

# JESUS THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

*Group Calls Followers of Jesus to Care for His Creation*

*by Ephie Risho*

A volunteer stands up from hoeing the soil and wipes her forehead. The other members of her church are bustling around the garden with wheelbarrows and gardening tools as a few kids run around the newly-created garden beds. She nods and smiles happily as she gets back to work.

Is gardening a way to serve Jesus? Members of a non-profit organization in Canada argue that the answer is a resounding yes. The earth, they declare, is God's creation, and one of our first mandates as His people is to care for it.

The group is called A Rocha, and their most recent project is called Good Seed Sunday. Their goal: to mobilize Christians in the mission to care for creation. Unlike many environmental movements, the driving motive is not politics or activism, but practical applied theology. Participants are given the question: if you're a follower of Jesus, what role will you play in caring for his creation?

"Community gardens are a great action project," says Markku Kostamo, director of A Rocha. "They build healthier communities, care for the earth, and produce lots of good food that can be shared with people in need."

**If you'd like more information about Good Seed Sunday, please call A Rocha Canada at 604-542-9006, or email [goodseed@arocha.ca](mailto:goodseed@arocha.ca). You can visit the website at [www.arocha.ca/goodseedsunday](http://www.arocha.ca/goodseedsunday).**



**About the Author:** Ephie Risho is a writer and father, based out of a small town in the Rocky Mountains. He has an MDiv from Regent College, and currently runs a creative company doing web, graphics and writing.