

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

January, 2006



During 2006 the Social Concerns Committee will make every effort to provide you with resources that will be helpful to you and your communities as you implement your action commitments related to the Earth Charter.

We will be contacting you regarding the information you have gleaned these past months. We know you have a wealth of information to share with the congregation. The Social Concerns Committee: Sisters Margarite Apostolo, Elaine Sanchez, Marjorie Wakelin, Carolyn Whited. Associates: Mary Campos, Delphie Gonzales, Shaun Peterson.

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NEWS UPDATE FROM SHALOM COMMUNITY:

Water: A website that has been helpful to us as we explore water related issues has been created by the Sierra Club, "Corporate Accountability Committee and Water Privatization Task Force" www.sierraclub.org/cac/water

Although bottled water may be needed in emergencies such as when local drinking water is contaminated, the bottled water industry, led by Nestle, Coca Cola, and Pepsi Cola, is aggressively promoting non-essential uses of bottled water. This website covers succinctly how bottled water impacts our ecosystems, and has become a global threat. You will also find some helpful ways to take action regarding this issue, locally as well as globally. Take a look at the Sierra Club policy on "Water Privatization And Commodification." You would think it was an excerpt from the Earth Charter.

"Half the world's hospital beds are occupied by people suffering from waterborne diseases"

-Global Development Research Center

Alternative Gifts International has provided us with the opportunity to take action on this issue . The following are projects we are supporting financially:

- A Simple Solar Solution/Tanzania Kenya: A donation teaches villagers to purify water using solar cookers.
- Village Water Wells/Nicaragua, Bolivia: A donation helps rural indigenous communities build water systems that provide immediate access to potable water.
- Water in the Desert/Sudan: A donation prevents waterborne illness in a drought-prone country by funding wells.

- This website has a number of projects that your community may also want to incorporate into your action steps.
www.altgifts.org



RESOURCES THAT YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL FOR 2006

Book:

Sustainability and Spirituality by John E. Carroll, argues that true sustainability must be based in spirituality and looks at religious communities dedicated to the environment. A groundbreaking look at spirituality and environmental consciousness.

Magazine:

Yes! (Yes, that is the title.) It is a journal of positive futures. This magazine engages you with some of the most crucial issues of our time in a way that gives hope for the future. It has diverse religious and spiritual voices calling for solidarity among all people. The Winter 2006 issue theme “Spiritual Uprising” covers issues related to the struggle against slavery and child labor to the call to save the Earth. Great resource - www.yesmagazine.org

Website:

www.thegreenlife.org The Green Life helps the growing number of environmentally aware, health conscious Americans make informed lifestyle decisions. Provides - education, outreach and advocacy opportunities.

www.sojo.org SOJOMAIL- A weekly email-zine of spirituality, politics, and culture. A great way to keep updated on issues that impact the most vulnerable people in our society. An opportunity to join with others of faith in impacting government policy.

“Remember that there is a meaning beyond absurdity. Be sure that every little deed counts, that every word has power. Never forget that you can still do your share to redeem the world in spite of all absurdities and frustrations and disappointments.”
-Abraham Joshua Heschel