



**DAILY SCRIPTURE & PRAYER RESOURCE**  
for the  
**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**  
24 MAY—31 MAY 2009

**DAY 5—THURSDAY 28 MAY**

**Facing up  
to ecological  
challenges**

**Scripture**

**Gen 1:31-2:3** *God saw everything he had made  
and it was very good*  
**Ps 148** *He commanded  
and they were created*  
**Rom 8:18-25** *The destruction of creation*  
**Mt 13:31-32** *The smallest of all the seeds*

*That they may become one in your hand (Ezek 37:17)*

**Reflection**

*We ask the churches to help their members to rediscover the traditional Christian values of self-restraint and asceticism (simplicity of lifestyle), and to propagate these values in their societies as a way of counteracting individualism and consumerism, and as an alternative foundation for economic and social development.*  
(Pacific Conference of Churches, Island of Hope statement)

God created our world with wisdom and love and when he had finished his great work of creation, God saw that it was good.

Today however the world is confronted with a serious ecological crisis. The earth is suffering from global warming as a result of our excessive consumption of energy. The extent of forested area on our planet has diminished by 50% over the last 40 years while the deserts are spreading ever faster. Three quarters of ocean life has already disappeared. Every day more than 100 living species die out and this loss of biodiversity is a serious menace to all life on Earth. With the apostle Paul we can affirm: creation has been delivered into the power of destruction, it groans as in the pains of childbirth. We cannot deny that human beings bear a heavy responsibility for environmental destruction. Our unbridled greed casts the shadow of death on the whole of creation.

Together Christians must do their utmost to save creation. Before the immensity of this task, we must unite their efforts. It is only *together* that we can protect the work of the creator. It is impossible not to notice the central place which natural elements occupy in the parables and teaching of Jesus. Christ shows great respect even for the smallest of all the seeds. With the biblical vision of creation having its origin and hope of transformation in God's goodness, Christians can contribute with one voice to the present reflection on the future of our planet.

Many of our Christian sisters and brothers in the Pacific and elsewhere are bearing the brunt of the ecological crisis whilst in Australia there is an increasing impact on many communities. Let us pray that God may strengthen the work of those responding.

**Prayer points**

- \* Give thanks for today's prophets who work for ecological sustainability and pray for Australian governments and for international cooperation in addressing today's ecological challenges
- \* Pray for the work of Christians caring for Creation and for Christian witness to living humbly on the Earth
- \* Pray for the churches of Aotearoa-New Zealand and the Pacific; for the Pacific Conference of Churches;
- \* Pray for those who find their home in the Churches of Christ and the Congregational Federation.

**Prayer for the Day**

God our creator,  
you fashioned creation by your Word and Spirit,  
and saw that it was good.  
Yet for many years, and even today, we spread  
death and destruction to the environment.  
God of forgiveness and hope, bring us to repent  
of our greed and thoughtfulness.  
Help us to care for all that you have made, so  
that together our desire is to protect this creation.  
God of new creation, pour out your hope on us,  
that we may work towards your new creation  
foreshadowed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.