

End Times for a stable climate?

We believe firmly in recycling at Green Christian and maybe there is a circular economy of words too, particularly where there is a shared vision. In this spirit I am going to hand over this editorial to Chris Walton, a former editor, who is now actively involved in the Green Christian Way of Life community. In the January letter of Encouragement for GC Way of Life Companions, he wrote the following and has given permission for his thoughts to be recycled (or dare I say, upcycled?) in our editorial here. Chris writes:

Hello Everyone, how are you feeling? Some say there are 12 years to go before global temperatures are too high to avoid a cataclysmic destruction of creation. And if ever there was a time when the move toward global egotistical and sociopathic leadership was evident, it surely must be now. Massive economies are pulling out of the Paris/Polish climate change agreements and climate change is dubbed fake news. The principalities and powers (see Romans 8.37f) are in ascendance. How are you feeling?

I've been re-reading Walter Wink's *Engaging the Powers* with his sub-title *Discernment and Resistance in a World of Domination*. If you haven't read Wink's theological trilogy from the 80s/90s before, please do so as the writing seems even more relevant in 2019. His inspired understanding is that in the New Testament the word *kosmos*, (often translated as just "world") which we have often thought of as meaning "the whole inhabited Earth" is better understood as "Earthly human systems", which he calls the "Domination System".

For instance in 1 John 2:15,16 instead of: *"Do not love the world or the things pertaining to it. If anyone loves the world*

the love of God is not in that person", read it as: *"Do not love the Domination System or the things pertaining to it. If anyone loves that System, the love of the Father is not in that person."*

That is a massive difference. So our faith in Jesus insists that we live not according to the dictates of the Domination System, but according to the way of Jesus. It is time to re-Wild our faith.

Perhaps it is understandable why some feel that Christians (who have learnt to pit themselves against the world/Creation) are responsible for the environmental crisis the Earth faces now. The way of Jesus is THE WAY, which opposes the Domination System, which believes that violence always wins, that riches make you top dog, that money and violent power makes a

person or a country great. We know that our Saviour lived a different way: God became a human being, He became a servant, a slave, He died a criminal's death (Philippians 2.11). He lived **for** the Earth and **against** the dominant culture.

So, followers of the Way, let us all continue to support each other as we follow our vocation to resist the Domination System and the things pertaining to it. Let us remember to tell each other our stories of hope, resistance and the next unfamiliar step. ■



Chris Walton is a former editor of *Green Christian Magazine*, a retired Baptist minister and with his wife Ross, is currently running Ringsfield EcoCentre in Suffolk (yes, he's back there temporarily!).

Letters to the Editor

Giggleswick,
N. Yorkshire
Jan. 2019

Dear Editor,

Although the problem of climate change may seem overwhelming, everyone of us can do something. Firstly we can all find ways of reducing our carbon footprint. Secondly we can all write letters. Every one of us has an MP and every MP knows that one letter from a constituent represents the views of about 50 others. Constituents' letters and emails do carry weight.

Your readers might like to consider writing about the following:

1. The fastest increase in UK greenhouse gas emissions is in road transport. One way of encouraging people to get out of their cars and to reduce CO₂ emissions is to make local bus travel free to everyone, not just the over 60s.
2. A major cause of climate change is the production of meat and dairy products. Your readers might like to ask when the government is going to stop subsidising the meat industry and when it is going to start recommending on health grounds, that the public reduces its consumption of meat and dairy.
3. Recently the government has scrapped payments under the Feed In Tariff (FIT) scheme to householders who install solar panels – a devastating blow to the UK's renewables industry. A householder with solar panels is now largely giving free electricity to the energy companies who already make enormous profits.

Yours sincerely,
Keith Bradshaw