 것이 아니요, 세상의 모든 이 들, 특별히 어려운 이웃도 포함되지요. 성탄절에는 예수님의 오심과 그 의미에 대해서 더욱 생각



해 보아야 할 것입니다. 생각해 보기 1) 세상의 모든 사람들이 성탄절을 기다립니다. 당신도 예외는 아니지요. 그런데, 왜 성탄절, 예수 그리스도 의 태어난 날을 기다리나요? 2) 아이가 태어나면, 부모는 기뻐합니다. 아 이가 작고 귀여워서 기뻐하는 것일까요? 부모가 기뻐하는 이유는 입니 다. 예수 그리스도께서 태어나셨을때, 성탄절에, 많은 사람들은 기뻐하 고, 축하를 합니다. 왜 그럴까요?

Rev. Yon Taek Bae is pastor of the Charleston Korean Charge.

Imagine No Malaria

http://www.umcsc.org/home/ministries/imagine-no-malaria/

FRIDAY DECEMBER 18

Howent 2015 Advent is a time of hope for the coming of Jesus; in life we have many things we hope for. For some, it may be a new doll or toy car, or it can even be to have a nice home-cooked meal on the table that night. For many mothers in Africa, they hope that their children will be safe. They know that even a small, simple mosquito bite can lead to something as fatal as malaria. Through the hard times it can be difficult to stay hopeful and look towards the future, but because of hope, we can see the light in the darkest times we face. Through God and prayer, we will be delivered from afflictions and will once again be able to be joyful in hope that our lives are in His hands. With hope, we can spread God's love and kindness to the people surrounding us this Advent season; together we will work to end malaria and keep constant in prayer, patience and hope. What do you hope for, and how can this hope help the people around you?

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:12-13



Abigail Wiren is a freshman at South Carolina Connections Academy and is the Social Media Coordinator for Grace UMC in Greer.

Imagine No Malaria

THURSDAY DECEMBER 17

Advent 2015 Whenever we encounter the prophets of the Old Testament, we seem to find some sort of trouble brewing. Today's passage from Micah is no different. Assyria is on the warpath, and Israel is in danger! But Micah reminds us, God's not yet done with us.

Whenever we encounter Malaria, we seem to find some sort of trouble brewing. Ramadhani Mashaka contracted a fever one morning. His mother thought nothing of it at the time, but over the day the fever worsened. Soon the boy would not eat or drink. He was 8 months old. His mother sought treatment within the village, but it was only after riding her bike 4 miles to the nearest clinic that she was able to get the young boy the injections he needed to survive. That clinic had opened just a few months prior. God's not yet done with us.

Whenever we encounter the prophets of the Old Testament, we seem to find some sort of trouble brewing, but it's not all just doom and gloom now is it? After all, God's not yet done with us. On the heels of struggle and violence, Micah has more to say. He speaks of a person to be born in a small town full of shepherds, and he says that this person shall be the one of peace. The King James reads simply, "the peace." Advent is about anticipation and hope. We have the courage to look forward and reject death's deeds. The peace is coming. God's not yet

Table Talk Questions:

done with us.

- How can we as God's people look forward to help spread Jesus' peace in the world?
- What is it about Jesus that offers us hope?

Jon Hoin is pastor of the St. Matthew's Charge—East Bethel, West Bethel, and Mt. Zion UMCs.

Imagine No Malaria

http://www.umcsc.org/home/ministries/imagine-no-malaria/

THURSDAY DECEMBER 10



The story is told about a lad who had established a mini store at one of the busiest sub -way stations in the US. The Items he sold included, chewing gum hard candy, cough drops, combs, shoe laces just to name a few. One day during rush hour as people were going on and off the train, someone knocked down his goods, and someone else accidentally kicked his money container, spreading his money all over the place. His predicament did not seem to matter to anyone, as passengers pushed and shoved each other to get on or off the train. Then to his amazement, a gentleman stopped, dropped his brief case, fell on his knees and began picking up his goods and handing them over to him, while other passengers walked over the gentleman, and others stepped on the scatted goods. When the gentleman finished picking up the items and handing them over to the lad, he reached into his pocket pulled out a large bill and gave it to the lad, saying, "I believe you will need this" and walked away. The young lad run after him and asked, "sir, are you Jesus? No, the man replied, but I love him and I am one of his followers, then he turned and walked away. Like the wise men, people are seeking Jesus in the wrong and right places. But the best place they can find him is through our acts of kindness and generosity, and by paying attention to our surrounding.

We may not have gold, frankincense and myrrh to give this Christmas, but saving and

Table Talk Questions:

recommended gift.

- In what ways have you given attention to someone or a situation that no one else seemed to care about?
- What did you do to help?
- Name a situation that should have arrested your attention, but you ignored.

or prolonging lives by supporting Imagine No Malaria is a highly

Rev. Frederick Yebuah is Orangeburg District Superintendent.

Imagine No Malaria

FRIDAY DECEMBER 11

The King will say, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of these, you were doing it for me"! Matthew 25:40

This is the season that we celebrate the God that loved us so much that he sent his Son, our Savior, to die for us, while we were still sinners, and are still sinners today. What will we do to thank our Savior for this "Gift"? What will we do to not waste the most precious, valuable, and selfless gift that has ever been given? How will we live out this "Gift" before the world?

But some will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. (James 2:18)

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God, not by works, so no one can boast'. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

It would appear that James, the brother of Jesus, and Paul were in conflict on how we are saved. But let's look at the next verse Paul wrote.

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do". (Ephesians 2:10)

Taken together, this powerful passage tells us that we are indeed saved through faith alone, but we are saved for a purpose: to do good works that God prepared beforehand for us to carry out in our life. We are saved by faith <u>and</u> saved for works

No malaria in our lifetime is attainable. We do not have to just imagine no malaria, we can do something about it. We can make a difference for "the least these", for Christ. Will we stand by and continue to watch the preventable disease of Malaria take its toll on God's children or will we put works and faith together and make a difference?

God, we thank you for the gift of your Son. Please, help us to put our faith into action through works. In the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

Herman Lightsey is President of South Carolina United Methodist Men.

Imagine No Malaria

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16

et of atthew 25:39

"...just as you did it to the least of these, you did it to me." Matthew 25:39

In early October 2015, I went with a group of medical personnel to Wachara, a small village in Kenya, Africa. We set up a medical clinic and pharmacy in a school building and began seeing patients. Many of the patients were suffering from malaria and skin diseases.

After seeing the doctors and getting their medicines, the people would come to a circle of ministers and me sitting under the trees and we would pray for healing. One young man came for prayer and as we were praying for him, I felt him pulling away from my hand. When I looked up, he was shaking violently and doubling over from pain. He had malaria. His symptoms had just started to manifest themselves. A doctor was called and a pallet spread in the pharmacy for him to be examined again. The doctor did not give him treatment for malaria the first time because he did not present symptoms. Fortunately, he became ill before leaving the clinic and the doctors were able to treat him. How fortunate the doctors were there with the medicines to treat him.

This was a humbling experience to actually see how malaria affects this village of people and to see the suffering it causes. It is even more humbling to realize that malaria is not only treatable, it is curable.

This Advent season reminds us that Jesus came to a small village like Wachara to care, heal and, save "the least of these.." How can we do anything less than follow the example of the Son of God.

Table Talk Question:

How can we help others?

Pam Howle, minister's wife, mother, and volunteer, is from Greenville, SC. She recently returned from Kenya, where she helped with Life for Children.

Imagine No Malaria

TUESDAY DECEMBER 15

Advent 2015 The point of the whole Advent message is that what we do with our lives matters to Jesus. Advent is all about Jesus coming to be with us. It is about Immanuel, God with us, looking on. Yet, over the years we have developed a bad habit.

Often, we look but do not see and hear but seldom listen. The problem is when we hear the Advent story, it becomes a story almost too familiar. Because this story of God's grace is so familiar, it grants us permission not to think about it. We seldom have time to think and ponder. As I think and ponder about my childhood, we were lucky to get any gifts for Christmas. There were seven of us and I remember waking up many times ready to open up that box of fruit, nuts and peppermint candy. On one particular Christmas morning, the four youngest siblings in my family (including me) received a bicycle for all four of us to share. These memories remind me that the story of Advent is not about the gifts we receive but of God's love coming down to save, to restore and to forgive.

Over the years, I have been able to share new memories that have grown into precious traditions. My mother is one of fifteen children of which she is the oldest of the eight living siblings. I have used my gift for baking to prepare cakes for each of my mom's brothers and sisters and together we deliver these cakes as special gifts of love, joy, peace, hope and faith. It says to me that the message is a reminder that what we do with our lives really matters to Jesus. Even though our minds are preoccupied with schedules and not always thinking about heavenly things, Advent is an opportunity to prepare for God coming into this world to minister to us. While this message is timeworn and all too familiar, God still speaks to us and

tells us we are welcomed and loved.

As we consider the blessings of this season, the story of God's love coming down to save and to restore is the same message that matters to families in sub-Saharan Africa. When we make the sacrifice of \$10 to the Imagine No Malaria campaign, we are helping to eliminate this deadly disease.

Table Talk Question: How will your personal sacrifice for Imagine No Malaria create new memories that prepares you to celebrate the season of Advent?

Felicia Holston is Co-Chair of The South Carolina Conference Imagine No Malaria Steering Committee.

Imagine No Malaria

http://www.umcsc.org/home/ministries/imagine-no-malaria/

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12



"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered." Luke 2:1

The familiar words of Luke's Gospel are everywhere around us during Advent and Christmas. Think about it...you find the quotable words on Christmas cards, bulletin covers, choir anthems, music on the radio, and even television shows. Familiar words can lose their poignancy. During this season of Advent, let us explore the familiar words that can bring new insights.

When the word got out about the registration, Joseph and Mary knew what they would have to do. They had a journey to prepare for. Mary was already getting herself ready for the arrival of her baby and now there was another journey to get ready for. Imagine all the items they had to gather, the arrangements they had to make, the food, the clothing, the plans, and all the preparation.

The same preparation is needed to fight malaria in Africa today. Every night, nets must be in place for the family to sleep under. Clinics are needed to be able to get medicine to the infected and to educate the community about the disease. Every effort of preparation can keep another person from getting malaria and even dying from this preventable disease. Our preparation is seen in the efforts we will make to help imagine a world with no malaria.

Table Talk Question:

Everything that we are trying to do to stop the spread of malaria takes preparation.

• How do you take time to prepare for a big project or an upcoming event?

Rev. Heather Humphries is pastor of Tabernacle UMC in Lancaster.

Imagine No Malaria

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13

The Loss of a Child

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all." Ps 34:18-19 ESV

I know the statistic: malaria kills one child every 30 seconds. Knowing this doesn't fully prepare me to come face-to-face with one of these precious souls. I find myself in a clinic sitting helpless with a mother by her young daughter's bedside, praying as the brutal process of malaria unfolds before our eyes.

The malaria has moved quickly from a fever into this precious child's brain. She falls into unconsciousness and begins to have multiple seizures. A coma follows. In less than 24 hours, she is with the Lord.

Only three days ago, Aminata was helping her mother cook dinner surrounded by aunties, uncles, brothers and sisters. Some call her another malaria statistic. The Lord and her family call her Aminata. I become consumed with the thoughts of "what if". What she had been in our program and received a simple net? What if her mother had been educated on malaria and knew to seek treatment faster?

We live a world of suffering but are promised a day when every wrong will be righted

when "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." (Rev 21:4).

give us the strength to serve with unwavering faith and hope that only comes from you.

Amen

Tina Schmidt is Director of Philanthropic Relations for ZOE Ministry, an Advance Special Ministry "Helping Children Help Themselves."

Imagine No Malaria

http://www.umcsc.org/home/ministries/imagine-no-malaria/

MONDAY DECEMBER 14

Read Luke 3:1-16

Flowent 2015 Who invited John the Baptist to our Christmas party? In the midst of our feasting and wish making he comes calling for us to repent. Among our gentle candlelight and beautiful carols this desert intruder comes dressed in animal skins eating locusts and wild honey. We are preparing to celebrate the arrival of sweet baby Jesus and John comes rough and crude with his harsh message:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Matthew 3:3 "One stronger than I am is coming...and he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Mark 1:7-8; Luke 3:16

"You brood of vipers! ... Bear fruit worthy of repentance." Luke 3:7-8

"Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Luke 3:11

Why does he show up in our preparations for Christmas? Because we need him. John reminds us of the true nature of the Messiah who is coming. Jesus is God in the flesh, bringing compassion for the hurting, justice for the weak, and holiness into our wicked lives. John helps us to get ready for the real Jesus. When we welcome him, Christ will touch us with God's love and transform us into agents of God's mercy.

I believe John the Baptist would like our efforts in combating malaria. We celebrate the

Holy Child by making life possible for many children. It fits. So Merry Christmas, Imagine No Malaria, and have some locusts with your eggnog and fruitcake.

Table Talk Question:

What would John the Baptist tell us to do to get ready for Jesus today?

Rev. Joe Long is Rock Hill District Superintendent.

Imagine No Malaria