

Devoted: Discipleship Around the Globe



#SEE ^{ALL} _{THE} PEOPLE

“We cannot disciple people that we are not in relationship with. Discipleship begins with relationship.”

Rev. Junius Dotson

General Secretary, Discipleship Ministries

www.SeeAllThePeople.org

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About Discipleship Resources International

Discipleship Resources International (DRI) partners with central conferences (Episcopal Area or a related institution) to help achieve Area goals and meet churches' needs through resource development. A written agreement, signed by bishops and DRI executive director, is accompanied by a publishing plan that will guide the work of the team. Teams exist in the 16 areas, with new teams being added each year.

Author Development

DRI fosters contextual writing and author development through providing writing workshops and editorial mentoring—through the publishing teams and through individual relationships with writers. DRI is committed to helping to facilitate and strengthen “a culture of reading and writing” wherever possible.

E-Readers for Theological Education

This initiative is a partnership with Higher Education and Ministry, committed to providing e-readers with important theological texts to the libraries of United Methodist-related and sponsored theological schools in Africa and the Philippines. The generous donation of annual conferences, churches, and individuals helps to make this project possible.

Discipleship Resources International Publishing

DRI is committed to helping find distribution channels for content developed in the central conferences. To that end, ten titles have been published in the Africa Ministry Series, available in print and ebook on bookstore.upperroom.org and Amazon.com. Additional titles are in progress.

United Methodist Way Leadership Seminars

DRI helps to facilitate and resource United Methodist Way leadership seminars in the central conferences. UM Way Seminars for pastoral and lay leaders seek to deepen the understanding of the Wesleyan way of discipleship, worship, and connection. Grounded in the Wesleyan tradition, these seminars focus on the challenges and opportunities for congregations seeking to strengthen the United Methodist model of discipleship in the specific contexts of each central conference.

Our Invitation

Discipleship Resources International (DRI) invites local church leaders and entire congregations into a weeklong journey of study and reflection on how God is calling you, along with local church leaders and entire congregations to make disciples in your particular settings. In the pages of this book you will find:

- six daily meditations on the process of discipleship, written by brothers and sisters around the world.
- a Bible study with a meeting outline for use in United Methodist Women circles, youth groups, Sunday school classes, or midweek gatherings.

DRI encourages you, as a church leader, to invite your congregation into a week of intentional prayer and discernment about how your congregation might #SeeAllThePeople, meet people in your church and community where they are in their journeys of discipleship, and engage them with an invitation to go deeper.

At the end of the booklet you will find some examples of how United Methodist Churches in Tanzania and Zimbabwe are making disciples for the transformation of the world.

We pray that this study and these examples will inspire you and help you engage in ministry with a greater understanding of the global connection and strength of The United Methodist Church.

Introduction: Resources for Discipleship

We are “Discipleship Resources International” (DRI). Resources for discipleship. DRI is helping United Methodist churches in central conferences create the resources they need to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” So what are the steps and resources for “making disciples”? DRI assists publishing teams answer that question in each and every context.

In Mark’s story of Jesus calling the twelve apostles (3:13-15), we discover three dimensions in Jesus’ call to become disciples. Quality Christian resources are ones that provide good means by which the risen Christ keeps calling people today to come to him, to be with him, and to be sent out to resist evil and change the world for good.

INVITING. Jesus calls us to come to him (3:13)—to draw near and awaken to God’s unmerited love through him. Jesus invites us to join him in a lifelong spiritual walk. Jesus bids us come through the witness in other people’s faith, in the Bible, and in spiritual readings. So how do your churches invite people to faith? What literature and resources will help your people and churches worship God in spirit and truth?

FORMING. Jesus calls us to be with him (3:14); he forms us in community with other followers. By walking together in the sustaining company of the risen Christ, we learn to live the way Jesus lived, step by step in the way of compassion and justice. Step by step, we learn to practice in all circumstances what Jesus would do if he were in our place. So, how do your churches inform, form, and equip people for living in the Way of Christ? What literature and resources will help people progress in their walk with Jesus; grow in the mind, heart, and work of Jesus Christ?

SENDING. Jesus not only calls us to come to and to be with him but to be sent out (3:15)—to serve as apostles of God’s redeeming love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus gives us courage to confront evil forces and share God’s healing love with the people around us. So how do your churches empower people to be Christ’s hands for healing, Christ’s voice for blessing and forgiving? What resources can help people recognize and oppose the forces that kill people in body and spirit?

Sixteen publishing teams in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines are developing resources that strengthen the church’s ability to disciple people—to invite, form, and send them in faith to live among people as Jesus lived. The teams achieve this by developing devotionals, catechisms, and worship/books; publishing literature grounded in the Wesleyan way of making disciples; printing resources for combating Ebola and promoting healing. Clergy and laypeople around the world make God’s presence real through the written word.

DRI and our global partners invite your local church to step back and evaluate the ways you are making disciples of Jesus Christ and what publications you use or could develop on your own to support this process. In what ways do your resources help people hear Christ’s call to come to him, to live in fellowship with him, and to be the hands and feet of God’s love in the world? What resources will help your church guide people toward becoming and living as disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?

Devotions on Acts 2:42-47

Discipleship & Teaching

Rev. Dr. Gift Machinga, Zimbabwe

[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

– ACTS 2:42

Born after nine years of parental waiting—during which time my parents resorted to a program of prayer and fasting when all efforts to conceive had been in vain—I grew up, contrary to all expectations, shunning church activities. Since our community was distant from an established church, all village children below the age of twelve would congregate at an identified place (popularly known as *chikomo*) for church school early Sunday morning (7:00–9:00 AM). Then the children would look after their homes while the parents attended worship.

However, instead of joining others of my age for church school, I would spend the greater part of the day leading the community boys in playing street soccer. I was naughty and arrogant. I vividly remember coming home limping, sometimes carried by my friends due to injuries. My behavior stood in direct contrast to that of my only surviving sibling who devotedly attended church school and who would come home with his friends singing and expressing genuine joy.

I began joining my young brother for church school when Mom started rewarding church school attendance with money. I convinced myself that I had everything to gain if I attended church school in the morning and then played soccer later. The money enticed me always to attend church school.

Before long I realized what I had been missing. At church school I met the most loving, charming, and amazing teachers—the likes of George Chitiyo, Tafadzwa Zhungu, Never Kanyimo (now deceased). They engaged me with their good cheer and friendliness. They introduced me to a variety of activities, including games, folk stories, Bible stories, reciting biblical verses, role playing, etc. My favorite part of each session came as we sat on the grass in a big circle, and the teacher shared biblical insights, relating them to our everyday life. The story of Joseph with its many practical lessons intrigued me most. I also made good friends in the process and enjoyed their fellowship.

I came to regret the time I wasted playing street soccer rather than joining my brother for the life-changing experiences at *chikomo*. Church school, with its loving and insightful teachers who willingly gave of themselves to share the Bible stories, transformed my life. Later I had the joy of inviting my soccer-loving friends to attend. I marvel at how many of them have become active disciples of Jesus Christ who help transform the world. I am a product of the teaching efforts of this Christian community. It informed, formed, and transformed me. And now three full-fledged United Methodist charges exist in this community and students of the *chikomo* serve in leadership positions.

As I look back and reflect, I equate all these efforts to the early church, whose rapid growth came about as a result of the apostles' teachings and fellowship. The early church not only grew in numbers of people and churches but in the growing faith of the followers and their love for one another. The making of disciples resulted in further transformation of lives. May today's church, like that of the early days, invest in the important ministry of teaching.

PRAYER: Gracious God, thank you for those teachers who have shaped our faith and left an enduring impression in our lives. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

1. Who played a key role in teaching you about the Christian faith?
2. How greatly does your local congregation value teaching, and how might that interest be strengthened?

Discipleship & Fellowship

Katharina Schiemenz, Germany

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers...Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts. – ACTS 2:42, 46

We need the community to survive in our society!

Our church in Germany continues to grow smaller. And our members are getting older. That doesn't mean our faith is getting smaller, but we lack the young people to share our faith with. For many young people, even those brought up in Christian households, the church holds no value.

Many activities take precedence: soccer games on Sunday mornings or weekly dance classes that take place at the same time as the youth meetings. Even those who become active members of the community, choosing church over soccer and dance, sooner or later move away to study. They often find it difficult to find a church while settling into a new community, living without parental oversight for the first time.

What can we do to bring young people back to church?

We can do what the first believers did—share meals, see the people around them. The church's growth requires us to go, to see the people and work with them beyond the walls of the church. God is working in us. If our lives bear witness to God's work within us and among us, they will draw more people to us and to Jesus.

Sharing bread and sharing faith often belong together, as demonstrated in Acts. This sharing allows us to move beyond the borders of our community to reach new people.

Our light will not grow dim if we share it; the light will continue to spread.

PRAYER: Gracious God, show us those places where the world needs your light, where people need your care and the fellowship of a friend. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

1. What or whom first drew you into the church community?
2. What communities in the area around your local church may need you to shine a light or offer fellowship?

Discipleship & Prayer

Rev. Piula Alailima, USA

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. – ACTS 2:42–43

My growing up in Samoa, an island nation in the South Pacific, exposed me to the fullness of creation and the realization that all life is interdependent. The breath of the Creator interweaves each part of the creation with the rest. Our communal well-being remains inseparable from the health of the land and sea. All life exists in a balance of generosity and gratitude with mutual respect and responsibility toward one another.

The Samoan word for God is *Atua*. *A*—breath; *tu*—stand. God breathes creation into being and enables us all to stand and come alive as one. Through prayer, *talosaga*, we grasp this umbilical connection with gratitude and live out the fullness of God in the world, as embodied in the life and spirit of Jesus. His sole commandment is that we “love one another.” And his last prayer was, “That they may all be one.”

In this context of love and interconnectedness of life resides the heart of discipleship. As part of creation we breathe God's Spirit that empowers us to stand, radiate, and bear witness to the love that allows us to “see all the people” as one, each a beloved creation of God.

*la fa'amanuia lava le alofa o le Atua ia tatou uma,
e pei o le fa'amanuiina o
le la, le timu ma le matagi i le lalolagi atoa.*

*(May the blessing of God's love be upon us,
as the blessing of the sun,
the rain and wind nurture the earth.)*

PRAYER: God of Creation, thank you for the opportunity to praise you with each breath. May the blessing of your love be upon each of us. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

1. How have you devoted yourself to prayer in different seasons of life?
2. How have you felt God's blessing and love in your life?
3. In what ways does your church operate out of an awareness of God's blessing?
4. How could that attitude influence your ministry, outreach, and disciple-making?

Discipleship & Communion

Rev. Joel Bengbeng, Philippines

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts. – ACTS 2:42, 46

Holy Communion has been at the heart of the church's life since the time of the early Christians. The newly baptized Christians devoted themselves to the "breaking of bread." The shared meal nourishes the community of the newly baptized as they embark on a lifelong journey with Christ. John Wesley describes the sacrament as "tokens of the body and blood of Christ" and "food for our souls." Communion "gives us strength to perform our duty, and lead us on to perfection." (*The Duty of Constant Communion, Sermon 101*)

In the shared meal, God gathers and reconstitutes the church. We do not exist as solitary Christians. Discipleship always implies a collective journey. As we receive Christ's body and blood, we become what God intends us to be: Christ's one body. The sacrament is a communal sharing that unites us with Christ and with one another.

Christ's body and blood nourishes and unites the body of Christ (the church) to go forth, make disciples, and transform the world. Compassion and justice characterize the eucharistic meal, which connects to our day-to-day life. What happens to the bread and cup also happens to us. Jesus took the bread and cup, gave thanks to God, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples. In the Holy Meal, we offer ourselves to God, we give thanks, God secures us in the divine hands, and sends us to satisfy humanity's longing for mercy and love.

PRAYER: Holy God, we hunger and thirst for compassion and justice. Feed us, prepare us, empower us to serve your hurting world. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

1. What connection do you make between Holy Communion and service in the world?
2. How can each act of discipleship become a sacramental act?

Discipleship & Giving

Rev. Sophirina Sign, Zimbabwe

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts.

– ACTS 2:42–46

The Christian life of discipleship goes beyond humanitarian efforts and becomes a relational endeavor. I heard a story about Mrs. Kamandiapa who engaged her time in discipling a street kid. She invited him to her house, fed him, gave him a drink, clothed him, and introduced him to the pastor and the church. In turn, the boy shared with others the Jesus he had experienced. The church assumes the responsibility of supporting new believers, grooming and nurturing them in the Christian life.

Sometimes we view the responsibility of giving and practicing acts of mercy as a burden. We avoid giving our treasures or resources toward the growth and prosperity of God's reign, fearing we won't have enough for ourselves. But when Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves—by practicing acts of mercy, sharing food with the hungry, giving a drink to the thirsty, showing hospitality to strangers, clothing the naked, caring for the sick and visiting the prisoners—he knew these acts of mercy open both the heart of the giver and the heart of the recipient.

The early church modeled true community. The early disciples founded their society not on the law of self-interest and competition but on sympathy and self-denial. They held all things in common—not by force but by spontaneous energy. The apostles' approach attracted others, and many people

were brought to Christ. Giving and acts of mercy are powerful and significant tools in discipleship.

PRAYER: Generous God, release us from a fear of scarcity and free us to see the abundance all around us. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

1. Who serves as role models of generosity in your life?
2. How does living out of abundance affect their personal lives and the people around them?
3. In what ways does your local church practice generosity?
4. In what areas does your church live in fear of scarcity?

Discipleship & Multiplication

Noel Daire Kumwenda, Malawi

...praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. – ACTS 2:47

Malawi United Methodist youth use sports to bring people to Christ. During the evangelism campaign in Madisi in central Malawi, the representatives of the conference youth organization take football (soccer) and net ball games to the area. The conference and local church youth form teams for football and net ball and challenge the local youth to form their teams. Excited by the challenge and full of winning spirit, people of all ages come to watch the games.

For the United Methodist youth, the goal is not to win the game but to win souls. Before the match, the pastor talks to all who gathered, players and spectators, about the benefits of knowing God and the grace persons receive from following Christ. Then the teams play first half of the games. During the halftimes of both football and net ball games, the players talk strategies, and the pastor concludes his or her message and invites people spectators, young and old, to follow Christ. Throughout the event, the youth also conduct one-on-one evangelism. The leadership of the United Methodist Youth can testify that many people decide to follow Christ. After the games, with great celebration, the conference youth donate the balls to the community.

In the Madisi campaign, many people—including the chief of the area—received Christ. He also gave land to the church to build a sanctuary. This same village is now a preaching point on the Madisi circuit.

PRAYER: Creative God, we give you thanks for the many ways we can use our minds, bodies, and talents to multiply the number of those who are being saved. Amen.



Questions for Reflection

1. What do your assumptions about evangelism or revival look like?
2. What unique ministries or talents within your local church could generate enthusiasm and interest in what you are already doing in the community?

Bible Study on Luke 5:1-11

Rev. Barry Sloan, Germany

This Bible study will serve the needs of any small group within your local church—youth, Sunday school, covenant groups, United Methodist Women and Men, leadership team, or ad hoc groups with a passion for making disciples—whose members would like to reflect on the process of discipleship. This study gives people the opportunity to consider where they are in their individual journey of discipleship and how their particular local church supports the disciple-making process at all stages.

Before the group meeting, review the material in the introduction and the devotions.

- What questions or comments do you have about providing resources that invite, form, and send?
- Which devotion spoke to you, challenged or blessed you?
- What are your insights or hopes for making disciples in your local church?

Make sure you have a candle and several copies of *Devoted: Discipleship around the Globe*.

Opening

The leader welcomes all participants as they arrive.

Set the context. In this time together, we have the opportunity to pay special attention to what discipleship means to each of us and within our church community. This may be a single

conversation, but we may also feel promptings or callings to explore new possibilities as individuals, as a group, or even within our larger congregation.

Join together in worship.

- We light the candle as a way of remembering God's presence with us, the One who calls us, meets and walks with us along the path of discipleship. Listen now to these words from Psalm 25:4-5.

Make your ways known to me,

LORD;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth—

teach it to me—

because you are the God

who saves me.

I put my hope in you all day long. (CEB)

- In silence take a moment to ponder, "What does it mean to you to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?"
- Sing a familiar song together.

Sharing Insights

Briefly review the devotions on Acts 2:42-47.

- Which devotion offered you insight or hope?
- Which devotion challenged you or made you look at things differently?

Invite participants to share any insights or questions from the devotions they would like to highlight. If you have a large group, you may choose to discuss in groups of three. Then ask for summaries or common themes from each group.

Deeper Exploration

Read aloud Luke 5:1-11.

Introduce the theme, The Call to Discipleship: 3 Steps

In this Bible passage we read of Simon's call to become a follower and disciple of Jesus. This encounter leads Simon on a journey with Jesus. Simon, a simple fisherman working in his father's business, will become Peter, a foundational leader in the early church. In the story we hear Jesus makes three requests of Simon, three steps that lead to discipleship. Jesus may ask the same of us today.

Ask the group to form three groups. Invite each group to read about one of three steps below. Discuss together the "wonderings" at the end of the step.

STEP 1.

"Put out a little way from the shore" (v. 3)

This first request comes in the middle of the business of everyday life for Simon. He has fished all night and is now cleaning and repairing his nets when Jesus comes by. And he is not alone. The popular rabbi from Nazareth has a crowd of people following him and wanting to hear him teach. Jesus climbs into Simon's boat and asks him to push it out just a little from the shoreline so that the people can better hear him teach.

This first step, this first request is a small one, but it comes in the busyness of life—perhaps when Simon least expects it. Jesus interrupts. And surprises. The Holy One still shows up in our daily lives, interrupting our busyness, surprising us with a call, asking us to take a step—if only a small one.

I wonder when you have heard Jesus calling...
I wonder how you heard Jesus in the midst of the
busyness of life...
I wonder how you responded...

STEP 2.

“Put out into the deep water” (v. 4)

After teaching the crowd, Jesus turns to Simon and makes a second request. This second step requires much more of Simon. Jesus’ request makes no sense to Simon. Every fisherman worth his salt knows that the best time to fish is at night. Casting freshly repaired nets into deep water in the heat of the midday sun is pointless! Simon is tired. He has been out all night fishing and caught nothing. He knows these waters. He knows his job. *What Jesus is asking...well, you just don’t do that! It makes no sense!*

In following Christ, we will experience such moments. Times when he asks us to take a step of faith. To follow, even when we don’t understand. To un-think. To re-think. To trust him.

I wonder how you know when you are following Jesus...
I wonder when you have had to un-think or re-think your
faith assumptions...
I wonder what you have learned about trusting Jesus...

STEP 3.

“They left everything and followed” (v. 11)

Simon obeys and in doing so experiences a blessing that almost sinks his boat! Kneeling in a stinky fishing boat he recognizes that he is on holy ground. He confesses. He is in awe. And then he hears the words that lead to his third step. Gospel words. Six words that change his life forever: “Do not be afraid; from now on...” The first three words set him free. The last three words demand his life. And we

read, “When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.”

I wonder at what moment you felt that your life changed forever...

I wonder how you have worked through fear in your life...

I wonder how Jesus is calling you to follow him now...

Gather the groups together. Ask one person from each group to share common responses or meaningful insights from the group work.

Looking Forward

Invite each person to turn to the blank pages at the end of this book. Explain that there will be a few minutes of silence. Ask each person to be in prayer about what he or she has heard through the entire meeting—the devotions, the insights, the Bible study—and to ask God how these same insights might be relevant to the local church and community.

- What part of discipleship does this local church do well? (Teaching, Fellowship, Prayer, Communion, Giving, Multiplication?)
- Where could this church un-think or re-think how they support the path of discipleship?
- What step is God calling us to? Does the church need small changes or a larger step of faith?
- How are you called to participate?

Journal your thoughts.

After about ten minutes, ask if anyone would like to share his or her promptings and hopes for this local church with the group.

Closing

Pray the following prayer or one of your own, that commits these hopes and dreams to God, trusting in the leading of the Holy Spirit.

God, you invite us into relationship with you. Through the example of your son, Jesus Christ, we see ways we can be formed as your disciples. We rely on the promptings and leading of your Spirit to live boldly the life you have called us to. Thank you for this community where we explore and grow as disciples. Lead us into your love. Amen.

Ask the participants to remember the United Methodist leaders around the globe who also engage in the call to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Mention that they can read the stories of the creative ways some of these leaders are inviting, forming, and sending disciples into the world.

Sing together “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations” *The United Methodist Hymnal*, no. 569) or another song of the group’s choosing.

Models of Discipleship in the Central Conferences

As DRI staff members travel in the central conferences and lead writing workshops and provide support and training for local publishing teams, we hear testimonies to the Spirit's work. The Spirit is inviting persons into the ministry of the church, forming disciples at all stages of the journey, and sending disciples out for the transformation of the world. We include here two examples of the great creativity, dedication, and inspiration of leaders around the world.

Children as Effective Participants in the Making of Disciples

Rev. Dr. Gift Machinga, Zimbabwe

During my fifth year as district superintendent, I and my family had to move to a new neighborhood to allow for some major renovation at the district parsonage. After a two-week stay and on a Sunday morning, my second daughter, Sussana (five years old) asked if her newfound friend could accompany us to worship. Sussana's request reminded us that we had made no attempt to get to know our new neighbors. So, we asked our daughter to give us the chance to talk with her friend's parents and seek their permission. Dejected, Sussana asked her friend to come prepared the following Sunday.

The next week the duties and responsibilities of my office overwhelmed me. I did not follow up with our neighbors. The following Sunday morning I found Sussana and friend waiting to go to church. My unfulfilled promise came immediately to mind. I gathered my courage, called Sussana aside, and apologized for not meeting her friend's parents. I asked her to give me one more chance to do my assignment. With a

big smile Sussana told me not to worry; she had already spoken to her friend's mother and received permission. She joyfully informed me that another friend would join us the next Sunday. You can imagine my embarrassment. While I was busy doing "church work," my five-year-old daughter busily engaged herself in God's ministry of making disciples. Her activity reminded of Jesus' pronouncement that, "I tell you, if they were silent, the stones would shout" (Luke 19:40). My daughter convinced me that children can be of great benefit to the church in the making of disciples.

Thirteen years later, the idea of engaging children for evangelization became a reality at Cranborne congregation of the United Methodist Church in Harare East District of the Zimbabwe East Annual Conference. While not intentional at first, the program came about by default. In my first year of pastoral appointment in this charge, the church resolved to focus on bringing more people to Christ by asking every member to bring at least one guest to church. The adult members would introduce their friends during worship, and they would receive a warm welcome. No one responded positively to the call to bring a guest for the first three months.

I suddenly recalled Sussana's evangelism exploits. I realized that the church could extend this mission to children. Within two weeks of this invitation, some children came to the front to introduce their friends to the congregation. The child who brought the most guests in a particular month received a certificate of appreciation and a small token prize.

Ngaavongwe Mazire, an eight-year-old girl in second grade surprised us all by introducing a minimum of two friends every week. Ngaa, as she is affectionately known, informed me that she focused on her schoolmates and children from her neighborhood. Her parents jokingly requested that the congregation buy them a van since their small car could no longer accommodate all of Ngaa's friends. These new friends

attend age-appropriate church school classes and are treated to refreshments after. The majority become regular attendees. The pastor undertakes home visits to these children. They enjoy introducing their pastor to the parents and encouraging them to come to church.

Our membership continues to grow, largely as a result of the children's efforts. Those children who enroll in our church school classes are sponsored for baptism by their church school teachers. The unchurched parents of these children receive a special invitation to witness the baptisms; interestingly, the parents often make decisions for Christ. Ngaa was named "Cranborne Evangelist of the Year." In the charge conference, the pastor reports, "Members of the Children's Ministries responded positively to the pastor's call for them to bring others to Christ and to church. Their efforts contributed to the new members/souls that we are celebrating today" (Charge Conference Report, 2015, p. 18).

Since 2015, children have become our hope in the making of disciples. Ngaavongwe Mazire, now in fifth grade, made history in 2017 by becoming the youngest presenter/teacher at the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area gathering of clergy and lay leaders in the two conferences. She served as my copresenter on the role of children in evangelism and church programs. The presentation strongly challenged many participants, while others were moved to tears.

Children are no longer spectators in the doing of ministry at Cranborne or at district and conference programs. They host music festivals and revivals. We have powerful child preachers in our churches. Traditionally, United Methodist pastors in the country open their pulpits at least one Sunday to allow the children to minister to the congregation. At Cranborne, the children choose their liturgist, become the choir of the day, and facilitate worship. Often, our sin of omission as leaders in the church is our failure to accommodate and equip children

in ministry. When children are invited, equipped, given space, and the necessary support, they can become equal partners with adults in ministry and in making disciples for the transformation of the world.

Nifuate (Follow Me) **for Young Adult Leaders**

Young Seon Kim, Tanzania

As a missionary in Tanzania, I simply desired to be obedient to the Great Commission. I wanted to teach others the basics of the Christian life. Many youth and young adults would sit and listen to sermons during worship or seminars, but they didn't have their own Bibles. The Holy Spirit guided me to attend a writing workshop in Mwanza, where I began writing a book for use in discipleship training in my context for youth and young adults who didn't have a Bible.

Nifuate is not meant to meet all the challenges in each district but it is a sign of hope in the next generation. Four young adult leaders from Kigoma district went to Wesley College to study theology. Wesley is a UMC-affiliated and registered school that started in Tanzania in February 2017. I trained 2 young adults from Nyarugushu refugee camp with a *Nifuate* book that I had made for discipleship training. They returned to the camp and trained 91 other young Congolese Methodists for over a year. I trained 2 young adults from Kitanga district. They trained 47 others. I trained 4 young adults from Kasulu district. They trained 24 others. This is the work of the Holy Spirit.

I train young adults to be Bible teachers. So far, I have forty Bible teachers. They are God-given fruits of my three-year work. They knew by experience that 1) they complete their learning by teaching others; 2) teaching others greatly benefits

their continued learning. This year Binzi, Mary, John, Joshua, and Amosi—excellent Bible teachers—have taught others beyond their own districts. God told me as I began my work in 2014 that “the UMC of Tanzania will grow with *vijana* (youth and adults).” Bible teachers assured me of the fulfillment of God’s promise. I know that without the Holy Spirit, without holy living, no leader can teach and preach the Word and do God’s work. So please pray that these Bible teachers develop integrity, commit to faithfulness, and practice humble serving.

I find it hard to believe more than ten discipleship trainings have been completed. I am grateful to Young People’s Ministries at Discipleship Ministries for a grant for this work. How glad I am glad that I attended that first writing workshop sponsored by Discipleship Resources International!

About the Writers

Rev. Stephen D. Bryant serves at Discipleship Ministries as Associate General Secretary, leading Discipleship Resources International since 2009. A clergy member of the Rio Texas Conference, Steve also serves as the editor and publisher of Upper Room Ministries where he has also served as the Director of Spiritual Formation for The Upper Room and as the International Director of The Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis movements.

Rev. Dr. Gift Machinga is the senior pastor at Cranborne United Methodist Church in Harare. In addition, he is the programs director in the Harare East District. Gift, who coordinates the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area Publishing Team chairs the Board of Discipleship in the Zimbabwe East Annual Conference. He has authored a book *The Time Is Now: Baptism and Confirmation in the United Methodist Church* and several booklets for the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area Publishing Team.

Katharina Schiemenz is a Youth Representative in the North Germany Annual Conference and a Division Member of the Division on Ministries with Young People. She also serves on the Discipleship Ministries Board of Directors. Katharina is studying medicine at the University Medical Center Charité in Berlin.

Rev. Piula Alailima serves as pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Honolulu, Hawaii, a multicultural congregation reflective of the make-up of the island community. Much of his community leadership involvement focuses on social justice—specifically spearheading the Hawaii District’s resolution of apology and reconciliation to the Native Hawaiians for the United Methodist Church’s role in the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Rev. Joel Bengbeng serves as the district superintendent of Ilocos South District, Northwest Philippines Annual Conference and concurrently the lead pastor of Salcedo Central United Methodist Church. He is an active member of the Discipleship Resources Philippines.

Rev. Sophirina Sign is an ordained elder in the Zimbabwe East Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. A former high school teacher, holding a Diploma in Education, Bachelor of Divinity and Masters in Theological Studies, Sign currently serves as a Station Chairperson and Schools Chaplin at Lydia Chimonyo Girls High School and as District Connectional Ministries Director.

Noel Daire Kumwenda is a United Methodist communicator and member of the Malawi Publishing Team. An Africa University graduate, Noel is currently engaged in a two-year mission in Kenya as a Global Mission Fellow working on Climate Justice. He also contributed to the Youth Lenten Devotional booklet published by the Malawi Publishing Team.

Rev. Barry Sloan - pastor, author, singer/songwriter - is a husband and a father. He is an ordained elder of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and a mission partner currently serving as Director of Evangelism in the Germany Central Conference. He is co-founder of INSPIRE, a fresh expression of church in Chemnitz, Germany.

Young Seon (Christina) Kim, a native of South Korea, is a clergy member of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, ordained an elder in 1999. Rev. Kim is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as director of the Next Generation Ministries of the church in Tanzania, based in Dar es Salaam.

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If you have questions about publishing teams and writer development in the central conferences, you may contact:

Kara Lassen Oliver
koliver@umcdiscipleship.org
615.340.1731

If you have questions about E-Readers for Theological Education, you may contact:

Junie Nkonge
jnkonge@umcdiscipleship.org
615.340.7045



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