



We need an internal Climate Change

George Verwer

In these days we are seeing increased action and protest in connection with the crisis of climate change. Extremism has sadly taken over, especially in the *Extinction Rebellion* Movement that has brought with it danger, damage to property and bodily harm.

It seems to me that in most protest movements — and there seem to be more than ever before in history — so often they are hijacked by dangerous extremists. This is nothing new. In history some wars can be traced back to it. Protests will not cease, even when we reach the lofty goals of the climate change movement.

It is surely time to pause for serious thought.

Surely, we all need to be involved

The climate change crisis is serious and we all need to get involved in the action, not just talk or write about it. I believe it is one of the greatest problems in today's world and action needs to take place. However, if we do our research we will realise that these terrible events — fires, floods and many more — have been happening for thousands of years. I guess many would say it is all worse today, and surely air pollution is also big on the list. Even if we reach all the goals of the campaigners there will still be massive problems on planet earth, taking millions of lives.

Face the reality — the most serious problem we face is not the state of the planet. It is that there is something basically wrong with us human beings. Our behaviour is the heart of the reason why we constantly cause hurt and harm both to ourselves and to others. The Bible is very clear about this but you don't need the Bible to see it. ***We can see throughout history the basic toxic or evil streak in every human being.***



Fake news and false hopes

The way we have handled the present pandemic is proof of that. Misinformation, fake news and conspiracy theories have been launched globally via social media. They have massively increased the number of deaths as millions have been afraid and unwilling to be vaccinated. I just saw an email in which someone said they were drinking boiled pine needle juice to prevent them getting the virus from those who are double vaccinated! Families and churches have split over this hot issue and other controversies such as whether you should wear a mask. This kind of foolishness has always been there in a variety of ways, but now that we all live in a “global village” it has gotten much worse.

Partly due to social media and fake news it is harder than ever to know the truth. The current pandemic is not linked directly with climate change, though there may be some connection. But just like climate change, there have been many pandemics throughout history, not to mention slavery and racism, that have taken tens of millions of lives.

Do we think that civil conflict, other wars and the spread of terrorism will ever cease? Do we think genocide, sex slavery, untouchability, suicide, drug-related deaths and crime are going to end when we sort out the climate? ***I believe these same toxic human factors will make it impossible to reach the climate extremists' lofty goals.***



Crime, suffering and conflict ...

Would you take time to research global crime and the huge number of people in prison, often living in shocking conditions? Have you ever read books like *True Grit* or *SOS* by Debbie Meroff that highlight the massive growth of abuse among women and children? Have you ever studied the global arms industry and all the corruption, crime and death connected with it?

Have you ever studied how those who work in mines are treated and paid? We are told to go electric in a world where some nations cannot even keep the lights on. How we procure the minerals we need to power our mobiles and other devices is another global scandal that will not go away. What can we say of possible nuclear war? You may have read my book about Toxic Perfectionism and seen my phrase "*unrealistic toxic expectation*".

Only an inner revolution and transformation ...

What we urgently need is a moral revolution and transformation. We need internal climate change. No extremist protest is going to sort out the mess. We need to get right with our Creator and experience the new life we can only find in Jesus Christ.

I do not deny that other religions and philosophies can also transform attitudes and bring changed lives, but only a minority choose to go that road and stay on it. I accept that some amazing humanitarians are doing great things to deal with the world's problems, especially right now with the refugee problem. What can we say about increased global poverty, impure water and diseases that take millions of lives?

I wear two hats ...

I am reading an amazing book by Hans Rosling of Sweden. It is not a Christian book, but Rosling, who died before the start of the pandemic, did some amazing and extensive research all over the world. He has left us a great legacy. His book is titled *Factfulness*, and it has the encouraging subtitle: *Ten Reasons why we are wrong about the world and why things are better than you think*. The pandemic has surely set us back in some of the areas where we were making great progress.

As a believer in Jesus I wear two hats. One is my faith that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. There is no other way to have a relationship with God our Creator. My other hat is that I am a human being, sharing the planet with all kinds of people that I must love and work with as much as possible in connection with all these global problems, including the global climate change crisis.

Consider your internal climate

Will you consider your internal climate? Love, Grace, Forgiveness, Discipline and a relationship with the Living God and your fellow man: this is the true hope for Planet Earth.

I urge you to study the life of Jesus and keep in mind that Jesus is widely respected by people of all faiths and especially by Muslims. His message included an internal climate change when He said: *"No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."* I had that personal experience in a Billy Graham meeting in New York City which totally changed my life and brought that internal climate change and transformation. Please read the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount.

I am fortunate that I have met thousands of people in about 100 nations. I have seen transformed lives everywhere and the impact they make. I hope you will be among that great multitude that choose this narrow and very revolutionary way.

George Verwer

Email: george.verwer@om.org ❖ Website: <https://georgeverwer.com>

 **Special Projects**

62A Glebe Way, West Wickham, Kent BR4 0RL, UK ☎: +44 (0)20 7860 426426

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