



BLESSED EARTH

Serving God, Saving the Planet

2009 Annual Report

DIRECTOR'S REFLECTION



Dr. Matthew Sleeth

Greetings, brothers and sisters. May the joy and peace of Christ find you all well and with loved ones in this season of hope.

This is the time of year when we at Blessed Earth look back on the past year and celebrate the doors that God has opened and look forward to our work in the year ahead. This is also the time that we make **our one and only yearly request for your financial support**. Last year, we had a matching grant opportunity, which, thanks to your generosity, we met. We are pleased that once again this year we have a **matching gift opportunity**.

While this has been an unprecedented year of growth, the project we are most excited about is our **twelve-part creation care series**. The first six films, titled *Blessed Earth: Hope for Creation*, focus on the elements that God created—light, water, earth, the heavens, animals and finally man. The second DVD, *Blessed Earth: Hope for Humanity*, focuses on actions—beginning with Rest and ending with Hope. The series, along with individual and group curricula, will be released by Zondervan this spring in time for the fortieth anniversary of Earth Day. Partnering with the creative geniuses who made the *NOOMA* films (viewed by an estimated 45 million people), this project brings the highest quality pro-

duction values that have ever been used to educate and inspire viewers about creation care.

I had two “ah hah” moments during the weeks of filming. The first happened at the Los Angeles film site, where the previous 24 hours of set-up had been compressed on a video lasting 120 seconds. I watched in awe as dozens of workers, artists, grips, and electricians constructed a set that would allow us to expand our audience from thousands to millions. What seemed a far-fetched idea a few years ago is coming true!

The second moment came a month later when the crew was assembled in an ancient redwood grove. Beneath the 360-foot-tall, thousand-year-old trees, I was struck by the miracle of so many friends around the country praying for us.

Our efforts are now focused on developing a condensed version of the 12 films, which will be shown in theaters and churches across the country. Already denominations, universities, and the sixth largest theology school in the world have agreed to partner in this project. And we will be launching a powerful new web-based social network to support the effort.

We have been offered matching funds for getting this film to churches—but we need your help. Please give generously! Every fifty dollars contributed helps us get the film package and creation care message to one more church, campus, or youth group.

None of this would be possible without the Holy Spirit working through you who are praying for us, volunteering your time and talents, and supporting our work through your generous gifts. For this, and for all of God's gifts, we are grateful.

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew Sleeth, MD
Executive Director

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CHURCH SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Partnering with churches is a top priority for Blessed Earth. Below is a partial listing of churches with whom Blessed Earth has partnered.



- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Union Baptist Church
<i>Waterford, VT</i> | First Congregational Church
<i>Evanston, IL</i> | First Presbyterian Church of Monterey
<i>Monterey, CA</i> |
| Midway Hills Christian Church
<i>Dallas, TX</i> | River Road UU Church
<i>Bethesda, MD</i> | Los Gatos United Methodist Church
<i>Los Gatos, CA</i> |
| Arapaho United Methodist Church
<i>Richardson, TX</i> | Adat Shalom Synagogue
<i>Bethesda, MD</i> | The United Methodist Church
<i>Cincinnati, OH</i> |
| University Christian Church
<i>Fort Worth, TX</i> | Tennessee United Methodist Church
<i>Memphis, TN</i> | First United Methodist Church
<i>Wilmore, KY</i> |
| University Presbyterian Church
<i>Austin, TX</i> | Forest Heights Church
<i>Jackson, TN</i> | Glendale Baptist Church
<i>Nashville, TN</i> |
| Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church
<i>Houston, TX</i> | Jackson United Methodist Church
<i>Jackson, TN</i> | Alliance Church of the Nazarene
<i>Alliance, OH</i> |
| Christ Church Cathedral
<i>Houston, TX</i> | College Hill Presbyterian Church
<i>Cincinnati, OH</i> | Christ Episcopal Church
<i>Warren, OH</i> |
| Deer Park United Methodist Church
<i>Deer Park, TX</i> | First Presbyterian Church
<i>Evanston, IL</i> | All Saints Church
<i>Winter Park, FL</i> |
| St. Paul's United Methodist Church
<i>Houston, TX</i> | Chinese Bible Church
<i>Boston, MA</i> | Epic-Remix Church
<i>Pompano Beach, FL</i> |
| Cypress Creek Church
<i>Spring, TX</i> | Westminster Presbyterian Church
<i>Dayton, OH</i> | The Falls Church
<i>Falls Church, VA</i> |
| St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
<i>Beaumont, TX</i> | Grace Fellowship Church
<i>Timonium, MD</i> | Mount Olivet United Methodist Church
<i>Arlington, VA</i> |
| Ohavi Zedek Synagogue
<i>Burlington, VT</i> | Community Missionary Church
<i>Wilmore, KY</i> | Ocean Hills Church
<i>Santa Barbara, CA</i> |
| First United Methodist Church
<i>Burlington, VT</i> | Great Commission Fellowship
<i>Wilmore, KY</i> | Santa Barbara Community Church
<i>Santa Barbara, CA</i> |
| Damascus United Methodist Church
<i>Damascus, MD</i> | Smallwood Baptist Church
<i>Knoxville, TN</i> | The Brandermill Church
<i>Midlothian, VA</i> |
| National Council of Churches
<i>Washington, DC</i> | Church of the Savior
<i>Knoxville, TN</i> | Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church
<i>Indianapolis, IN</i> |
| St. Michael's Episcopal Church
<i>Arlington, VA</i> | Mars Hill Bible Church
<i>Grandville, MI</i> | Crossroads Christian Church
<i>Lexington, KY</i> |
| Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
<i>Bethesda, MD</i> | All Souls Church
<i>Knoxville, TN</i> | Second Presbyterian Church
<i>Lexington, KY</i> |
| St. Mark's Church, Capitol Hill
<i>Washington, DC</i> | Church Street United Methodist
<i>Knoxville, TN</i> | Dayton Presbyterian Church
<i>Dayton, OH</i> |
| Common Ground Lutheran Church of St. Andrew
<i>Wheaton, MD</i> | Central Baptist Bearden
<i>Knoxville, TN</i> | Disciples of Christ Regional Conference
<i>Fall Creek Falls, TN</i> |
| Saint Barnabus Episcopal Church
<i>Annadale, VA</i> | Culver Palms United Methodist Church
<i>Culver City, CA</i> | Chapelwood United Methodist Church
<i>Houston, TX</i> |
| Rock Spring UCC
<i>Arlington, VA</i> | Fairview Community Church
<i>Costa Mesa, CA</i> | Trace Williams Baptist Church
<i>Sugar Land, TX</i> |
| Gunnison Community Church
<i>Gunnison, CO</i> | Saint Luke's Episcopal Church
<i>Long Beach, CA</i> | Centenary United Methodist Church
<i>Lexington, KY</i> |
| Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
<i>Bethesda, MD</i> | St. Augustine's by the Sea
<i>Santa Monica, CA</i> | Hunter Presbyterian Church
<i>Lexington, KY</i> |
| First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn
<i>Glen Ellyn, IL</i> | Westminster Presbyterian Church
<i>Sacramento, CA</i> | |
| | First Congregational Church of Sonoma
<i>Sonoma, CA</i> | |

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

PROVERBS 22:6

Southland Christian Church
Lexington, KY

Christ United Methodist Church
Olean, NY

Baker United Methodist Church
East Aurora, NY

Christ the King Catholic Church
Athens, OH

KY Creation Care Conference
Louisville, KY

Madison St. United Methodist Church
Clarksville, TN

Brookside Wesleyan Church
Wellsville, NY

Disciples of Christ General Assembly
Indianapolis, IN

Trinity United Methodist Church
Birmingham, AL

Christ Church Cathedral
Lexington, KY

Christ Fellowship Church
Evansville, IN

Community
Lexington, KY

CAMPUS SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS



Sierra Student Coalition
Meriden, NH

University of North Texas
Denton, TX

Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX

Baylor University
Austin, TX

Texas Southern University
Houston, TX

Judson College
Elgin, IL

Wheaton College
Wheaton, IL

Rice Memorial High School
Burlington, VT

Gailer School
Middlebury, VT

St. Joseph's College
Rutland, VT

Middlebury College
Middlebury, VT

St. Johnsbury Academy
St. Johnsbury, VT

Good Shepherd School
St. Johnsbury, VT

University of Maryland
College Park, MD

Gordon College
Wenham, MA

University of Massachusetts
Dartmouth, MA

Wesley Seminary
Washington, DC

Capital University
Columbus, OH

Harvard Medical/NAE - Capitol Hill
Washington, DC

Asbury College
Wilmore, KY

Dordt College
Sioux Center, IA

Union College
Barbourville, KY

Lynden Christian School
Lynden, WA

Trinity Western University
Langley, British Columbia, Canada

Asbury Theological Seminary
Wilmore, KY

Andover Newton Theological School
Eliot, MA

Drew University Theological School
Madison, NJ

Grove City College
Grove City, PA

Plumstead Christian School
Doylestown, PA

Houghton College
Houghton, NY

Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN

Belmont University
Nashville, TN

St. Paul Christian Academy
Nashville, TN

West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV

Palm Beach Atlantic University
West Palm Beach, FL

Yale University
New Haven, CT

John Brown University
St. Siloam Springs, AR

Trevecca Nazarene University
Nashville, TN

University of California
Santa Barbara, CA

Westmont College
Santa Barbara, CA

Pacific Union College
Angwin, CA

Kentucky Wesleyan College
Owensboro, KY

Catawba College
Salisbury, NC

Abilene Christian College
Abilene, TX

Richland College
Dallas, TX

Northwest University
Kirkland, WA

Quincy College
Quincy, MA

Gardner-Webb University
Boiling Springs, NC

Northwestern College
Orange City, IA

Ohio University
Athens, OH

Southern Nazarene University
Bethany, OK

Hendrix College
Little Rock, AR

Campbellsville University
Campbellsville, KY

Lee University
Jackson, TN

University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY

OTHER SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

World Vision Headquarters
Washington, DC

American Academy of Environmental Medicine
Rockville, MD

Compassion Coalition
Knoxville, TN

Catalyst Conference
Duluth, GA

Ichthus Music Festival
Wilmore, KY

The Great Warming premiere
Burlington, VT

Solar Fest
Tinmouth, VT

Peace & Music Festival
Spring, TX

Sierra Club
San Francisco, CA

CELC Creation Care Forum
Bethesda, MD

Sierra Club Midwest Conference
Evanston, IL

Kentucky Solar Coalition
Berea, KY

Trust for the Future
Nashville, TN

Sierra Club Summit
Tucson, AZ

Greenbuild Conference
Chicago, IL

Kentucky Sierra Club Annual Conference
Louisville, KY

RCLI Leadership Encounter
Richmond, VA

Community Creation Care Retreat
Marriottsville, MD

Mayor's Sustainability Task Force
Knoxville, TN

Star Lake Environmental Studies Facility
Star Lake, NY

Conservation International
Crystal City, VA

Cherokee Health Systems Conference
Knoxville, TN

Church Solutions & Expo
Phoenix, AZ

Jubilee Conference
Pittsburgh, PA

Northland Creation Care Conference
Longwood, FL

United States Senate Value Actions Team
Washington, DC

City of Sumter Earth Day Celebration
Sumter, SC

South Carolina Jurisdiction of the UMC Faith-Based Environmentalism Conference
Fayetteville, AR

Living Lightly Festival
Muncy, IN

Spring Leadership Conference
Linden, TN

Flourish Conference
Duluth, GA

Kingdom Bound Festival
Darrien Lake, NY

Lexmark International
Lexington, KY

MEDIA COVERAGE



The 700 Club
Christianity Today
Relevant Magazine
Indianapolis Star
Publishers Weekly
Louisville Courier-Journal
United Methodist News Service
Christian Science Monitor
Grand Rapids Press
ReadtheSpirit.com
Abilene Reporter-News
EverydayChristian.com
San Francisco Chronicle
Tampa Tribune
Grist.org
Fort Worth Weekly
Baylor University's The Lariat
The Charlotte World
Birmingham Weekly
BreakPoint with Chuck Colson
Catalyst Space
Lexington Herald-Leader
The Lexington Examiner
Times Daily

WorldNetDaily.com
The Other Journal
Women's International Perspective
The Jessamine Journal
The Winchester Sun
Guideposts
Christian Retailing
Covenant Companion
St. Anthony Messenger
Today's Christian Woman
Religion News Service
Dallas Fort Worth Star-Telegram
TheGoodSteward.com
Creation Care Magazine
TruthOut
Washington Times
Waco Tribune
Beaumont Enterprise
Harlan Daily Enterprise
Austin Chronicle
Fort Worth Weekly
Seven Days
Altnet.com
Associated Baptist Press

Los Angeles City Beat
Bradenton Herald
The Huffington Post
Fort Wayne News-Sentinel
Connelville Daily Courier
The Tennessean
Good News magazine
Alan Colmes Radio Show
The Tavis Smiley Show
WKYT Television (Lexington, KY)
WLEX Television (Lexington, KY)
Audubon Magazine
Praxis Podcast
America Magazine
Along the Way Radio Show
Berea College Podcast Network
The GW Hatchet (George Washington University)
The Honolulu Advertiser
DevoZine
Living with Teenagers magazine
Ignite Your Faith magazine

CELEBRATING OUR DONORS

MESSAGE FROM OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

"I love the Book of James!" I said to Matthew, excited that my Sabbath reading began with one of my favorite chapters in the entire Bible. When I arrived at James 1:17, I paused: "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above."

This passage reminds me of **you**, our kind and faithful donors. In this season of thanksgiving, we are grateful beyond words for your gifts to us—gifts of prayer, gifts of friendship, and gifts of financial support. Your generosity has not only made our ministry possible; it has fed, nurtured, and allowed our work to thrive beyond our wildest dreams.

Listed below are the people that James, the brother of Jesus, instructs us to follow: "not hearers who forget, but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing." Thank you for not only hearing the message, but acting. We value each and every one of you and offer our humblest thanks.





Love and prayers,



Nancy Sleeth, Program Director



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-  *Founder's Circle* (\$10,000+)
-  *Gold* (\$2,500-\$9,999)
-  *Silver* (\$500-\$2,499)
-  *Bronze* (\$20-\$499)

*"The earth is the Lord's,
and everything in it, the world,
and all who live in it."*

PSALMS 24:1 (NIV)



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Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
Madison Street United Methodist Church



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 Lori Newman

Northridge Church
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 Sharon Phillips
 Phyllis Weare
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Blessed Earth would not exist without the generous gifts of people like you. The money you donate goes directly to helping people become better stewards of God's creation. All donations are 100% tax-deductible. Tax receipts are sent out at the end of every month.

Please send your contribution today:

Blessed Earth
 PO Box 227
 Wilmore, KY 40390

Blessed Earth film series launches April 2010

Blessed Earth is pleased to announce its forthcoming creation care film series. The two-disc set offers an interactive multimedia experience for churches, small groups and individuals working to become better stewards of the planet. Each set is accompanied by a 128-page workbook and leader's guide. The series launches in April 2010 for Earth Day.



BLESSED EARTH: PART 1 - *Hope for Creation*

In *Hope for Creation*, Dr. Sleeth explores his personal salvation experience and desire to follow Jesus in the context of the love story God tells “in the beginning.” Dr. Sleeth guides the viewer through each of the created elements—Light, Water, Soil, Heavens, Animals, and Man—and redefines what it means to save the planet. The film inspires viewers to reclaim their role in God’s creation story and embrace their original commission to follow Jesus by “tending and protecting the planet.” At the end of this series, you will have a new appreciation for the planet and a renewed connection to God’s heart for the world.



BLESSED EARTH: PART 2 - *Hope for Humanity*

In *Hope for Humanity*, Dr. Sleeth examines a spiritually and environmentally sustainable lifestyle in relation to six elements of life—Rest, Work, Give, Share, Teach, and Hope. Beyond changing lightbulbs and reducing fossil fuel consumption, viewers will be inspired to reflect on issues such as the role of technology in our lives and the need for rest. By modeling our lives after Jesus and following him wholeheartedly, the church will become our strongest proponent for “saving the planet.”



BLESSED EARTH

Serving God, Saving the Planet

Our 2009 Annual Report is printed
in accordance with our values:

100% recycled paper, vegetable-based inks, 99.9% removal of any chemical waste involved in the manufacture of the product, high-efficiency printing processes, and the use of wind or low-impact electricity for 100% of the energy required to print this document.