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I support the Imagine No Malaria Campaign.**



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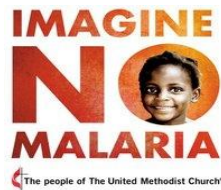
My name is Joseph and I was born in Ghana. Malaria is a fact of life for everyone in my hometown. Agona Swedru is an area infested with mosquitoes and coming down with malaria once a month is a common experience. The symptoms come quickly. It starts with a light headache. After 3 hours, a high temperature develops. After 6 hours you have lost your appetite and have little or no energy. You are shivering and sweating at the same time. Malaria takes a huge economic toll on everyone. But I want to tell you an experience of malaria from my childhood. I was eight years old and had been chosen to play mid-field in an important soccer tournament. The night before the game the symptoms appeared. I knew I must sleep, but I could not. I was at the mercy of the painkillers, but after I took the painkiller I vomited, so I did not have the medicine in my system. Malaria must run its course. The medicine treats the pain; not the disease. I could not play in the game; I could not even watch the game. I cried and cried. My special dream to play in the tournament was destroyed by a mosquito.

I also remember when I was in boarding school that the best runner in my dormitory came down with the malaria symptoms right before the tryouts to represent our school at the intra-school tournaments. Everyone in the dormitory cried and prayed. He took the medication, but we had to pour water on him because he was so hot. But then a miracle happened and he recovered and was able to run – and win – in the tryouts. That day we all felt that we beat malaria!

This is why I support the

Imagine No Malaria Campaign.

Please support the NYAC's \$1.2 million pledge to the Imagine No Malaria Campaign.



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