

Stewardship – of the Earth



Many times the term stewardship is only used in conjunction with our monetary gifts. However, stewardship can and should cover many more areas. It can encompass things such as time, (money of course), resources, and even a household. Basically, it is a responsibility to care for and look after what has been entrusted to us.

Being a good steward of our resources and earth involves many things. The first is thinking beyond the here and now. What will my action do for the future? How will it affect others?

If you throw your soda bottle in the trash, what will happen? How many bags of trash do you produce a week? How can you reduce that?

One way to begin is with small steps. Small steps are great! Recycling all you can, ensuring that lights are off when you are away and other actions. But what about the more encompassing decisions? Two big purchases that many people make are buying a car and a house. Next time you do either; stop to think – How will this impact those in my community and the earth? Do I want to support a company that may have just clear-cut several acres for many houses? What kind of materials have they used to build their houses? What about getting recycled carpet in your house, or bamboo flooring? Your purchases speak, and how you use your money to buy affects what companies do.

Your car – Countless people can't afford a new car and are stuck with what they have, even if it isn't the most environmentally friendly car. However, there are those who are looking into a new car. A car is a big purchase, and one that can make a large impact in the world.

Take a minute to think before you make your first payment. Consider factors such as gas mileage and power/performance. Do your work/hobbies require you to buy that big truck, or perhaps is it to please you?

Think **BIG!** What is the best way **YOU** can make a difference when it comes to the resources of the earth?

Reduce Reuse and Recycle – you've heard it many times, but it is still as relevant as ever. Apply this to the products you buy – purchase products with less packaging – buy products that can be reused or recycled. Avoid disposable products when longer lasting and reusable ones are available.

Brian McLaren spoke well when he said, "In the kingdom of God, Jesus said sparrows matter. Lilies of the field matter. Yes, people matter even more, but it's not a matter of either/or; it's a matter of degree in a realm where everything that is good matters."

NCYM Stewardship &
Finance Committee

