

January 2007

Pastor-Advisory Board

Rev. Earl Bradley
Capital Region Ministries, Olympia

Rev. Randy Burtis
Luis Palau Crusades

Rev. Mike Fogaras
Gateway Christian Center, Olympia

Rev. Jon Hagebusch
Word of Life, Lynden

Dr. Stephen Hammond
Cornerstone Bible Church, Enumclaw

Rev. Ted Hanson
Abundant Life Fellowship, Bellingham

Rev. Keith Lamm
Yakima Evangelical Church

Dr. Jim Modlish
Faith Baptist, Chehalis

Rev. Scott Montagne
Bayside Community Church, Kingston

Rev. Jon Oletske
Stone Church, Yakima

Rev. Ken Parsley
Church on the Move, Yakima

Rev. Jim Ripley
Neighborhood Christian Cntr,
Tumwater

Rev. Reuben Sapien
The Sanctuary Church, Lynnwood

Rev. Dan Secrist
Faith Assembly of Lacey

Dr. Ken Squires
Marysville First Assembly

Rev. Dwain Wolfe
New Horizons Christian Center, Fife

Board of Directors

Paul Middleton
Chairman, Olympia

Dennis DeFries
Secretary, Olympia

Jim Winterstein
Treasurer, Olympia

Scott Blanton
Vancouver

Dorsey Holt
Shelton

Jere Irwin
Yakima

Peggy Kirk
Montesano

Dick Raport
Camano Island

Jim Robinson
Spokane

Fred Weiss
Bellevue

Rick Forcier
Executive Director

Staff

Kathryn De Fries
Administrative Assistant

Beth Davis
Accounting

Julie Gallagher
Prayer Coordinator

Rusty Howell
Field Director

Steve Matthews
Field Director

Science or Atonement?

"Consensus" is another word for clique science. The good people are true believers, the bad people exhibit a "will to disbelieve." --Debra Saunders, The [Colorado Springs] Gazette, 10/17/2006

Last week, a certain congressional aide asked if we had position papers on leading hot-button issues that would help her member understand where evangelicals stand. Her particular concern had to do with "global warming," having heard that on that subject, there is division in the evangelical camp. We have heard the same.

Leaders like the Rev. Rick Warren and numerous heads of major Christian colleges have issued a "Call to Action," to put a halt to global warming. But others like Chuck Colson and Dr. James Dobson say that global warming science is inconclusive and the issue doesn't belong on the evangelist's agenda. This complicates matters for conservative elected leaders who often look to the usually unified evangelical community for comment and support on complex issues.

It also suggests an opportunity for Democrat presidential hopefuls like Illinois Sen. Barack Obama to mine for AIDS and global warming soul mates among the heretofore "religious right." A quick "Google" on the Internet, yields links to articles like "Eco-Evangelism: God's Green Soldiers," "The Greening of Evangelicals," and "US evangelicals launch green plan,"—overblown stories all, claiming a low-level rift among key evangelical leaders.

The most provocative read on the religious overtones of global warming comes from Dr. Jack Wheeler, an outspoken conservative "think-tank" operative who bluntly calls it secular religion believed in by people who have abandoned Christianity. Here is his take:

GLOBAL WARMING AND ORIGINAL SIN—It takes a brave politician to stand up alone against a tidal wave of religious hysteria. Such a man is Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma. He has publicly denounced man-made global warming as a "hoax" and held a hearing in Congress...to expose it as such. One of those who testified was Dr. David Deming, professor of geology and geophysics at the University of Oklahoma, who described the incredible dishonesty of scientists who have become global warming advocates.

Jim Inhofe is waging a valiant struggle, and it would have been helped had he someone to testify about how "global warming" is an issue of religious fanaticism, rather than just misguided science.

"Global warming" (or more specifically man-made or "anthropogenic" global warming) is a secular religion believed in by people who have abandoned Christianity. One of the most ancient and widespread convictions of most cultures known to history and anthropology is that one's life is made most meaningful through sacrifice and suffering.

The genius of the concept of Original Sin—the core concept of Christianity—is that it lifts the terrible burden of this conviction from people. The sacrifice and suffering of Christ on the Cross "saves" anyone accepting it from having the burden upon themselves.

The vast majority of global warming fanatics are from Western cultures. Not a lot of Chinese or Hindus or Moslems are in a tizzy about it. These fanatics are almost all ex-Christians, born and raised in a Christian culture which they grew up to reject. Yet what they didn't reject and still retain is a belief in Original Sin—that human beings by their nature are deserving of divine punishment.

What happens when you believe in Original Sin yet reject Christianity's salvation from it? The politically correct option of the moment is to believe in global warming. You transform Man sinning against God into Man sinning against the Earth. It's a primitive form of animism, that the earth itself is alive and a supernatural being, the "Gaia" Earth Goddess.

But "Gaia" doesn't forgive; she only punishes (which we deserve, for we have sinned).

"Global warming" is thus not a scientific hypothesis to be tested, but a religious faith to be believed in. For the distinguishing feature of a religious type of belief is the refusal to accept any disconfirming evidence.

The most famous image of Al Gore's [Al Gore] Inconvenient Truth video is him standing in front of a huge satellite photo of Hurricane Katrina over New Orleans. Claiming the storm was our fault through man-made global warming, he apocalyptically predicted an inevitable succession of such storms in the years to come.

Yet this year's hurricane season has just ended—without one single hurricane of any size making landfall on the US. This of course is dismissed by global warming religious fanatics—for like any religious fanatic, only confirming evidence counts, disconfirming evidence never.

The question, then, for Jim Inhofe to ask of global warming advocates is: What would you accept as falsifying, disconfirming evidence for global warming and that we are its cause? How would you go about proving it wrong?

This is the key question of science. Whenever it is not asked, science is absent.

What real scientists do when they are conducting real science is to try as hard as they can in every way they can imagine to prove a hypothesis wrong. They never go about only trying to prove a hypothesis right. It is only after they have exhaustively failed to disprove a hypothesis that it gains scientific credibility.

This is exactly and precisely what global warming scientists are not doing with their research. They are being paid billions of dollars in government grant money to "prove" anthropogenic warming and dismiss evidence against it. So we have a secular fanaticism masquerading as science, demanding we all sacrifice and suffer...¹

It may be that Dr. Wheeler is a bit harsh and we should applaud the efforts of evangelicals who want to show the world that Christians are concerned about "the environment." But so far, the whole issue of global warming has too many red flags to ignore—enough for us to share our true concerns with that certain interested congressman.

Rick Forcier

¹ [Global Warming and Original Sin](http://www.tothepointnews.com), Dr. Jack Wheeler, 12/08/06, reprinted by permission—full text at: www.tothepointnews.com