



**Methodist Relief &
Development Fund**

NEWS RELEASE

3 January, 2008

This Lent, don't just change your light-bulbs, change your life

What does the Bible say about climate change? is a new Bible Study Pack for Lent and beyond from the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF). Climate change is a contemporary problem, undreamt of by Biblical authors, so what *does* the Bible have to say about it?

These six Bible study sessions will help small groups reflect on a Christian response to climate change and take small but significant steps to reduce their carbon footprints.

Vice President of the Methodist Conference, Ruby Beech, said: 'If we are serious about living out our faith in the modern world and bringing good news to the poor, we cannot ignore the challenges posed by climate change. At last year's Methodist Conference in Blackpool, the Methodist Church passed a resolution committing churches to play their part. I warmly welcome this pack and commend it to all Christians who want to translate their aspirations into action.'

What does the Bible say about climate change? contains material for six interactive and engaging sessions. It includes Bible readings, activities, discussion questions, prayer and action ideas. Examples from UK-based campaigns and MRDF's development partners in Africa and Asia help to bring the issues to life. The studies aim to provoke practical responses – like recycling or changing light-bulbs - but most importantly to encourage people to rethink their attitudes and everyday lives in new and creative ways.

MRDF Director Kirsty Smith said: 'MRDF is increasingly aware of the effects of climate change on poor communities overseas, caused predominantly by CO2 emissions from rich countries. It is particularly important to focus on climate change during Lent this year as the Climate Change Bill is being discussed by UK parliament at this time. We hope many groups will use this pack to make a new and confident commitment to action, both towards their own lifestyles and in seeking to influence the government in the role it can play.'

What does the Bible say about climate change? is designed for house groups, youth groups and other small study groups. The study pack is free and has accompanying notes for group leaders.

ENDS

Notes

1. 'What does the Bible say about climate change?' booklets for group members, with accompanying leaders' notes, are available free from: MRDF, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR or 020 7467 5132 or mrdf@methodistchurch.org.uk. The pack can also be downloaded from www.mrdf.org.uk.
2. Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) makes **small miracles** possible for people living in the world's poorest communities through: long-term development, emergency relief and campaigning against the causes of poverty. For more information, visit www.mrdf.org.uk.
3. Sample copies of the pack and cover image are available from MRDF (mrdf@methodistchurch.org.uk) or 020 7467 5215.
4. MRDF is a member of the Stop Climate Chaos network, comprising of faith groups, environmental groups, unions, development charities and many others. For more information visit www.stopclimatechaos.org or www.icount.org.uk

About The Methodist Church

The Methodist Church is the third-largest Christian church in Great Britain, with nearly 300,000 members and regular contact with over 800,000 people. It has around 5,800 churches in Great Britain, and also maintains links with other Methodist churches totalling a worldwide membership of 70 million. Its activities, both alone and with ecumenical and secular partners, are based on four aims known as Our Calling:

- *To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love*
- *To help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care*
- *To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice*
- *To make more followers of Jesus Christ.*

For more information contact Anna Drew.

Anna Drew

Media and Information Assistant

Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR

Tel 020 7467 5191 Fax 020 7467 5229

Email drewa@methodistchurch.org.uk

Toby Scott

Media Relations Officer

Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR

Tel 020 7467 5221 Fax 020 7467 5229 Mobile/Out of hours 07881 783 812

Email scottt@methodistchurch.org.uk