

SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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God has touched every living creature on this earth, both small and big, and everything that lives in the sky, earth, and the sea. After God created everything, He saw that it was good. God created all living creatures to take care of and rely on each other and to live in harmony. Hence we see nature and human beings as God's creation and see how they are connected to each other.

However, we have already been facing serious environmental pollution, global warming, and problems due to lack of drinking water. And the cry for help has been becoming ever so louder. Many people are slowly realizing the seriousness of this problem, but they tend to easily forget and live on as they used to. But we still do worry that suddenly one day we might face a bigger disaster than we had before.

Originally the earth was created to maintain a suitable temperature for people, animals, and plants to live in. But due to the enormous amounts of gas, especially carbon dioxide, which we discharged into the air, the earth is being destroyed slowly and now it has come to its limits.

As time goes by, we see people becoming more impatient and having no time to endure inconvenience. And because people enjoy lifestyles that satisfy their needs instantly, that is why there are constant scientific improvements which results in convenient living due to benefits from machines and energy. But at the same time, people's health is being endangered. Beyond dispute, we know that our own doings are the cause of the problems that we face today.

Regardless of that, what is our world like today? It has become a world with overwhelming consumption. There is an old saying that goes like this: "Even though the farmer may starve to death, he will still not eat the seeds." These days the people of this world are busy trying to satisfy their own desires that they ignore the people around them and even over-consume to the point of not leaving anything for the next generation. It is said that more and more waste islands are being created in the Pacific Ocean. And the world is becoming more and more sensitive due to lack of drinking water and energy and more environmental pollution.

It is God's will that people respect and love each other, but I also believe that it is God's will for people and nature to value, take care, and love each other as well. This doesn't mean that not using anything is the right thing to do. But shouldn't we think of a wiser way of consumption?

I believe that caring for the environment and nature also coincides with the mind set of our WCTU. Wise and appropriate consumption practices that also save people and nature is the life of temperance. At the last WCTU conference, we learned how so many people are struggling due to lack of drinking water in this world. That's why on September 2010, the Department of Social Service proposed several practices we could all carry out. In relation to that, we would like to propose several things in this KIT that can help overcome the crisis in our environment and in our lives and help prepare for the next generation.

“Saving energy” as much as possible is important.

We spend a lot of money to make facilities that produce solar energy and for certain this will be too much to handle in a lot of regions. What if we cope with some inconveniences with joy and consider it as our expression of loving God and loving our neighbors?

First, in countries with four seasons, you can protect your bodies from the cold by wearing more clothes and use less fuel which will result in saving energy. And in countries that are hot, people tend to look for cold things. And because of that, they have the tendency of becoming unhealthy because their body temperature drops. It is good to adjust to adequate temperatures.

Second, it is important to check the electricity, gas, water, and cars that we use in our everyday lives. You might be doubtful in how much people might save energy individually, but if we join together in saving energy, it might be enough to save our world.

Finally, it is important to recycle. It is good to recycle the things we use as much as possible. By recycling, we can create less waste.

Jesus left the heaven’s throne and came to this world and became human in order to save mankind. I believe that we too must also follow after Jesus by first carrying out the small things. As Christians we must look back at ourselves and change our mind set and actions and take this opportunity to go forth towards God. We can reduce the greenhouse gas and reduce chances of diseases and thirst through temperance movements and life of temperance. I sincerely hope that we can all become people that save both other’s spirits and bodies.

Thank you.

Here is a reminder of our **WORLD PROJECT (2010 - 2013)**

Provide clean, safe drinking water

Listed again are resources where money can be sent. All of these agencies use the entire amount given for the project - none is taken out for overhead expenses, etc.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (www.ADRA.org) provides wells

Christian Broadcasting Network provides wells and cisterns
(<http://www.cbn.com/partners/about/our-ministries/project-cleanwater.aspx>)

International Disaster Emergency Service (www.ides.org) drills wells