

BLESSED EARTH

Serving God, Saving the Planet

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God's miracles are in the making

Friends,
August is traditionally a relatively slow month, but not so this year! With production for the 12-film creation care series scheduled to begin in September, we have found ourselves working intensively with the creative geniuses at Dot&Cross (the creators of Rob Bell's NOOMA series, which has been viewed by an estimated 35-45 million people) to develop content and write scripts. Principal filmmakers Santino Stoner and David Wenzel came down to Wilmore for a few days late last month, where we filled the largest white boards at Asbury Seminary, mapping out how each of the creation care films relates to God's story, our story, and the viewer's story. Even our daughter Emma participated in the work sessions -- nice to have a college student's input, since the twenty-something audience is one we hope to reach out to with our 40/40 Vision Campaign (\$40,000 in prizes for the most innovative creation care programs on campuses and in church groups in the 2010-2011 academic year, in honor of the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day -- more details in coming newsletters!).

Working and fellowshiping with Santino and David has been pure joy and a clear answer to prayer. Two years ago, our next-door-neighbor lent us a NOOMA film, and Matthew went wild over the beauty and power of the production. Just a few weeks later, through God's incredible network, we were visiting a friend in Michigan, who asked us to join him in Grand Rapids to meet some filmmaking friends for dinner. Who did we find ourselves sharing the evening with? None other than the producers of the NOOMA films! They read Matthew's book, immediately grasped the importance of the message in every aspect of our Christian walk, and asked us to partner in a creation care series. It has taken two years to get the funding and logistics worked out -- but God's timing is perfect. The films will be released next spring just as we approach the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.



Dot&Cross has begun to work with Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth to outline each of the 12 films for the upcoming film project, *The Green Commission* (April 2010). Pictured: Dot&Cross partners Corey Petrick, David Wenzel, Santino Stoner, Brett VanTil.

Mixed in with these miracles (how else would we be working with the most talented team in Christian filmmaking!) is some sobering news. A couple of months ago, David Wenzel (age 27, a Cedarville University grad), our dear friend and the creative director at Dot&Cross, banged his head in an accident and had a seizure. When the physicians scanned his brain, they not only found a concussion, but a large brain tumor. The tumor is intertwined like chicken wire through the communication area of his brain and is therefore inoperable. If the doctors use radiation, they may also permanently injure David's ability to communicate -- which is what he does for a living. So David is giving God and prayer a few months to work a miracle.

One part of the healing process is freeing up David to do what God is calling him to do -- to not only share Matthew Sleeth, Rob Bell, Tim Keller, and Josh Shipp's stories, but to share his own as well. God (and people like you) has opened up

opportunities for David to speak about the meaning of illness from a faith perspective. David is one of the most dynamic speakers you will ever run into, so please visit www.jumpdavidjump.typepad.com to read more about his story and contact him directly at david@andcross.com to relay specific speaking requests (campus, church group, etc). When possible and desired, Matthew can join David to share about the meaning of illness from a Christian physician's perspective. Most importantly, please join us in praying for a complete and miraculous recovery for our dear friend and filmmaking colleague, David Wenzel.

With every blessing,

Nancy Sleeth
Program Director

Contact Nancy at nancy@blessedearth.org.



LETTERS FROM YOU

By **Kimberly Button**
Contributing Writer

“Thanks be unto God for his amazing gift, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God is the object of our faith; the only faith that saves is faith in Him.” John 6:36

At the very heart of Christianity is faith. Faith that the Lord our God is an awesome God, faith that God is always in control, faith that God knows what’s best for us and faith that God loves us, no matter what.

So many daily decisions rely on faith - faith in something or someone. But do we consider just how much faith we’re putting in industry - which is of this Earth - without question, yet possibly struggle to have continuous faith in God?

When we pour milk over our child’s bowl of cereal, we have blind faith that the food is healthy and that it has been tested for safety. When we take a shower and use shampoo and soap and shaving cream and a whole host of personal care products too numerous

to name, we’re trusting that all of the products have been adequately and carefully tested. If we spray herbicides or fertilizers on our lawn and garden, we believe that those products wouldn’t be sold if they were actually found to be damaging to our child’s or pet’s health...and our water supplies.

Yet as Christians wanting to protect the Earth and its inhabitants, we can’t always put our trust in man-made entities. Some crops in our food supply are being irrevocably altered from God’s design by artificially tinkering with genetics. Some personal care products contain a slew of chemicals, 90% of which have surprisingly never been tested for human or environmental safety. Chemical-based fertilizers and other lawn care products have been found to be slowly killing our oceans.

Our society has put too much faith in the industries and companies that bring us things of this world, while questioning the one whom we should be putting all of our faith in -- God.

Going green and striving to protect God’s perfect creation can be a test of our faithfulness. Each of us can make a positive dif-

ference in this world by being vigilant about where we place our trust.

Kimberly Button is a friend of Blessed Earth and the founder of greenWell, an eco-wellness company helping families and businesses create healthier, greener living and working environments. For more information, visit www.getgreenbewell.com and www.greenwellconsulting.com.



Prayer & Praise

☞ We are making exciting progress on our 12-film creation care series.

☞ A scaled-back travel schedule allows Matthew to have a more balanced workflow.

☞ We are calling upon God’s creativity and wisdom as we produce a high volume of new content for several projects in a short time.

☞ Having a spirit of humility is critical for our ministry as we step to a new level of responsibility for bearing the creation care message.

☞ As we seek innovative means of sharing the film series, we ask for God’s inspiration and guidance.

MEDIA & SPEAKING EVENTS

PRESS EVENTS

Blessed Earth was featured in the following media outlets for the month of August:

August 10

700 Club

“Outside Green”

<http://digg.com/u1AIUd>

August 23

Religion News Service

“Churches sow seeds of love”

<http://digg.com/u1BnY2>

To schedule an interview, contact press@blessedearth.org

SPEAKING EVENTS

September 10

Lexmark, Inc.

Lexington, KY

Wilmore Creation Care

Wilmore, KY

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



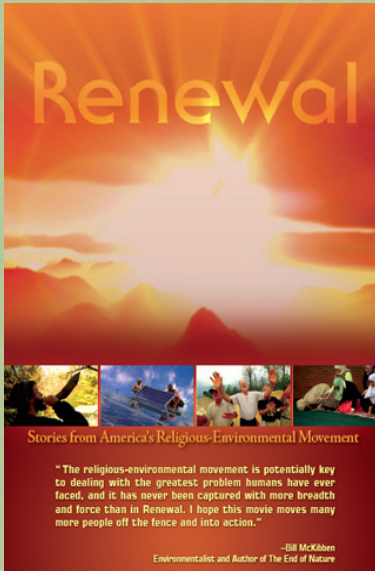
Tools for Change

RENEWAL: An 8-part documentary DVD

Need a new resource to use with a youth group or Sunday school class on creation care? Check out the new video documentary, *Renewal*. We recommend that you preview the 90-minute, eight-part documentary, then select two or three segments to use with your group.

Renewal includes segments on:

- A Crime Against Creation
- Going Green
- Food for Faith
- Ancient Roots
- Compassion in Action
- Eco-Justice
- Sacred Celebration
- Interfaith Power and Light



Renewal is filled with stories of people like you and me who are caring for God's creation based on a Scriptural call for action. Unlike many environmental documentaries that project a gloom and doom message, *Renewal* will fill you with hope and inspiration. Visit renewalproject.net for more information and curricula tools.

For more information visit the *Renewal* website: renewalproject.net

Creation Care Scripture

"The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him."

Psalm 107:15

Green Tip of the Month

Greening up your office can be as simple as organizing a recycling system that works, setting your printer's default to two-sided printing, using real dishes, mugs and silverware, or moving more communications to non-paper media.



Stock Image

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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