

The Anglican Church in the Diocese of Trinidad & Tobago

Holy Saviour Parish

Sunday 25th April 2010

Stewardship of Creation - Becoming a Green Parish



Heal the World

Awareness, Caring, Action.

Theme for March-Reduce



Reading the Bible through Green Lens

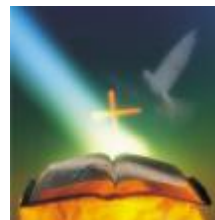
Calvin B. DeWitt



The Bible is hardly a minor contributor on writings about caring for creation. In fact, the Bible turns out to be a powerful ecological handbook on how to live rightly on earth.

Since God creates and sustains all of creation, we should expect the bible to call us to bring honour to what is God's—after all, God repeatedly calls his creation 'good' (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). Moreover, since the Bible professes Jesus Christ as the one through whom *all things* are reconciled to God (Colossians 1:20), we should expect the Bible to decry creation's destruction, to call for its restoration, and to look forward to its being made right again.

The Bible presents a serious call to take care of the creation God has given us. But often we just don't do many of the things we know we should do. In many cases, there are reasons for this. It's important to identify the stumbling blocks that may prevent us from taking action as well as any major pitfalls we'll want to avoid, so that we don't get swallowed up along the path of creation stewardship. Having done this, we would be ready to put our beliefs into practice.





What Must We Do about Creation?

Our ultimate purpose is to honour God as creator in such a way that Christian environmental stewardship is part and parcel of everything we do. Our goal is to make tending the garden of creation, in all its aspects, an unquestionable and all-pervasive part of our service to each other, to our community, to God's world. The framework for our response can follow three steps.

1. *Awareness*
2. *Application*
3. *Stewardship*

Awareness:-

In a time when so much calls for our attention—international affairs, local politics, our work or schooling, family needs, church communities, and other busyness—we might only barely notice the natural and environmental aspects of creation in our surroundings. We must consciously make ourselves aware of what is happening in God's creation.

Awareness involves seeing, naming, identifying, and locating different parts of God's creation. It means taking off blinders that we or society may put on us to keep us focused on our pursuits in life. It means providing ourselves with enough quiet, reflection, and leaning time we can notice and identify a tree or mountain, bird or river.

Appreciation:-

From awareness comes appreciation; we cannot appreciate something we are unaware of. At the very least, appreciation means tolerating what we are aware of. We may tolerate, for example, worms and hyenas. But appreciation can also involve respect. We certainly respect a large bear, but we can also develop respect for a lowly worm as we learn of its critical importance to the rest of creation. We can move, as well, from toleration to respect to valuing. The earth and everything in it has value because God made it so. As we become aware of the



other if creation, we will see God's valuing of all his works.

Stewardship:-

Appreciation needs to lead to stewardship. Stewardship takes us beyond appreciation to restoration. We now work for the restoration of what has been degraded in the past.

Beyond restoration, stewardship means serving. As we understand that God through creation is in so many ways serving us, we grow to willingly return this service with our own. This service includes loving, caring, and keeping what God has given us to hold in trust. Our service in creation will eventually involve entrusting others with what we have served, keep and restored.

(To be continued in May issue)



Individual & Political Action on Climate Change

The issue of human-caused, or anthropogenic, climate change (global warming) is becoming a central focus of the Green movement. As illustrated by the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize being jointly awarded to Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the issue is building an increasing level of mainstream interest. Around the world, there is an increasing awareness of the importance of climate change as a factor in a range of issues. Many environmental, economic and social issues find common ground in the form of climate change. Individual and political action on climate change can take many forms, most of which have the ultimate goal of limiting and/or reducing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.





Political Action

Political action is useful for changing laws and regulations that relate to climate change, such as tax incentives, greenhouse gas emission limits or establishing a regulatory framework within which carbon trading markets can operate. It can also be useful for gaining media and public attention to climate change. Political action from the community, however, is often challenged by powerful vested interests within the fossil fuel industry. However, not all “sceptic” groups are funded or controlled by the fossil fuel industry or any other, but are independent, such as the Australian Youth Climate Change Council (AYCCC).

There are many forms of political action on climate. These include letter writing, direct lobbying, and public shaming of politicians and political and media organisations. Organising such campaigns requires building a required base of support at local level.

From “Climate Change and the Environment 2010”
produced by the Network of NON-Governmental
Organisations of
Trinidad & Tobago for the Advancement of Women.

How you can help reduce
Global Warming



BURNING fossil fuels such as natural gas, coal, oil and gasoline raises the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and carbon dioxide is a major contributor to the greenhouse effect and global warming.

You can help to reduce the damage for fossil fuel, which in turn reduces global warming, by using energy more wisely. Here are simple actions you can take to help reduce global warming.

Heal the World—Awareness, Caring, Action.

1. *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*

Do your part to reduce waste by choosing reusable products instead of disposables. Buying products with minimal packaging (including the economy size when that makes sense for you) will help to reduce waste. And whenever you can, recycle paper, plastic, newspaper, glass and aluminium cans. If there isn't a recycling programme at your workplace, school, or in your community, ask about starting one.

2. *Use Less Air-Conditioning*

Turn down the air-conditioning while you're sleeping at night or away during the day, and keep temperatures moderate at all times. Setting your thermostat just two degrees higher in the dry season could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide each year.

3. *Change a Light Bulb*

Wherever practical, replace regular light bulbs with compact florescent light (CFL) bulbs. CFLs last ten times longer than incandescent bulbs, use two-thirds less energy, and give off 70 percent less heat.

4. *Drive Less and Drive Smart*

Less driving means fewer emissions. Besides saving gasoline, walking and biking are great forms of exercise. Explore the public transport system, and check out options for carpooling to work and school.

When you drive, make sure your car is running efficiently. For example, keeping your tyres properly inflated can improve your gas mileage by more than three percent. Every gallon of gas you save not only helps your budget, it also keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

5. *Buy Energy-Efficient Products*

When it's time to buy a new car, choose one that offers good gas mileage. Home application now come in a range of energy-efficient models, and compact florescent bulbs are designed to provide more natural-looking light while using far less energy than standard light bulbs.

Avoid products that come with excess packaging, especially moulded plastic and other packaging that can't be recycled. If you reduce your household garbage by ten percent, you can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide annually.

6. Use Less Hot Water

Set your water heater at 120 degrees to save energy, and wrap it in insulating blanket if it is more than five years old. Buy low flow showerheads to save hot water and about 350 pounds of carbon dioxide yearly. Wash your clothes in warm or cold water to reduce your use of hot water and the energy required to produce it. That change alone can save at least 500 pounds of carbon dioxide annually in most households.

7. Use the "Off Switch"

Save electricity and reduce global warming by turning off lights when you leave a room, and using as much light as you need. And remember to turn off your television, video player, stereo and computer when you are not using them.

It's also a good idea to turn off the water when you're not using it. While brushing your teeth, shampooing the dog or washing your car, turn off the water until you actually need it for rinsing. You'll reduce your water bill and help to conserve a vital resource.

8. Plant a Tree

IF you have the means to plant a tree, start digging. During photosynthesis, trees and other plants absorb carbon dioxide and give off oxygen.

They are an integral part of the natural atmospheric exchange cycle here on Earth, but there are too few of them to fully counter the increases in carbon dioxide caused by automobile traffic, manufacturing and other human activities. A simple tree will absorb approximately one tonne of carbon dioxide during its lifetime.

From: Newsday Section B
Thursday April 22nd 2010



Heal the World—Awareness, Caring, Action.

What You Can Do

AT HOME

Be green in your yard



Use a push mower, which, unlike a gas or electric mower, consumes no fossil fuels and emits no greenhouse gases. If you do use a power mower, make sure it is a mulching mower to reduce grass clippings. Composting your food and yard waste reduces the amount of garbage that you send to landfills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

IN THE OFFICE

ENERGY STAR qualified products

When buying new products for your office at home or at work, get the features and performance you want and help reduce greenhouse gases and emissions of air pollutants. Look for ENERGY STAR qualified office equipment, such as computers, copiers, and printers, in addition to more than 50 product categories, including lighting, cooling equipment and commercial appliances.

ON THE ROAD

Tune your ride

A well-maintained car is more fuel-efficient, produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions, is more reliable, and is safer! Keep your car well tuned, follow the manufacturer's maintenance schedule, and use the recommended grade of motor oil. Also check and replace your vehicle's air filter regularly. For more details, including potential savings from these actions, visit the Fuel Economy Guide Web site.

AT SCHOOL

Don't waste

Don't waste water, take shorter showers after gym or physical education. Games such as water fight and balloon burst can waste a lot of water. Create games that are friendly to our environment. Have your class do a project that will help the environment. Keep your classroom and work areas litter free and remember to Reuse, Reduce and Recycle.

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