

## **Vacation Bible School – Ideas to Raise Funds for Imagine No Malaria**

As summer begins, many churches are gearing up for Vacation Bible School. So this month, let's look at specific ideas for Vacation Bible Schools to support Imagine No Malaria – our church's worldwide effort to stamp out malaria – a disease that kills 1 out of every 5 children in Sub-Saharan Africa.

These ideas and resources come from [www.ImagineNoMalaria.Org](http://www.ImagineNoMalaria.Org) as well as from churches that have successfully carried out fund raising campaigns that involve children.

1. Children seem to be inherently attracted to saving lives. Pick a theme that can be a rallying call to children and that connects the call of Jesus to what they will be doing. Examples of such themes can be:

“Jesus loves and we do too – Save Lives from Malaria!”

“Save-a-Life VBS!”

2. Create an Imagine No Malaria information board. Office supply stores sell tri-fold boards that can be used to create a display that informs, inspired, and challenges readers to do something to save lives from malaria. On this board you can post Bishop's Partners in Mission brochures, Imagine No Malaria brochures, posters, success stories about what your church or other churches have done to raise funds, details about your church's fund

raising campaign and an invitation for children, youth, and adults to get involved. Make the board attractive, colorful and informative.

3. Educate and Inform: Show video clips from the DVDs supplied by Imagine No Malaria. We can mail these to any church in the conference that requests them from us. We also have a DVD that lists digital resources for fund raising campaigns.

4. Children's Activities that lead to fund raising:

(a) **Make pipe cleaner mosquitos.** Directions for making mosquitos from pipe cleaners and googly eyes are available from our Bishop's Partners in Mission office. These "mosquitos" could be displayed on a net and be sold to parents and friends.

(b) **Coloring sheets.** Imagine No Malaria supplies coloring pages for children. Children love to color. You could have an art exhibition of these colored pages.

(c) **Hold a mosquito net super hero costume contest.** As you can imagine, this can be a lot of fun and you can sell tickets to the contest or parade.

(d) **Collect change via INM Red Box Banks.** We have a limited supply of red box banks available for churches that request them. You could give each child a box bank and encourage them to find change around the house

(and from their parent's pockets!) to put into their box banks during the days that VBS runs. On the final day of VBS the children could bring all the box banks in for a celebration of "Change for Life!"

(e) **Basketball shoot-a-thon.** You could lower the basketball net to fit the heights of children and have fun shooting baskets, where sponsors (parents and other adults in the church as well as friends in the community) have pledge to pay a dollar amount for every ball in the hoop.

**You are only limited by your creativity!** The key is to connect Jesus' healing ministry, God's call to us all to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and fun activities for the children where we tap into their innate desire to help people.

I hope this has been helpful to you as you think about how you can make your Vacation Bible School have a mission emphasis and enable children (and their parents and adults in the church) discover ways to share Jesus' love and save lives!

Let all that we do be for God's glory!