

2011 — the 400th birthday of the King James Bible

This year is the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, and it will be a year of celebration! Look out for Biblefresh, an initiative made up of more than 100 Christian organisations, from churches and agencies to colleges and festivals. Biblefresh has one big aim: to encourage churches across the UK to a greater confidence and appetite for the Word of God.

For many people the Bible is already a vital part of life. It regularly informs and shapes



their lives, their attitudes and actions. But for many others the Bible is something they struggle to engage with. So often it ends up being put to one side, ignored, unopened. They don't see its relevance; they don't see its value; frankly, they don't see the point.

Biblefresh wants to change all that. It wants to encourage all of us to engage afresh with the Bible. By bringing together so many different organisations that are involved in one way or another with resourcing Bible reading, study, translation and exploring the Bible through the creative arts, Biblefresh is opening up a wealth of resources and opportunities for every one of us.

Just imagine what might happen if we all take this seriously and make 2011 a year of the Bible in our churches and in our own lives!

So how can churches, individuals get involved? Biblefresh has come up with four pledges. These are to:

- ✓ Read the Bible
- ✓ Be trained in handling the Bible well
- ✓ Give to translate the Bible in Burkina Faso

- ✓ Provide the opportunity for people to experience the Bible in new and creative ways

The Biblefresh website www.biblefresh.com provides a wealth of creative ideas and suggestions as to how you could explore all four areas further. Think about what you could do to help make Biblefresh a part of your church's year in 2011.

Whether it's to read the Bible in a year, or to read a commentary, or to help organise an event in your church—why not resolve to do at least one thing in 2011 related to Biblefresh?

Big Bibles? Big conversations? The Big Read – 2011!

A new multi-media online initiative, supported by Premier Christian Radio, is encouraging Christians and church members to engage with the Bible online and offline.

After the success of the Big Read 2010 when several thousand people in the North-East took part over Lent based on Tom Wright's *Lent for Everyone: Luke*, the Big Read 2011 is going national, offering online and offline opportunities aimed at encouraging thoughtful engagement with the Bible. This can be done individually, in home study groups, and corporately as a region.

The Big Read 2011 will be launched on Shrove Tuesday, with a *Mardi Gras* event, for which an online 'party pack' will be provided. Participants will need to purchase the book *Lent for Everyone: Matthew*, either in paper or digital format.

Purchasing the book (published by SPCK) will give access to daily downloads of the material. All home study materials will be provided for free in the form of downloadable PDFs (available in early 2011).