

# Children's Sermons For Our Malaria Work

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**A Good Night's Sleep**  
**Based on stories shared by The Rev. Buntausa Amos Sunday of Nigeria, Summer 2010**

Mother: Son, it's time to stop playing and come inside.

Son: Just a little longer, please, Mother?

Mother: No, you need to come in NOW. The mosquitoes are coming out. You know that the mosquitoes we have in Africa can bite you and, then, you can become very sick with malaria. You could even die.

Son: I know, but it would be fun to play outside in the dark.

Mother: Yes, it would, son. But, I love you and I want you to be safe. Any way, it's time to go to sleep.

*Son comes in and both Mother and son settle down to sleep.  
Mosquito comes buzzing in and keeps buzzing and trying to bite them while they talk as follows.*

Son: Mother, mother! There's a mosquito in our home. I hear the buzzing.

Mother: Yes, I hear it, too. But, I cannot see it in the dark and, you know, we have no lights to turn on.

Son: It's trying to bite me. I don't want to get sick. I don't want you to get sick, either.

Mother: I'm mainly concerned for you, son. Mostly children get very sick from malaria.

Son: The mosquito is not going away. I'm scared!

Mother: I'm afraid, too, son. The mosquito will probably not go away until morning. You know the mosquitoes that carry malaria come out every night.

Son: Mother, I'm so tired, but I can't sleep. It seems like almost every night I hear mosquitoes buzzing and I can't sleep.

Mother: Yes, I'm tired, too. I need to sleep so that I can work tomorrow. Tomorrow, I must carry water from far away and tend the garden so that we will have food to eat.

Son: The buzzing, the buzzing, it does not stop! I'm so afraid.

Mother: If only we had a mosquito net to sleep under. It would protect us from the mosquitoes.

Son: Why don't we get a mosquito net?

Mother: We don't have enough money to buy a net. We would have to give up food to have enough money to buy a mosquito net.

Son: What can we do? I'm so very, very afraid and tired.

Mother: We will pray for God to take care of us. We will ask God to have someone buy us a mosquito net to protect us.

Son: Yes, I can pray! [*Son and mother bow heads and fold hands.*] Dear God, please take care of my mother and me. Please have someone buy us a net to protect us from mosquitoes. Amen.

*The son and mother doze off.  
The mosquito buzzes away.*

Mother: Son, it's time to get up. It's morning; the mosquitoes are gone. You may go out and play.

*Son moves to where he started the skit.*

Congregation member: [*Stands up with a \$10 bill.*] I have \$10 that I want to give to the ELCA's malaria work. That's enough money to buy one insecticide treated mosquito net. One net will cover three to four people and can last up to five years. It will also pay to deliver the net to a family, show the family how to use the net, teach them about malaria, and make sure that they keep using the net correctly. It will even help to get rid of mosquitoes in a whole community.

*An usher takes the \$10 bill and brings a net up to the mother.*

Mother: Son, it's getting dark. Come inside so the mosquitoes will not bite you.

Son: What difference does it make? The mosquitoes are inside, too.

Mother: We will be protected tonight! God answered our prayers! Tonight, we will sleep safely under a mosquito net.

*Children hold up the net (there are six loops on a net) and the mother and son crawl under it. Mosquito buzzes around trying to bite them, but it keeps bumping into the net.*

Son: God DID answer MY prayer! I will sleep well tonight!

*Son and mother fall asleep. Mosquito is dropped and falls on the floor lifeless.*

*Someone explains how the Sunday School, youth group, and/or congregation will participate in the ELCA Malaria Campaign and may reference the bulletin insert.*

*Prayer to be with people suffering from malaria and to help people trying to stop malaria.*

**Fun Under a Net—Or, Not!**  
**Diaconal Minister Kris Perry, MAS Companion Synod Coordinator**

**Supplies needed**

- Bed net
- Globe or map of the world
- Bottle of water that is unclean (probably lake water)

**Invite the children forward**

- Ask if anyone has ever heard of Africa. Invite one of the children to locate Africa (and perhaps Nigeria) on the map/globe
- Ask the question, “How many of you have ever been bitten by a mosquito?” and “Did any of you get real sick for a few weeks and have to go to the hospital because of the bite?”
- Answer: “No, because our mosquitoes don’t really make us sick, they’re just annoying and maybe we have a little bump for a couple of days that itches”
- But in Africa, the mosquitoes carry a disease called malaria. Ask the children if anyone has ever heard the word “malaria”
- Tell them that malaria is a disease that affects just about everyone in Africa, especially the children, and many of the children under the age of 5 actually die from the disease
- Show them the unclean bottle of water and tell them that many people in Africa drink water that looks like this
- We would like to help the people and children in Africa to not get the disease, and I have something with me that could really help everyone in Africa. It’s called a bed net.
- Take out the bed net and invite all of the children to get under it. Tell them that the reasons why all of the people don’t sleep under the bed net are because
  - It is very hot; the wind doesn’t flow through it very well
  - Many of the children sleep in beds with their siblings and it’s even hotter
  - The very poor people cannot afford to buy a bed net
- Tell the children that they can help the children in Africa by donating some of their Sunday school offerings to purchase bed nets for the children
- Close with a short prayer asking God to bless all of the children in Africa with bed nets so that they will remain healthy and safe from malaria

Additionally, you might want to put up a display in your church using the bed net with a display of the unclean bottled water, a map, and information about malaria work in the ELCA.

**The Buzz Players' Reverse Sermon**  
**By Diann Crane from Edina Community Lutheran Church**

**Mosquitoes Chant** –We're Number One! We're number 1! We're Number 1!

**Kid 1** – What do you mean?

**Mosquitoes** – We're Number 1! We're Number 1! We're Number 1 at spreading disease!

**Kid 2** – Well, I don't know why that makes you feel so good.

**Kid 3** – Yah, you cause almost 250 million cases of malaria in the world every year! (Kid 1 "dies")

**Mosquitoes** – We're number 1! We're Number 1!

**Kid 4** – I don't know why you're bragging. Did you know that 91% of all malaria deaths happen in Africa?

**Kid 5**— Yah – and 85% of the people who get malaria are kids?

**Mosquitoes Chant** (Emphatically) – We're number 1! (Kid 2 "dies")

**Kid 6** – And every 45 seconds a child dies of malaria!

**Mosquitoes Chant** (questioning) – We're number 1?

**All living Kids** – Yes. You are Number 1! You are number 1 on our list to prevent *you* from biting kids, and spreading malaria in Africa.

Please help us be Number 1 at preventing this devastating disease.

It only takes \$10 to buy a bed net. This simple, low-tech way helps prevent needless suffering and death.

If you've already made a donation, can you spare your change? (point to jar)

We don't want any more kids to die! (All Kids "die")

## Cast Your Nets

Mary Simonson Clark, Minneapolis Area Synod Our Malaria Work Coordinator

*Hi. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I want to talk to you about how we can share Jesus' love with people. First, I want to read something to you out of the Bible.*

### Matthew 4:18

- **Have any of you been fishing?**
- **What do you use when you go fishing?**

*I use a fishing pole, too. The men, Peter and Andrew, who we read about, used a net to catch fish. Here's a net [camping net]. They'd throw the net out into water, the fish would swim in, and, then, they'd pull the net full of fish into their boat.*

*This isn't really a fishing net, but it is still very useful for something else. Look what's coming! [Mosquitoes fly in and try to bite] Get under the net with me! See, the net is useful to keep the mosquitoes out.*

*Very far from here in the continent of Africa, a different kind of mosquito comes out at night and bites people. The bites can make the people very sick with something called **malaria**. People in Africa can sleep under nets to keep the mosquitoes away and to protect themselves from getting malaria. [Children under a net picture]*

- **Do you sleep under a net?** *No, I don't either.*
- **Do your parents ever use bug spray like this to keep mosquitoes away?** [Can of spray]

*In Africa, they spray their houses. [Spraying picture]*

- **What do you sometimes need to take when you do get sick?**
- **Do you ever take medicine to get well?** [Medicine box with pills]

*In Africa, sometimes people take medicine to get well from the malaria they get from mosquitoes. Sometimes they take medicine to keep from getting sick with malaria. [Medicine picture]*

- **Who teaches you how to keep from getting sick?**

*In Africa, sometimes pastors, like Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, and lots of other people teach people how to keep from getting sick with malaria. In this picture, the pastor is teaching people that mosquitoes can make them sick. [Picture with pastor]*

*So, we've learned that **nets, spray, medicine, and teaching** can help people in Africa not get sick with malaria. But, many people in Africa **do not have enough money** to pay for nets, spray, medicine, or teachers. They need us to help them. We can help by **giving them some of our money** to pay for nets, spray, medicine, and teachers.*

*Remember the fishermen, Peter and Andrew, from the Bible story I read? The next thing Jesus told them was that he wanted them to “fish for people.” That sounds funny, doesn’t it? Jesus really was saying that he wanted Peter and Andrew to sort of “**catch people**” and **tell them how much Jesus loves them**. Jesus wants **us** to tell people he loves them. In the story, Jesus went on to cure sickness. Jesus also wants us to **show** love by giving money to pay for nets, spray, medicine, and teaching to cure the sickness of malaria.*

*We also help people by **praying** for people. We can pray for people to stay healthy or to get well from malaria. We can also pray for caregivers who help people who are sick and for workers who try to stop malaria. **Let’s pray now for people who live in Africa where there is malaria.***

***Dear Jesus, Protect people in Africa from mosquitoes. Help people with malaria to get well. Be with the caregivers who help people who are sick and workers who try to stop malaria. Show me how to help. Amen.***

*Here is something to help you remember how to show Jesus’ love to people in Africa. [Children’s bulletin]*

## What Do You Need?

Mary Simonson Clark, Minneapolis Area Synod Our Malaria Work Coordinator

### ● MEGA-MOSQUITO

[Hold up **mega-mosquito**.] What is this? Have you ever been bitten by a mosquito? How does it feel?

### ● SPRAY

What do you use to protect yourself from mosquito bites? Does anyone use something like this? [Hold up can of bug **spray**.] Children far away in Africa also get bitten by mosquitoes. They need spray to protect themselves from mosquitoes. But, they spray the inside of their houses! [Show indoor **spraying picture**.]

### ● NET

They also protect themselves by sleeping under a mosquito net something like this. [Take out the **net**.] Everyone, get under the net to be safe. [Keep the mosquito outside of the net.] See, now the mosquito can't get to you/us. [Show **net picture** with children sleeping.]

### ● MEDICINE

If a mosquito bites children in Africa, the children can get very, very sick with a disease called **MALARIA**. We do NOT have malaria in Minnesota, but sometimes you get sick with a cold or the flu, don't you? What do you need when you get sick? Do you sometimes take medicine? [Show cold **medicine**/pills.] Children in Africa who get malaria also need medicine. [Show mother and child **medication picture**.]

### ● TEACHING

Do your parents or teachers talk to you about how not to get sick? What do they teach you? [Do they teach you to wash your hands? Do they teach you to cough into your elbow?] Children in Africa also need to have people teach them how not to get sick. [Show **pastor teaching picture** holding drawing of mosquito.] See, this pastor is teaching people to protect themselves from mosquito bites that cause malaria sickness. In the coming weeks, people here at church are going to teach you how you can help children in Africa protect themselves from getting sick from malaria. **We can help by learning about malaria and telling other people about it. We can also help by giving money so that families in Africa can pay for spraying, nets, medicine, and teaching.**

### ● LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS

Do you know why this is important? Jesus tells us to love our neighbors—even our neighbors who live as far away as in Africa. We show our love for our neighbors when we help them stay healthy. Will you help children in Africa stay healthy? [Show reading **children picture**.] **Another we can help is by praying**. Let's pray now.

### ● PRAYER

Dear Jesus, please take care of children in Africa. Protect children and their families from mosquito bites. Show us how to help children not get malaria and stay healthy. Amen.



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