

To our brothers and sisters in Christ,

We bring you greetings from the 100 scientists, theologians and concerned Christians who participated in the conference, 'Creation, Crisis and Conservation – a Christian response to a suffering planet' on the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> of February 2005, at the Old Government House, University of Auckland. The conference was sponsored by the Science and Faith Forum, a member of Vision Network New Zealand.

The conference was a truly historic occasion, with a broad range of excellent papers delivered by experts from New Zealand and overseas. It was an inspiring weekend, and there was a general commitment to work together to advance God's kingdom through the wise stewardship of this good planet earth. We invite you to share in the hope that has been awakened in us during this time.

A large body of evidence strongly indicates that the earth is facing an unprecedented environmental crisis. There are serious issues related to the extinction and over-exploitation of species, continuing habitat loss, human-induced climate change and pollution. At the same time, we marvel at the glory of God seen in his works – the beauty, diversity and vastness of God's interlocking creation. Truly, 'the earth is the Lord's and everything in it'. God demonstrated his love for creation by becoming part of it in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. The redeeming work of Christ on the Cross, and in his resurrection, is the only true and lasting source of our hope.

It is our deep regret that we, God's people, have often been slow to recognise the ways we have degraded God's handiwork and not played our part in being responsible stewards of this planet. We are all guilty of selfishness and greed.

In the midst of this, we can make a difference; whether by being actively involved in local projects, or through advancing societal change towards a more just and responsible lifestyle. We want to help you and your congregations and parishes respond, by making available to you material that can be used in your preaching and teaching ministries and for the small group meetings of your church.

We are establishing a network of Christians who are concerned about environmental matters. No doubt there are members of your congregation who are already involved in the preservation and renewal of creation through various projects. Please tell us if members of your congregation would like to know more and join us.

Resource materials and more information about the outcomes of the conference are available on-line at our website: [www.creationcare.org.nz](http://www.creationcare.org.nz). We would welcome any opportunity to discuss these concerns with you.

Yours in the name of our creator-redeemer Lord,

The Science and Faith Forum.