

CHAIN CONTINUES FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA

On the outskirts of Kaduna, Northwest Nigeria, there lies a serene settlement populated with industrious, peaceful people. But the peace of that community is threatened by mosquitoes- those subtle purveyors of malaria. Experts say malaria is deadlier than HIV/AIDS in Africa, so it's not to be treated with kid gloves.

CHAIN took the battle against malaria to that town and distributed insecticide-treated nets as well as anti-malaria drugs on Friday the 20th of August, 2010.

When our team arrived at Hai Narayi, venue for the campaign, few of the inhabitants showed much interest or curiosity. A bus carrying some blue packs plus packets of drugs wasn't any spectacular sight to them. But by the time CHAIN staff finished the talk on how to prevent malaria with the drugs and nets to be distributed, the number of concerned people had increased beyond expectation.

The enthusiasm with which they received the materials showed a desire to resist malaria. But were they ready to avoid acts that breed malaria such as keeping dirty environments and allowing stagnant water near homes. They said they were.

Our recipients were instructed to wash the nets with toilet soap and avoid exposing them to direct sunlight. Before the first use, the insecticide-treated nets were to be kept open in a shade for 24 hours. The drugs were meant for children who are five years and below.

Rev. Matthew Gwanzang of the Evangelical Church of West Africa was all praises for CHAIN. He prayed for God's favour and blessings to the donor. Other members of the community such as Esther Daniel and Gladys Yohanna said it was great to have a safeguard against malaria.