

Malaria Zapper Script #2

Dr. Mal Aria appears onstage from right. He is carrying a marshmallow zapper and seems to be in a hurry. Dr. Nettie Goodwater is center stage and Dr. Aria addresses her.

Dr. Aria: Have you seen any mosquitoes around here. I am out to zap all the mosquitoes. It is the only way I know to get rid of Malaria.

Nettie: Is that the only way? Just to zap each mosquito? Dr. Aria, I don't think that is nearly enough. The real way is to get rid of places mosquitoes breed and lay eggs. I go all over Africa looking for water holes that breed mosquitoes, then I help people figure out how to have clean water that does not attract mosquitoes.

Dr. Aria: Well, I tried to make a vaccine that would keep people from getting malaria, but look, I fell in and turned green. That is so **not** working.

Nettie: Stop a minute. You want to zap all the mosquitoes; I want to clean up the water so they can't breed; and your lab is trying to make a vaccine. We may be on to something. It will take all of us working together to stop children's deaths from malaria.

Dr. Aria: You are right. But what can we do? This is serious. This disease kills a child every 30 seconds in Africa.

At this point have voices from offstage ready to make suggestions.

Voice 1: What about nets? I heard that putting nets over children when they sleep can stop the mosquitoes from biting. That stops malaria.

Voice 2: Keep working on a vaccine. Even if it turns you green it is worth doing.

Voice 3: Tell people what is causing malaria. Then, everyone who hears can help prevent malaria.

Voice 4: Send doctors and nurses who know how to treat malaria. Can't we find a way to make people get well even if they get malaria?

Voice 5: Sounds like we all need to be Malaria Zappers. Let's get to work on it right now.

Nettie: Did you hear that Dr. Mal Aria? These folks are ready to be Malaria Zappers. If every church in our conference helped, I think we could zap malaria for good.

Dr. Aria: I'm going back to my lab. Maybe the next try for a vaccine will work.

Nettie: I am going back to Africa to work on cleaning up the water.

Voice 1 from off stage: And we are going to get busy doing our part to make malaria disappear.

At this point let children pass out flyers showing how your church will join in the initiative to stop malaria.

Older elementary and/or middle school students will probably enjoy preparing and presenting this puppet show. It can be done with or without a puppet theater frame. The voices from offstage should be strong, passionate and rehearsed. You are trying to sell an idea and rally participation in a cause. Be sure they have microphones or other equipment so they can be heard.

This presentation can be made in a worship service, at a fellowship gathering, for UMW or UMM meetings. It might be used as the time for children in the service, but it clearly needs to be a message to the entire congregation.