



An invitation to **Deepen**
Discipleship

Celebrating Scripture as a gift from God
Reading the Bible so that it speaks into our lives
Bearing the Word into our communities

biblefresh

It could change your world

*Generous God,
Through Scripture you offer us hope and courage, faith renewed and love
restored. May we rediscover your living word in our daily lives. Amen.*

The Revd Alison Tomlin

President of the Methodist Conference 2010-2011



Throughout 2011 the Methodist Church is encouraging churches and individuals to deepen their discipleship by focusing on the Bible. This particular year marks the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, which brought the Scripture to people in the English language and, when read aloud, had a dramatic effect on church attendance and people's lives.

What better opportunity then to **celebrate** Scripture as a gift from God and take up the challenge of encouraging people to **read** the Bible; engaging with it in fresh, life-changing

ways to become effective disciples of Jesus Christ in the 21st century. We want people to live Bible lives with confidence and compassion in their relationships, workplaces and communities.

This focus on the Bible is a starting point for becoming more serious about our discipleship and reminding us of our roots as a disciple-making movement. John Wesley said we were raised up by God to bring "Scriptural Holiness" to the land. We want to learn how to do this in ways that deepen our love of God and neighbour and make the Bible more accessible to others.

Think about your own life...

Are you able to make space to listen to God through Scripture?

Try a bold new approach in 2011!

The Methodist Church is working together with Biblefresh - a movement of Churches and agencies seeking to inspire individual churches to a greater confidence in the word of God. The centrepiece is a call for local churches to make four pledges to encourage everyone to gain greater skill in handling the Scriptures and to strengthen our passion for hearing and living out God's word.



The Biblefresh pledges are to:

1. READ the Bible.
2. Be TRAINED in handling the Bible well.
3. Give generously to TRANSLATE and make available the Bible in Burkina Faso.
4. Provide the opportunity for people to EXPERIENCE the Bible in new and creative ways.

Think about how the Bible fits in to the life of your church...

What opportunities are there for Bible study? How can you get your local community involved? Do local schools and libraries have copies in appropriate languages? Are there ways you could offer Bible experience to children's organisations, schools, older people? How could you take the Bible into work?

How you can get involved

Visit our **discipleship website** at **www.deepeningdiscipleship.org.uk** where you can find out the latest news and register to be sent updates.

Find out if your district has a Biblefresh contact person. Ask them what's happening in your area or how you can help.

You might like to organise your own Biblefresh event or participate in The Big Read or a Bible reading marathon (information available at the web address above). *What about a Biblefresh festival?*



Resources for sharing the word

New Methodist Discipleship webpage

www.deepeningdiscipleship.org.uk

Discipleship... and the people called Methodists

By The Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, general secretary of the Methodist Church.

Available from Methodist Publishing

www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

The Methodist Prayer Handbook

Available from Methodist Publishing

www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

Glimpses of the Word

By The Revd Alison Tomlin, president of the Methodist Conference 2010-2011

www.methodist.org.uk/glimpses

Biblefresh

www.biblefresh.com

The Biblefresh Big Ideas book (available from the website)

Festival planning pack

www.deepeningdiscipleship.org.uk

LICC Tool Kit

www.licc.org.uk/engaging-with-culture/licc-toolbox

CODEC – exploring the interfaces between the Bible, the digital environment and contemporary culture

www.dur.ac.uk/codec

Eularia Clarke, *The five thousand*, from the Methodist Church Collection of Modern Christian Art. Used by permission.



DISCIPLE – becoming disciples through Bible study

www.methodist.org.uk/disciple

A Word in Time – an online Bible study following the lectionary of the Methodist Prayer Handbook

www.methodist.org.uk/bible

The Big Read

Find out information at

www.deepeningdiscipleship.org.uk

The Methodist Art Collection

www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection

Events to look out for

Biblefresh festivals - celebrating the Bible throughout Spring 2011

Biblefresh events - in your own district

Check out

www.deepeningdiscipleship.org.uk

for news of other events



*May the Spirit open
God's word to you*

Above:

John Brokenshire, *Untitled - Pentecost*,
from the Methodist Church Collection of
Modern Christian Art. Used by permission.

Right:

Ghislaine Howard, *The washing of the feet*,
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Cover:

Turvey, *Reconciliation*. Pauline Books and
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KEEP IN TOUCH! Send us news of ways you are using the Bible to deepen discipleship and events that you have held or would like to promote by emailing: esdadmin@methodistchurch.org.uk



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The **Methodist Church** 

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