

Rachel Sabbath Initiative

No Woman Should Die Giving Life

Yet, every ninety seconds, somewhere in the world a woman dies from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, just as Rachel did in Genesis 35:16–20.



More than one million children are left motherless every year due to maternal deaths.

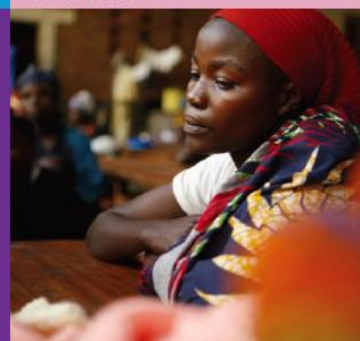
Pregnancy is the leading cause of death for girls ages 15-19 worldwide.

From 1980 to 2008, the United States and Canada have experienced a 33% increase in the maternal mortality rate.



IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Maternal mortality could be reduced by more than 70% by improved access to reproductive health services, including contraception, treatment for pregnancy and birth complications, and strategies to prevent or manage abortion-related complications.



About the Rachel Sabbath Initiative

In 2009, the Religious Institute launched the Rachel Sabbath Initiative, calling on congregations and denominations from diverse faith traditions to raise awareness and support for the United Nations Millennium Development Goal 5 to reduce maternal mortality worldwide and achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015.

Approximately 343,000 women die every year around the world from complications related to childbirth or pregnancy. Maternal mortality could be reduced by more than 70 percent by improved access to reproductive health services, including contraception, treatment for pregnancy and birth complications, and strategies to prevent or manage abortion-related complications.

What Our Congregation Is Doing

To help raise awareness about the importance of international family planning and the global challenges of maternal health and mortality, **our congregation will observe a special Rachel Sabbath.** To learn more about the Rachel Sabbath Initiative and the Religious Institute, visit www.religioustheology.org.