

METHODISTS ANNOUNCE NEW MALARIA INITIATIVE IN AFRICA AT TIME GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMIT

‘Americans Have a Moral Responsibility’ to Help Fight Malaria, Says Reverend R. Randy Day, Chief Mission Executive of The United Methodist Church

Reverend Rick Warren, Author of ‘The Purpose-Driven Life’ Challenges Americans to Fight for Global Health

NEW YORK – Five-dollar bednets and \$30 radios will be mobilized to fight malaria in Africa in a new United Methodist Church initiative which will connect U.S. churches with African congregations fighting malaria in eight countries. The initiative was announced today at the opening of the TIME Global Health Summit.

The Methodist Malaria Initiative will begin in December in Sierra Leone, West Africa. The initiative uses existing church facilities in Africa to fight malaria, using such tools as radio broadcasts of prevention messages in local languages – coupled with hand-cranked radios for use in remote areas, and insecticide-treated bednets. And it will involve American congregations in helping meet the need.

“Malaria is not an Africa problem, it is a world problem,” said the Reverend R. Randy Day. “We believe Americans have a moral responsibility, and through this ministry, new opportunities to fight malaria and save lives,” Day said. The bednets cost only \$5 each to save the lives of a family; the radios cost \$30 each; and an entire community-based radio station comes in a kit costing \$18,000.

Rick Warren, pastor and best-selling author (“The Purpose-Driven Life”), said the global health crisis is a moral challenge to Americans, and churches should be part of the solution in the US and around the world.

“We had prevention for malaria during Theodore Roosevelt’s presidency. Millions of children do not have to die from this,” Warren said. “Churches have to be part of the solution. I can take you to one million villages around the world where they don’t have a hospital, they don’t have a post office, but they have a church,” he said.

Bishop João Machado of the Methodist Church in Mozambique, which will eventually be part of the Methodist initiative, said Africa can use the help to save lives.

“We need radio stations and radios to educate the people. We need drugs to treat people who have the disease. We need drugs for people who are most at risk of getting malaria. And we need help to deal with the mosquitoes that infect the people,” Bishop Machado said.

The TIME Global Health Summit will inform and engage Americans from all sectors on the



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international challenges to public health – and what they can do to help. The TIME Summit will highlight solutions to such challenges as AIDS, avian flu, malaria and the shortage of health care professionals. The summit brings together non-profit, government, faith and corporate leaders like Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, Ted Turner, Ann Veneman, Rick Warren, Paul Wolfowitz and others.

For more information about the TIME Global Health Summit, or for webcasts, transcripts and breaking news, log on to www.time.com/globalhealth.

TIME.com will also feature breaking news and analysis throughout the Summit.

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To book guests from the summit, or for more information, please contact:

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