A photograph of a woman with long dark hair holding a young child in a room with a green wall. The room has a window with a metal grille and a clock on the wall. The woman is wearing a colorful patterned sari. The child is wearing a pink shirt. The room appears to be a simple, possibly rural, dwelling.

Hope and Justice in a Time of Climate Crisis

Rev. Marc Antoine, Tearfund USA
Brittany Michalski, Climate Stewards USA

Climate and Justice: Our “Why”



MY FAMILY! Stephanie, Nehemiah and Hezekiah. The Antoines.



The people I love that live in the Peruvian Amazon. And the Amazon Rainforest itself!

Help us get to know you.

- Where is home?
- Are you new to the climate justice conversation?
- Any environmental experts in the room?

Our Time Together

- Status check on God's creation
- Why we care
- Activating hope
- A closer look: Haiti
- Next Steps



Covid lockdowns and air pollution



Credit: Staff/Reuters/Newscom

New Delhi's India Gate was obscured by haze on Oct. 17, 2019 (top), but during the country's COVID-19 lockdowns, the air was cleaner, and the view was clearer, as in this photo taken from the same spot on April 8, 2020.

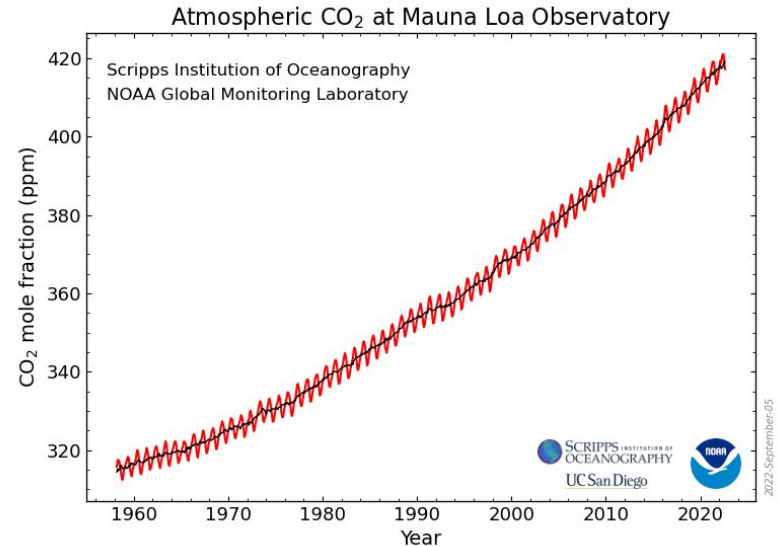


© picture alliance/dpa/ZUMA Press Wire

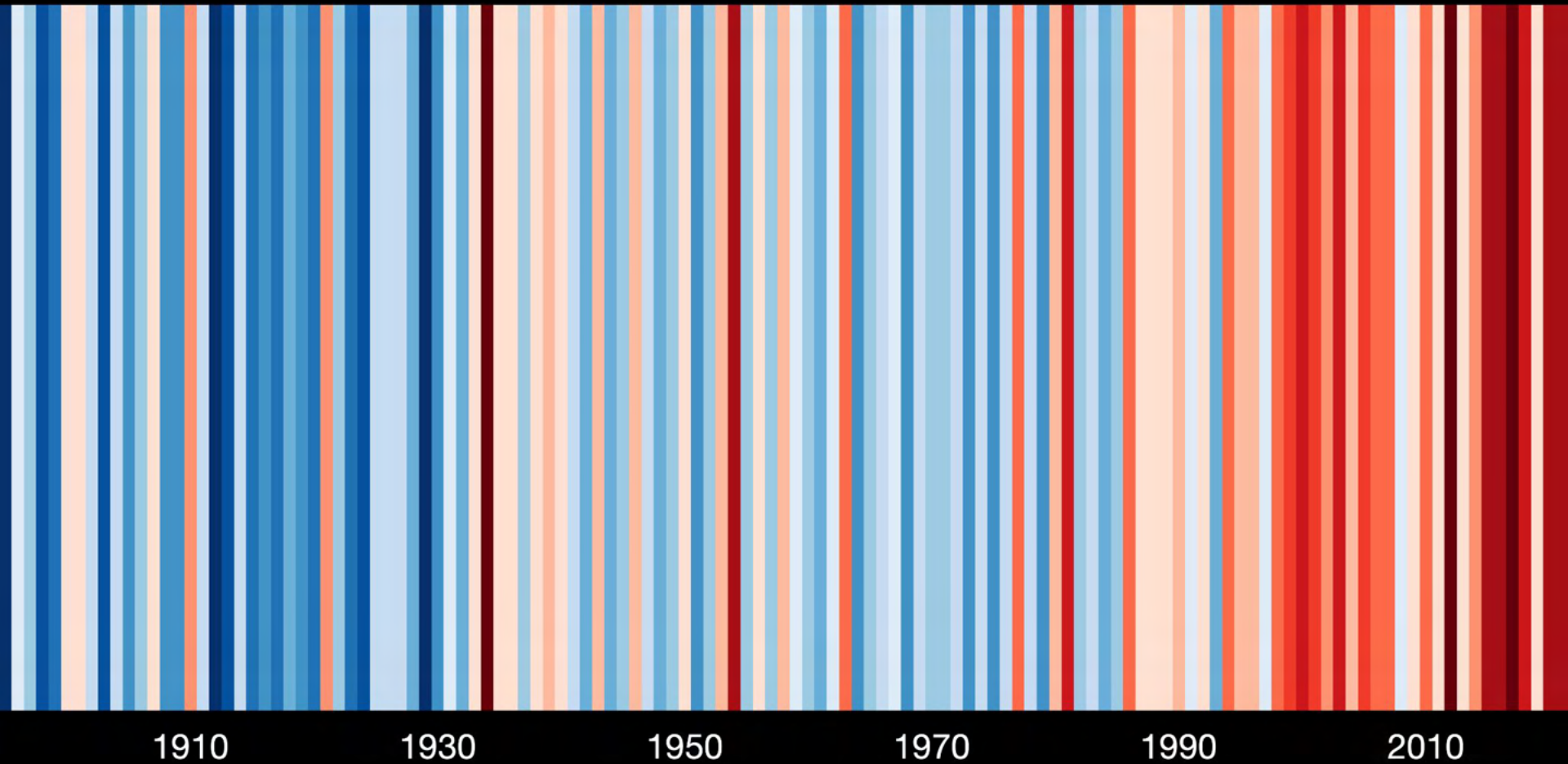
Photo credits: Asiatic lion by Shanthanu Bhardwaj, CC 2.0; Burning rainforest on Sumatra to make space for palm oil plantations, Indonesia GRID-Arendal CC by 2.0; Smog over Kalmaty Kazakhstan by Igors Jefimovs CC 3.0; Rainforest clearing copyright picture alliance/dpa/ZUMA press wire; dead fish copyright National Geographic

Climate Change 101

Human activity, especially the burning of fossil fuels, has added excessive amounts of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, where it accumulates and acts like an extra blanket on the planet.



Temperature change in Colorado since 1895



The consequences of climate change

- Problems exacerbated
- Threats multiplied



Josh Zakary CC by 2.0

A person with dark curly hair, wearing a white off-the-shoulder dress, is walking away from the camera on a beach. The beach is covered in dark pebbles and wet sand. The ocean is on both sides, with waves breaking on the right. In the background, a line of utility poles with power lines stretches across the horizon under a grey, overcast sky. A white rectangular box with the word "Justice" in black text is centered over the person.

Justice

Why do we care about climate change?

Hunger

Poverty

Water

Immigration

Refugees

Slavery

Race

Gender

Why do we care about climate change?





Love

Why do we care about climate change?

A large group of sea turtles, likely leatherbacks, are seen on a sandy beach. They have dark, patterned shells and flippers. The turtles are scattered across the frame, with some in the foreground and others further back. The sand is a light brown color.

Creation Care

Why do we care about climate change?

What's your “why?”

Why do you care about climate and justice?



OUR RESPONSE?

Activate Faith, Hope, and Love!

A Haitian Case Study



Global Climate Risk Index

www.germanwatch.org/en/cri

CRI 2000-2019 (1999-2018)	Country	CRI score	Fatalities	Fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants	Losses in million US\$ PPP	Losses per unit GDP in %	Number of events (2000-2019)
1 (1)	Puerto Rico	7.17	149.85	4.12	4 149.98	3.66	24
2 (2)	Myanmar	10.00	7 056.45	14.35	1 512.11	0.80	57
3 (3)	Haiti	13.67	274.05	2.78	392.54	2.30	80
4 (4)	Philippines	18.17	859.35	0.93	3 179.12	0.54	317
5 (14)	Mozambique	25.83	125.40	0.52	303.03	1.33	57
6 (20)	The Bahamas	27.67	5.35	1.56	426.88	3.81	13
7 (7)	Bangladesh	28.33	572.50	0.38	1 860.04	0.41	185
8 (5)	Pakistan	29.00	502.45	0.30	3 771.91	0.52	173
9 (8)	Thailand	29.83	137.75	0.21	7 719.15	0.82	146
10 (9)	Nepal	31.33	217.15	0.82	233.06	0.39	191

The 10 countries most affected from 2000 to 2019 (annual averages)

Context

Haiti is exposed to a wide spectrum of natural disasters such as droughts, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and landslides. Although many Caribbean countries are exposed to the same threats, the potential destruction and loss of life and livelihood is incomparable to the level of devastation that Haiti regularly experiences. The physical, social, economic and environmental conditions in Haiti create a vicious cycle that renders it one of the most vulnerable countries in the world.

Haiti lies in the middle of the hurricane belt, with 1,771 km (1100 miles) of coastline, making the country subject to severe storms during the regular hurricane season from June 1 through November 30. Haiti's geographical location, combined with its under development, high population density, chronic socio-economic problems and weak infrastructure, makes it a particularly vulnerable country.

Tearfund Haiti's Response

1. Thinking Theology
2. Creation Care Campaign
3. Environmental and Economic Sustainability



Thinking Theology: Creation Care Conference



48 youth from seminaries, churches and organizations participated in this conference and envisioning on Biblical Creation Care.

- Biblical Foundations for Environmental Protection
- Root Causes of Climate Change
- Faith-led creation care initiatives developed

Regional Creation Care Campaign



- Pastoral training for denominations and the development of a Creation Care Preaching manual.
- 3 month campaign where Creation Care messages were preached in churches once a month
- Local initiatives and actions (waste management, street clean up, recycling, etc)
- Church gardens
- Churches and Disasters

Environmental and Economic Sustainability



Carbon emissions from the open burning of waste exceed all other carbon emissions in Haiti, and amount to 3.0 metric tonnes of CO₂ emissions every year.

Environmental and Economic Sustainability



We expect to reduce waste dumped into oceans or subject to open burning (which releases toxic fumes) by 182.7 tonnes per month by project end and to recycle 148.3 tonnes per month (of which 62.2 tonnes will be plastic).

What We Can Do Today and Tomorrow



Download our resource guide +
today's slideshow & sign up for the
webinar!

climatestewardsusa.org/the-justice-conference



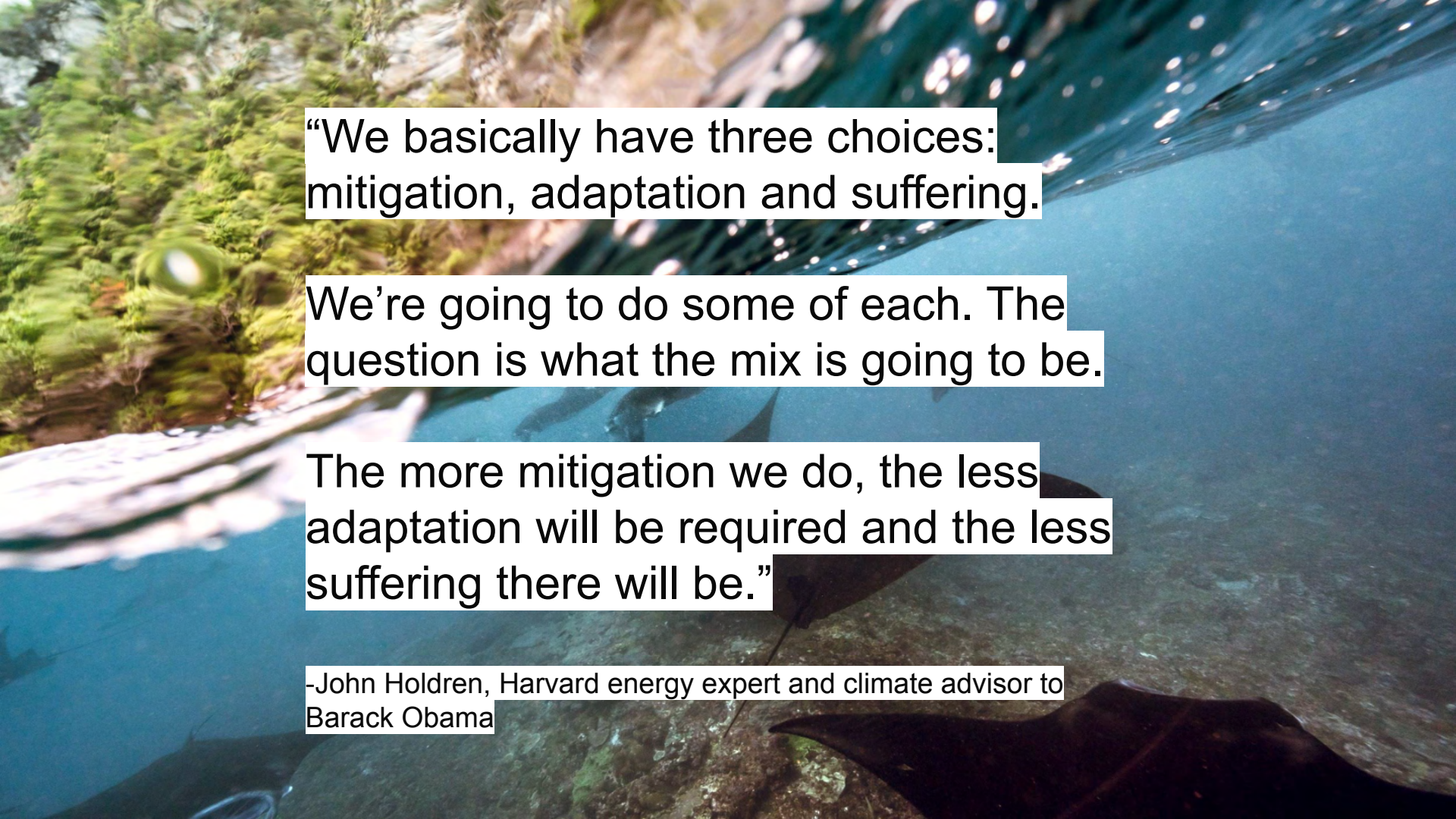
Learn how your church can go
carbon neutral

Webinar Oct. 18th at 8 pm ET

What We Can Do Today and Tomorrow



1. Start a Live Justly Bible study in your church, organization, group
2. Get trained by Tearfund on advocacy and movement building
3. Visit tearfundusa.org for more information

An underwater photograph showing a stingray swimming in clear blue water above a coral reef. The reef is covered in green and yellow coral and algae. Sunlight filters through the water, creating bright spots and shadows.

“We basically have three choices: mitigation, adaptation and suffering.

We’re going to do some of each. The question is what the mix is going to be.

The more mitigation we do, the less adaptation will be required and the less suffering there will be.”

-John Holdren, Harvard energy expert and climate advisor to Barack Obama



Thank you!

Time for Q&A