

## Part 2: Y5 Universal Church

LF3: Ways to be stewards of God's creation.  
LF4: We are called to Stewardship.



One very important way in which we should be stewards of God's creation is in the area of the impact of climate change.

What is the difference between weather and climate.?

Weather can change dramatically in the course of a day whereas climate usually takes years to change. The reason why people are concerned now is because the climate is changing more quickly than before.



The following slides show some of the impact of climate change.

# Finding out about... the impacts of climate change



Temperature

Sea level

Drought

Storms

Flooding

Climate change could affect different parts of the world in different ways.

CAFOD works with local organisations to support poor communities in more than 40 countries worldwide. Some of them are already dealing with the effects of climate change on health and livelihoods in the poorest communities on Earth today.

Scientists have identified some of the likely effects of climate change.

Temperature

Sea level

Drought

Storms

Flooding

Flooding may increase in some areas.

More intense and unpredictable rainfall could produce more flash floods. In coastal areas flooding could occur due to more frequent storms and higher sea levels.

Flooding affects lives - washing away homes, schools and even people. People also need clean, fresh water to live. If flood water contaminates the drinking water supply many people can get sick.

Temperature

Sea level

Drought

Storms

Flooding

Scientists say sea levels could rise by the end of the century. There are two reasons why this could happen.

1. As the water in the oceans warms, it expands and takes up more space.

2. Ice from the polar caps and from glaciers is melting, adding more water to the seas.

People living on small, low-lying islands may have to evacuate and millions of people in low-lying areas will be at risk of flooding.

Salt from rising sea levels could pollute ground water making it undrinkable and more difficult to grow crops.

Temperature

Sea level

**Drought**

Storms

Flooding

Droughts are likely to be more frequent and more intense.

In some areas there will be less water available for drinking and to water crops because there will be less rain.

This could mean water shortages for up to four billion people and food shortages for 250 million people.\*

\*Source: Stern Review on the economics of climate change, 2006.

Temperature

Sea level

Drought

**Storms**

Flooding

Intense storms, know as hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons (depending on where they occur in the world) could happen much more often and be more intense as a result of rising sea surface temperature.

Storms can be devastating to the lives of people living in the affected area; with damage to homes and schools and loss of lives.



Temperature

Sea level

Drought

Storms

Flooding

The earth is getting hotter – the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century has been, by far, the warmest decade since records started in 1850.

Experts agree that temperature rises must be below a rise of 2°C to help limit dangerous climate change.

Click on the map to read about the different impacts climate change can have and how CAFOD is helping communities adapt and prepare.

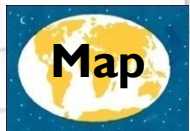
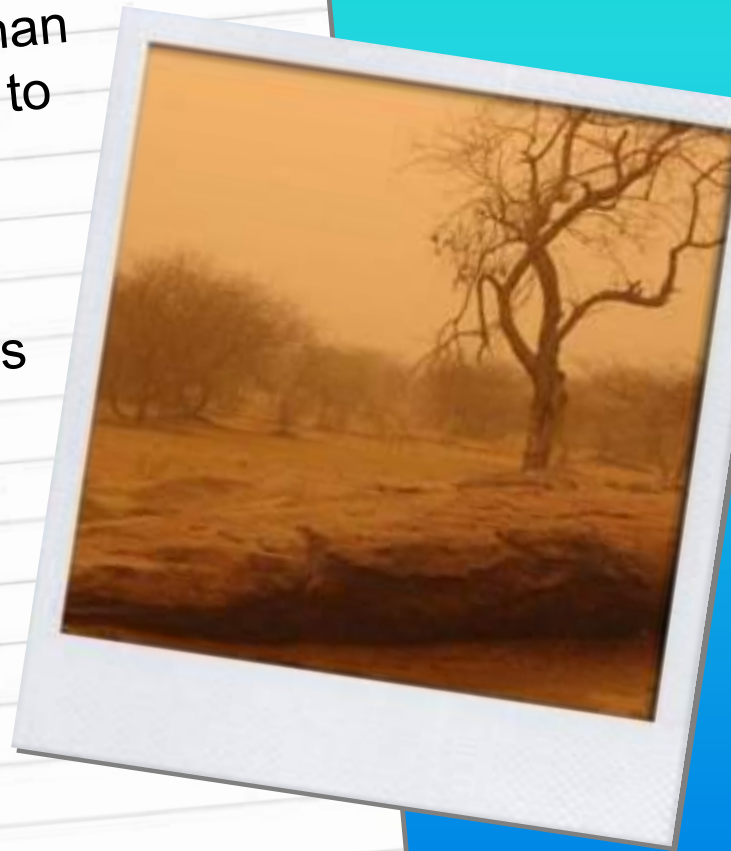


# NIGER

Over three quarters of Niger is desert. The weather is very hot and there are powerful dust storms.

In 2005 the **drought** was much worse than normal and 3.6 million people struggled to find enough food to live. That's more than the whole population of Wales.\*

CAFOD worked with local organisations to set up community food banks and feeding centres for malnourished children during the drought. This helped communities get through the hungry season in 2006.



\* source : <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?ID=6>

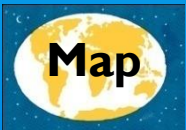


CAFOD also helped people to adapt and prepare for changes in the climate by growing different types of crops and using the local method of digging 'half moons' into the land to help the soil absorb more water.

It is difficult to say when and where there will be drought. There could even be more rainfall across the region in the next 50 years. However scientists warn that, in the long term, the region will have more regular and severe droughts. This means that methods for adapting to changing weather conditions will become even more important.



'Half moons' help the soil absorb more water

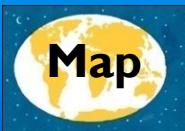


# Mozambique

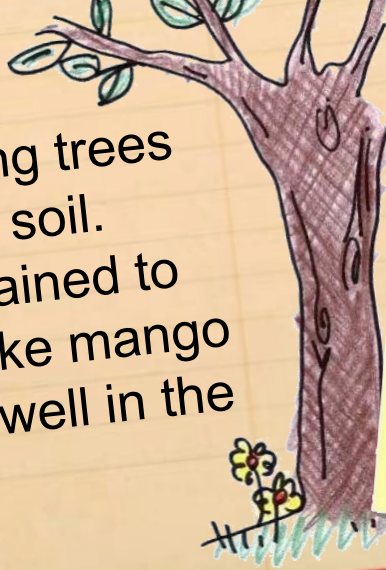
In 2000 Mozambique experienced terrible flooding across most of the country. One of the worst-affected places was Chamanculo, a shanty town near the capital Maputo.

The name Chamanculo means 'huge bath' because the ground there absorbs hardly any water.

After the floods, CAFOD partners, the Franciscan sisters began a project to move people to higher ground to protect them from future floods. The new area was dusty and windy but eventually 1,777 families decided to move. Everyone helped out with the building to make sure all the families had homes.



CAFOD suggested planting trees to improve the desert-like soil. Groups of people were trained to plant and care for trees like mango and orange, which grow well in the dry conditions.



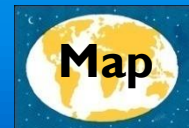
"I have seen a BIG difference in our neighbourhood since we started to plant trees. Before the area was bare, now it is full of life. Thank you for giving us the gift of trees"

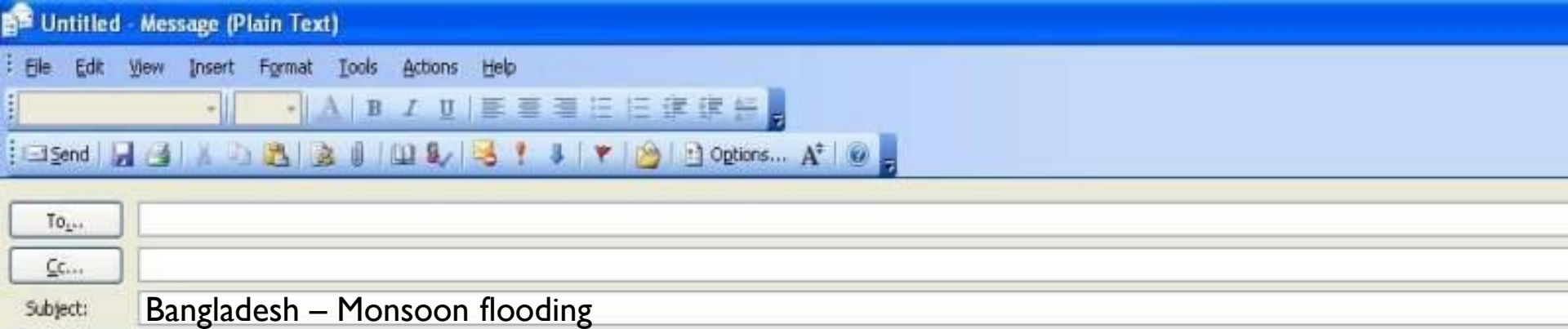
Elisa Magaia



"Learning to look after plants is caring for the future of the world!"

Rafeal Malunga





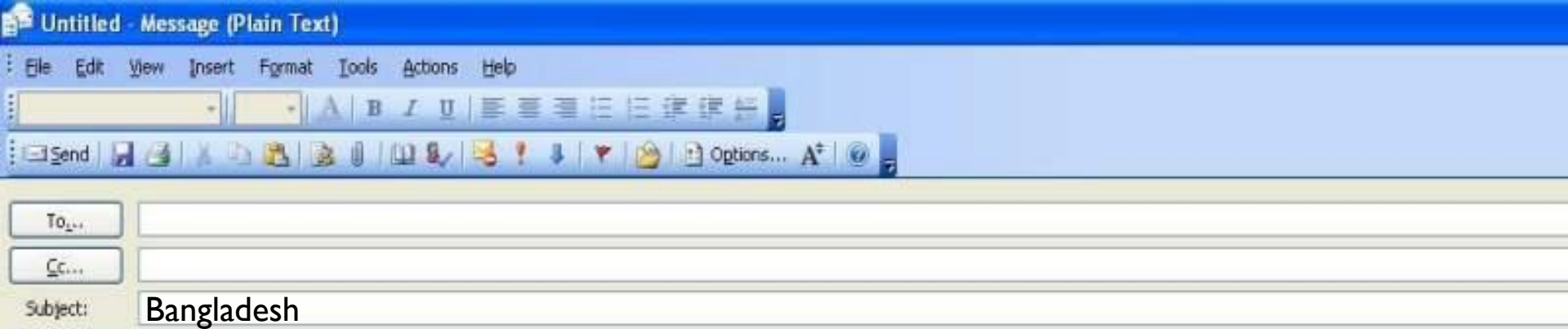
Every year the monsoon rainy season floods up to one third of the country. It is really important to farmers as it helps make the land fertile. Rice is grown in the rainy season and wheat and vegetables are grown in the winter months.

In 2004 and 2007 the flooding was much worse than usual. It affected 40 of the country's 64 districts. Almost five million people, about the same number of people that live in the whole of Scotland\*, were affected; 80 schools were completely ruined and another 2,000 schools were partially damaged.



\* <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?ID=6>





CAFOD helped by providing clean water, food and materials so that people could build shelters. CAFOD has also worked with local organisations to build schools on stilts that can also be used as cyclone shelters!



Scientists believe that the effects of climate change - such as more cyclones, stronger monsoons and rising sea levels - could make flooding in Bangladesh much worse and more difficult to predict.





# Cambodia

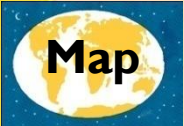
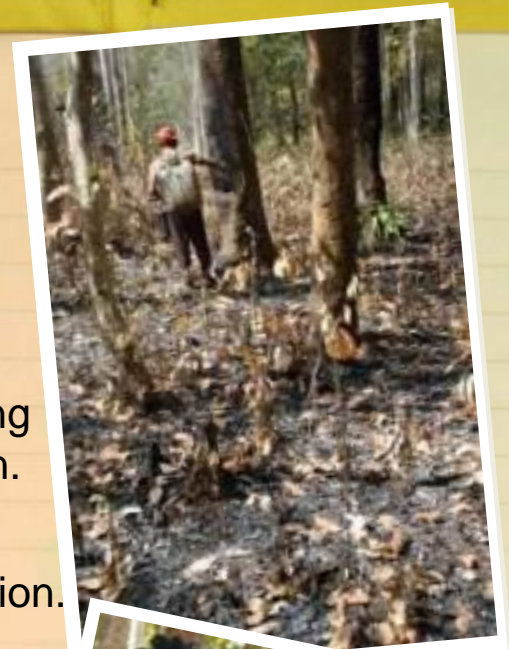
Protecting trees.

Trees and plants could be described as the green lungs of our planet. They do a brilliant job of turning CO<sub>2</sub>, water and energy (from sunlight) into oxygen. This process is called photosynthesis.

In Cambodia CAFOD is helping to stop deforestation.

Villagers in O'Chra village collect resin by tapping trees. This means making a cut in the wood and collecting the resin that drips into a container. Most of the resin is sold to paint onto boats to make them waterproof.

But illegal tree-logging companies have put the villagers under pressure. They want the resin tappers to sell their trees so that they can be cut down for wood. Some of the farmers were told that if they didn't sell their trees, they would be cut down anyway and then they'd get nothing!



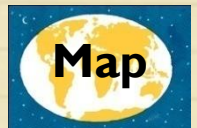
Some of the tappers sold some of their trees because they felt they had no choice. This meant they could no longer make a living from them or pass them on to their children. Large parts of the forest have been destroyed.

CAFOD's partner, the DPA, runs a project helping farmers stand up for themselves and learn about their rights.

This helps them protect the trees from being cut down and therefore protect their future.



\*Development Partnership in Action



# THE UK

Climate change is often in the news in the UK especially when weather events are extreme or unusual.

A survey in 2007 found that 88 per cent of people in the UK believed that climate change was happening and 68 per cent believed that they had seen personal evidence of climate change.

## CAFOD's work

Climate change affects us all – but those hit first and hardest are people living in poverty. CAFOD works with local organisations in developing countries who are already tackling the effects of climate change.

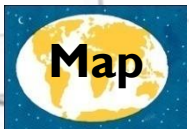
CAFOD also campaigns to make sure our climate change laws are strong and effective in the UK. CAFOD also encourages people to look at how they can make changes to their own lifestyles and become part of the climate-change solution.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Someone in the UK puts the same amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere in 22 weeks that someone in Tanzania does in their whole lifetime!

NEW ECONOMICS FOUNDATION



## WHAT COULD YOU DO?

# Guatemala

In October 2005, Hurricane Stan caused severe floods and landslides. Many people lost their lives and whole communities were affected.

CAFOD is supporting organisations that encourage people to protect their environment and promote tree planting. This is called '**reforestation**'.

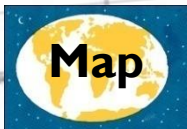
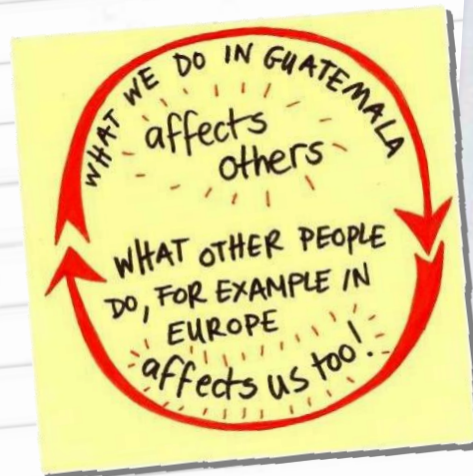
Up to 20,000 seedlings are planted each year. The trees act as live barriers, the roots help to stop landslides and the branches act as wind breaks.

In Mayan culture the Earth is our mother and we are all her children.

BUT now as children we are destroying our mother and this has global impact.



Trees act as live barriers in hurricanes!



# NICARAGUA

In 1998 Hurricane Mitch hit Nicaragua. Many people died and almost one million people were made homeless\*.

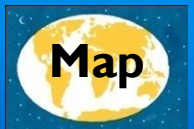
CAFOD is supporting the John XXIII Institute, which helps communities prepare for future emergencies, for example when a hurricane hits.

They have trained people in first aid and rescue methods and have even acted out an emergency so that people could practice the skills they have learnt.



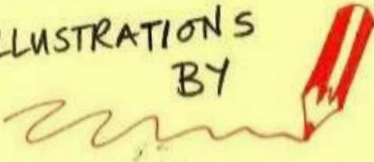
Emergency first aid kits, rescue harnesses, torches and blankets are provided so that this can happen successfully.

Fifteen-year-old Darling Urbina Arevalo received training in first aid. Her neighbours are training to fight fires, build a rope bridge and set up an emergency care centre. People now feel safer because they are prepared.



WHAT CAN YOU DO  
TO BE PART OF THE  
CLIMATE-CHANGE SOLUTION?

ILLUSTRATIONS  
BY

  
George Onions  
and  
Andy Smith

PHOTOS BY

Eleanor Church  
\* Peter With  
Laura Storr  
Marcella Haddad  
Annie Bungeroth \*  
\* Mel Beard on  
Alert.net  
and \*  
Purple Flame

## Questions to discuss

- What Christian beliefs and values compel us to take action?
- What is the impact of climate change on the harmony of God's creation?
- Why should a Christian help people affected by the impact of climate change?
- How could climate change have contributed to these emergencies?
- In what ways were the people living there affected?
- In what ways did CAFOD work with the local communities to support them?



Cyclones, floods and droughts have always happened and are more common in some areas of the world - for example, monsoon flooding in Bangladesh. The issue, however, is that as a result of climate change these extreme weather events are happening more frequently, more intensely and less predictably.

Local communities are the best placed to know and understand the extremes of their environment and how to adapt to fluctuations in it. The unpredictability of climate change is making it harder for people to prepare and adapt. And the increased intensity of some extreme weather events makes it harder for communities to recover.

The following slides show the impacts of climate change around the world



## Read the following Psalm

My God, how great you are!  
You give new life to the world.

The springs are full of water; the rivers run down the mountains; animals have plenty to drink; wild donkeys are thirsty no more.

The birds up in the trees  
build their nests and sing their songs.

You pour down life-giving rain; the grass begins to grow; crops spring up; people have plenty to eat: wine to gladden their hearts; oil to make their faces glow.

All creation is blessed: the trees grow tall; the birds make their nests, the storks build homes in the highest trees; the wild goats enjoy the mountains; the rabbits hide in the cliffs.



You made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows when to set.

Some animals come out only at night to find the food that you provide.

The sun rises, and they go back to sleep.

Most people work in the day  
from morning light until evening dusk.

What wonders you do in the world.

They are far too many to count.

The world is full of your creatures.

And indeed so are the seas.

The ocean holds countless fish; great whales play in it; fine ships pass over the waves.

They all depend on you to feed them when they need it. You provide the food they gather; your open hand gives them their fill.

Without you they would die.

My God how great you are!

You give new life to the world.

Glory to you forever!

(based on Psalm 104:10-30)

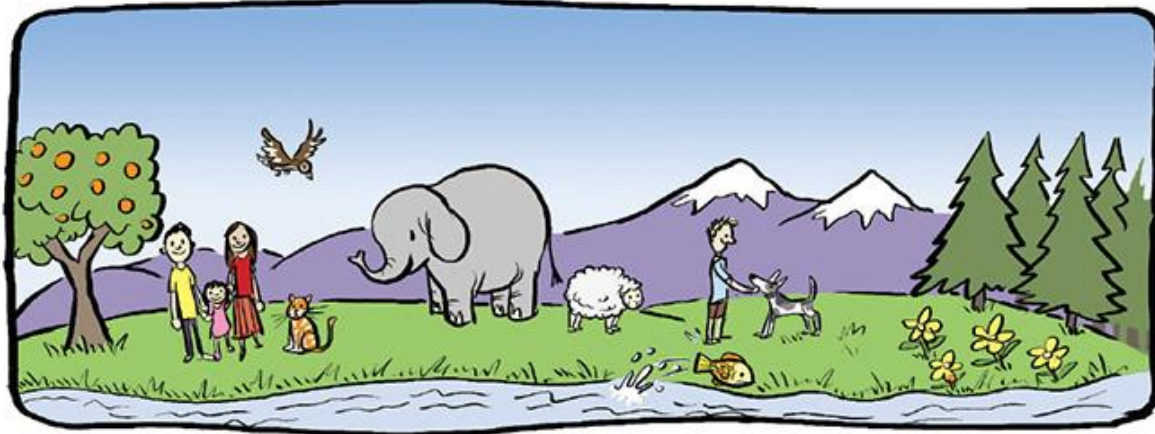
*Psalms*

## Stewardship of creation.

The earth and all life on it is God's creation. We are called to take care of it because it is a holy gift from God and the only place we can live. When we make bad or thoughtless use of the earth's resources, many people suffer. When we make poor choices about how we treat other living things (people, animals, plants) we cause life to be less than God intends. Making wise choices about the care of God's creation is called good stewardship.

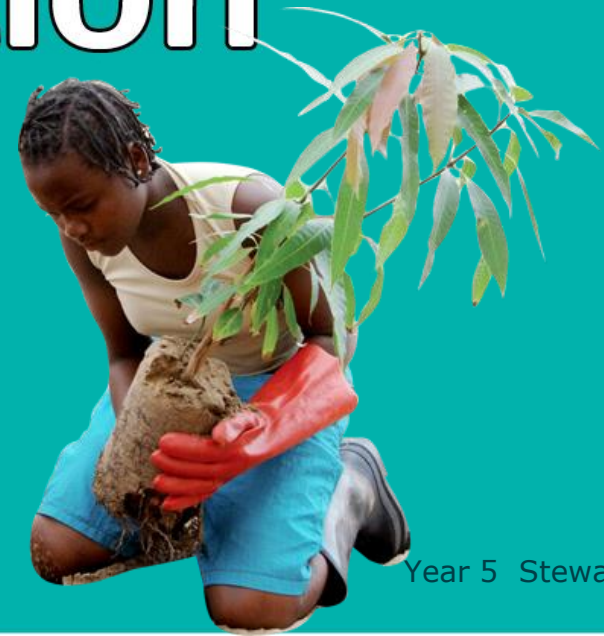
Anne E, Neuberger 2005.

THE EARTH AND ALL THE PEOPLE, PLANTS AND ANIMALS  
ARE GIFTS FROM GOD.



GOD WANTS US TO TAKE CARE OF THESE GIFTS.

# Stewardship of creation



# We are called to stewardship



The **earth** and  
all **life** on it is **God's**  
**creation.**




We are called to **take care** of it because it is a holy **gift from God** and the only place we can **live**.

When we make **bad** or **thoughtless** use of the **world's resources**, many people **suffer**.

When we make **good choices** about how we treat other **living things** (people, animals, plants) we help all living things to **live** as **God intends**.



A close-up photograph of a field of young green grass growing in rows. The grass is vibrant green and appears to be in the early stages of growth. The soil is dark brown and has been tilled, with clumps of earth visible between the rows. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Making **wise choices**  
about the care of  
**God's creation** is  
called **good**  
**stewardship**.

Read the following story of good stewardship:

Listen Up!

The people of the Cabrican in Guatemala are changing the way they live, to protect their local environment.

For generations cutting down trees for firewood and building has been many people's job, but the community realised that if they carried on they wouldn't have any trees left! They needed to think of other jobs that they could do to look after their families, while at the same time respecting the environment and the trees around them.

That's where Radio Balam Estereo steps in. People learn how and why it is important to protect the environment by listening to the radio. It explains everything in the local language, called Mam, and it even teaches people about different jobs so that they don't need to cut down the trees. Now people are learning to weave to support their families.



"I've taught our neighbours and friends to weave and children are learning from their families. Now a lot of people in the community are weaving. The radio encourages people to do this"  
Arturo Mendes CAFOD partner.



The radio station is also promoting "reforestation", to replace the trees that have already been cut down. Up to 20,000 seedlings can be planted in one year! It's important as a community to replace the trees, as they act as live barriers against mud slides during hurricanes - something the people of Cabrican and Guatemala know only too well after the devastating effects of Hurricane Stan in October 2005.



People have really tuned in to the lessons being shared by Radio Balam Estereo, and it shows. Now whole communities are working together to make changes for a sustainable future.

### Questions to discuss

- What does it mean to say that 'poor choices about how we treat other living things cause life to be less than God intends'?
- How are the people of Cabrigan helping themselves, others and the environment?
- What do you think the consequences will be if we do not care for the world?
- How can we make people more aware of the consequences of their choices?
- How does the understanding that we are all called to be stewards of creation shape the lives of believers?



Each  
new  
Day is  
God's gift to  
you  
What you do  
with it is  
your gift to  
God

### Your Task:

Write a letter to the school council explaining why it is important for everyone in school to be stewards of the school environment and giving suggestions about how we can work together to make changes.

Make links to the scriptures you have read in this topic.

# LF5: Caring for God's people.



## CARE FOR OTHERS (based on Leviticus 19:9-10)

When harvest time comes do not cut the crops to the very edges of the fields and do not return to collect the scraps that are left.

You must not go back through your vineyard to gather the grapes that you missed.

You must not pick up those which have fallen.

Leave them for poor people and strangers who are hungry.

I am your God.

## AND GOD SAID (based on Leviticus 26:3-5)

“I want you to live your life

according to the laws that I have given you. Keep to my rules and put them into practice.

I, for my part will do this:

I will send the rain pouring down from the heavens at just the right time.

Earth will soak up the rain, and the trees and the crops will flourish. You will have plenty to eat and to drink.

You will have rich wine

because the vines will bear many grapes.

If you keep my rules you will have bread to eat and you will live secure on your land.”

Think about:

How might the world be different if people kept God's laws?

What rules help you?

- at home
- at school
- at church
- around the neighbourhood

## Discussion Questions

- It is important that we only take from creation what we need. What is this passage from scripture teaching us?
- What lessons about sharing can you learn from this story?
- How can you care for others at home and at school? Jesus was concerned that we should not always be thinking about what we have and that we should share. He told us not to worry because God will always take care of us. This is what he said:

Do not be afraid, for your Father is pleased to give you the Kingdom. Sell all your belongings and give the money to the poor. Provide for yourselves purses that don't wear out, and save your riches in heaven, where they will never decrease, because no thief can get to them, and no moth can destroy them. For your heart will always be where your riches are.

Luke 12: 32-34

- What do you think Jesus means when he talks about purses that don't wear out?
- What will be the reward of kindness to others?
- What kind of things do you set your heart on?

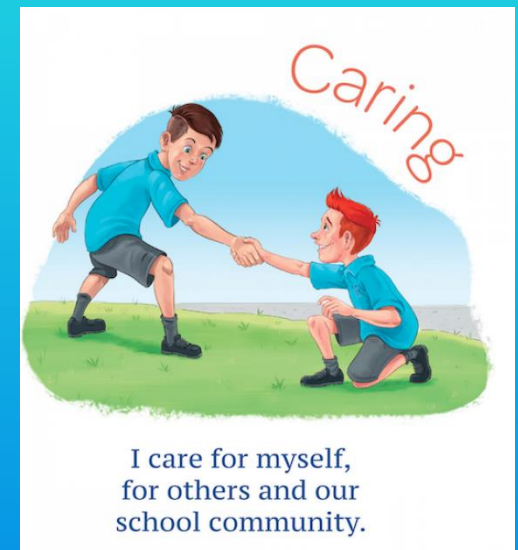
## Activity:

What small things can you do to help care for others?

How can you do this?

What scripture has influenced your actions?

Create a poster or fact file to answer these questions



# LF6: Being good stewards of all the resources entrusted to us.

## Look at the picture:

- What can you see in the picture?
- What do you think the boy is holding in his hand?
- How do you think he got it?



## Mining for school fees

The boy in the picture lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a vast country in the centre of Africa. In his hand is a small piece of gold. Lots of people see gold as a symbol of wealth and power. It is used in everything from jewellery to food and aircraft engines to computers.

But gold has done little to reduce poverty in developing countries and is often linked to fighting. Gold mining can harm the environment and cause lots of problems for people living near mines. Sometimes the deadly chemicals that are used to get the gold out of the rock get into the water supply and people get very sick.

Children often work in the mines. A teacher from a mining area explains how this affects them: "The Government has not paid teachers here for years. So I just get \$30 a month out of the school fees paid by parents. The school is for six to twelve year olds. It costs the parents one dollar per child, per month. Many children leave school and start mining because they can't afford the fees. Some of them even mine after school. Each year we have lots of children at the beginning but after a while, fewer and fewer come. The parents all want to educate their children but they are helpless."

(School teacher, Mongbwalu)



CAFOD works to ensure poor people benefit from the natural resources of their nation and to have a say over how these resources are used. CAFOD campaigns to help make sure that big mining companies act responsibly and that ordinary people are treated well.

God is concerned for anyone who is treated unfairly. At the beginning of the prophet Isaiah God makes that clear:

*Learn to do good; see that justice is done, help those who are oppressed, give orphans their rights and defend widows.*

Isaiah 1: 17

## Discussion Questions

- How is CAFOD living up to the responsibility of being good stewards of all the resources God has entrusted to us in the story of Gold Mining?
- How do CAFOD's beliefs and values influence your thinking and actions?
- What do you think God meant when he gave the message to Isaiah; learn to do good?
- Who are the people mentioned in this scripture passage as needing care? Why do you think they need help?
- How would you apply the passage from Isaiah to the story about gold mining?

## Your Task:

Design a leaflet entitled 'Stewardship of God's creation'.

Think about:

- What is stewardship?
- Why is it important?
- Make links to scripture - Readings from Genesis
- People who are affected by this, and can affect it!
- Give some examples of people whose way of life is/was formed by their religious belief in Stewardship and God's Creation.



# Pause and reflect

## Walk Lightly Prayer

Each leaf, each petal,  
each grain, each person,  
sings your praises,  
Creator God.

Each creature on the earth,  
all the mountains and great  
seas  
show your glory,  
Spirit of love.

And yet the hand of greed  
has patented and plundered  
your splendour,  
has taken and not shared  
your gift,  
has lived as owner of the earth,  
not guest.

And so  
the ice is cracked  
the rivers dry,  
the valleys flooded  
and the snowcaps melt.

God our Father, show us  
how to step gently,  
how to live simply,  
how to walk lightly  
with respect and love  
for all that you have made.

Amen

Linda Jones/CAFOD

# Respond

Now that you have explored all the Scripture for this topic, spend some time recording the key things you want to remember.



Listen to some quiet music and spend time thinking about these questions:

*How can I be a steward of creation?*

*What do I really care about?*

*How can I show concern for what I care about?*

*What does stewardship mean?*

With your family, take part in a worship, using the resources on the following slides to help you.

# Stewardship

## The Church is called to the Stewardship of Creation



### Gather:

Set up a prayer focus, you could add any of the following items or choose your own:

Cross

Candle

Bible (open at *Genesis 1: 1-25*)

Let us begin our prayer time together with the sign of the Cross : **In the name of the Father ...** and by lighting our candle to remind us that *God is present in our gathering*

We have been learning that often, the word 'stewardship' is used to refer to a responsibility to take care of something that is owned by someone else and 'sustainability' means taking into account the impact that our choices will have on other people, future generations and on the earth that nourishes us. We also learned that the Church is called to the stewardship of creation.

### Word:

Let us pray

Creator God,

in your hands you hold the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains,  
for all creation belongs to you.

Grant us grace to cherish your world and wisdom to nurture its resources.

Save us from the desire to control what is not ours

and the impulse to possess what is not ours

and the impulse to possess what is there to share. Amen



# Stewardship

## The Church is called to the Stewardship of Creation



*A reading from the Book of Genesis 1: 1-25.*

In the beginning God created the sky and the land. Everything was dark.

So God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. God saw that it was good.

God called the light 'day' and the darkness 'night'. God said, "Let there be water." And so it was.

God called the dry land 'earth' and the water 'sea' and God saw that it was good.

God said, "Let the earth be filled with plants and trees." And so it was. Plants and trees grew on earth full of fruit and vegetables. God saw that it was good.

God said, "Let there be two great lights in the sky. A great light to shine in the day, and a smaller light to shine in the night." God made the stars too. God saw that it was good.

God said, "Let the seas be filled with living creatures and the skies be filled with flying creatures." And so it was. Great sea creatures and every kind of winged creature filled the seas and skies. God saw that it was good.

God said, "Let the earth be filled with every kind of living creatures; wild animals and tame, reptiles that crawl on the earth." And so it was. God filled the world with every kind of animal and reptile. God saw that it was good.

**The Word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God*

**Response:**

After God created the earth, God created humans.

All people are made in the image and likeness of God and that means that each person has dignity and is to be treated with respect. Creation is not ours to own but it is on loan to us for the time we live on the earth. We have been given responsibility to take care of the earth and everything in it; that is to be good stewards. We must protect and sustain it for future generations.

# Stewardship

## The Church is called to the Stewardship of Creation

### Mission:

Sit quietly for a moment and ask yourself, 'what can I do this week to respect the environment and become a steward of God's creation?'

**Final Prayer:** Walk Lightly Prayer

Let's pray together:

Each leaf, each petal, each grain, each person, sings your praises, Creator God.  
Each creature on the earth, all the mountains and great seas show your glory, Spirit of love.  
And yet the hand of greed has patented and plundered your splendour, has taken and not shared your gift, has lived as owner of the earth, not guest.  
And so the ice is cracked the rivers dry, the valleys flooded and the snow caps melt.  
God our Father, show us how to step gently, how to live simply, how to walk lightly with respect and love for all that you have made.

Amen

You could end by singing the hymn All things Bright and Beautiful together.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FT\\_oDqOEGpc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FT_oDqOEGpc)

