

Group Notes: Mark of Mission 5

First, we identified our mission, 'To strive, to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.' We spoke about creation and looked further to Genesis. We stated that Genesis spoke about all living things and believed that God created the world and entrusted us to care for his creation. God gave us creation for:

- Our use
- Health
- Continuity
- Stewardship
- Preservation / conservation.

After grasping the concept of the fifth mission, we spoke about the challenges in caring for God's creation. Challenges listed were as follows:

- Pollution: We spoke about the boats on the Carenage, St. George's, Grenada; which resulted in oil spills and garbage pollution.
- Industrialization: Oil and gas marketing, pollutants, deforestation, destruction of the ecosystem. Destruction of mangroves to put business places in Trinidad and Tobago.
- New hotels and developments: destruction of mangroves and ecosystems and vegetation in the Bahamas which leads to excess flooding. The destruction of reefs with algae—waste from Golf runs into the reef in Trinidad and Tobago.

We then was further educated to safeguard the tradition of the Church. The word integrity was then defined as the state of being whole and undivided. We agreed on

keeping the place as how God gave it to us; Wholeness. As a group we identified means of safeguarding the integrity of creation. First we should identify, understand, educate and then respond to the situation.

- Reduce waste dump. We can introduce shopping bags which can replace plastic bags. This can be done by starting with the congregation, and educating students at school to inform parents. It was mentioned that each individual should engage in reducing, reusing and recycling products.
- We also looked at the amount of bottled water we used during PYG everyday and concluded that a durable water bottle could have been at registration and have water stations where we can refill throughout the week. We then stated that water was wasted and we have engaged in pollution.
- Join with Belize in which they celebrate Earth day by cleaning a mile. Different schools participate and looking forward to bring it to the Church and youth groups.
- Join Trinidad and Tobago by allowing all Anglican schools to participate in a competition called 'Green Day' in which they recycle by art and craft.

We defined Deontology as the Bible rules and Teleology as the long term outcome of our actions. We looked at the statement, "Love one another as I love you," and concluded that garbage can affect love. We listed ways in which we can improve the work of the Church (safeguarding creation):

- Share our ideas with other churches.

- Include it in our Church budget.
- Educate
- Close off taps
- Turn off the lights at church when not in use.
- Use products that can endanger the environment efficiently—Incense we use at church can contribute to air pollution, and agreed that it should be used in moderation.
- We looked at Barbados wanting to introduce a solar panel at their churches—create energy where it can be saved for future use. They create their own electricity.

It was stated that as a Church, we may be turning our backs on the mission and questioned how do we respond to this situation. We mentioned that:

- The incense should be used on special occasions, because if it is removed or lessen, elders may disagree and may want to leave the church. Hence we are safeguarding the tradition of the church and also God's creation.
- Printing the service every week may contribute to paper wastage and so we should;
 1. Encourage persons to bring their Bibles and Liturgy in Church.
 2. Introduce projectors.
 3. Email the service to the congregation.
 4. Increase technology use.
 5. Create bookmarks—"Save the environment for Christ."
- Hand out tracks during processions.
- Engage the youths:

1. Using social media— a competition can be introduced whereby youth groups can make a short clip of environmental work and upload the video on social media for likes; the one with the most likes wins.
 2. Educate—by educating the youths they can go home and inform their parents and so the word can spread quickly, hence everyone can have a mutual understanding in preserving God's creation; not just for ourselves to enjoy but for the future generations to enjoy as well.
 3. Interactive videos
 4. Environmental projects—painting, gardening, weeding, planting trees, clean up marathon.
- Exercise club/ gym—our body is our temple; it is God's creation and so we should safeguard our bodies.
 - Congregation walks and hikes.
 - Congregation clean up day.

. Mark of Mission five group agreed that the family teaches us the foundation of life (education, social values and morals.) Practical ways in which the family can participate in mission five are:

1. Love yourself and accept the person you are.
 - Body is the temple of God
 - Living with yourself.

2. Awareness—teach each other at home (about disposable dishes; be environmentally friendly)
 - Parents teach children about safeguarding God’s creation and vice versa.
3. Families should affirm each other; speak positively and give constructive criticism.
4. Use the Church to aware the people of God’s creation and how to safeguard it.