

## **Rick's notes on Bishop James Jones visit to Denver.**

**Place** - Denver Episcopal Cathedral Date - December 06, 2006

**Presenter** - Bishop James Jones of Liverpool

### **Background**

Bishop Jones is a person of faith, highly intelligent, well spoken, and down right funny. He had us in stitches several times. He is a great representative for the Anglican Church and for Jesus. I liked this guy. He prefaced his lecture with the following: "I am a hypocrite, we are all hypocrites." One thing I flew to Denver and was responsible for a very large carbon footprint. He recounted the following: As Bishop of Liverpool he decided that he wanted to get a pulse or a feel for what all the young people in the Liverpool school system were thinking about. So he went from public school to public school in Liverpool - gathered the teenagers in the auditoriums and began talking to them. One of the questions he asked on a scale of 0 to 10 where zero represents Not Worried and 10 means Really Worried about the future - how many of you are worried about global warming on a scale of 10? All the kids consistently raised their hands. Now according to Bishop James approximately 75% to 80% of the children in Liverpool's public schools are on the free lunch program. And yet the teenagers are acutely aware of Global Warming. His conclusion was where many people of our generation won't admit there is a problem - and our children know the situation is dire. There is a chasm between our generation and our children. "Jesus fuses Heaven and Earth" Bishop Jones then talked about Jesus - which you would expect from a Christian Bishop. He recounted the following from a long study of scripture (to see if scripture mentioned Jesus caring about the Earth - caring about the environment)

The Bishop had a conversation with a Rabbi who reminded him that in Hebrew the phrase "Son of Man" is Ben Adam, Son of Adam, and Adam is the one hewn from Adamah, the Hebrew for "earth".

So he came to the conclusion when Jesus said, "Son of Man" - He was talking about " Son of Earth"

From there he talked about Jesus as God and Man as Jesus being the fusion of Heaven and Earth.

So if Jesus is the fusion of Earth and Heaven then defilement and violence against the Earth is also violence and sin against God.

For more on this take a look at:

[http://www.jri.org.uk/resource/jesusearth\\_bishopliverpool.htm](http://www.jri.org.uk/resource/jesusearth_bishopliverpool.htm)

You can google this guy and get some great hits.

<http://www.tearfund.org/News/Latest+news/Tearfund+Vice+President+challenge+s+government+on+climate+change.htm>

[http://www.surefish.co.uk/faith/features/2004/180204\\_james\\_jones\\_talk.htm](http://www.surefish.co.uk/faith/features/2004/180204_james_jones_talk.htm)

"America is Isolated"

America per person produces 20 tons a year per person of CO<sub>2</sub>

Great Britain ( sorry I'm old fashioned the term U.K. is an American term) per person produces 9.5 tons a year per person of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Bangladesh per person produces 0.24 tons

For a sustainable planet we each need to get down to 0.8 tons a year person of CO<sub>2</sub>. For whatever reasons we have ignored the Kyoto Protocol while Europe has embraced it. Many of the arguments against Kyoto according to the Bishop sound like playground arguments between little boys. He did say that, "Political Leaders have a tough job deciding between all the interests of their people." And it was up to us to convince our leaders that global climate change is a reality and that they must take action. But we mustn't wait for industry and government to act. "The Current State of the World" The Bishop then went on to compare the state of the world to the following:

You're on a cruise and luck of luck you're a passenger on A deck with the finest views, soft breezes, and finest food.

The cabin is luxurious with fine linen, an obscenely big bed for a ship, and you're treated to the finest entertainment every night.

There are two hundred of you on A deck.

You're having a great time.

Meanwhile there are 800 people below decks crammed into the holds, using buckets for toilets, and living on a diet of bread and water - no fresh air and no fresh water.

That is the state of the world today according to the Bishop, and how can we as Christians as people belonging to Christ ignore our Brothers and Sisters through out the world who live in such abject poverty. "That Your Hearts May be Changed - Repent" The bishop had the following advice - Pray and Pray some more ! Find out what Our God wants us to do and then get out there and start doing it. (My

comment - man I like this guy and his advice) He also talked about some innovative ideas like the following for church congregations.

Figure out your Carbon Footprint (numerous online resources) and begin reducing it.

Have a service at the church where people bring their old light bulbs to the altar to exchange them with high efficiency light bulbs.

Have a Carbon Fast for Lent.

Global Warming is a Problem of the Heart not of technology. It is rooted in our own greed, ignorance, and selfishness. Bishop James says "Pray for Repentance Pray for a Change of Heart"