



Top stories in this newsletter



Conference



The 2nd Greatest Miracle



C3 Board Members



Dates Related to Creation Care



Fascinating Facts



“From Food to Faith: Embracing Our Vocation as Faithful Stewards of God’s Great Creation”
C3 Summer Conference

June 13, 2023

6-8 pm

In Person Location: Sardis Baptist Church
5811 Sardis Rd., Charlotte, NC
Zoom Available

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Catherine Wright, Associate Professor,
Ethics and Ecotheology, Wingate University

**Ally Building, Worship, Hybrid Format
Creation-Themed Worship**

Donations welcomed in lieu of Conference Fee

To register: use this link

<https://tinyurl.com/ypk9yf6w>

Online link available after registration

Dr. Wright is an interdisciplinary Christian ecotheologian teaching at Wingate University (NC) in the Religion and Philosophy Department as an Associate Professor. She is also the first Executive Director of Collaborative for the Common Good.



C3 Reusable Tote Bag
available for \$20

C3 The Second Greatest Miracle of All-Time

The miracle of Jesus feeding the 5,000 is the only miracle Jesus performed, notwithstanding the

resurrection, recorded in all four gospels. It must have been pretty important for Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all to record some version of it. What would have made this miracle so memorable compared to the virgin birth (Luke) or the healing of the demoniac (not in John), or the raising of Lazarus (John)? Perhaps simplicity is the key. An

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Christians Caring for Creation

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unknown boy offers his five loaves of bread and two fish to Jesus to be used for others. It's mysterious as well, shrouded in a power we can't explain, as Jesus takes this simple gift and converts it into a massive amount of food. The Christian community is energized by the child-like generosity and supernatural power on display in the story. It brings the basic elements of common food and spiritual faith together in miraculous, unforgettable fashion.

There are as many lessons in this story as there were left over pieces of food at the end of it. The first lesson is the fundamental recognition that the miracle begins with a gift. The boy brings his gift to the disciples of Jesus as they are trying to figure out how to feed this hungry crowd.

They were swamped in a quagmire of logistical and economic questions. Where would they get the money to buy enough food? How

would they transport it? Who would have such a huge quantity of food on hand at this time of day. (Walmart is still thousands of years away!) The boy doesn't have those answers. All he has is five loaves of barley bread, poor man's bread, and 2 fish. He offers it as a gift, recognizing it was already a gift to him. I doubt seriously he baked that bread. His mother probably did it for him. And it's unlikely he caught the fish. His



father or brothers probably did that. And where did his father and mother get the bread and fish? The bread came from the earth which God created. The fish came from a river or the sea, which God populated with swimming creatures.

The miracle in this food and faith story is more than Jesus converting this boy's gift into a feast for 5,000. The miracle started well before the boy showed up with his food, as barley grew in the ground and fish swam in the sea. The barley seed mixed with soil, rain, the sun, and later heat and yeast to be useful for the multitude. The fish ate algae and other small fish and plants to grow and become nutrition for humans. It is a miracle of the interconnectedness of the world that is hidden, like the yeast making the bread rise during the night. Faith is the necessary ingredient to recognize this is from God and worthy of thanksgiving.

Someone once said, "If Christ is God's greatest gift, then surely creation is God's second greatest gift." Here is how Katharine Hayhoe, evangelical Christian and renowned scientist in Texas, puts it: "On Easter, we celebrate God's greatest gift, his Son, who came to give us spiritual life, and all that life entails. On Earth Day, we celebrate God's second-greatest gift to us: this planet, which gives

us our physical life."

The Ecumenical Patriarch of the Orthodox Church, Bartholomew I, said similarly, "The world we enjoy comprises a gift we have received ... it is a gift from God the Creator, a healing gift, a gift of wonder and beauty."

Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si*, wrote, "Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all."

The miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 may well be the second most important miracle recorded in Scripture, behind the resurrection. The resurrection teaches us the life overcomes death in the Kingdom of God. The feeding of the 5,000 teaches us that food comes from creation which gives us life in the Kingdom of God. Food without faith is just junk food. Faith without food is Gnosticism. Food received in thanksgiving as a gift from God sustains the abundant life Jesus promised. It's a miracle we can see repeated every day when we break bread and eat together in community.

Don Gordon





C3 Board Members

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

Growing up, I loved God's creatures. From ants and lizards inside the house to gardens and golden retrievers outside, I've always been fascinated by the world God placed us in. And yet, it was years later in seminary, when I understood that the Gospel of Jesus Christ encompassed all of these creatures I loved!

This was a transformative revelation, a confluence of my formal education in Biology and Theology, reshaping my worldview. I began to bring together my formal education in Biology and Theology together in one coherent worldview. Now, the way I shopped, what I ate, and how I managed my property, all had a deep spiritual valance that coupled directly with my Christian faith.

In other words, Jesus cares about every part of my life just as Jesus cares for every part of his Father's World. Participating in the work of C3 is a labor of love for my God and for the many of God's creatures I have loved my whole life.



Rich Goodier

Board of Directors

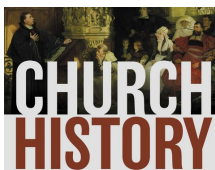
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Newsletter Editor

Lynn Odom, Durham, NC



Quotes from Leading Christian Writers

"A society in which consumption has to be artificially stimulated in order to keep production going is a society founded on trash and waste, and such a society is a house built upon sand." Dorothy Sayers (1893-1957)

"A wrong attitude toward nature implies, somewhere, a wrong attitude toward God."

T.S. Elliot (1888-1965), The Idea of a Christian Society

C3
Christians Caring for Creation
P.O. Box 18605
Charlotte, NC 28218

christianscaringforcreation@gmail.com
(919) 972-1933

To Donate:

<https://www.christianscaringforcreation.com/donate>



Christians Caring for Creation



Fascinating Facts

The global fashion industry is responsible for **10% of all carbon emissions**.

The industry emits **more greenhouse gas** than all international shipping and flight combined.

It take **1,000 gallons of water** to make one pair of jeans!

On average, we buy **60% more** clothes and keep them for **1/2 as long** as we did 20 years ago.

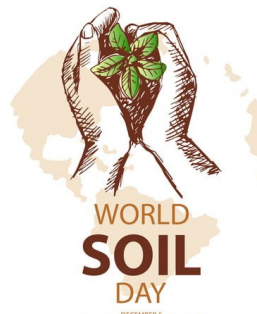
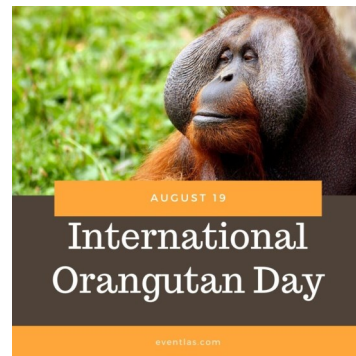
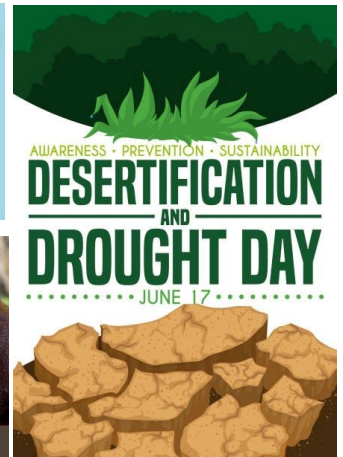
Every second of every day, a **garbage truck-sized load** of clothing is dumped into landfills.

Thanks to Karen at Unheating.com for compiling these facts.



2023 Dates Related to Creation Care

- June 5** - World Environment Day
- June 8** - World Oceans Day
- June 17** - World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- June 18-24** - National Pollinator Week
- July 30** - Pentecost
- August 19** - International Orangutan Day
- September 1** - Start of Season of Creation
- September 16** - World Cleanup Day
- October 4** - St. Francis of Assisi Day (end of Season of Creation)
- October 16** - World Food Day
- November 6** - International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
- November 29** - Giving Tuesday
- December 3** - Advent begins
- December 5** - World Soil Day
- December 25** - Christmas Day



WORLD FOOD DAY - OCT 16