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An Open Letter

Dear friends in Christ:

As we make our way into the second decade of the 21st Century, it seems the number of vexing problems facing humanity has only increased. One of the more controversial issues is that of the environmental degradation which threatens at some level the flourishing of humanity on this planet. Without controversy the present state of affairs, when viewed squarely, presents humans with a very complicated situation and in most cases no easy answers. Because of the fact of the challenging situation, it requires many minds and hands to find reasonable and workable solutions where solutions are possible. This is no time for exaggerating or minimizing the possible consequences if we do not do something. The bare truth of the matter is we are not being good stewards of what God has created for the sustenance and enjoyment of humanity. On this count, Christians in particular should be neither like Chicken Little, nor like the proverbial ostrich. The Scriptures tell us man was given dominion over creation to care for it (Gen 1:28) as it was designed by God to provide both sustenance and enjoyment for mankind.

In light of this, we urge Christians in all places to exercise creation stewardship to the degree their situation permits or their position requires, mandated by their love for God and neighbor. This means not only practicing creation stewardship but speaking to the moral dimension of the causes for much of environmental degradation presently experienced on this planet. The Christian hope of heaven is no excuse for abdicating our responsibility for proper care of God's good creation. I present this open letter with a genuine hope that you will write your opinions as letters to the editor or articles or essays in this new '*Theoecology Journal*' (online).

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