

“The most fundamental obstacles to averting dangerous climate disruption are not mainly physical or technological or even institutional—they have to do with how we align our thinking and doing with our being. This missing alignment shows clearly in the current lack of courage, determination, and imagination to carry through the necessary actions to combat climate disruption”. Per Espen Stoknes

A call to re-thinking



It seems that every time we make some inroads in altering state policies on land use, new loopholes are devised to allow deforestation to continue. In our previous circular (31) we reported that the government had acceded to upholding the wichi indians right to be consulted on a gas pipeline project. It was too good to be true.

Shortly after we wrote the authorities unilaterally concluded the dialogue and gave the green light for construction. The bulldozers went in and the Indians have taken the matter into their own hands, and have since been involved in protests and road blocks.

Are we not just wasting time? What are we to do? This is where for us, hope, faith, and trust in God come into play. We have been given brains, skills and some resources. Like the boy with the five loaves and two fishes we put them at the Lord’s disposal. These challenges must serve to sharpen our thinking of what it is we are dealing with and how we can best respond. In this regard we identify strongly with Pope Francis’s call for *“deep thinking and dialogue to address the complex symptoms now plaguing the planet”*.

Diocese to protect native forests

It’s not all doom and gloom! We are really pleased that the Eco Bishops’ declaration (Cape Town) has nudged our Diocese, mostly made up of indigenous congregations, to issue the following statement:

“In the light of the world crisis generated by global warming, recognizing the value of Christians being stewards of creation and understanding that caring for our world forms part of indigenous cosmology, this Synod commits itself to work towards reducing climate change especially through the Christian education on the topic and with a special focus on protecting native forests as outlined by the Anglican Communion’s Environmental Network.”

We now look forward to working with the diocese on defining in more concrete terms what types of work might be considered as they move to put the statement into practice.

With kind support from the Chaco Church Trust we are hoping that Bishop Drayson and one of the newly appointed indigenous bishops can attend the Lausanne Regional Conference on Creation Care & the Gospel to be held in Cusco - Peru (9-12 September). The event follows-up on an international conference of the same name, held in Jamaica (2012), and seeks to encourage and strengthen evangelical churches to engage in creation care.

Back to Cape Town

Andrew was back in Cape Town in June, this time to attend a conference as part of his occasional work for Compassion International. He was reporting on research on work being done by Compassion to encourage local churches in Argentina (Church of God denomination) to engage in child advocacy. His report included findings related to a recent visit he made to churches in the neighboring province of Chaco.



This particular piece of research has the added bonus of allowing us to meet and get to know many new Christian friends right across the country.

La Caldera

We have completed a survey of the property boundaries and submitted this for approval by local authorities. We have also commissioned a structural survey of the buildings and now await the results. This has been possible thanks to generous support from members (you know who you are) of St. Leonard's Church (Exeter) and Christ Church (St Albans) to whom we are very grateful.

Feeling jumpy?

Do you feel brave enough to raise some funds for us? CMS are holding a sponsored skydive in the UK on 10th October. If you or a member of your church would like to raise funds for our work through this means, then please be in contact with Hannah Caroe Hannah.Caroe@cms-uk.org or go to www.cms-uk.org/skydive

Family news

As we write these lines Maria and Carolina are in Europe. Their visit included a short break in Rome with Maria's mother and sister. They are currently in UK, visiting friends and family. They return home all being well on the 19th July. Tomas is slogging away at his studies in Cordoba, interspersed with rowing and the odd trek into the hills. He is hoping to get a part-time engineering-related job. Andrew is at home, together with Ceci who is preparing for yet another big exam later this month. She is doing well, and continues to enjoy her voluntary work with a small law firm.

Prayer pointers

- Pray for the upcoming Creation Care conference in Peru, that representatives from our Diocese can attend and that the event serves to further engage the local church in caring for creation.

- Pray for Tomas, Ceci and Carolina in their studies. Pray for patience and stamina as they cope with the bureaucracy. Tomas' classes are sometimes affected by strikes.
- Pray for La Caldera, that we may move forward in courage with this new project. Pray for funding for the building's refurbishment.

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