



ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATES SEASON OF CREATION

A HOME FOR ALL? RENEWING THE OIKOS OF GOD.”

Let us imagine that we are walking along a beach, surrounded by magnificent

beauty of earth, sea and sky. You are enjoying the fresh onshore breeze and the smell of the sea. All seems wonderful and refreshing.

Then as you walk you see a plastic bag then a bottle glistening in the sunlight white polystyrene all over the place.

Further on the air is filled with a foul odour and you observe a pipe spewing forth grey water.

“[Christ] is now the life of everything that lives in any kind or degree. He is the source of the lowest species of life, that of vegetables; as being the source of all the motion on which vegetation depends. He is the fountain of the life of animals, the power by which the heart beats, and the circulating juices flow. He is the fountain of all the life which man possesses in common with other animals. And if we distinguish the rational from the animal life, he is the source of this also.” John Wesley, Sermon 77, “Spiritual Worship,” §II.3, Works 3:95.

plastic ring wrapped around its mouth. It is obvious **this dolphin had starved to death.**

Still, you walk on trying to refocus and to enjoy the beauty. Then another foul smell fills your nostrils. You come across a dead dolphin. On closer inspection you see a

*Christians join the Psalmist in proclaiming the **Earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it.***

(Psalms 24:1)

However, the current climate crisis is accelerating ecological instability, which results in the loss of habitats that are homes for millions of species, including humans whose homes are at risk due to climate conflict, loss and damage. (World Council of Churches)

Beneath the ocean and floating on the ocean is tons of discarded plastic of all descriptions, discarded by humanities insensitivities and rampant consumerist life-style. Thousands of sea-lives end up like this dolphin.

Imagine now as you travel through the exquisite

countryside of South Africa.

Rolling hills; majestic mountains; glorious vegetation. This beauty soon becomes tainted with invasive wattle trees, brought from elsewhere to fuel the tanning industry. Further on you see the great blue-gum tree also from elsewhere guzzling 10's of litres

from the earth, killing all indigenous plants in its shadow.

All this beauty is a tainted beauty... which is difficult to fully enjoy

We as humanity do as we please with little regard of God's creatures and environment.

“When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.”

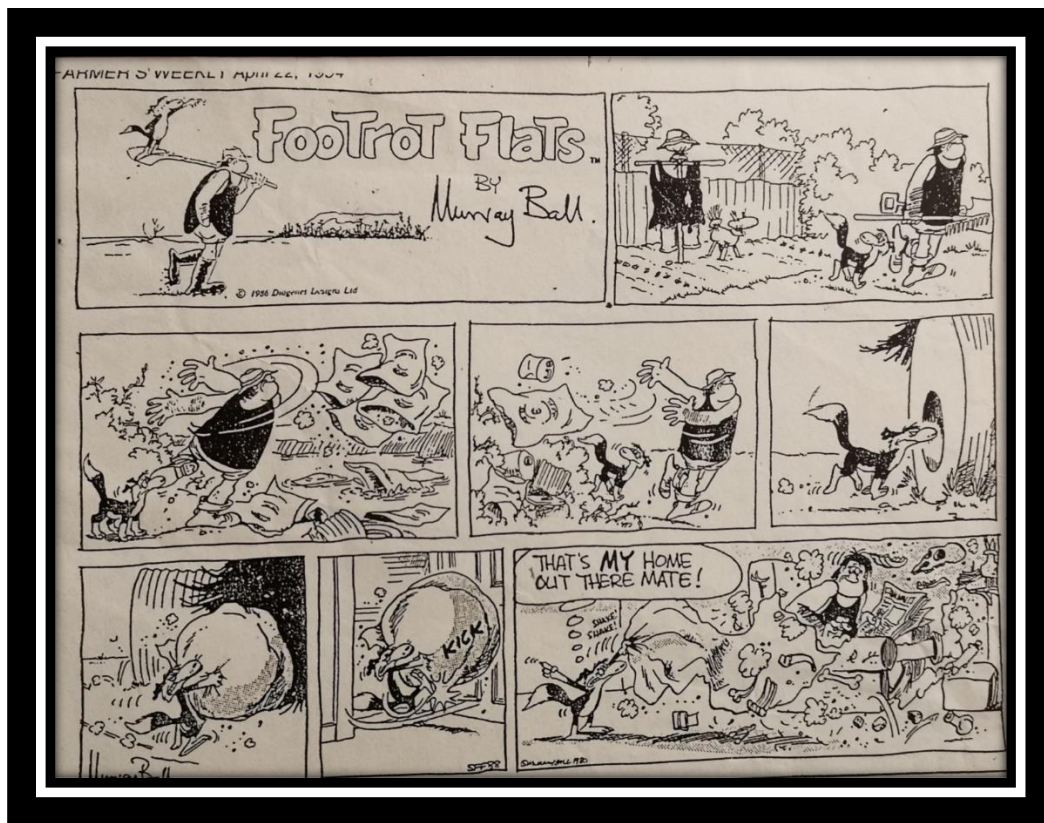
– African Proverb

We have often heard about the survival of the fittest and often this is about an individual who is seen as going up the ladder often stepping on the person below or even pushing them off. However, a better path of

understanding survival is to build community; a community where the power of goodness pervades; a community that links with God and shares the love and goodness of God with all that is around us. At the heart of

goodness is that we love others as we love ourselves. And we love nature because our lives depend on it. The only voice we long to hear is:

“And God saw that it was good.”



[Season of Creation 2021 | World Council of Churches \(oikoumene.org\)](#)
<https://www.greenanglicans.org/tag/anglican/>
<http://www.lac.org.na/index.php/2021/09/18/no-oil-drilling-in-the-kavango/>
[Cape Town activists call on govt to act against climate change \(msn.com\)](#)

**Shalom
Mike Vorster
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MCSA Ecumenical Affairs Unit working with others toward implementing:
Church Unity
Ecumenical Diakonia
African Church Co-operation
For a Christ healed and transformed Africa for the Healing and Transformation of Nations**

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