



Introducing.....Jeff Mouhot

Next Saturday (20th January - 7:30 pm) I'll be talking on "Climate Change" or "Global Warming", as it is also known. This topic makes the headlines now almost on a daily basis, so you probably (rightly) wonder: *what on earth* can I possibly learn that I don't already know? And what has this to do with my life as a Christian? Right! Before we go further, I've prepared a little quiz to assess your knowledge and determine whether there is room for some further insight on the subject. (The first three people to email me (jfmouhot@googlemail.com) with all the correct answers win a book on Climate Change!)

1. What do the Baptist Missionary Society, Tearfund, Christian Aid, Christian Ecology Link, Operation Noah, A Rocha, CAFOD, SCIAF, and Speak all have in common? (apart from being Christian)
2. In which verse, chapter and book of the Bible is it written "***The time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth***"?
3. Can you find 5 steps to cut down your CO2 emissions?
4. Is Britain likely to get warmer or cooler in the next years due to Climate Change?
5. What are "positive feedbacks"? (hint: it's not as *cool* as it sounds).

Even if you know all the answers to the above questions, I still encourage you to come next Saturday (if only to pick your free book!): The evening will be an opportunity to see a presentation on Climate Change, and a short DVD produced by Operation Noah. There will also be a time to share ideas on how we can act as Christians and as a Church to become part of the solution rather than the problem.

As far as I can remember, I have always been amazed at how wonderful God's creation is and sorry that we don't care enough for it. I've also always been concerned about what would happen when we run out of petrol. As a historian, I have been wondering for a long time if the abolition of slavery had not been made easier by the fact that approximately at the same time slavery was abolished, humans started to use fossil fuels (oil, gas, coal...). The abolitionists were clearly hoping to rid themselves of the moral burden of owning slaves; yet, I recently read that each westerner now owns on average 100 slaves. These new "slaves" take on the form of cars, washing machines, etc.... All rely on fossil fuel and for that reason they might not be morally more acceptable than human slaves, because when we burn oil, we discharge CO2, and this contributes to Global Warming, which in turn affects the poorest people on earth.

Oil gives us power. Perhaps we should meditate on the story of Jesus' arrest and his words to Peter saying that if he wanted he could ask legions of angels to come and rescue him (Matthew 26 v. 53). Yet, Jesus refused to use that power. Would Jesus also refuse the power that oil gives us? As far as I am concerned, I want to do any little bit I can do, here and right now, so that when my daughter Anna understands Climate Change, I'll be able to look her straight in her eyes and say: "I've tried to do a little bit to prevent it". Join me next Saturday!!

Jeff Mouhot

14th January 2007