

JUSTICE FOR THE EARTH

Towards a Christian Theology of Environmental Engagement

Christian theology in the past has been criticised for its futuristic focus robbing it of serious concern for the present. In recent times, it has been critiqued for its capture by political ideologies of both the left and right. How can Christians retain a connection with the Transcendent while taking our present environmental crisis seriously? Can the Christian scriptures provide a basis for meaningful engagement with the pressing issues of global warming, water and air pollution, resource depletion, viable and sustainable economies?

Dr Murray Rae (Senior Lecturer in Theology, Otago) will examine the doctrine of Creation as the basis for a Christian understanding of environmental ethics. He will give particular consideration to the notions of 'dominion', 'stewardship' and 'covenant', and to the 'goodness' of the created order.

Rebecca Frost (PhD candidate, Victoria) will respond, giving special attention to the notions of 'dominion' and 'stewardship' in the overlap between Maori and Pakeha spiritualities.

Part of the *eco-justice* series sponsored by...



About Murray Rae

Murray is Senior Lecturer in Theology at Otago University. He first trained as an architect, then studied theology and philosophy at Otago, before completing a PhD at King's College, London, on the Incarnation in the thought of Søren Kierkegaard. He has research interests in the Doctrine of Reconciliation, Theology and the Built Environment, and the work of Kierkegaard — especially in its theological dimensions. Widely published, more recently Murray has done work around the Christian understanding of Creation.



About Rebecca Frost

Rebecca is completing her doctoral studies at Victoria University. Her thesis is exploring the relationship between politics and spirituality, with reference to the Treaty of Waitangi. Rebecca believes that we can't talk about 'nature' and 'ecology' without talking about politics, spirituality and religion. In responding to Murray, she will offer a short reflection on the secular sacrality of the land in New Zealand, with a focus on how theology is borrowed in politics. She will consider the notions of 'dominion' and 'stewardship' in terms of the overlap between Maori and Pakeha spiritualities in contemporary New Zealand.

Where : Ramsey House, 8 Kelburn Parade

When : 7pm, 21 September 2005

Registration : No pre-registration necessary. \$5 charge at the door to cover expenses. Student concessions available. For more details call 463-5499 or contact chaplaincy-ecojustice@vuw.ac.nz