



# 1 Creation care is mission

**Purpose: To introduce how creation care can be understood as an authentic aspect of mission.**



## To set the ball rolling

**Imagine a world without grass, without trees, without plants or flowers. What would your back garden be like? Where would you go to relax? What would you do to bring a feeling of life and colour to your house?**

**Then imagine a world without animals, reptiles or insects. Once you're relieved there will be no mosquitoes, think of the consequences....**



## Introduction

Hold in one hand the fact that Christians know that the gospel is about personal salvation, the forgiveness of sins and eternal life and, in the other, that this has implications for the way we respond to God, to the world he has made – especially to the poor who are the people most seriously affected by environmental pollution.



## Using FAQ videos

Consider using FAQ videos 1 and 2 just before questions 2 and 3.



## For discussion

### 1 Read Psalm 24 and 2 Corinthians 4: 18.

It has been said, “a Christian’s real home is in heaven and the long-term condition of the earth cannot be an urgent priority for a truly Christian agenda.” How true do you think this statement is?

**2 Show FAQ video 1 *Why should Christians care for creation?*** Assuming you believe that global warming is a huge threat to our planet – and not everyone does – does that crisis have anything to do with your Christian faith?

**3 Show FAQ video 2 *Shouldn't Christians focus more on saving souls than the planet?*** How integral is creation care to ‘real mission’?

**4** Is the care of creation a good use of time, money, prayer and personnel or the latest middle-class, Western fad?

**5** The mission statement of BMS World Mission sets out its aim to “alleviate suffering and injustice” in the world and to “improve the quality of life” especially for the poorest of the world. In the light of this section of the BMS mission statement, what difference might creation care make to the way we ‘do’ mission?



## For further thought

In 1988, the Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops produced what have become known as the “five marks of mission”:

- ☑ To proclaim the good news of the kingdom
- ☑ To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- ☑ To respond to human need by loving service
- ☑ To seek to transform unjust structures in society
- ☑ To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

How can we unite the fifth mark of mission with the other four, reflecting our commitment in worship and prayer as well as in action?





## 1 Creation care is mission *continued*

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### **Practical suggestions to consider for action by government, the local church and yourself as an individual**

#### ● **Government**

Write to your MP, MSP, Assembly member (Wales) or MEP asking them to encourage the Government to do all in its power to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals> which seek to eradicate extreme poverty, provide basic needs, and reduce biodiversity loss by 2015.

#### ● **Church**

You can tell a church's priorities from its prayers. Keep a record of how often, if ever, environmental issues are addressed in your church's public prayers. Encourage those leading / co-ordinating with creative ideas of how to introduce this.

Encourage your church to undertake an 'audit' of how its members travel to church, and encourage a car-free or car-share Sunday.

#### ● **Individual**

Begin by prayer. Ask God's Holy Spirit to show you where he wants you to start in making a difference. There are many ideas at [www.livinglightly24-1.org.uk](http://www.livinglightly24-1.org.uk) that can help you to care for creation as part of your relationship with God.

Turn off or unplug all electrical appliances when not in use. If we all did this it would save more electricity than is produced by one whole power station.

How effectively do you recycle at home? Are there ways in which you could make it easier for your whole household (if relevant) to sort their rubbish for recycling?

If you have any other suggestions not mentioned here or in the other studies, please do not hesitate to send them to our Futureshape Green Forum by e-mailing [mail@futureshape.org](mailto:mail@futureshape.org) They will be posted on our website.