

Living Sustainably & Shaping our Gospel Mission & Witness

1. Title
2. Earthrise (Apollo 8, 1968). This photo helped to change our perception of the earth: the earth is a 'closed system' - nothing comes in except solar radiation and the occasional meteor; nothing leaves except some radiation. Adlai Stevenson 1965 speech: *'We travel together, passengers on a little space ship, dependent on its vulnerable reserves of air and soil; preserved from annihilation only by the care, the work, and the love we give our fragile craft.'*
3. So let's think for a moment of the Earth as a spaceship. This is one design for a spaceship to take people to Mars. It's obvious that for this to work the astronauts will have to take everything they need (except solar energy) and then live within the 'carrying capacity' of the spaceship. The Earth is much larger but the same principle applies. So we need to stop pursuing limitless economic growth and consumption, and instead figure out how to live within the earth's carrying capacity.
4. The Oxfam Doughnut: https://www-cdn.oxfam.org/s3fs-public/file_attachments/dp-a-safe-and-just-space-for-humanity-130212-en_5.pdf - a helpful model - defining the 'safe and just operating space for humanity'. We must live within the Earth's 'environmental limits' while maintaining the 'social foundation'. But now we are leaving an 'ecological footprint' of 1.5 planets <https://www.footprintnetwork.org/our-work/ecological-footprint/>; that is, we are currently using 50 percent more resources than our planet can regenerate to meet our current level of consumption. You may feel overwhelmed by the scale and complexity of the challenges we're facing - I have to say I hope you do. But just as there's no place for denial of what's happening, so we must avoid despair, thinking we can't make a difference.
5. So let's look at the low-hanging fruit - things we can do that will make a difference:
 1. Reduce our carbon footprint
 - Switch to a clean, renewable energy supplier
 - Reduce car use - use public transport, cycle, car share, go electric
 - Reduce what you can, offset the rest - eg <https://www.climatestewards.org/>
 - Waste nothing - a biblical principle - Bal Taschit (Deuteronomy 20:19-20) forbids the cutting down of fruit trees in order to assist in a siege in wartime. Over 1/3rd of food produced globally is wasted - if we don't waste food we can feed 10bn people. <https://olioex.com/food-waste/food-waste-facts/>
 - Reduce, re-use, recycle, upcycle - Zero waste economy.
 - Eat sustainably - 'use your LOAF': local/organic/animal friendly/ fair-trade. 'Make meat a treat'. Seaweed-fed sheep? Glasgow Fairtrade Cooperative. Support local organic food production. Avoid foods based on harmful use of chemicals. Make informed, ethical decisions about such things as GM crops.
 - Shop conscientiously - research where things come from & carbon/ecological footprints.
 2. Promote biodiversity/ make space for nature/ avoid monoculture
 - Personal space - window boxes, gardens - 'let bugs live'.
 - Community space - Plant trees for every baptism etc. Wilding (see next slide)
6. A Rocha - Wolf Fields, brown field land.
7. How can we encourage the practice of creation care?
 1. Worksheet for good Stewardship - helping each other to change habits
 2. Appoint an eco-warrior/ creation care advocate
 3. Build a team, to ensure ownership of new ideas, and continuity of good practice
8. Resources - Eco Congregation Scotland <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/>
 1. An environmental check-up for your church (or college)
 1. worship/liturgy, theology,
 2. children's and youth work, all-age education,
 3. church property, church management, church/college land,
 4. local and global action - support local sustainable farms/ businesses/ conservation groups and partner with missions and other agencies.
 5. personal (and community) lifestyle - renewable energy, offsetting etc.
 2. Seasonal packs, with worship resources, family activities and practical actions.
 3. Ethical finance and disinvestment movement. Use ethical banking, savings and pensions - go beyond avoiding the negative (ESG - Environmental, Social, Governance) - also support innovative start-ups.
 4. Glasgow and South Lanarkshire networks - or contact Eco-Congregation Scotland in Edinburgh or on line. Eco-Congregation events - 'love food hate waste' workshop.

9. Speak out and get involved
 1. Raise issues with government - non-violent protest?
 2. City of Glasgow has set a target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 - a 'Herculean task'. 61 recommendations: public transport, safe cycling, electric vehicles, low emissions zone, more charging points, heat pumps, more battery storage for wind turbines, solar panels now viable in Glasgow, plastic reduction strategy etc.
 3. UN Climate Change Conference - CoP26 (conference of the parties) to be held in Glasgow Nov 2020 - countries have committed to submit new and updated climate action plans. An opportunity for the UK & Scottish governments? And a Christian presence? Not just about mitigation, but the need to plan for adaptation - how can we help countries in dire straits?
10. Join a movement
 1. Christians working together - analogy of the abolition of slavery - a movement growing out of the evangelical revival/ 'great awakening' Wilberforce, Clarkson, Wesley and others - a small group having a big impact - need for perseverance - challenging vested interests, and challenging the argument that the economy could not survive without slavery. A similar argument is used today - 'we can't afford a sustainable economy!'
 2. Lausanne creation care network - linking Christians throughout the world with a heart for creation care <http://lwccn.com/>
 3. A Rocha - The Abernethy Centre at Barcaple in Dumfriesshire is a Christian outdoor adventure centre run by the Abernethy Trust in Dumfries and Galloway (SW Scotland). It became an A Rocha UK Partner In Action in the summer of 2017.
11. But what should be distinctive about our contributions as Christians?
 1. Lament and Repentance - things are not right, and we are part of the problem
12. 2. Wonder, Gratitude and Worship
13. 3. Hope and Boldness - substantial healing as a sign of the kingdom

CREATION CARE AND MISSION

14. The 5 Marks of Mission.
15. The Lausanne Cape Town Commitment <https://www.lausanne.org/content/ctc/ctcommitment>
16. How can creation care integral mission work in practice? Stages of a Work of Mission:
17. Stages 1-3 Praying about a work/ understanding the group's context/ gaining access - finding common ground with non-believers to build trust, and win a hearing for the gospel.
18. Stage 4 Sharing the good news - Water filters in SE Asia
19. Stage 5 Contributing to an Indigenous Biblical Church Movement - Waste recycling in Mongolia. Over 30,000 professing Christians in MN - in 1990 there was just a handful. Partnership between local couple (evangelists) who have an outreach to people with alcohol addiction, and a UK waste management consultant. He has been making regular short-term visits to help develop employment opportunities. Here is one example of their work - Ben is training people to recycle waste paper to make fuel bricks for heating and cooking; this encourages people to collect waste paper rather than throw it away; and it helps to reduce dependence on local coal, which has high sulphur content and leads to severe atmospheric pollution and ill-health in the long winters. This is an example of integral mission within a multi-national team. People are coming to faith in Christ, churches are being planted, employment opportunities are being developed and environmental challenges are being addressed.
20. Stage 6 Contributing to an Indigenous Missions Movement - Soil restoration/ cash crops. Training in sustainable agriculture, how to restore the soil; working to achieve reconciliation with the land, and between different peoples/interests.
21. Bible school - training pastors and cross-cultural missionaries, to be self sufficient and to train others in sustainable agriculture.
22. A church in Manila commissioning cross-cultural missionaries from a minority people group - integral mission - multiplication, not addition.
23. How can I engage in cross-cultural mission? Learn, pray, welcome, inspire, send, go. Different lengths of service.
24. Who can be a missionary? Everyone who is called and has a heart for mission! Contact Martin Paterson martin.Paterson@omfmail.com