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The Year of Glory

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© Senior Pastor Orim M. Meikle



"... and they shall build waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; and they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them." (Amos 9: 14)

To our global family of Rhema Ministries everywhere, may God's glory cover your life through Christ our King!

Welcome to the month of August with its strong focus on creating Glorious Communities. In this brief article I want to talk with you about the issue of the environment. This is a major issue in our world today and surprisingly one of which the church has been relatively silent on. I want to put forward some environmental assertions for your thought. This month's article may be somewhat lengthy, but well worth the read. Here are three points to consider when it comes to the subject of the environment:

This is God's Earth - The earth does not belong to human beings in an absolute sense. The earth is essentially the property of God (Psalm 24: 1), and because the earth is God's property it must be treated with the same respect that we would anything that belongs to God. It is important to note that the earth is not to be worshipped! One of the extremisms of the movement toward going green is ascribing to the earth some sort of personality as though it were a living being. We must not fall into this trap, but at the same time we must not be guilty of denigrating or neglecting what God has created to be wonderful, beautiful and filled with His glory, (Isaiah 6:3).

We are Caretakers - Human beings (you and I) have been placed on the earth by God to be stewards or managers of the earth, (Genesis 2:15). Our assignment is to be good stewards of the created order; never being lords over the earth, raping and plundering its resources with no end in sight; nor being servants to the earth as though the earth is mother to us all. As caretakers of the earth we are to care for it on the behalf of and to the glory of God. The condition and the plight of the earth is the full responsibility of its citizens and we must teach the truth that everyone plays an integral role in the stewardship of this world.

Our Role is to Redefine - Concepts such as climate change, being "eco-friendly" or "going green", are not ideas that the church should run away from nor are we to discard them as being the ideas of ungodly secularists. We have a responsibility to redefine and to represent the original intention of God for the world, to the world. This means that we are to present these ideas through the light or the prism of the Scripture. Whether we like it or not the church community should

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This Month @ Rhema

be at the forefront of the global agenda on the environment. How do I know this? It's simple, Jesus said "ye are the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13).

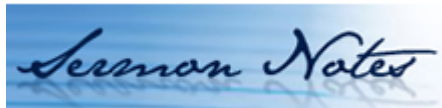
With these few thoughts on this subject I want to invite you to partner with us for Glorious Community Month. A variety of activities will be taking place at our locations across Canada which will serve to heal, revitalize and transform our local communities. In Toronto, Rhema will be partnering with Canada's largest green park, *Parc Downsview Park*, for a day of environmental stewardship. Sunday August 16th will be **Stewardship Day** as we put our shoulders to the plow, ensuring that our parklands and green spaces are well kept for all to enjoy. For more information about **Stewardship Day** and how you can participate please log onto www.rhemaonline.ca and follow the links. I look forward to seeing you there as we reclaim our earth for the glory of God, in this **The Year of Glory**.

With love while *Changing & Affecting Lives*,

Your Pastor, Orim M. Meikle



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Calling all Writers

If you are a scribe of Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Articles, Youth- oriented content, other forms, let us hear from you.

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The Language of Love

Contributing writer - © Elder Dimitri Boweya-Ngombo



Scripture Reading: Psalm 8:2 & Matthew 2:6

Scripture Focus: *"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength ..., that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger."* Psalm 8:2 KJV

"... out of thee shall come a Governor that shall rule my people Israel." Matthew 2:6 KJV

According to research outcomes at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig/Germany, our ability to speak has been a progressive reality in the history of human evolution. They purport that this specific advance which then gave humans an advantage over other species happened about 200,000 years ago.

Supporters of this research outcome further argue that it was around this time that a new gene appeared in human DNA which was linked to speech. With the emergence and evolution of language came cultures and man began to move around the world. In this logic, the most advanced and sophisticated cultures then grew larger and imposed their values on the neighboring regions.

While the above views may hold merit in evolutionary schools of thought...[more](#)

Project Stepping Stones

Contributing writer - © Jay Pitter



Last month our beloved Pastor and the leadership team unveiled Project Stepping Stones. This multi-phased, construction project is intended to optimize the church's resources by expediting the move into the permanent space. In doing so the church would direct funds to the new space rather than dividing precious resources between two spaces. While most of us would agree that this is a sound stewardship decision and bold move, the idea of making a financial contribution may be a challenge for many.

What is wonderful about challenges is that they compel us to sharpen our focus, prioritize, and find creative ways of moving forward. In fact each of us regularly benefits from having a pastor who delivers a Word that encourages us to embrace learning during difficult times, dares us to dream aloud and nudges us towards our purpose. Contributing to Project Stepping Stones is a powerful and tangible way of expressing gratitude and accountability as a ministry. That said, it is understood that a number of individuals and families in the ministry may be particularly financially conservative at this time or simply struggling to get by.

Here are a few fun ideas to help you fulfil your Project Stepping Stones pledge:

- Skip restaurant meals for a month and direct savings to Project Stepping Stones
- Get your girl who is great with hair to hook you up and direct savings to Project Stepping Stones
- Request Project Stepping Stones donations (\$25) instead of wedding and birthday gifts
- Organize a bake or garage sale and direct proceeds to Project Stepping Stones
- Go on a fashion-fast for a month; direct the funds saved from abstaining from monthly shoe and clothing spurges to Project Stepping Stones.

With the funds saved from hair, fabulous fashion finds, personal celebrations and lattes we could build a couple of churches!

If you have other great ideas for contributing to Project Stepping Stones please send them to info@rhemaonline.ca.

Rhema's Church Community Builder

WELCOME TO A WONDERFUL AND INNOVATIVE WAY TO COMMUNICATE

RHEMA'S COMMUNITY CHURCH BUILDER

