



BLESSED EARTH

Serving God, Saving the Planet

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Planting new seeds for the future

May is a time of hope and new beginnings. And a time for gardening. Grace, our 15-year-old neighbor, helped me plant hundreds of zinnias, cosmos, and bachelor buttons—and prayed over each seed to bloom in time for our son's June marriage. A friend brought us a wonderful assortment of heirloom tomato plants, and our peas, bush beans, onions, potatoes, carrots, spinach, and lettuce are all well established. Even after two decades of vegetable gardening, I still marvel at God's transformation of a little seed into food for our table.

In the same way, I stand in awe of how the humble seed for the Blessed Earth film series and simulcast grew into food for the Church's soul. Despite a few first-time technical glitches, 45 countries and 2,600 groups join us—unleashing an international movement to make "Earth Day a Church Day."

And there is more good news: if you were not able to participate on Earth Day, you can still watch the simulcast on our website—and then share it with others. We are already hearing great feedback from church groups using Blessed Earth's new film series; start your own Hope for Creation study this summer, and let us know how it is transforming your life...and the life of your church!

And the work continues! In the short time since the simulcast, we've shared the Blessed Earth vision from Kansas City to Louisiana to Chicago to St. Louis. In the midst of her last weeks of college, our daughter Emma presented two talks—one as the keynote speaker for the local annual



banquet of Gideons, and one with hundreds of African American high school students in Kansas City—two very different audiences, but a shared message of hope!

While visiting Blessed Earth friends in Lafayette, Louisiana, I was honored to help the local gardening club and a Girl Scout troop plant a butterfly garden. We also visited the nesting grounds for thousands of migrating birds in the bayou -- wildlife that has been devastated by the recent oil spill.

Matthew gave an extremely well received 24:6 talk on Sabbath rest at the Q conference—a gathering of more than 600 evangelical leaders in Chicago. And for the last two days I've led workshops on "Downsizing Your Life" at the bi-annual conference in St. Louis for the United Methodist Women.

On a personal note, Matthew and I are delighted to share two milestones in our lives. Emma, 19, is graduating from Asbury this week, with a double major in English and history. Our son Clark, who is about to enter his third year of medical school, will marry Valerie on June 19. Last spring, Emma and Val spent five months in India caring for the terminally ill—so they are already "sisters." We could not be more proud of all our children, and join you in celebrating the graduations, weddings, and other happy occasions in your lives. We serve an awesome God!

With every blessing,

Nancy Sleeth
Program Director



Green Scripture (Hosea 2:18)

"I will make a covenant for them on that day, with the beasts of the field, with the birds of the air, and with the things that crawl on the ground. Bow and sword and war I will destroy from the land, and I will let them take their rest in security."

Green Tip of the Month

Plant an edible garden, and watch your savings grow! By growing your own vegetables and herbs, you'll save money while encouraging your family to eat healthier throughout the summer.





Prayer Walk for God's Creation

By Rev. Mitch Hescox
Evangelical Environmental Network

The Creation Care Walk is over. I don't know whether to celebrate or cry. The past 18 days have altered my life. The greatest impact came on Tuesday morning. We approached the United States Capitol and climbed "The Hill." Suddenly the presence of the Risen Lord fell on me. As I climbed the Capitol steps I laid my Bible on the granite and knelt in prayer.

I prayed for our nation, God's creation, and the poor being overwhelmed by our lack of care for the creation. Tuesday was two days after Pentecost, and I asked our Lord for the presence of the Spirit for the day. I also prayed for a changed heart for our nation. I have come to understand the miracle of creation is in serious jeopardy. The very creation that was anointed to provide us shelter, food, water, and livelihoods is being destroyed minute by minute and day by day. Yet in the presence of selfishness, lack of concern, and yes "even greed, I sense hope. Hope that a new Pentecost is happening. Hope that the Holy Spirit is transforming people to care for creation and for care for the least of God's children. Hope that a new day is coming and that the Church is rising-



up to face its greatest challenge and hope that the church will be successful as we are transformed into disciples of the Risen Lord.

Today, we begin a new journey " a pilgrimage offering hope with the sure, clear, and present knowledge that Jesus Christ is with us, guiding us. Knowing fully that through Him all things are possible. Let's receive the Holy Spirit and do greater works than Jesus accomplished, while keeping His

creation. Let's fulfill the command to go into all the world and make disciples teaching them to obey everything He commands.

Thank you for your support of the Creation Care Walk and look for an announcement next week on The Creation Care Walk 1.5 " The We CareTour traveling, listening, and caring for God's children affected by the Gulf Oil Spill.



A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL CREATION CARE INSTITUTE



A ROCHA

Caring for God's World Together

Join friends from all over the world at A Rocha's annual Creation Care Institute. With guest speakers, special music, and an array of resources, the institute will arm you and your community to care for creation!

Find out more at <http://arocha.org>.

Resource of the Month

YOUR STORIES on BlessedEarth.org!

Now it's even easier to share your creation care journey with the world!

On the brand new Blessed Earth website, you can now submit your story in our YOUR STORY module. Enter your basic information, video clips, photos or images and your testimony -- then click on "submit!" It's that simple!

Your stories not only give us the inspiration and confirmation to continue our ministry, but they inspire the thousands of people who visit our website every month.

Submit your story today at
<http://blessedearth.org/yourstory>.



The screenshot shows the 'SUBMIT YOUR STORY' page on the Blessed Earth website. The page has a dark green header with the logo and navigation links: ABOUT, NEWS & BLOGS, RESOURCES, EVENTS, and YOUR STORY. Below the header is a white form area. On the left, there's a 'SUBMIT YOUR STORY' button and a 'RECENT STORIES' list with titles like 'YOUR STORY: REFLECTION ON HOPE FOR CREATION' and 'RUNNING AHEAD FOR CREATION'. The main form area on the right is titled 'SUBMIT YOUR STORY' and includes a search bar, a 'Use the form below to submit your story.' instruction, and several input fields: Full Name, City, State/Province, Country, and Email. There are also sections for 'Photo Upload' (with a 'Choose File' button and file format/size restrictions), 'Video URL' (with an 'http://' prefix), 'Give your story a title', and a 'Tell Your Story...' text area.



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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