

BLESSED EARTH

Serving God, Saving the Planet

OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER || WWW.BLESSEDEARTH.ORG || VOL. 1, NO. 9

Trusting God for more breathing room

Dear Friends,

“Thank God for Leonardo DiCaprio!”

This is our daughter’s new favorite saying -- it just came out of my mouth last week. I think Emma is tickled because it is so not me.

But I was being sincere. I really was thanking God, because DiCaprio wants to use the abandoned warehouse where we were scheduled to shoot our first six creation care films. Our film producer had negotiated a great deal for using the location but, apparently, with the caveat that we could be bumped if a studio offered to pay full price.

So our schedule got moved back two weeks. Praise God! This little bit of breathing room has allowed us to fine-tune the scripts and focus on the many, many details that go into making great films.

Of course, this is all pretty much new territory for Matthew and Blessed Earth. But by God’s grace, we find ourselves partnering with some of the most talented people in Christian films. They believe this will be their most powerful film project yet -- which is saying a lot. We have full faith that God will use their creative talents, and Matthew’s compelling content, to spread



Above: Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth

the creation care message on an unprecedented level.

So I am asking for your prayers -- prayers for protection for the thirty or so people involved on the set, prayers for Matthew as he diligently learns and delivers the messages for the first six films, prayers that people working together on the films may experience the love of God, and prayers that people watching the films may have

their hearts moved.

We thank God for all of our Blessed Earth friends. You are an encouragement to us, and a constant source of inspiration. With every blessing,

Nancy Sleeth

Nancy Sleeth
Program Director

Creation Care Scripture

“My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.”

Isaiah 32:18

Green Tip of the Month

If you’re shopping for sweaters, jackets, or other fall/winter wear, start at your local secondhand store. It’s not just price, it’s putting perfectly good clothing back to use, rather than consuming fresh resources.





LETTERS FROM YOU

By **John Humphreys**
Contributing Writer

All of us want to help God's world -- reaching out to the dispossessed and impoverished, fighting to keep the beauty of His creation unsullied -- but the devil is always in the details. We have to work within the constraints of our lifestyle, our relationships and our pocketbooks and begin to ask ourselves, "How radical can I be?"

My wife, Nancy, and I have quite different preferences for night-time temperatures. Our bedroom sits over the garage and is the hottest part of the house. Nancy cannot sleep at all if nighttime temperatures exceed 74°. Because of the inefficiency of our air-conditioning, we have to set the thermostat lower than that and run every fan we can find full-blast.

Meanwhile, of course, I shiver under the bedclothes.

What am I to do? To cherish my wife is a deep biblical mandate (and I want to anyhow!), so I am not about to tell her to knuckle down to the discomfort of high indoor temperatures. But I agonized this last July and August over the pollutants all the coal-burning power stations emitted on my behalf. And I tried to forget those people in Appalachia being dumped on by mountaintop removal.

So, eventually, Nancy and I took the moral high ground and switched to 100% renewable electricity (<http://www.theenergy.coop>). It is fortunate that we both agree on the importance of environmental stewardship, and we are grateful to be able to afford to make some changes -- large and small -- that make a big difference.

First, don't give up. God smiles when we do the right thing. Even if all seems lost, we must fight on the side of what is right. Shifting from a comfortable lifestyle to a life that honors God's creation isn't always convenient or comfortable.

Secondly, you will actually make money if you use com-

pact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. Just compare the electricity bills! Admittedly, I found their slow 'warm-up' a little strange at first; and some lights can be difficult to replace. But each bulb helps, and that electricity saved means less pollution all around.

Third, cut back on your use of plastics. Most supermarkets recycle plastic bags nowadays. I save every bit of flimsy plastic: plastic bags that held the veggies in my grocery shopping, the plastic bags wrapping my daily newspaper...And at the end of each month or so, I take a HUGE bagful to my local Acme. This garbage is therefore prevented from choking sea turtles and trashing God's planet. Such efforts cost you nothing!

Fourthly, if you have a yard of any size, plant easy-to-grow veggies (beans are a cinch) and surround them with native perennials. Food and butterflies for free! Remember to compost all the weeds, veggies and coffee grounds you can, too. Our flowers never looked better with the free fertilizer that results from my enthusiastic composting.

Finally, be a 'hyper-miler' in your car. If you avoid exceeding 2000 rpm and dream your speed-racer dream in your head and not on the gas pedal, you'll cut way back on fuel consumption and emissions. I also find taking the train buys me precious reading and contemplation time as well as giving me an opportunity to meet other people. Remarkable, eh?

So, we do small things, and we occasionally pluck up the courage to do some of the bigger things. And we are blessed. Join us in doing the same.

John Humphreys is a dear friend of Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth. Biochemist and conservationist, John works in the pharmaceutical software field. He loves all aspects of natural history, especially birdwatching. He lives in Doylestown, PA, with his wife, Nancy. ☺

Prayer & Praise

Prayer Requests

- ☺ For protection around Matthew as he prepares and delivers his message live and on film.
- ☺ For God's love to fill the hearts of everyone on the film set.
- ☺ For humility in all we speak and do.

Praises

- ☺ An answered prayer: filming the second half of the creation care series in the Redwoods.

Would you like us to pray for something close to your heart? Please submit your requests to prayer@blessedearth.org today.

MEDIA & SPEAKING EVENTS

PRESS EVENTS

Birmingham Weekly: "New-age testimony: getting green with Jesus." September 3, 2009. Dr. Matthew Sleeth interviews with Jesse Chambers about the story of Blessed Earth and the creation care movement. [<http://digg.com/u1DPIK>]

Relevant Magazine Online: "Green Living Saves Green." September 29, 2009. Nancy Sleeth talks with Alyce Gilligan about ways to make green living more than a fad, but a lifestyle that saves the earth and money. [<http://digg.com/u1DPJ8>]

To schedule an interview, contact press@blessedearth.org

SPEAKING EVENTS

Catalyst Conference	Duluth, GA	October 7
Christ Church Cathedral	Lexington, KY	October 11

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

Tools for Change: Web Site of the Month

ENERGY STAR for Congregations

Most congregations can cut energy costs by up to 30% by investing strategically in efficient equipment, facility upgrades and maintenance.

With free, unbiased information and technical support from ENERGY STAR, your congregation can more easily improve stewardship of your budget's energy dollars, and of the earth by reducing energy waste and energy costs, while protecting the environment. ☺

For more information visit the ENERGY STAR for Congregations Web site:

<http://tinyurl.com/esfcongregations>

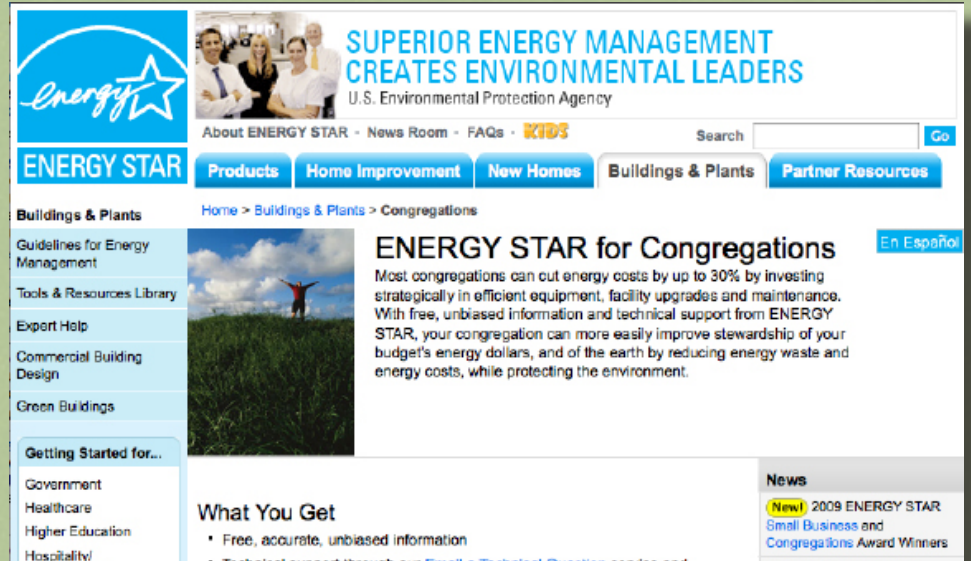


Photo by Jeff Rogers Photography

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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