



BLESSED EARTH

Serving God, Saving the Planet

APRIL 2009 NEWSLETTER || WWW.BLESSEDEARTH.ORG || VOL. 1, NO. 3

April showers of new blessings!

Friends,

Spring has officially arrived, and the whole earth, it seems, is literally going green. Kentucky is known as bluegrass country, but I don't think I've ever seen fields so lush and verdant. It feels great to work outside and get our hands dirty in the earth.

Matthew and I have expanded our vegetable garden by about a third, and have planted peas (LOTS of them), spinach, potatoes, onions, and beets--with more to come. Later this spring, we will be hosting a neighborhood pea shelling party with music and fellowship--sharing our anticipated abundance with others and together putting up our harvested peas for the winter months.

April is usually our busiest month, and this year is no exception. Lots of speaking engagements, Earth Day celebrations, and exciting film projects are lined up. Best of all, in the beginning of May our daughter Emma finally comes home from serving in India!

Now that the weather is so irresistibly inviting, we are spending much of our leisure time outdoors, yet Matthew and I still make time to read.

This week I've been immersed in *Enough* by our friend Will Samson, which advocates "contentment in an age of excess." In



Pictured: Nancy Sleeth

these difficult economic times, we all need to redefine the meaning of wealth and become grateful stewards of God's green earth.

As my wise husband says, the problem lies not in us owning things, but in things owning us. *Enough* serves as a timely reminder not to confuse Christianity with Capitalism--and a refreshing invitation to begin banking in God's economy.

With every blessing,

Nancy Sleeth

Nancy Sleeth
Program Director



Creation Care Scripture

"Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case to the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice."

Micah 6:1

Green Tip of the Month

A common, but useful tip: As the weather begins to warm up, turn up your indoor thermostat just three degrees than it is outside -- and still stay cool! Save the planet, and save money!





Letters from you: How to have a 'free sale'

Marcie Kahler-Davis

Spring is rapidly approaching and, as we all know, that means it's time for Spring Cleaning! Spring also brings in the early waves of yard and garage sales. While I'm a big supporter of yard sales, sometimes they are more of a hassle than what they are worth.

One day my husband I just decided to have a free yard sale instead of a real yard sale. I just wanted stuff GONE and, personally, I hate doing yard sales. I like to shop at them, don't like to put them on.

For me, a yard sale means a long day of seeing your stuff picked through and dealing with pricing the items, setting it all out, advertising, making change, the chance of rainy weather, kids breaking your stuff, and the list goes on. I know I sound like a downer, but yard sales are a lot of work!

So instead of a yard sale, consider a Free Sale. They are much easier and less work. We posted an ad on Craigslist and Freecycle (free advertisements!) and kept an eye on the pile at the actual sale. Sure, every so often we would go out and make sure the pile wasn't all over the driveway, but mostly it was pretty easy. We watched with

giddy excitement as people pulled up and started loading what we consider junk into their cars. And besides, it saved me having to haul items to the Goodwill -- and who doesn't like free stuff!?

And why not do a Free Sale when so many people are out of jobs? We watch the news and wonder if there's anything we can do to help make things better for our country. If any of my things that are just lying around, they can be given to someone who needs them. A Free Sale can be my act of love toward those who are out of work.

Tips for Having a Successful Free Sale:

- Take pictures beforehand for an online ad. Having a picture to show how large your pile is will encourage people to come by.
- Put a lot of stuff out there! If you have just a few things, it won't be worth it for people to stop by.
- Post a BIG sign!
- Be clear what isn't free if you have to place items near things you don't want taken. I had one guy assume my 2 cars were also part of the Free Sale!
- List the items you have in your online ad. We had a ton of tile and people

flocked to get it.

- Update your online ad as much as possible. You don't want to upset anyone.
- Be honest. If you don't want people to email you about your pile, tell them in your ad. I had to state I would not hold anything, but I did update my ad as often as possible so as not to disappoint.
- Be real with yourself. When you start making your pile, ask yourself, "Do I really use/need/want this item?" If you can use it, keep it; if not, pile it up!
- Don't leave your pile unattended. Items might end up all over your front yard!
- Take down the online ad when your pile has dwindled down.

It is such a relief to have clutter gone. I can open drawers or closets and not cringe when I see all the excess stuff in there. So, this Spring rather than fretting about having a yard sale, consider a Free Sale! It's fun to see people get excited about something you have, but it's even more fun to have the clutter gone! ☺

To write a letter to Blessed Earth, please contact willsears@blessedearth.org.

Prayer & Praise

- For churches and nations around the world to use this economic slowdown as a time to rethink how we use God's resources and commit to becoming wiser stewards for future generations.
- For eyes to be open to see and ears to hear the creation care message that we share as we travel throughout the country during the weeks leading up to Earth Day.
- For hearts to be changed, so that Earth Week messages grow into life-changing commitments for serving God and caring for His creation.
- For strength, safety, and perseverance for our daughter Emma and friend Val, as they complete their last month of service in India.

MEDIA & SPEAKING EVENTS

April 1

Orange City, IA
Dr. Matthew Sleeth
Northwestern College
See website for times!

April 4

Linden, TN
Dr. Matthew Sleeth
Spring Leadership Conference
CLOSED EVENT

April 13

Wilmore, KY
Dr. Matthew Sleeth
Asbury Theological Seminary
6:30-8:30 p.m.

April 15

Athens, Ohio
Dr. Matthew and
Nancy Sleeth
Ohio University
Various Events

April 18

Louisville, KY
Dr. Matthew Sleeth
Kavanaugh Creation Care Conference
(Register)

April 19

Clarksville, TN
Dr. Matthew Sleeth
Madison Street UMC
Morning Services
(8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.)

April 23-26

Wilmore, KY
Dr. Matthew Sleeth
Oklahoma Society for Science & Faith
CLOSED EVENT

April 28

Berea, KY
Dr. Matthew Sleeth
Berea College
8:00-9:30 p.m.

Blessed Earth Stories of Triumph

Meet Ian and Carolyn Reilly

In March, Ian & Carolyn Reilly saved \$90 on their utilities bill by going green! Their major changes were line-drying clothes, being more mindful of turning lights off when they're not in the room, and taking shorter showers. Ian and Carolyn make their home in Gainesville, FL, with their three beautiful children -- and a fourth on the way!

Please contact us to let us know the ways you're learning to better steward God's creation! Your stories keep us going! **Contact us at contact@blessedearth.org**



Pictured: The Reilly Family



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OUR MISSION

Blessed Earth is an educational nonprofit that inspires and equips faith communities to become better stewards of the earth. Through outreach to churches, campuses and media we build bridges that promote measurable environmental change and meaningful spiritual growth.

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