

Global Warming and Climate Change programme:

Earth Quakes occurred in different parts of the globe. The Haiti Earth quake on 12th January 2010 was very severe- 2,30,000 people died, 3,00,000 injured, 10,00,000 people made homeless, 2,50,000 buildings were damaged. Heavy rains, flash floods occurred in several places killing several lakhs of people. In China where 50 million people, 11 million live stocks hit by severe drought and 4 million hectares of land yield no harvest. Several other places were also hit by severe drought. Similarly, forest fires occurred in several places in the globe. This year the temperature started increasing from the month of February itself and the heat that usually prevail during April-May was felt in the month of February. The summer extended even after July. The rain we usually get during the month of June was received in July. The mango season was delayed by 2 months. There are few fruit trees that failed to fruit this year. The volcano that erupted in Europe delivered smoke that disturbed the air travel for more than 10 days. Unusual heat prevailed all over the world. Two ice shelves melted. All these unusual disasters were due to global warming and climate change.

Our Council conducted Awareness programme on Global Warming and Climate Change for Church leaders, Pastors, Lay leaders, Women fellowships, Youth groups and College and School students.

Issues discussed:

1. Climate Change and Global Warming
2. Health and Global Warming
3. Climate change and Disaster Management
4. Mission of Church in context of Global Warming

a) Cudalore:

The consultation was arranged at ALC Church, Cuddalore. About 20 pastors from ALC Church attended the programme. The programme started with prayer and devotion by Rev. Babu Jayakumar, Presbyter, ALC Church, Cuddalore.



Dr. Ms. V. Esther Kathioli informed the purpose of the programme and gave an over all information about the Global Warming. Slides were shown on the beauty of the nature as how God created the entire universe so wonderfully. Then how human beings were agents of destruction of nature and natural resources and many species of animals, plants, insects and birds were extinct. Slides on different types of natural disasters such as melting glaciers, flood, tsunami, drought, forest fires, earth quakes, etc., caused by these effects of global warming and climate changes were shown to highlight as how the nature is sufferings because of the irresponsible attitude and act of human beings.

The participants were divided in to groups and pastors led the discussion on Eco spirituality. The participants were receptive and responded well and expressed their views on maximizing their efforts to reduce the global warming, preserve the nature and to save the God created nature. For many of them this programme was an eye opener.

There were Bible studies based on eco spirituality. A trainer from CASA took session on disaster management especially through global warming.

b) Chingleput: The Programme was organized for Youth of TELC Church, Chingleput. Dr. Ms. V. Esther Kathirola, the Director of the Tamilnad Christian Council welcomed all the resource persons and the participants and informed the purpose of the consultation as well as the responsibilities of the youth. Over all information about the Global Warming was



presented through slide show. Rev. Paul Pragasam took theological aspect of Global Warming.



c) Pudukottai:

The consultation on Global Warming and Climate Change was held at Independent Church at Pudukottai. Independent pastors, elders, Women fellowship members and youth fellowship representatives, about 71 participated in the programme. The programme was started with prayers and devotion by Rev. Alex Pandian, Pastor, Pudukottai Church. Rev. Paul Pragasam took devotion on God's creation stories found in Genesis 1 to 3 chapters. Mr. Ezra Williams took session on Global Warming giving general information through slide show and videos.

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d) Budalur, Thanjavur Dt.



The consultation on Global Warming and Climate Change was held Shiloh Revival Prayer Assembly at Budalur, Thanjavur Dt., for independent church pastors. Independent pastors, elders, Women fellowship members and youth fellowship representatives, about 63 persons participated in the programme.

Rev. J. George Samuel of TELC welcomed all the participants and resource persons. Dr. Ms. V. Esther Kathirola informed the purpose of the programme on Global Warming and Climate Change. The issues on Global Warming were presented through slide show and videos and discussions were conducted. The participants were divided in to groups to discuss various problems that sprout out of climate change, the complexity and growing indifference among the Multinational corporate and the capitalist tendency followed by the beurocracy and related issues were discussed. The participants wanted many more sessions since the information shared was new and unaware of and they were able to see the whole as spiritual for the first time in their life.

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Follow-up action envisaged: Church Leaders are encouraged to organize local level programme to create awareness to the local congregation, youth and women fellowship. This programme was sponsored by CASA, Chennai.

e) Tirunelveli

The Church Leaders Consultation on “The Cross of Christ and Ecological Crisis” to grapple with the issues around Global Warming and Climate Change was organized at St. Stephen Neil Study Centre, John’s College Hostel Campus, Palaymkottai, Tirunelveli. About 45 pastors and lay leaders from CSI Tirunelveli diocese, Salvation Army and few independent church pastors participated in this programme.



Mr. T. Selwyn welcomed the participants. Dr. Ms.V. Esther Kathioli, Director, TNCC stated the purpose of the programme on Global Warming and Climate Change. The global crisis on dealing with reduction of carbon-dioxide and search for alternate resources for energy and how the earth is put in to systematic and consistent destruction and how the ecosystem is slowly dying was presented through slides show and videos. The pastors took active part in understanding the issue and seriously involved in action plan. The

participants were able to see the issue theologically and respond biblically the responsibility of the congregation in mission in saving the planet earth. The officials from forest department contributed well to the discussion and decision making and action plan. Tree seedlings were distributed to the participants and encouraged them to plant the trees by the forest department.

Feed-back from the participants:

I was able to learn to protect the nature and the environment. It was very useful to learn through Bible Studies.... The time was very short to learn more....

I will inform all the new things I learnt and implement it in my congregation.

- Major P. Johnson, Salvation Army, Palayamkottai:

The information I received about Global Warming and Preventive Methods were all new to me. The teaching done on the basis of Bible was very useful. I will inform all these matters to my family members and to my congregation. I request you to conduct these types of meetings at least once a year. - *Capt. S. Muthu Sukumari, S.A. Kalakadu.*

Comparative study of the nature with biblical teaching and to protect the earth was very useful. The two-day meetings really refreshed and led me to a new life. It will be very useful to these kind of meetings are conducted regularly.

-Pastor A. Inbaraj, Palayamkottai:

While I was listening to the Global Warming and its effects on nature, your message gave me the sense that I am also responsible for the destruction of the earth. Hereafter I will try to live as per the message I received during these two days ret of my life.

- Mr. G.R. Samuel, Evangelist.:

This meeting is a turning point in my life. I assure you that I will implement all my learning in the rest of my life to the family, to congregation and to the community.

-Mr.S. Lazar, Tirunelveli

f) Tindivanam: Awareness on Global Warming and Climate Change was conducted for the +1 & +2 students of the Walter Scudder Higher Secondary School, Tindivanam



g) CSI-Synod Centre, Chennai. The Mission Department of the CSI Synod invited us to take sessions on Global Warming & Climate Change for the rural pastors from the CSI Synod area Dr. Ms. V.Esther Kathirola presented the general information on Global Warming and Rev. Paul

Pragasam took the theological aspects.

g) Irukkam Islands:

One of our aims is to start a dairy unit at Irukkam was the large cattle population in the island. There are more than 800 cattles roaming in the island. This cattle project was proposed



by the Mandal Officer and he accepted to allot the lands for shed and agricultural work. While we were about to start the Mandal Officer was transferred and the new Mandal Officer was not interested in the project.



Due to unexpected long delay in starting the project the community decided to plant cashew trees and casuarina trees. As per the decision of the community, we planted 800 cashew seedlings in 16 acres of land and 6000 casuarina seedling in 5 acres of land. Four bore wells were dug and 4 electric motor pumpsets were provided. Motor sheds were constructed to keep the motor safe. Iron fencing was done for each cashew plants.



Fertilisers both organic and chemical fertilizers were provided as per the instructions of the agricultural department. Local people were motivated to maintain the trees. Our field staff is also supervising the area every week.

h) Scott Christian College & Women's Christian College at Nagercoil



Global Warming and Climate Change programmes were conducted at the Womens Christian College, Nagercoil and



Scot Christian College, Nagercoil. Hundreds of students were benefitted.

