



Kevin Connors

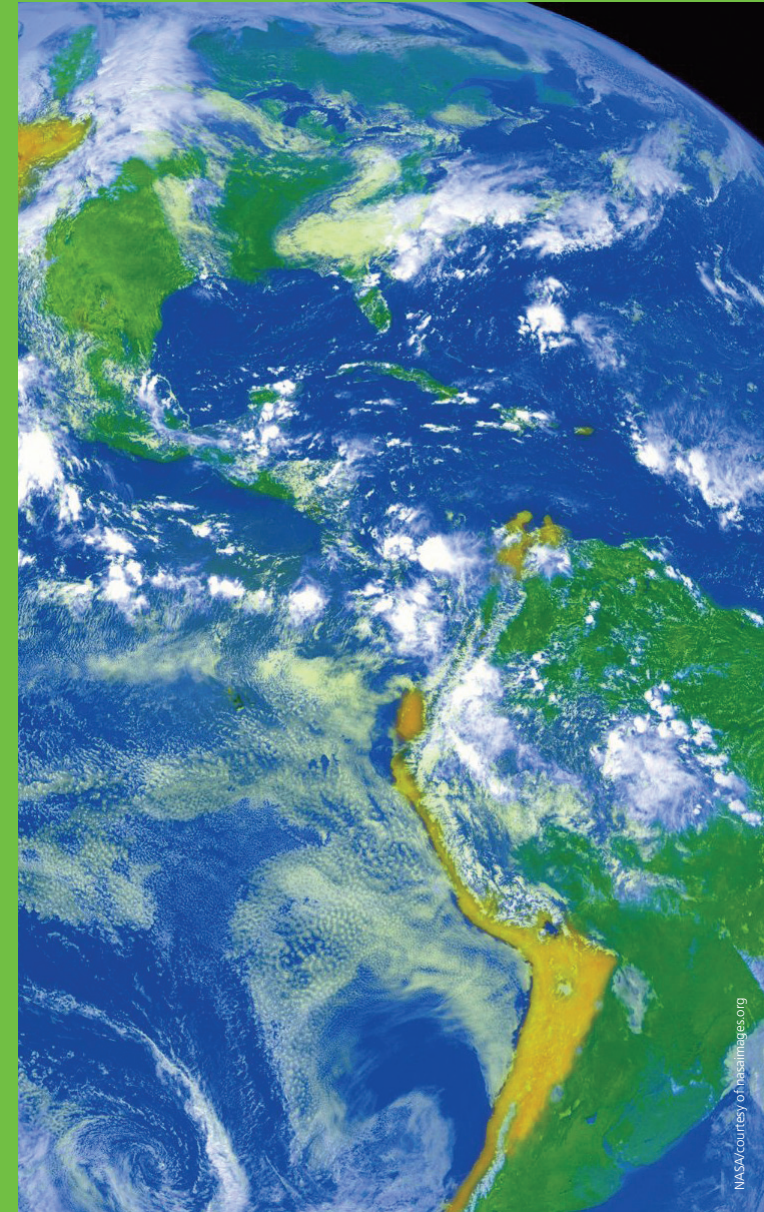
The receding Franz Josef Glacier in Southern New Zealand.

Some WCC Resources on These Issues

- HALLMAN, David G. (ed.), *Ecotheology. Voices from South and North*, Geneva/New York, WCC/Orbis Books, 1994.
- RASMUSSEN, Larry L., *Earth community, earth ethics*, Geneva, WCC, 1996.
- HALLMAN, David G., *Spiritual values for earth community*, Geneva, WCC, 2000.
- Check for statements and other documents, including the dossier, *Climate Change and the World Council of Churches* at <http://oikoumene.org/climatechange>.

Caring for Creation

Time for climate justice



What can you do?

- Engage with your local church on activities which care for creation.
- Pray for those most vulnerable to climate change consequences. Remember 1 September – 4 October 2009 is Time for Creation and visit <http://oikoumene.org>.
- To learn more what the WCC is doing on care for creation and climate change and support this work, visit the WCC web site at <http://oikoumene.org/climatechange>.
- Subscribe free for WCC climate change updates at the WCC website: <http://oikoumene.org> and click on “Sign-up for e-news?”
- Join the Ecumenical Countdown to Copenhagen Campaign and sign the international pledge at <http://countdowntocopenhagen.org>.
- Join others who work to save the earth and call for an ambitious, fair and binding deal in Copenhagen. See, the tck, tck, tck campaign, <http://tcktck.org>, in which the WCC participates.



COUNTDOWN TO
CO₂PENHAGEN
Time to make a difference



World Council of Churches

150 route de Ferney, PO Box 2100
CH-1211 Geneva 2 Switzerland
Tel +41 22 791 61 11 Fax +41 22 791 0361
www.oikoumene.org

For more information:
Guillermo Kerber
E-mail: gkm@wcc-coe.org
Tel: +41 22 791 64 24



The effects of climate change are being experienced dramatically in some countries and regions of the world, particularly in Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific and South East Asia.

Comprehensive policies are urgently needed to promote adaptation programmes in countries severely affected by climate change. At the same time strong mitigation measures (especially through the reduction of CO₂ emissions) should be taken to reverse the increasing global warming. Christian churches are deeply engaged in these endeavours.

The Climate Change programme of the World Council of Churches started in 1988, as a follow-up of the work done on sustainable communities beginning in the mid 70s. These efforts brought environment, economic and social concerns together. The Convocation on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, held in Seoul, Korea, in 1990, framed work which has continued up to now.

A Biblical and Ethical Imperative

When creation is threatened by climate change churches and Christians are called to speak out and act as an expression of their commitment to life, justice and love.

The inspiration and call to care for creation and address climate change are rooted in the Bible, which teaches the wholeness of creation. God creates human beings and charges humanity to care for the earth, to be stewards of it (Genesis 1:28).

The whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time (Romans 8:22).

From a Christian ecumenical perspective climate change is approached in a holistic way taking its different dimensions (environmental, social, political and cultural) into consideration.

Climate change is also a matter of justice, as “those who are and will increasingly be affected are the impoverished and vulnerable communities of the global South who do not have the means to adapt to the change” (“Minute on Global Warming and Climate Change,” WCC Central Committee, Geneva, Feb. 2008).

Now is the time for climate justice. The WCC has joined churches, other ecumenical actors and civil

society organizations to be more effective in their action and advocacy for climate justice.

The urgency of the situation calls peoples and churches to act immediately. This action for climate justice should be seen as part of the call to conversion, which implies a profound change in the relationship with nature, economic policies, consumption, production and development patterns.

Sharing and Advocating

The WCC efforts have combined the sharing of initiatives developed by churches and other ecumenical partners with advocacy related to the United Nations. Churches are increasingly addressing the causes and consequences of climate change. The WCC delegations have advocated at all Conference of Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, having submitted statements, organized side-events and ecumenical and inter-religious celebrations.

