

**EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT**  
By BETTY JOHNSON

I've been a volunteer coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) in our diocese for about 7 years now; learning that for 60 years ERD has evolved as the Episcopal Church's outreach to people in need worldwide. Now reaching out in more than 40 countries and our own USA, Episcopal Relief and Development's programs address food security and basic health needs in addition to emergency relief and rebuilding in a community. Actual gifts may vary depending on local need as determined by the communities with the help of the ERD program directors. All programs are focused on helping children and families and are centered around the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Let me point out that 92 cents of every dollar donated to ERD goes directly to programs. ERD is YOURS in the name of all Episcopalians. We partner with the worldwide church & with ecumenical partners, therefore pooling resources efficiently & effectively.

One example of that partnership between ERD, Jubilee Ministries, and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church is the MDG Inspiration Fund formed in 2007. Part of this fund would be allocated to Latin America and the Caribbean on a variety of programs, including preventing malaria & HIV/AIDS, preventing waterborne disease and acute respiratory illness; providing health care for mothers; and training women and others in the community.

Take malaria, for instance.

Listen to these stunning statistics.

Malaria is a killer, affecting 300–500 million people per year. Most of the deaths are children and pregnant women. 3,000 children DIE every single day in Africa from Malaria which has been eradicated in the United States & western Europe. It is mind boggling to think that malaria is a killer of this magnitude and can be prevented!

So I'll tell you about the life-saving mosquito nets; insecticide-treated nets that kill mosquitoes, carriers of malaria.

Research has shown that when nets are used by 3 quarters of the people in a community, not only does the incidence of malaria infection decrease, but the actual mosquito population also drops by as much as 90%. The nets which ERD uses are endorsed by the World Health Organization.

**\$12 is all it takes for a net big enough to cover several people, plus the training for its use. Community volunteers can be educated in the proper use of the nets.**

**Seeing how this program has been successful in many communities in Africa give me hope that ERD can get distribute these life-saving nets with training for their proper use in Haiti, as well as other Caribbean and Latin American countries through the MDG Inspiration Fund and other ERD programs.**

**Remember that ERD offers the daily Lenten devotional book which many of you have used during the Lenten Season.**

**Through the Gifts for Life catalog, you can honor friends or loved ones with gifts in their name or make a generous personal contribution.**

**Bishops Blend Coffee, a fair trade coffee that benefits the coffee farmers with a living wage, as well as ERD, is always available for purchase at the Episcopal Bookstore on Poplar.**

**For information on ERD's programs, visit the web at [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org)**