



CREATION CARE

"The world and all that is in it belong to
the Lord, and all who live on it are His."
Ps 24:1

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CONNECTED IN ONE WHOLE

{Being} indifferent to the whole of God's Creation represents a distortion of our biblical roots and an insensitivity to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our age. Both for the sake of our faith and for the survival of the environment we have to make radical changes in our understanding of what it means to be a Christian in relation to the rest of the Creation. Any counsel that suggests that Christians can simply ignore the desecration of the Earth by believing it will be destroyed anyway or that God only saves people's souls, flatly denies the truth of the Bible. Giving up the environment to the powers of destruction denies that the Earth is the Lord's and is in plain disobedience to the teaching of the biblical tradition that underlies the Christian faith.

A recognition that God loves this Creation should impel us to treat it with respect. We could expand the scriptural model of a steward and apply it to the whole relationship between humanity and the rest of Creation. If we understand humans as being *part* of that Creation, then we can learn how to live with it in humility and mutual interdependence. Living with the rest of Creation includes learning to live with the rest of humanity in a just and equitable way.

We are all bound together, connected in one whole of which the risen Christ is the heart and soul. ---Shantilal P. Bhagat

(Source - *Speak Peace: A Daily Reader* – 2017 Brethren Press)

"We have the choice to use the gift of our life to make the world a better place."

Dr. Jane Goodall, 1934 - 2025

TRUTH or Dare!

What we don't know can hurt us – especially in the long run. NCP doesn't shy away from facing the truth about our world, challenging all of us to dare to act for something better.

TRUTH: The world produces around 100 billion items of clothing annually, with half of these shirts, shoes, etc. discarded within a year. Goodwill and other companies await our used items, with 10-20% resold, half (700,000 tons) bundled and shipped to Global South for re-sale or disposal, and the rest ending up in landfills or incinerators here in the USA.

Over 30 countries have banned the importation of used clothing from the USA, as these items hurt tailors and textile industries, and diminish local culture.

And there are eco impacts: it can take 800 gallons of water to make a cotton t-shirt; 20% of global water pollution is from dyes used in clothing production; microplastics from polyesters enter the environment from weaving to wearing to washing.

DARE: Resist fast fashion, instead purchase better made, trend-resistant items; shop thrift stores; support NCP tailoring projects abroad.

(Source: New Community Project (NCP) newsletter, "As the World Turns." NCP is a nonprofit organization. Website: www.newcommunityproject.info; dradcliffncp@yahoo.com; 117 Nature Road, Blue Ridge, VA 24064)

BRETHREN CREATION CARE NETWORK

"Energy Stewardship More Critical Than Ever"

A transition in political leadership often brings significant changes with uncertain outcomes. The new presidential administration offers new questions and opportunities in how we conduct ourselves as a faith community.

In any transition, it is important to consider fundamental values that we use to inform our actions. Being stewards of God's creation, one fundamental is to be conscious caretakers of the resources the Creator has provided. Methods to make buildings more energy efficient are a route congregations can take to better steward their energy resources and free up some of their operational funds for ministry elsewhere. Members can also look at reducing energy use in their homes and contribute actions that enact stewardship on a wider scale.

Buildings, whether for residential or communal use, are often major energy consumers. Energy efficiency is therefore the starting point for any type of building project to save operational costs and decrease energy consumption. By implementing energy-efficient strategies, we can significantly reduce our carbon footprint, lower energy costs, and create more sustainable living and working spaces for the long-term.

(By Jonathan Stauffer, Science Teacher at Forrester (IL) Jr/Sr High School)