

Moravian Women's Association

Devotional Paper

Our Dreams for the Future

April 2022

O Lord, all the world belongs to you
And you are always making all things new
What is wrong you forgive, and the new life you give
Is what's turning the world upside down

These are the words from one of the hymns in our New Moravian Hymn Book. Yes, we would all agree that the world does belong to the Lord. We pray that he does forgive our past wrongs and give new life to all and maybe the world does need turning upside down. Certainly with regard to climate change, air pollution, recycling waste, and nature and ocean restoration, our scientists would agree something needs turning upside down.

In 1960 President J F Kennedy's 'Moonshot' united millions of people and resulted in putting the first man on the moon. Being inspired by this, the 'Earthshots Challenge' is a set of five simple, but ambitious goals for our planet to improve life for us all with the aim to achieve this by 2030. The Earthshot Prize launched by Prince William in 2020, is the most prestigious global environmental prize in history.

The 5 categories are; To clean our air, To build a waste free world, To revive our oceans, To fix our climate, To protect and restore nature.

We are all aware that in India millions of children breathe in toxic fumes every day which causes needless deaths. A group of people aim to end outdated transport, eliminate burning fossil fuels and remove pollution from the air using technology and nature.

Milan in Italy is the first city that is addressing the issue of waste food as a united city. By 2030 they aim to halve food waste and single use packaging and wish to produce a new generation of individuals, companies and industries that reuse, repurpose and recycle in daily life.

Warmer temperatures, pollution and harmful fishing habits are having a devastating effect on our oceans. In the Bahamas there is a project underway to grow coral on land, at 50 times faster than at sea, in order to replant it thus giving new life to the ocean and making it sustainable for future generations.

Carbon in the atmosphere is warming the planet. In Germany, Thailand and Italy they want to remove more carbon from the atmosphere than we put in and aim to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Forests and natural land are vital to human health and to prevent global warming. In Costa Rica they are very aware of this and aim to preserve rainforests, grasslands, wetlands, lakes and rivers that are necessary habitats for animals and wildlife to survive.

All this information made very compelling television viewing and more details can be found on the internet if you Google 'Earthshots Challenge'.

In a small way we can help each of these causes, as individuals, as congregations and united with others in our towns and cities. Unity works – we see it as the EU and others become united with Ukraine. Reread the hymn above with this information in mind and pray that we can help to 'turn the world upside down'.

For Discussion

Discuss the above five categories in light of your own circumstances. Are we helping? Would world leaders be better presenting a united front to address these issues rather than causing destruction and damage to our planet which will be irreparable in the future?

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