



BLESSED EARTH

Serving God, Saving the Planet

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Grateful for the past, excited for the future

Good news! Thanks to generous donors like you, we received the \$70,000 challenge grant funds in January. This money allows us to design a website, make a film, and hire a communications director. Our hope is to begin sharing the message with many, many more people than we can ever visit in person.

On Sunday, Matthew shared the creation care message at a large Baptist church in Sugar Land, TX. His message was so well received, they've already written to invite us back! Then Sunday night Matthew had a terrific time on a radio program called "Show of Faith." We've been told that it's the most listened-to talk show in Houston--and now we know why. The premise sounds something like a cliché bar joke--a priest, a rabbi, and a pastor...you get the idea. People call in with their faith questions (in this case, about creation care) and the three hosts and their guest have fun responding--learning, laughing, and sharing from three faith traditions.

The grand finale on Monday was a four-hour workshop with pastors. Hmm-mm...maybe it's a good thing that our new Director of Communications, Will Sears, is taking over my scheduling duties--he may be better at giving Matthew a chance to breathe between events.

The best part of Matthew's trip? A big banner at Mercy Street Church staying "This ain't your mother's Church. Clean up your own trash." Worst part? The twelve-lane highways and dome of smog that hangs over the city. The most hopeful part? To see people's attitude and behav-



Nancy Sleeth

ior change 180 degrees when for the first time they link loving God with caring for his creation. My favorite part: Getting Matthew home at midnight Monday night, just before the ice storm hit Kentucky!

See why we need to use film and media to share the message? We simply cannot get to all the places that want us to speak at live events. Our next big project is a 12-film creation care series with the guys who made the Nooma films for Rob Bell. We have half the funds promised, but they need to be matched. We are looking (praying!) for a generous donor, church,

or foundation that wants to partner on this exciting integrated media project and reach millions with the creation care message. Please email me if you want to learn more about the project.

With every blessing,

Nancy Sleeth

Nancy Sleeth
Program Director

Contact Nancy at nancy@blessedearth.org.

Creation Care Scripture

"Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind."

Psalm 107:15

Green Tip of the Month

People stay inside more in the winter. Instead of watching so much TV, spend more quiet time in God's Word and in loving conversation with friends and family.





Letters from you...

By Carolyn Reilly

Our family has not always been green. Some people who know us now are surprised to hear this when it comes up. Our family's story of moving toward greener living has been a faith-filled learning process.

I guess you could say we were a typical American family: husband and wife with three kids, decent income and living beyond our means. We were recycling and thought we were "doing our part" in caring for God's Creation, but the truth is, we were not being good stewards of all that He had given us, including our world. Over time and through different experiences we set out to save money and found that we learned along the way to be thoughtful caretakers of God's handiwork, this planet we call home.

More and more we have come to the realization that the path to living green begins in our heart and our mind. Truly, it is a choice. We consider every purchase that we make, now thinking through the sort of imprint we will leave; whether from the waste a product has, to energy it takes to recycle something.

Some of the most basic choices at the grocery store are items that are over-packaged. I have come to a point where

I cannot even buy gum because of the packaging and waste that it has. I instead choose to buy mints that are NOT individually wrapped in a tin (that can be recycled). We have also stopped buying paper towels as the messes we used them for could be cleaned just as well with a kitchen towel.

Our quest toward greener living eventually brought us to composting and beginning a garden. This effort helped us save on the garbage we were accumulating, and growing our own herbs was a huge money saver for great cooking! Another way we have moved toward greener living is by purchasing used items as opposed to new. From furniture to clothing, toys and décor, there are many ways to save money by going green.

This past fall, we heard about a new Bible on National Public Radio called The Green Bible. I mentioned that I would be interested in having this and, lo and behold, I received a copy Christmas morning. After reading the Introduction by Dr. J Matthew Sleeth, I had to share it with the entire family (and several friends, too!). We were so moved by his testimony and willingness to surrender an extravagant life to care for Creation. Dr. Sleeth's passion and zeal ignited us to look further into how can we greater make an impact, not only in our own

family, but in our community, our church, and our country.

God has stirred in our family a desire to help share Dr. Sleeth's timely message to those in our Church as I think that we Christians have been "behind the times" in acknowledging that God calls us to action in caring for the Earth. As Christians we see that moving towards green living is important for several reasons. First, we do have a planet that is in need of revival and care. Sadly, we are learning the consequences of past generations' lack of stewardship of God's Creation. Second, we are responsible for teaching the next generation how to be wise caregivers for creation. Third, and most importantly, we should actively obey God and honor the craftsmanship of His hands (Psalm 19:1). But will we? Let us rise to the call God has given us and believe that we will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living (Psalm 27:13). 🌱

Carolyn Reilly and her husband, Ian, make their home in Gainesville, FL, and enjoy the joys of parenthood with their three children (and another one on the way!). To write a letter to Blessed Earth, please contact willsears@blessedearth.org.

Prayer & Praise

🌱 Protection and safety for our daughter Emma and our son's girlfriend, Val. Emma and Val are in India for four months with the Dean Foundation, providing palliative care for people with terminal diseases.

🌱 A smooth transition for Will Sears, our new Communications Director. What a find! We already feel blessed!

🌱 A generous donor (quickly!) to match our promised \$240,000 funds so we can produce the 12-film creation care series--slated to be used by thousands of church groups in the coming year.

🌱 Safety in Matthew's travels, and open hearts and minds to receive the creation care message.

🌱 Humble hearts, bold spirits, and clear minds as we partner with you to care for God's beautiful, sustaining creation.

MEDIA & SPEAKING EVENTS

Feb 8

Lexington, KY
Dr. Matthew Sleeth
Centenary United Methodist Church
Morning Services
(8:30/9:45/12:30)
& Lunch
(12:30) at The Foundry

Feb 16-20

Houghton, NY
Dr. Matthew Sleeth
Houghton College

Feb 28

Lexington, KY
Dr. Matthew Sleeth
Hunter Presbyterian Church
Christian-Muslim Dialogue
(10am-12pm)

Feb 28

Lexington, KY
Dr. Matthew Sleeth
Southland Christian Church
Evening Service
(5:30pm)

Mar 1

Lexington, KY
Dr. Matthew Sleeth
Southland Christian Church
Morning Services
(8:30/10:00/11:30)
Evening Service
(6:08pm)



Meet our Director of Communications!

Joining Blessed Earth is our first director of communication, Will Sears, a December 2008 graduate from Asbury College. His degree in communication is backed by more than two years' experience in media relations, event planning, publication editing and design, project management and administration.

We have watched Will's passion for creation care grow over the last few months, and his desire to be a steward of what God has given him and all of us moved him to join our team. From a new website to videos to strategy to promotions of every kind, Will is already on the move! We welcome him with open arms and couldn't be more excited to see how God will use him to expand Blessed Earth in the months ahead.



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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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