

*All people are children when they sleep.
There's no war in them then.*

**—When They Sleep by Rolf Jacobsen
Translated by Robert Hedin**



THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Everywhere I visited as an international public health worker, women were eager for new ways to protect their children. In 2004, on my last trip to West Africa, we were evaluating the impact of malaria education in Burkina Faso. Women in the Winpanga Credit Association were enthusiastic about their new insecticide-treated mosquito nets. When they got up in the morning and saw dead mosquitoes on the outside of the nets, they had solid evidence that mothers and children were being protected while they slept.

The women also appreciated the information they were given about age-appropriate dosing with chloroquine to treat malaria. Now, they felt confident about educating neighbors and family members. One older woman explained, “What we like best is the solidarity of the group, that we work together. We give each other advice about caring for our children and for our husbands.”

Following the example of the women in Burkina Faso, we must never hesitate to share information or resources to assist our struggling sisters and brothers. Sometimes our individual efforts may seem inadequate in the face of enormous challenges. But like the loaves and the fishes, God accepts our small offerings and combines them with those of others to make a real difference.

—Joanne Leslie