

INTERNATIONAL
A ROCHA
Conservation and Hope

A black and white photograph of Billy Graham speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. His hands are clasped in front of him, and he is looking upwards and to the right with an expressive facial expression. The podium has a microphone and some papers on it. The background is dark with a few out-of-focus lights.

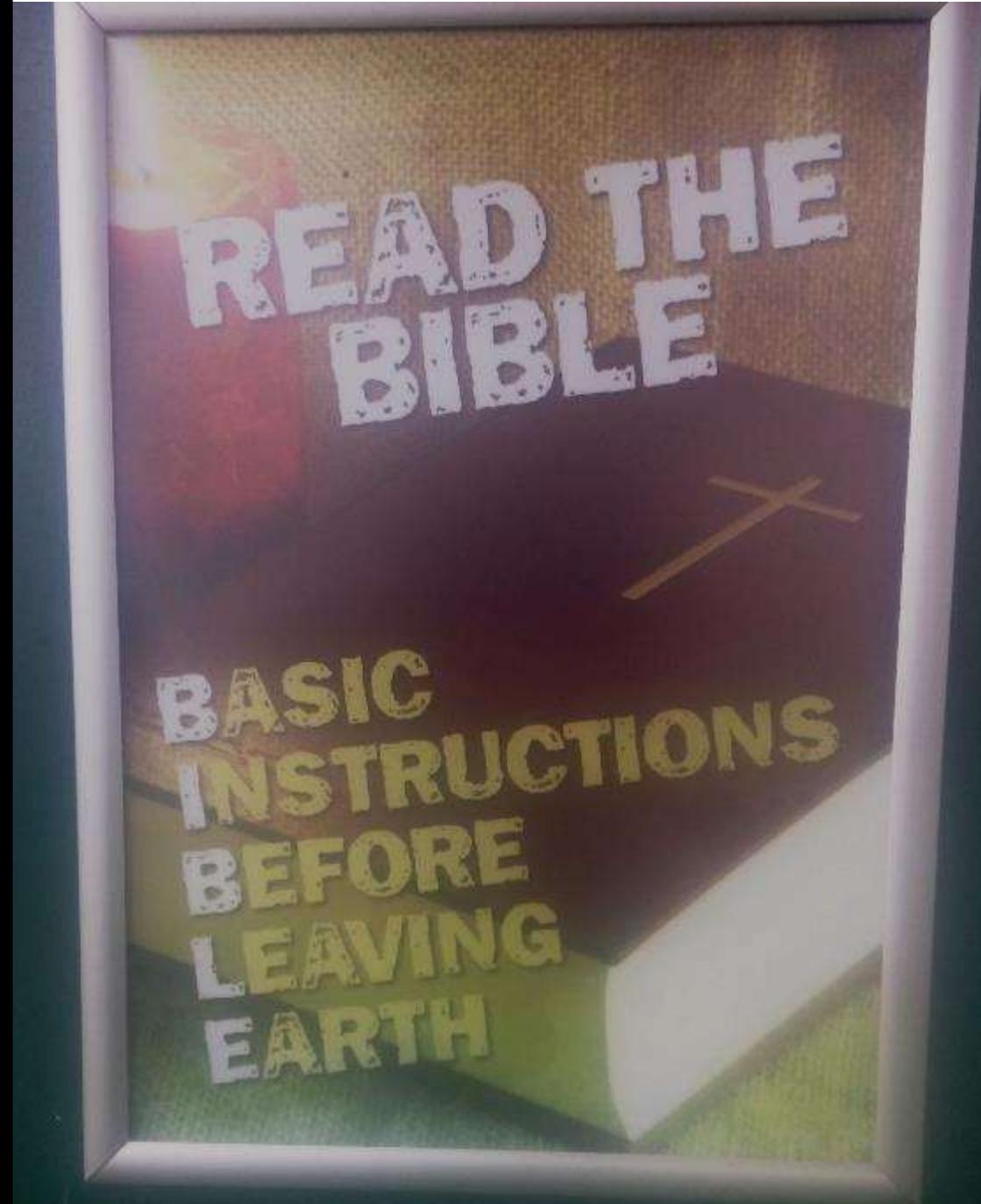
MY HOME IS IN HEAVEN
I'M JUST TRAVELLING
THROUGH THIS WORLD

Billy Graham

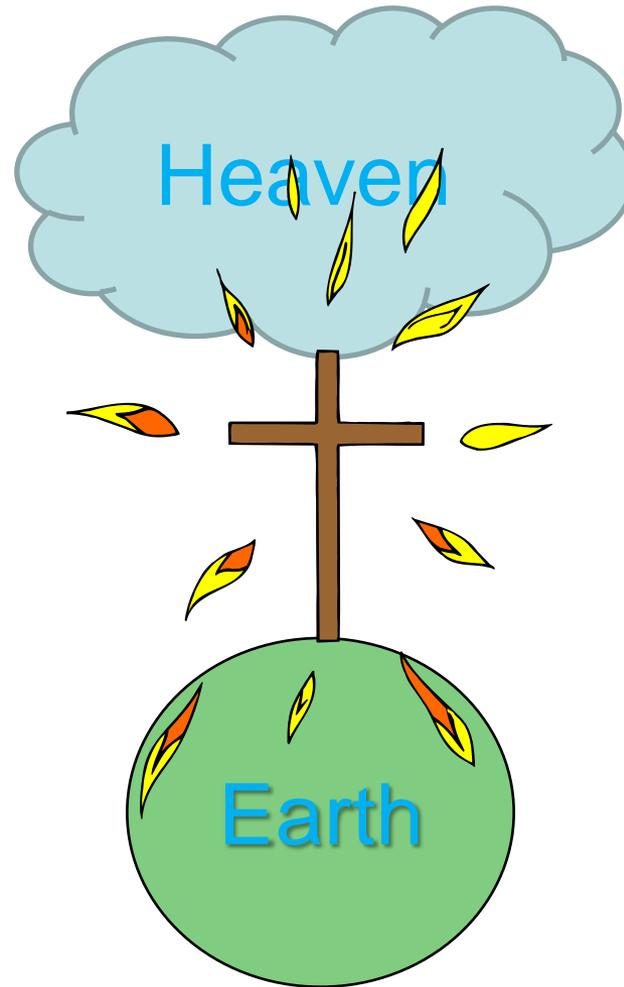
1918 - 2018

UCB.CO.UK

**The Biblical
story?**



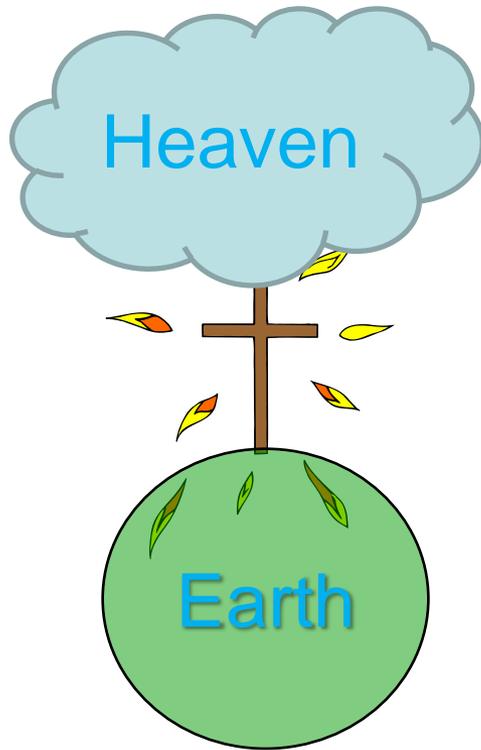
What is the Gospel?



Micah Declaration on Integral Mission

“Integral mission or holistic transformation is the proclamation and demonstration of the gospel. It is not simply that evangelism and social involvement are to be done alongside each other. Rather, in integral mission our proclamation has social consequences as we call people to love and repentance in all areas of life. And our social involvement has evangelistic consequences as we bear witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ.”

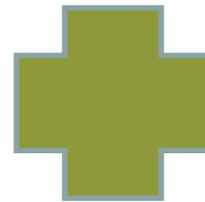
Integral mission: the whole gospel?



Saving
souls



Human
flourishing



Are we really at the centre?



The Copernican Revolution



Are we really at the centre?



A ROCHA

What is the Gospel?



“God so loved the



that he gave his
only Son”

What is the Gospel?



Creation



Fall



Israel



Jesus



New Creation

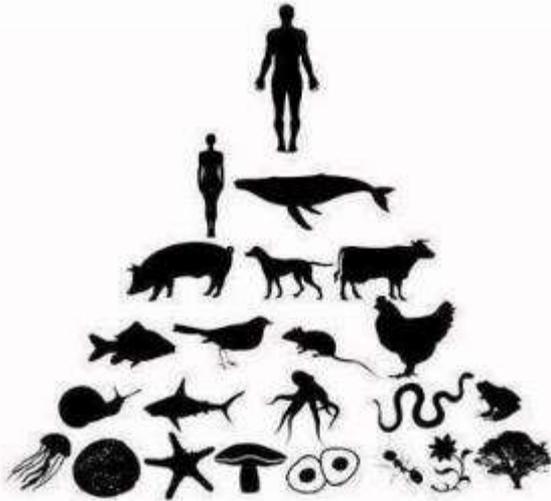
Revisiting the first great commission

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” Genesis 1:27-28

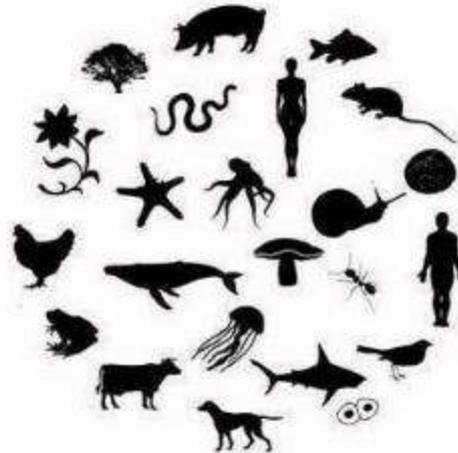
- a job description: to reflect God’s image
- dominion as ‘servant kingship’
- focussed on God’s care for other species
- created to serve and preserve (2:15)

Revisiting the first great commission

EGO



ECO



THEO



Rethinking Jesus: Saviour of the World

Colossians 1.15-20

- **The Source of Creation**

v.16 “By him all things were created.”

- **The Sustainer of Creation**

v.17 “In him all things hold together.”

- **The Saviour of Creation**

v.20 He is the one through whom God is pleased “to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood shed on the cross.”



Rethinking Jesus: Saviour of the World



My Jesus,
my Saviour



He's got the whole
world in His hands

Reframing hope: renewal not escape

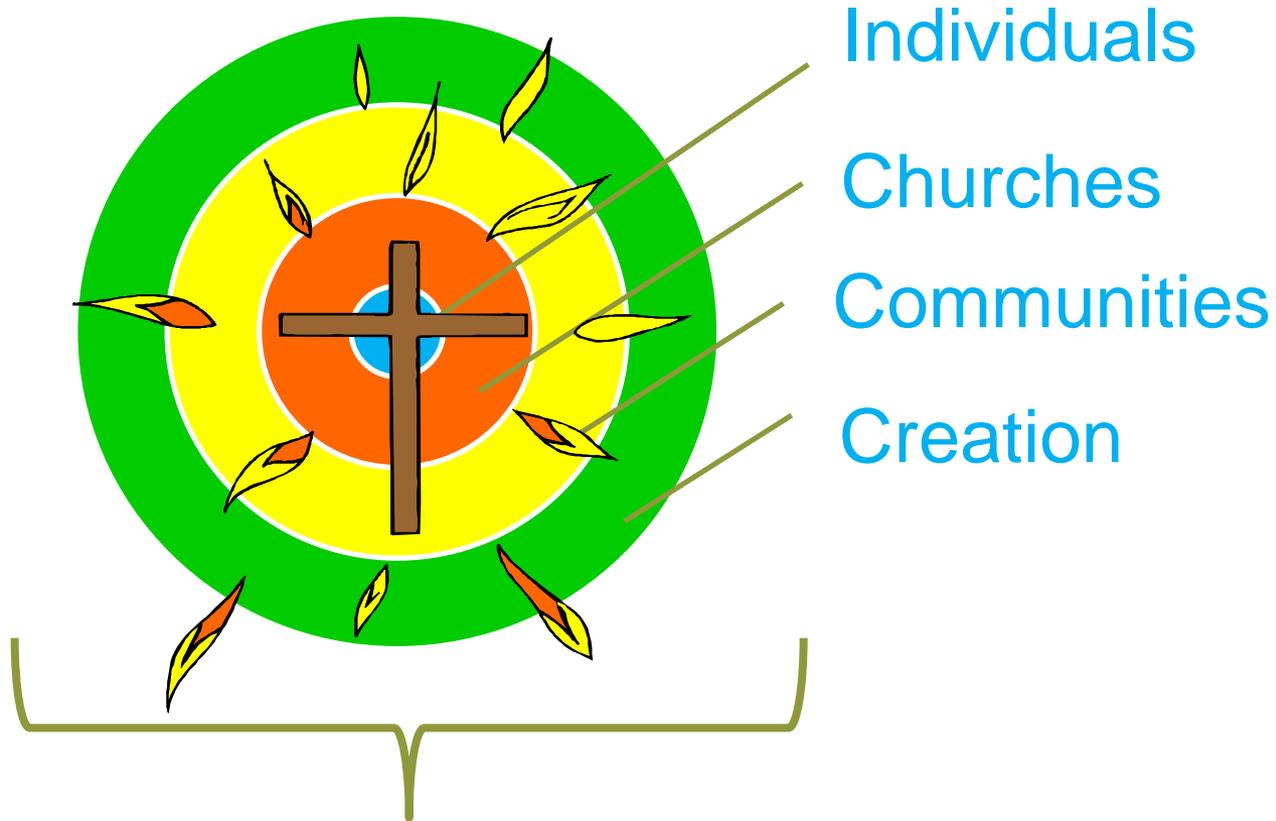
“Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything ...” [Acts 3:21](#)

“He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’”
[Revelation 21:5](#)

“the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay ...”
[Romans 8:21](#)

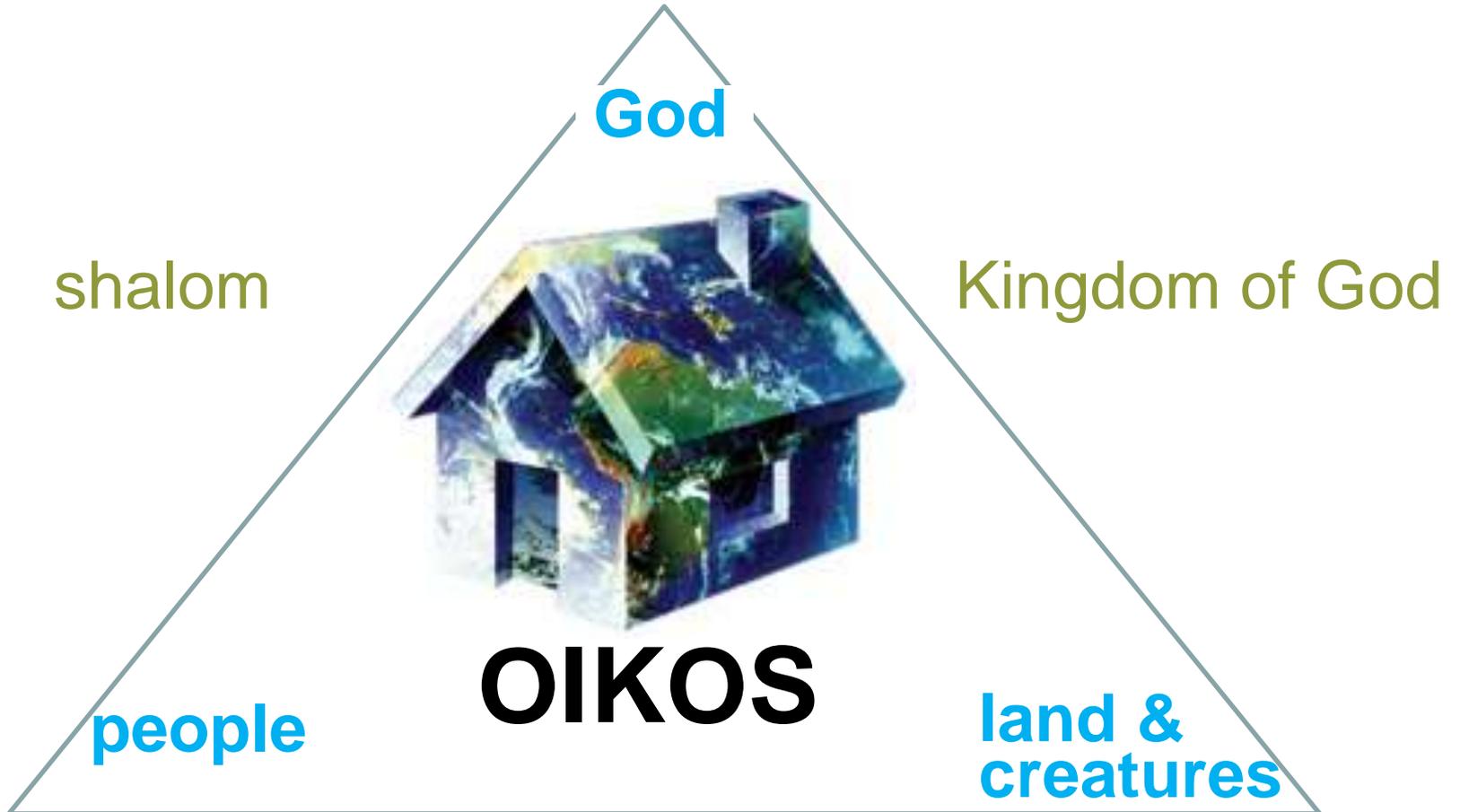


The Kingdom Gospel



“God’s Kingdom is creation healed.”

The Kingdom Gospel



What is our Gospel mission?

Lausanne Cape Town Commitment, 2010:

“The mission of God addresses **individual persons, society and culture**, and **creation**. All three are broken and suffering because of sin; all three are included in the redeeming love and mission of God; all three must be part of the comprehensive mission of God’s people.”

What is our Gospel mission?

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

TELL

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

TEACH

To respond to human need by loving service

TEND

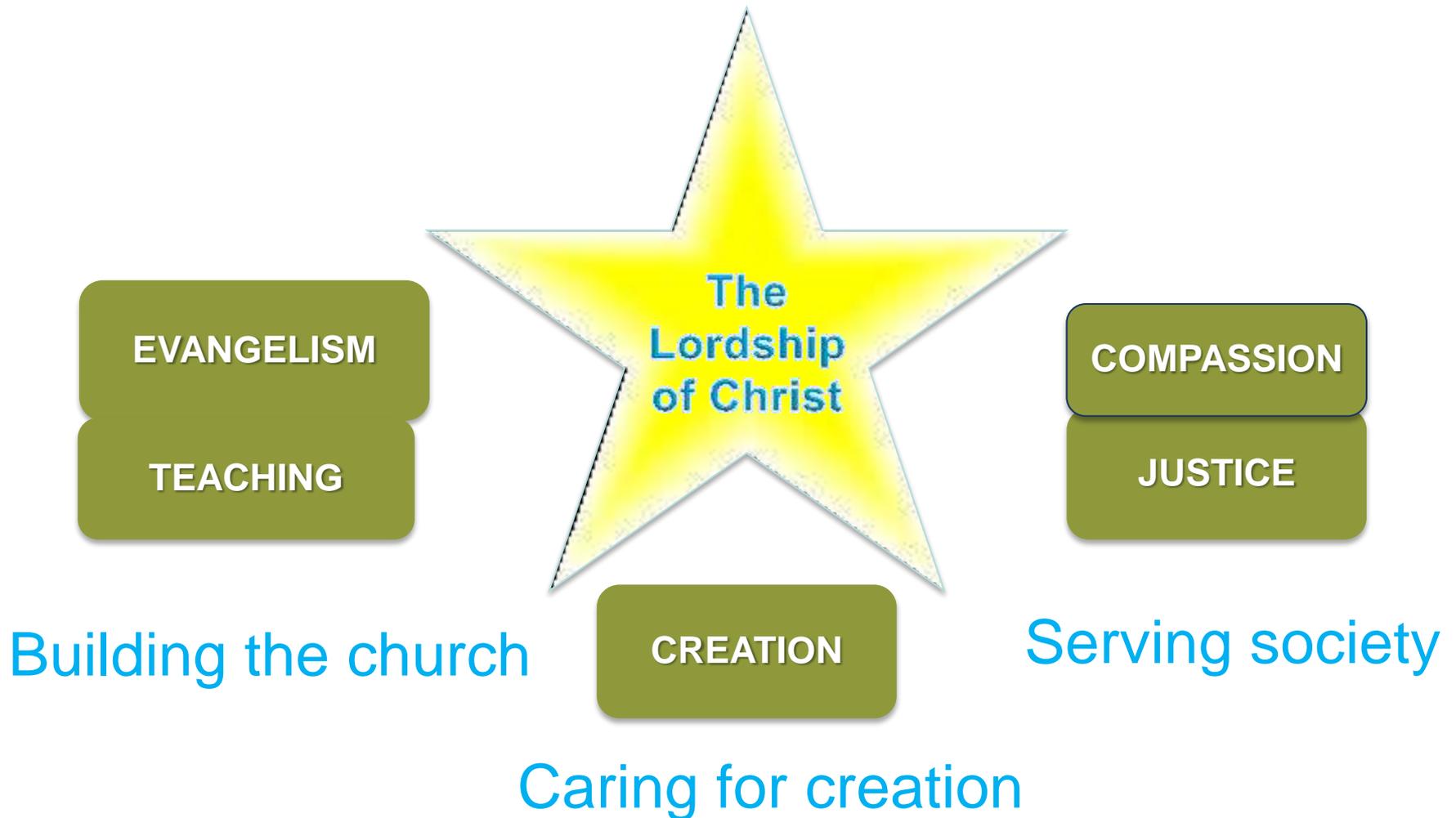
To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

TRANSFORM

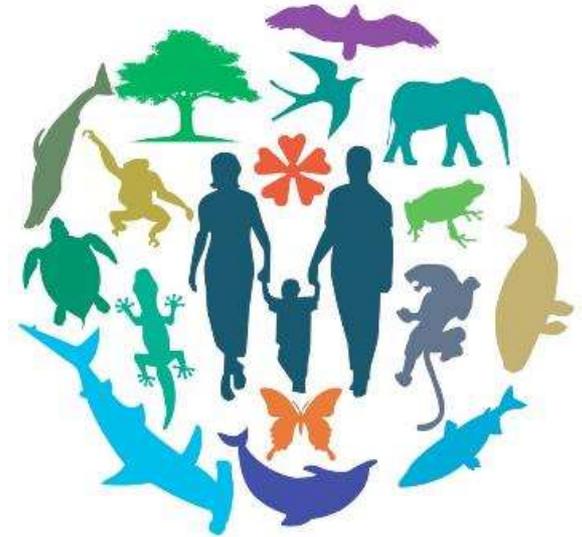
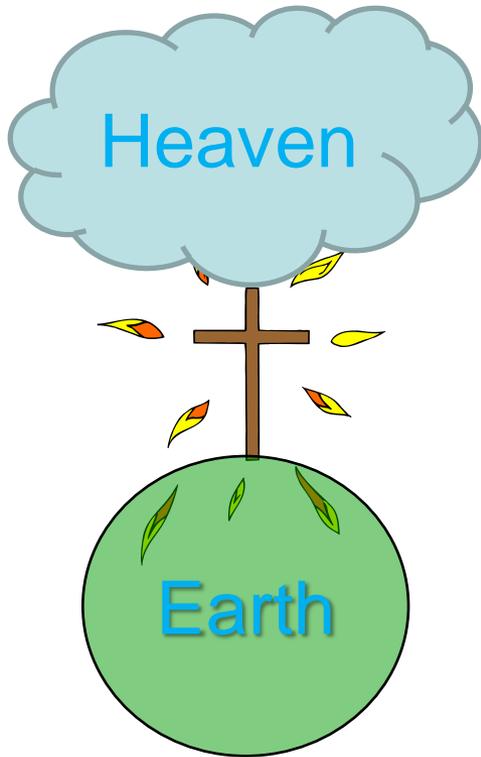
To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth

TREASURE

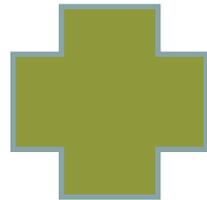
What is our Gospel mission?



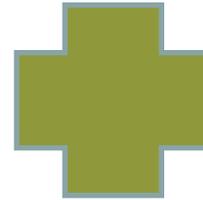
What is our Gospel mission?



Saving
Souls



Human
flourishing



Creation
thriving

Rediscovering creation care as mission

William Carey (1761-1834)

- 1820 Agri-Horticultural Society of India
- Edited “Flora Indica; or Descriptions of Indian Plants”

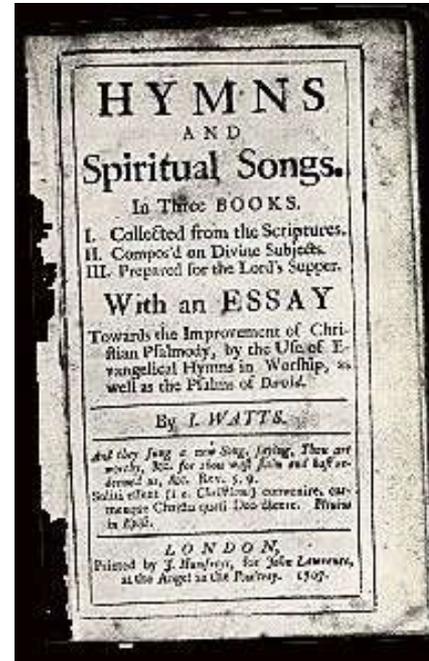


Careya herbacea

Rediscovering creation care as mission

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

- 1715 'Divine Songs' based on Psalms (1,000 editions)
- 1719 "Joy to the World" "*Let earth receive her King.*"



Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!

Let men their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,

Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,

Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow,

Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love.

Rediscovering creation care as mission

John Wesley (1703-1791)

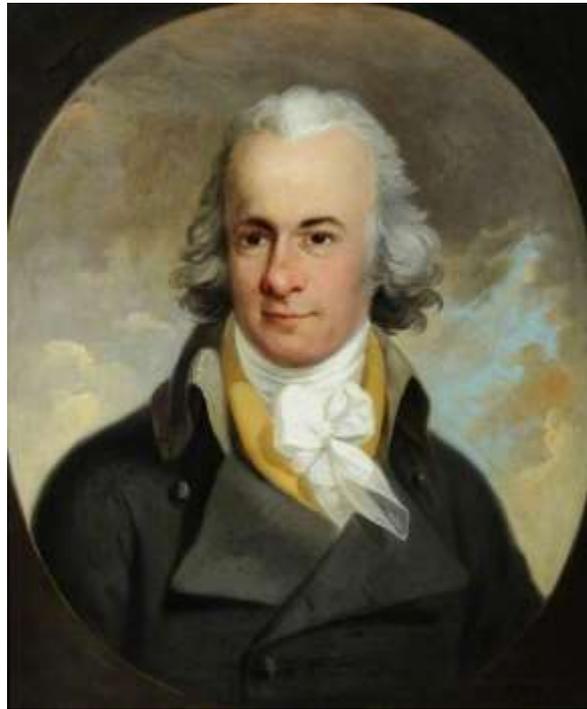
- “Nay, no creature, no beast, bird, or fish, will have any inclination to hurt any other; for cruelty will be far away, and savageness and fierceness be forgotten.”



Rediscovering creation care as mission

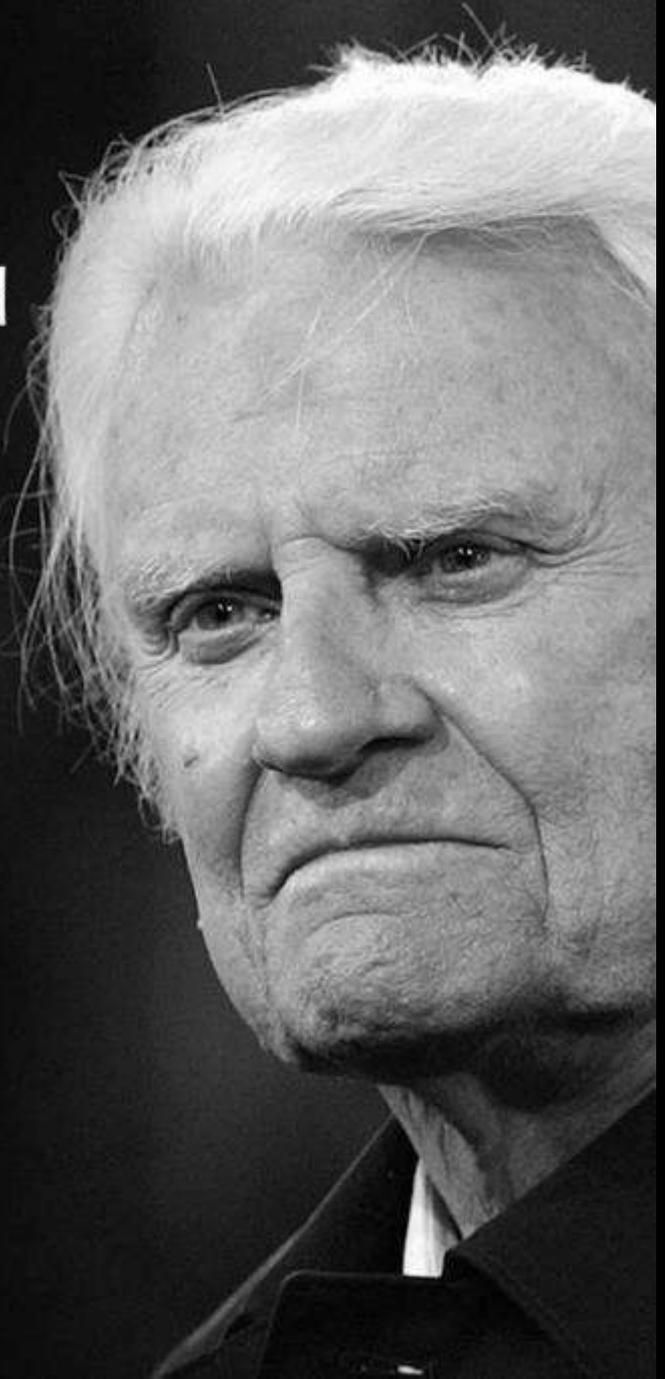
William Wilberforce (1759-1833)

- 1824 co-founder of SPCA (now RSPCA) – world's first animal-protection society

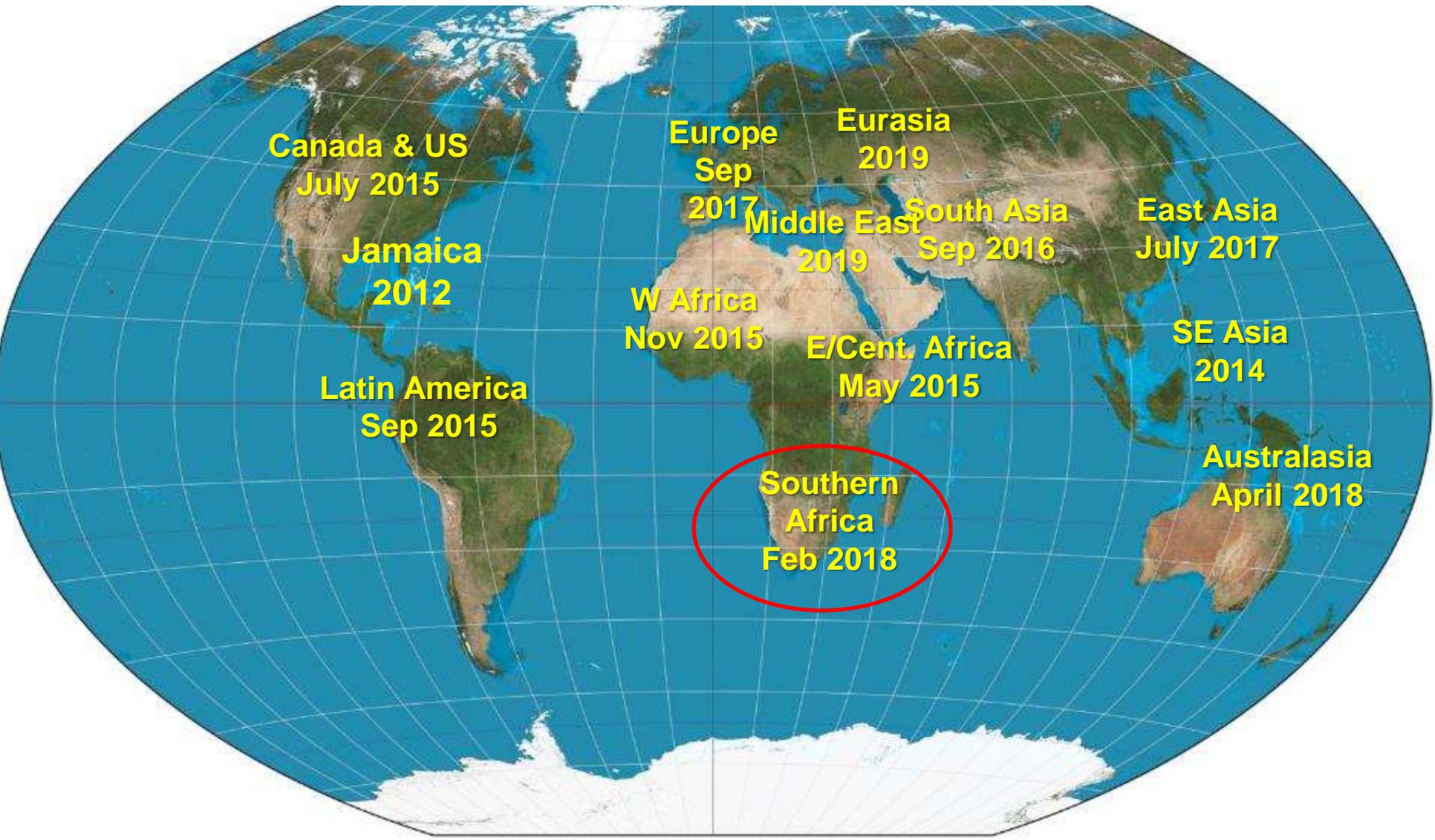


It is not right for us
to destroy the world
God has given us.
We Christians have
a responsibility to
take the lead in
caring for the earth.

BILLY GRAHAM



Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Network



Consequences for missional practice

- **R**ethink biblical understandings of mission's scope
- **E**quip disciples to seek God's Kingdom on earth
- **P**ractical projects integrating natural & human flourishing (for God's glory not humanity's!)
- **A**dvocate for ecosystem health not just people, and seek metrics beyond GDP & human wellbeing
- **I**ntegrate environmental factors into all planning (travel, energy, consumables, food etc.)
- **R**e-frame organisational vision: Souls saved, societies transformed, or creation renewed?