

Every 30 Seconds

Mosquitoes, malaria and bed nets

Promotional/educational pieces to use with the campaign

Introduction to the project – for use at opening session

Mosquitoes—they're small but they're painful! How many of you have been bitten by a mosquito? Did it make a red place? Did it itch? That's what mosquito bites do, isn't it. But did the bite make any of you really, really sick? The mosquitoes we have where we live can be a bother, but when they bite us, they don't make us sick. In other parts of the world, mosquitoes not only bite people, but they can give them a disease called malaria. In fact, about 500 million people around the world get malaria every year—that's way more people than live in the United States—we've got about 300 million!

What is malaria? Let's just say you don't want to get it! It gives you the chills, then makes you sweat. You can't sleep—but you can't work or go to school either. It's terrible! And sometimes it kills people—actually, it kills about 3000 children a day—or about one every 30 seconds—or two every minute—or 120 every hour.

If you want to keep mosquitoes from biting you, what can you do? (use repellent, wear long-sleeve clothes, stay in a really windy place, get rid of standing water, etc.)

Most of the mosquitoes that have malaria are in hot areas of the world near the equator. Many of the people who live there are very poor. So why won't some of the ideas we listed work there?

Even when a child gets malaria, there are some medicines that can help them feel better. But these are usually too expensive for these poor children's families to buy.

Do you know what one of the best ways to keep children from getting malaria is? I'll give you a clue: these mosquitoes mostly come out at night when children are sleeping. Then they buzz around and land on the child and bite them. How could we keep the mosquitoes off a sleeping child?

Mosquito nets! That's right!

And that's our project for this week—raising money to buy material for mosquito nets, along with sewing machines for women to make them. You'll all get a small flyer as you leave today to tell you all about it.

We'll learn more as the week goes along—but for now, here's what we've got to say: “Buzz off, mosquitoes!”

Promo II: Malaria—how it makes you feel

Our offering emphasis this week is the Every 30 Seconds program of the New Community Project. Why do they call it “Every 30 Seconds”? Actually, most people who get malaria don't die from it—they just get really sick. And about 500 million people around the world get malaria every year—that's about one out of 12 of the world's people.

The director of the New Community Project is David Radcliff. David says that malaria is no fun—he should know, because he had it! “I began feeling really bad, then I got the chills, then a fever. Then I’d feel better for a while—then the fever and chills would come back. It was just terrible—and I could understand why malaria is such a problem in the world—when you get it, you don’t feel like doing anything—going to work or to school—or even getting out of bed! I finally got better because I had some pills—but many people in the world can’t afford these, and just stay sick—or even die.”

We don’t want people in the world feeling like that, so that’s why we’re raising money for mosquito nets this week. Our money will be used to buy material and sewing machines for women to make the nets. The machines cost between \$100 and \$150 (the more we buy, the cheaper they are); the material about \$10 per net.

O.k., kids, let’s see what we can do!

Promo III: Other problems with malaria

How many million people get malaria every year around the world? 5 million? 50 million? 500 million? That’s right—and many of them get it more than once a year.

Malaria causes lots of problems besides just getting sick. If you’re really sick like that, what can’t you do that you might normally do? (can’t go to school or work, plus you lose your appetite and might lose a lot of weight) In Africa, malaria costs people about \$12 billion a year because it keeps them from working.

It’s also easier to get other diseases like AIDS if you have malaria.

So the best thing is to never get it in the first place—and that’s what our project this week is all about. And here’s something you’ll want to know—all the money we raise will go directly to helping families be safe from malaria. Some organizations that have programs like this keep some of the money to help run their organization—but the New Community Project sends all of it to the people who need it!

Promo IV: Buying bed nets—putting things in perspective

Hmmm. What could you buy with \$10? Could two people eat out for \$10? What about a CD-- \$10? Go to a movie—and buy popcorn? For less than it takes to do any of these things, we might help save a child’s life by giving them a mosquito net. See what you can do?

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