



August 15, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support Rev. Ed Brown and the work of Care of Creation. I attended Rev. Brown's seminar titled "Our Father's World" at Bethlehem Baptist in Minneapolis, Minnesota in March of 2007 and found it both challenging and inspiring. As an environmental educator at the Minnesota Zoo for over ten years, I am well aware of the environmental challenges that we face as a country and world. But as an evangelical Christian I often find myself frustrated by a Christian church that can be apathetic at best and openly hostile at worst to finding solutions to environmental problems.

Rev. Brown's book and seminar is a declaration and challenge to the evangelical church to reopen their Bibles and examine the relationship God intended humans to have with the natural world. He makes a strong biblical argument that our correct relationship to the earth is to be a steward and caretaker for it and that many environmental problems are ultimately a result of human "sins" such as greed and pride. He also argues that the Christian church take the lead in confronting these problems.

My participation at the "Our Father's World" seminar series inspired me to take further steps at my own church (City Church in SW Minneapolis) and to increase the visibility of creation care. City Church has hosted Rev. Brown three times over the last year and a half and supports Care of Creation financially as one of our outreach ministries. This month I'm leading a discussion about ways to further embed creation care in our ministry through little things such as serving fair trade, shade grown coffee in our lobby and encouraging people to bike to church.

I strongly believe in the work that Rev. Brown and his ministry are doing. The church can be an enormous positive force for change as seen in the Civil Rights movements of the '60's. My hope is that the work of people like Rev. Brown will encourage the Christian church to rise up again to confront the environmental problems we face now.

I would highly encourage any group or organization considering funding Rev. Brown and Care of Creation to do so. Please contact me directly if you would like more information or feedback. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Grant Spickelmier
Assistant Director of Education
13000 Zoo Blvd.
Apple Valley, MN 55124
(952) 431-9226
grant.spickelmier@state.mn.us