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“What Would Jesus Drive?” Frequently Asked Questions

Why was the “What Would Jesus Drive?” campaign created?

The Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN) launched the “What Would Jesus Drive?” campaign to help Christians and others understand that transportation choices are moral choices when the consequences are human health impacts of pollution, global warming, and our increasing dependence on oil. The Evangelical Environmental Network felt an evangelical voice was needed in the growing religious consensus that fuel economy and pollution from cars, trucks, and SUVs are serious moral issues.

What does the Bible teach about what Jesus would drive today?

Our transportation choices should be made in light of Jesus’ teaching to “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mk. 12:30-31), and “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Lk. 6:31). The Campaign believes that Jesus wants people to drive the most fuel-efficient, least polluting vehicle that truly meets their needs.

What are evangelical leaders saying?

The “What Would Jesus Drive?” *Call to Action* represents the first time significant numbers of prominent evangelical Christian leaders have spoken out on the morality of our transportation choices, connecting them to the Christian community’s relationship with Jesus Christ. Such leaders include:

- Prominent heads of organizations and denominations such as Millard Fuller of Habitat for Humanity, Richard Mouw of Fuller Seminary, and David Engelhard of the Christian Reformed Church;
- Important evangelical policy leaders such as Richard Cizik of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), Ron Sider of Evangelicals for Social Action, and popular author and speaker Tony Campolo;
- Individual pastors from many denominations, including Baptists, Presbyterians, Reformed, Nazarenes, Assemblies of God, and Methodists;

Why is the “What Would Jesus Drive?” campaign touring churches in the South?

The Evangelical community has a long tradition of traveling ministry. Rev. Jim Ball and his wife Kara are speaking one-on-one with congregants and church leaders about why transportation choices are moral choices and how Christians can become more involved in the effort to protect our health and God’s creation from vehicle pollution. Using available technology to raise fuel-economy in all cars and SUVs allows Christians to be stewards of the Earth as God commanded.

When did the “What Would Jesus Drive?” campaign begin?

The campaign was formally launched on November 20, 2002 with a Detroit press conference and a television and *Christianity Today* ad. The Evangelical Environmental Network joined prominent leaders from other religious communities, including Rabbi David Saperstein of the Religious Action Center of Reformed Judaism, and the Rev. Dr. Bob Edgar, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, in raising the moral concerns about fuel economy and pollution from vehicles. The interfaith group presented automobile executives, including Bill Ford, with a letter signed by over 100 major religious leaders that called for fuel economy improvements across the fleet and the “What Would Jesus Drive?” *Call to Action* statement signed at that time by over 50 major evangelical leaders.

What is the Evangelical Environmental Network?

Founded in 1993, the Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN) is a non-profit, biblically orthodox Christian educational organization. The Network is currently made up of 23 Partner organizations as well as individual supporters. EEN is guided by its founding document, the *Evangelical Declaration on the Care of Creation*, signed by nearly 500 evangelical Christian leaders, which is available at www.CreationCare.org. EEN's stated purpose is to “declare the Lordship of Christ over all creation.”

What are other religious communities doing?

Other faiths are mobilizing around the moral imperative of fuel-efficiency. The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, United States Catholic Conference, National Council of Churches and the National Religious Partnership for the Environment are all working to educate their faith communities and advocate energy policies that reflect the nation's commitment to protect God's creation.

Who is the Reverend Jim Ball?

The Reverend Jim Ball, Ph.D., an ordained Baptist minister, is Executive Director of the Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN), publisher of *Creation Care* magazine, and director of “What Would Jesus Drive?”. He has appeared on ABC's *Good Morning America*, CNN's *Crossfire*, *Headline News*, and *Talkback Live*, and Fox News' *The Big Story*, and was featured on ABC's *World News Tonight* and *NOW with Bill Moyers*.

Rev. Ball has been executive director since January 2000. Before that he taught at Montclair State University in New Jersey and was Minister of Education at the First Baptist Church of Beloit, Wisconsin. He has a BA from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, a Master of Divinity from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and a Ph.D. from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. Rev. Ball is married to Kara Unger Ball. They live in Brunswick, Maryland.