

JESUS THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

Group Calls Followers of Jesus to Care for His Creation

by Ephie Risho

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. Matter matters.

A Rocha and Paradigm Ministries have partnered together to bring a substantial project to mobilize Christians in this mission to care for creation. The project is called Good Seed Sunday, and culminates April 22 with a key question: if you're a follower of Jesus, what role will you play in caring for his creation?

The Good Seed Sunday project stems from an understanding of Scripture that all people are called to care for the earth, and that doing so is one aspect of every person's mission in life. Church resource packages are intended to provide a theological grounding for this worldview. This includes sermons, worship resources, Bible study and small group materials, a Sunday school teacher kit, daily devotionals, and more.

The project also promotes practical action projects, ways to care for creation and connect people to their local communities. For example, building a community garden is a practical and significant way to mobilize people positively – they build a sense of community, teach valuable skills and lessons in the environment, and provide healthy and nourishing food that can be shared with those in need.

The Good Seed Sunday project was birthed through the work of A Rocha, a Christian organization focused on the calling to be stewards of creation. Their efforts over the last decade have seen the growth of two study centres, numerous adults and children educated, the growth of a number of conservation projects across Canada, and dozens of community gardens.

A Rocha's Community Garden Network, already launched, provides workshops, training, and resources for church and neighbourhood groups desiring to start their own community gardens.

A Rocha Canada, started in 1999, is an international conservation organization working to show God's love for all creation. The work comes out of a commitment to environmental action through community-based projects. A Rocha means "the Rock" where the first project began. A Rocha is now working in 20 countries around the world.

If you'd like more information about Good Seed Sunday, please call A Rocha Canada at 604-542-9006, or email goodseed@arocha.ca. You can visit the website at 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.