



BLESSED EARTH

Serving God, Saving the Planet

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Harvest time: Counting our blessings!

Friends,

August 1 is always an exciting day in our home, because it's the birthday of both my mother and my daughter. May the Lord shower His blessings on them, and on everyone reading this letter.

This year, August brings along another celebration -- the beginning of work on our long-awaited creation care film series. We are busily writing scripts in preparation for two weeks of filming in September, and another week in October. In all, we will be developing twelve films and accompanying small group curricula. Working with some of the top film makers in the world, we'll begin distributing the series next spring.

Other news:

- The first of four Blessed Earth stories on *The 700 Club* was extremely well received. Watch for the next installment on August 10.
- *START: Becoming a Good Samaritan*, a wonderful new curricula resource focusing on five ways we can all start living more just and God-focused lives, is being released this month. Blessed Earth executive director Dr. Matthew Sleeth is the lead teacher in the creation care curricula. Powerful stuff!
- Matthew is also honored to lead the Green Track at the Disciples of Christ General Assembly in Indianapolis. One of the best parts of our ministry has been the chance to work with churches of nearly every denomination. We're excited now to start partnering with denomination-wide programs.



Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth

Our fall speaking schedule is coming together nicely -- a great balance of church, conference, and campus audiences. Looking forward to meeting new friends and strengthening partnerships as we share the creation care message around the country.

August is also a month to slow down and say thank you. We are deeply grateful for your prayers and on-going support. And we absolutely love hearing from you -- how you are making changes at home, work, in the community and beyond to become bet-

ter stewards of God's creation. Keep those cards and letters (and e-mails and video clips) coming!

With love and prayers,

Nancy Sleeth

Nancy Sleeth
Program Director



Creation Care Scripture

"O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens."

Psalm 8:1

Green Tip of the Month

Fire up the grill! 'Tis the season for fun barbecue gatherings with friends and family. Grilling keeps the heat outside and your kitchen cool. And, the food's great!





Letters from you: Floating for Faith

By Al Parker
Contributing Writer

Some people, in order to discover God, read books. But there is a great book: the very appearance of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Note it. Read it. God, whom you want to discover, never wrote that book with ink. Instead He set before your eyes the things that He had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that?
-- St. Augustine 354-430 A.D.

Ever feel the fascination of a toad vibrating in your hand? Ever wander through lush spring flowers and feel like there really is hope? Ever wonder about not just the names of trees, but of their character? Ever sit alongside a stream and have cares of this world washed from you? Ever revel in the power of a storm because you know the One that made it? Ever think about spending some time in a quiet place the way Jesus did?

In my youth, I was fascinated with all things growing, flowing, and living in the wilds. I had this incredible thirst to know who they were. That desire took me to studies of wildlife and work with re-introducing endangered species.

But it was not until I turned to Christ that I realized the joy I feel in the wilderness. God had used the created order of His world to reinforce His glory in my own heart. I began to see the Maker behind each living thing that I had learned to know like a friend. Hosea (4:3) tells us that animals are disappearing not because of...capitalism, or industrialism, or other "-isms"... but because "there is no acknowledgment of God in the land."

While watching a nest of eagles on a hillside awakening to spring, I realized that young people need time in nature to understand God the Creator. What better way to help them take hold of a faith in the Creator and Redeemer than to get them out in it? What better way to help them hold onto their faith than to help them see God in what surrounds them every day?

Our family had spent most of our vacations on river trips and had often shared the experiences with friends and families. We wondered, How can we make these river experiences available to others?

Psalm 71:17 convicted me of a calling, "Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvel-



ous deeds." In 2006, our family began the nonprofit Canoe Creation, a mobile stream and natural area guide service that teaches participants about the character of God "through the things He has made" (Romans 1:20).

Canoe Creation runs summer camps, river classes for schools, field and forest classes, youth group adventures, father-son trips, marriage retreats, field ecology classes for homeschoolers, and family vacation floats.

You can find out more about this river-based, faith-growing mission at canoecreation.org.

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

Prayer & Praise

Praises

- Abundant provisioning for our work, including the 12-film creation care series with Dot&Cross.
- Abundant signs that the Church is ready to embrace the creation care message.
- Abundant opportunities for partnering and sharing the creation care message.

Prayer Requests

- Vigilance and wisdom for being good stewards of new opportunities we are receiving as a ministry.
- God's grace as we continually strive to balance ministry, family and our relationship with Him.

MEDIA & SPEAKING EVENTS

Blessed Earth shared the creation care message on the following outlets during the month of July:

- July 2 Lexington Herald-Leader, "Choosing Good Green Living." Nancy Sleeth interviewed with Sharon Thompson about the joys of organic cooking with local foods while sharing the creation care message.
- July 8 The Winchester Sun, "Cleaner energy is a moral obligation." Dr. Matthew Sleeth is the subject of this article by Randy Patrick about the moral implications of not pursuing sources of renewable energy.
- July 10 700 Club, PART I: "Inside Green." Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth interviewed with Paul Strand in the first of four segments featuring Blessed Earth.
- July 29 Indianapolis Star, "The Doctor's Final Patient: The Earth." Dr. Matthew Sleeth is featured regarding his environmental and spiritual conversion.

Follow Blessed Earth in this and other media events in August:

- August 10 700 Club. PART II: "Outside Green." Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth interview with Paul Strand in the second of four segments featuring Blessed Earth.

Resource of the Month

ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR

An Energy-Saving
US Government Website

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.

Results are already adding up. Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved enough energy in 2008 alone to avoid emissions equivalent to those from 29 million cars -- all while saving \$19 billion on their utility bills.

WEB ADDRESS: www.energystar.gov



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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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