

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group April 2013

This month, in honour of Earth Day on 22nd April, we reflect on God's creation, our responsibility for it, and how environmental degradation and changing climates forces people from their homelands.

The well-known iconic photograph of our planet taken from space shows a bright orb, insignificant in the vastness of the cosmos as we now know, but very beautiful nonetheless. Our home in the galaxy! We humans are so minuscule, so little, so insignificant in comparison with the vastness of space. Blaise Pascal, the great French philosopher of the seventeenth century wrote, "The eternal silence of these infinite spaces frightens me." He had no need to fear: the entire vast universe has a loving God as its Source and Sustainer. The heavens, even in their silence, do indeed show forth the glory of God.

Unfortunately, despite our God-given intelligence, power and creativity, we humans over the millennia have not acted beneficially towards our planetary home. It seems that global warming is affecting the poorer parts of the world disproportionately and that desertification, famine, water shortage and the like will in future cause millions to be displaced. Where will they find a new home? Who will welcome them? Who will embrace them? It is imperative, I believe, that each of us continue to preach and practice the gospel of welcome; there may well be even more need for it in future. Together we must find a way of sharing our planet equitably and a way of living that will be sustainable.

Contributed by Dan Healy, EMBRACE Committee Member

This month we pray...

We cannot only pray to You, O God, to end war; for we know that you have made the world in such a way that we must find the path to peace within ourselves and with our neighbours.

We cannot only pray to You, O God, to end starvation; for you have already given us the resources with which to feed the world, if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice; for you have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people, if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot only pray to You, O God, to end despair; for you have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope, if we could only use our power justly.

We cannot only pray to You, O God, to end disease; for you have already given us great minds with which to search for cures and healings if we could only use them constructively.

We cannot only pray to You, O God, to end environmental degradation; for you have already given us the creativity and ingenuity to live sustainably, if only we apply these your gifts.

**Therefore, we pray to You instead, O God
for the strength and determination
and the power to do, instead of only to pray,
to become, instead of merely to wish,
for your sake and ours, speedily and soon,
that our world may be safe and our lives may be blessed.
Amen**

Author Unknown