



BLESSED EARTH

Serving God, Saving the Planet

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Walking boldly ahead for 2010

2010. It's a new year. I can't help noticing the evenness and symmetry of the number. Is it a good thing to make New Year resolutions? Is it biblical?

I was recently reading an article that compared and contrasted Judaism and Christianity with other forms of religion. Our God may not live in time, but He is fundamentally interested in time. Ours is not a belief in an ever-recycling universe, but one that came into existence at a Word -- and one that moves toward a definite end. We are not accidents, but beings with a God, a purpose, and an expiration date--at least for this body.

So both personally, and as a ministry, Blessed Earth has set goals for the New Year. To reach our goals we will need more prayer and resources, and more help from God, than ever before.

Personally I want to be a better father, husband, and servant of Christ. I want to read the Bible aloud every day with Nancy. I want to grow up spiritually. Pray for this.

Blessed Earth has goals, too. We are no longer a "mom and pop" ministry; God has opened doors we never imagined. One of our boldest goals for 2010 is a nationwide simulcast premiere of the **Blessed Earth film series**. The event will take place on **Wednesday, April 21**, the evening before the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, when many churches are

already gathered for small group studies. **One event. One night. One movie.** THE Christian answer to caring for God's creation.

Our goals? To have **at least 100 universities, 1,000 churches, and 1,000,000 online viewers participate in the event.**

How will we reach these goals? Only with God's help, and yours. Different Drummer -- the promoters of such films as Disney's Earth, Amazing Grace, and Hillsong United's simulcast -- has agreed to coordinate the Wednesday, April 21, event. Asbury Seminary is providing logistical, financial, and manpower support. Churches in three major cities have agreed to serve as "anchor" sites for the event. We have at least four denominations supporting the event from the highest levels down (and up!), and many more will be added. Zondervan Publishing (publishers of *The Purpose Driven Life*) Dot&Cross (the makers of Rob Bell's popular *Nooma* series), and HarperOne are serving as financial and work partners. And we are beginning talks for a possible simulcast television viewing.

But most of all, we need your help. How? **Volunteer to serve as the April 21 point person for your church or college.** Invite your small groups, youth groups, and bible study groups to attend. If you want to widen the circle, invite other churches... and neighbors who may love creation,

but don't know the Creator. We will give you everything you need to make the April 21 event a success -- flyers, bulletin announcements, a trailer, and hands-on help. **All you need to do to get started is email simulcast@blessedearth.org** -- we'll have a "plan in a can" ready soon!

These are lofty goals and resolutions, but already we have overwhelming evidence of God's faithfulness. This is the year for the Church to awaken to our Genesis 2:15 calling -- to protect and serve God's planet as his obedient hands and feet on the planet--the stewards of creation.

As Caleb and his companions said, There are giants in the land -- BUT, the grapes are really big. It is time to go forth boldly in the secure knowledge of our loving God.

I pray God's grace upon you as you approach the New Year--and invite you in the name of Jesus to help Blessed Earth meet the goals we have been called to in 2010.



Your brother in Christ,

Matthew Sleeth, MD
Executive Director

Creation Care Scripture

"Then the One seated on the throne said, 'Look! I am making everything new!'"

Revelation 21:5

Creation Care Tip of the Month

Resolve to be a better steward of God's creation for 2010. Visit BlessedEarth.org's Resources/Downloads page to find our Sustainable Lifestyle Covenant, where you can commit to a year of better stewardship of the earth.



Letters from You

THREE GREEN PEAS AND TWO PENNIES

"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." Psalm 46:10

By Zadie K. Ryan
Contributing Writer

I am easily overwhelmed by many things such as a menu of many choices, a department store of many clothes, a gift shop, a flea market, household lists of things to do, the many chapters in the Bible, praying for many people and situations, the needs of so many people and the list goes on and on.

At the age of three my son did not like to eat anything that was green. I would put one green pea on his plate for him to eat. Later I put two green peas and then three green peas. He seemed to think that was enough, and I knew that it was good to eat three green peas.

When my dad and mom were first married in 1933, they lived with my paternal grandparents on the family farm. My dad milked the cows and saved the cream, which he took to the country store on Saturday to sell and buy staples such as flour, sugar and salt. One Saturday when he returned home he had two pennies left. When he asked my mom what they were going to do with two pennies, she said, "Give them to the church; they can always use them." She knew that giving God two pennies with a heart of love and compassion would help in His kingdom.

These two stories have become very important to me as guidelines for tackling big, overwhelming needs that I see daily in God's beautiful world.

My journey with reducing, reusing and recycling began very small with recycling aluminum cans about 10 years ago. Slowly I began to recycle other things such as cardboard and glass. In



2006 I read Dr. Matthew Sleeth's book, *Serve God and Save the Planet*. It was an encouragement to do more. I began drying at least one washer load of clothes per week on a drying rack inside or outside, if weather permitted. When I first started using the reusable shopping bags, I would not always remember to take them into the store. Now after five years, it has become a great habit and I seldom forget. At this point in 2010 I have graduated to recycling all that I can, using compact fluorescent light bulbs, and turning down the thermostat two degrees in the winter and up two degrees in the summer. I continue to add new things to my list.

As we have heard many times, it doesn't take a few people doing a lot; it takes a lot of people doing a little to make a difference. As my faith journey grows and deepens, I am learning that I do not have to do it all - just do what God calls. Small amounts add up to large amounts when we all join in together to work in God's Kingdom.

The philosophy of three green peas and two pennies has become a constant in all that I do. If a job seems too big, I break it down and do a little at a time. A little becomes a lot when doing God's work -- and everything is God's work. ☺

Zadie K. Ryan is a homemaker, mother to three sons and grandmother of four girls. She enjoys volunteering, helping others, reading and knitting with all natural fiber yarn. Zadie and her husband, Pat, reside in Lexington, KY, where they are active members in the Centenary United Methodist Church.

Prayer & Praise

- ☺ Prayers for at least 100 campuses and 1,000 churches and 1 million online viewers to sign on for the simulcast.
- ☺ Prayers for a successful Blessed Earth board meeting on January 15 and 16.
- ☺ Prayers for open hearts and minds at upcoming speaking engagements. (Nancy especially asks for prayers for her January 15 chapel talk at Asbury College.)
- ☺ Praises for tremendous response to our once-a-year fundraiser. We met the matching goal again this year. Thank you for your generous support!
- ☺ Praises for Different Drummer, a top-notch film marketing company, signing on to help launch the film series.
- ☺ Praises for the completion of two 128-page curricula that accompany the film series!

SPEAKING EVENTS



JANUARY 2010

Asbury College	Wilmore, KY	Jan. 15
First Presbyterian Church	Richmond, KY	Jan. 27
Central Christian Church	Marshalltown, IA	Jan. 30, 31

*Full speaking calendar available at BlessedEarth.org.

To request a speaking event, contact speaking@blessedearth.org

Blessed Earth Resource of the Month

Bethany Barker's Green Food Blog

A close friend of Blessed Earth, Bethany Barker has long enjoyed preparing local, organic foods for her family and community. Now, she shares her favorite seasonal recipes for meals, drinks, snacks and desserts at Blessed Earth Online.

Recent entries include:

"Baked Oatmeal for Christmas Morning"
"Pumpkin Pancakes and Black Bean Bisque"
"Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Muffins"

For healthy, delicious treats that keep God's creation in mind, give Bethany's blog a visit today.

<http://www.blessedearth.org/blogs/bethanysblog/>



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.

Web: www.BLESSEDEARTH.org
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