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2023: A Year of Growth



C3 Board Members



Sermon Challenge



Creation Care Scripture



World Water Day, March 22



2023: A Year of Growth for C3

When people ask me how C3 is doing I tell them, “We are moving from infancy to toddlerhood.” Founded at the beginning of the COVID crisis in March 2020, we are moving out of diapers into big girl and big boy underwear. (Can you tell I’m a grandfather of 5 under the age of 6?) Like most non-profits there is the constant demand of seeking donors to support our cause and volunteers to carry out the mission. Nevertheless, 2023 was transformative for C3 in many respects.

In 2023, we received our first grant, this one coming from the John and Eula Mae Baugh Foundation. I met John Baugh in 2000 when he invited me to Texas to help Baptists promote religious liberty for all people and nurture a more Christ-like witness to the world. His foundation continues to carry out theological and social virtues; C3 is honored to be a recipient of a grant characterizing

those theological instincts. This grant freed me from university teaching responsibilities to focus more of my time and energy on the work of C3.

Another transformative move by C3, enabled by the Baugh grant, was beginning our new podcast series. As of January 2024, we have produced four podcasts with people like Norma Wirzba of Duke Divinity, Catherine Wright of Wingate University, Dennis Atwood of Mount Olive, NC, whose church manages a solar farm, and Mike Massar of San Antonio, whose church installed EV charging stations in their parking lot. We secured the services of an engineering consultant, Clark Hill from Atlanta, GA, to professionalize these podcasts. Our goal is to do two podcasts a month throughout 2024 from leading theologians, pastors, farmers,

business owners, non-profit leaders and politicians. You can find podcasts for “Christians Caring for Creation” by going to the podcast platform of your choice.

C3 also produced and published its first Vacation Bible School curriculum this year, “Kids Caring for Creation,” a four day curriculum that can easily be adapted to the needs of your congregation. Two churches tested the product in the summer and raved about how their kids, parents and teachers loved the curriculum. We are hoping to expand its use in 2024. Hear about the VBS literature by going to <https://youtu.be/O8Flcoy4-Kw>



Once again C3 hosted two high quality conferences with nationally renowned leaders in their fields. Catherine Wright, a Roman Catholic eco-theologian at a Baptist university in North Carolina, led a conference on “Food and Faith,” highlighting how our purchasing, growing,





Christians Caring for Creation

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preparing and eating our food gives witness to our faith in God and care for others. Norman Wirzba (Duke) and Robert Davies (Utah State) once again teamed up to challenge the Christian community to become catalysts for change in the ways we live, work, and consume as a means of loving God and one another.

Another initiative for C3 was our Compost Push, encouraging individuals, churches and schools to create compost piles to reduce the amount of food we are throwing into landfills, thereby sequestering more carbon into the ground. We produced and posted videos on how to build a compost pile.

In 2023 we had over 1,000 unique visitors to our websites from 33 different countries. Following the United States, Brazil sent us the most visitors, followed by the United Kingdom, Kenya, China, Canada and Australia. Russians and Saudis are also coming to our website.

With support from people like you, C3 will be able to produce more podcasts, write more curricula, post more blogs, host more conferences and spread the word that discipleship and ecological stewardship go hand in hand. Join us and help us

strengthen the witness of the Christian community throughout the world.



Don Gordon



C3 Board Members

Why do members of the C3 board see the need for our work?

What if we asked Jesus for his thoughts on whether caring for the Earth and all of its inhabitants is important? While scripture gives us some insight into what the answer might be, it also seems obvious. Jesus would tell us to care for creation.

It seems a moral imperative to be involved in and to support a group like C3. In an age of

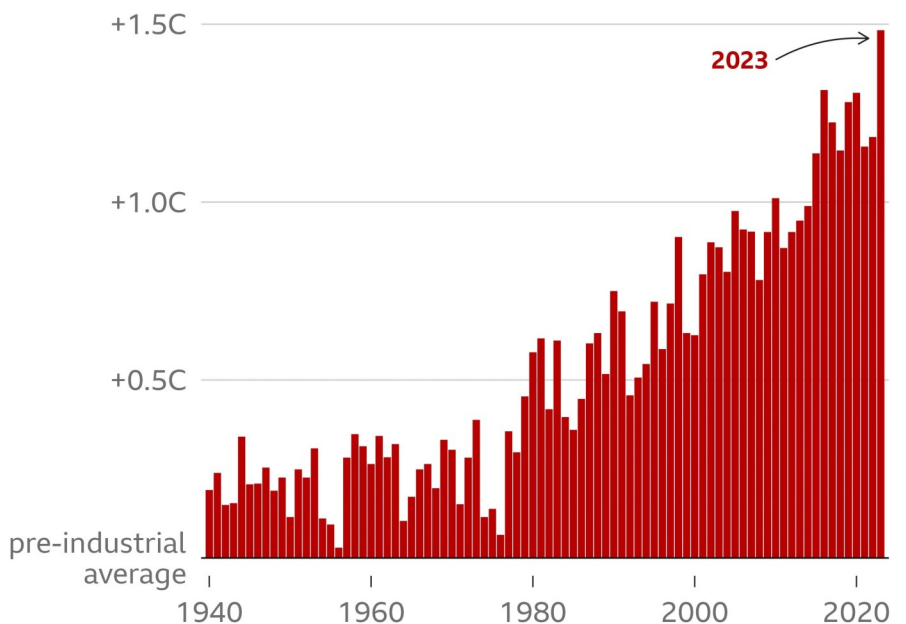
division and competition, it is important to offer to others as much information as we can about what is happening to our planet and what will continue to happen if we do not make drastic changes to our normal way of living. But beyond thinking negatively, it is important (and maybe more so) to focus on what we can do to effect change. This is part of the mission of C3, and why I am a part of this fascinating and hard-working group.



Matthew Bisette

Hottest year on record

Global average temperature by year, compared with pre-industrial average (1850-1900)



Source: ERA5, C3S/ECMWF





C3 Sermon Challenge

The church needs to hear the Word of God proclaimed regarding Christians caring for creation. To nurture this proclamation, C3 is sponsoring for a fourth year, a Creation Care sermon challenge for ministers of all denominations, ages, genders, and ordination status. The challenge is in honor of Mike and Sandy Sigmon.

Criteria and Submission

The sermon should be on the topic of creation care and about 15-30 minutes long. Submissions should be received by Earth Day, April 22, 2024, and sent to christianscaringforcreation@gmail.com. Please title the email "C3 Sermon Challenge." You are free to submit the written manuscript by attaching a document or pasting a link to the document in the email. Alternatively, you can submit a link (YouTube or otherwise) to a video of you preaching the sermon. We welcome either or both.



Grading

The sermon will be blind judged by a panel of seasoned proclaimers based on theological content, creativity, practical application, and persuasive language.

- Theological/Biblical Content 40 points
- Practical Application 30 points
- Creativity 15 points
- Persuasive Language 15 points.

Award

The winner of the sermon challenge will be awarded \$500.00. Two honorable mention awards of \$250 will be awarded as well. Sermons must be preached in some corporate setting in order to collect the award. The winning sermon and two honorable mention sermons will also be posted on the C3 website and Facebook page.

Key Verses about Caring for God's Creation

Genesis 1:1-31

God made the heavens and the earth and it was good.



Genesis 2:15

Humans are commanded to care for God's.

Leviticus 25:1-7

The land itself must be given a rest and not abused.

Matthew 6:25-34

God loves and cares for all of creation.

Did you know that 2.2 million people live without clean drinking water? For half of the world's population water is scarce at least part of the year. Only 24 countries report that all their lakes, rivers or aqueducts shared with two or more countries are covered by cooperation arrangements.

The theme for World Water Day 2024 is "Water for Peace". "Water can create peace or spark conflict. When water is scarce or polluted, or when people have unequal, or no access, tensions can rise between communities and countries." Learn more about Water for Peace by checking out <http://tinyurl.com/ypj2cybm>.



World Water Day
March 22, 2024



Christians Caring for Creation

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What Can You Do to Care for Creation Today?

1. Eat your leftovers. Don't throw food away!
2. Commit to low or no waste grocery shopping.
3. Cut your shower by 5 minutes.
4. Plant at least one vegetable from seed on your patio or backyard. Lettuce is a good one to try.



5. Only use your dishwasher when it's FULL.
6. Use the water from boiling eggs or other foods for watering plants or cleaning tools.
7. Repair or mend instead of throwing it away.

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