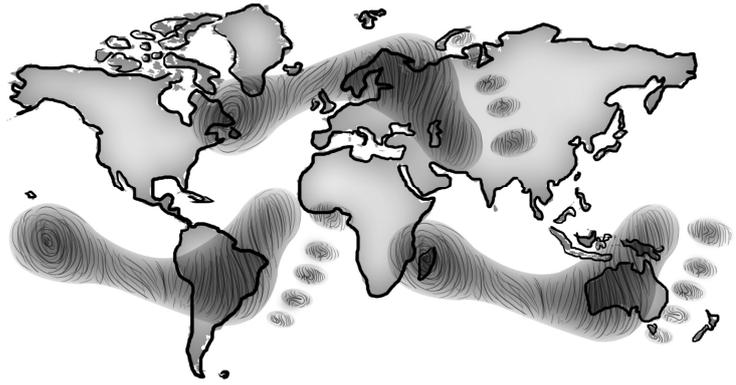


Climate Change for Children

What do we mean by Global Footprints?

By Rev Dr Jason John
Ecofaith Minister
Scots Church, Adelaide.



IDEA 1

I need one volunteer to be an "average" human.

Stand in the middle of the room.



Consider your left foot. It represents all the resources and energy and waste needed to feed you and provide other goods for your use.

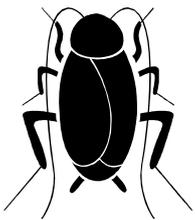
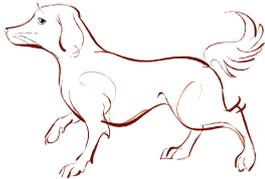
Consider your right foot. It represents all the resources and energy and waste needed to move you around, provide essential services, and maintain a house for you.



By this reckoning, the average Indian only has one foot to stand on.

Everyone think of animals which have each 2, 4, 6, 8 or more legs.

The average Italian currently uses four feet (dog)!



The average citizen of the UK currently uses six feet (cockroach)!

The average Australian currently uses eight feet (spider)!



And the average American uses ten feet (??)!

Has anyone ever met a ten footed human? Or an eight footed one?



Hmmm...

If everyone lived like the average citizen of Adelaide we would need 4 planet earths, and that's leaving no room for other creatures at all...

IDEA 2:

Let's look at this another way:

This cup of water is our planet.

If we drink it all it will refresh us and keep us healthy all year, and fill up again magically by next year.



At the moment, there is just enough water in there to almost satisfy everyone if we shared it, even though some people take a big sip, and others a little sip.

BUT

If everyone took a sip as big as we do, we would need four cups to share around.



And if we thought it was fair to let all the other animals have a drink too we would need maybe eight cups.



Eight planet earths. Does anyone know where the other seven planet Earths are?

Then what are we to do?

Questions to ponder:

- What to do when we are living like spiders instead of humans, with eight feet, or hectares, instead of two?
- What do we do when we need four to eight worlds and only have one?
- How much does our weekly worship of the God of Earth, cost the Earth?

This was put in slightly older language for a church newsletter:

If every human in the world used as many resources as the average resident of Adelaide, we would need four planets to house us all! This is known as the **Global Footprint of Adelaide**. Even these four planets would mean that every productive bit of land was used by humans, with none left for all the other species of Earth.

- ? What would such an Earth be like?
- ? Just how much of this planet should our one species claim for itself?
- ? Would any of us want to live on a planet which was solely for humans, or leave such a place for our grandchildren and their grand-children?

And of course, we only have one planet! Ecological peace, and human peace, will be impossible until we only need one planet, or perhaps even half a planet.

At Scots Church, through our *ecofaith* ministry, we aim to be part of the quest for ecological peace, sharing God's Earth: the only sanctuary for Life which we know of in our universe.

We draw on the awe-inspiring stories of creation which now date back billions of years, understanding that we are a part of God's ancient relationship with life, not the centre of it.

We seek to tell the story of God and Jesus in the context of this new creation story which encompasses all religions.

Do you want to be part of this quest? What will you do?

You could start by visiting <http://ecofaith.org/footprint>