

Thinking Twice

Blurbs for newsletters and bulletins
On caring for God's earth and for our neighbors

Care for Creation

Think Twice

In the U.S., we throw away 40 million plastic water bottles a day—end-to-end, they would reach from Washington, D.C. to President Washington's face on Mt. Rushmore and back again...two times. All told, making water bottles requires 1.5 million barrels of petroleum a year—enough to fuel 100,000 vehicles. Think of all the reasons not to waste petroleum—both environmental and related to human well-being. Then think twice the next time you reach for that bottle of water. *Think Twice—New Community Project*

Thinking Twice

Global warming may lead to the extinction of 1 million species of plants and animals in the coming century. Polar bears have become the poster child for this Great Disappearance, but a myriad of lesser-known—but perhaps just as important—living things will disappear as well. Maybe the plant holding the cure for a disease affecting one of your family members, or a species of tree that has defined your region of the country. In either case, these are creatures that God lovingly created. Is any of this worth changing our energy-consumption habits? *Think Twice—New Community Project*

Thinking Twice

What's the most populous large mammal in the Amazon rainforest? Give up? Beef cattle—57 million head in what was former forest. Brazil has become the world's largest beef exporter—including thousands of tons to the U.S. every year. Beef raised here has impacts as well—a single quarter-pounder requiring some 200 gallons of water to produce. And cattle actually surpass transportation as a global source of global warming gases. Veggie burger anyone...? *Think Twice—New Community Project*

Thinking Twice

We use more paper than anyone else in the world in the U.S.—some 760 pounds per person per year, or seven times the world average. Our appetite for paper consumes 1 billion trees annually, and creates huge amounts of water and air pollution. Simple solutions? Buy only recycled writing/copy paper at home and at church; use only toilet tissue made from recycled paper (saves a tree for every 12 years of use!); write on the back side of used paper; consider how goods are packaged when purchasing them; read the newspaper on-line. "...and the tree of life also in the midst of the garden." *Think Twice—New Community Project*

Thinking Twice

Heating water is one of the major energy consumers in any home—and anytime there's energy use, there's CO₂ production (globe-warming carbon dioxide) because fossil fuels were more than likely burned to create the energy. Showers can use 3-5 gallons of hot water per minute—or 20-35 gallons for a typical 7-minute shower. That's up to two

pounds of CO2 per day, or 600 pounds a year. Cut back on your use of hot water—and turn down the heat on the planet. *Think Twice—New Community Project*

Care for our neighbors

Thinking Twice

Believe it or not, 10 percent of the world's children are child workers—that's 246 million children. Their jobs include being domestic servants, agricultural workers, selling products at gas stations or along the road. About 8 million children are involved in the "worst forms" of child labor—bonded labor (having to work to work off their parents' debts); prostitution; pornography; war (300,000 child soldiers in the world); or illegal activities. One of the best solutions? Helping a child go to school by supporting programs like Give a Girl a Chance. For what the average U.S. teenager spends on themselves every 10 days—\$120—a girl in Sudan can go to school for a year. *Think Twice—New Community Project*

Thinking Twice

Personal car use is the worst environmental habit of U.S. citizens, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. Every mile we drive puts a pound of CO2 into the atmosphere, makes us more dependent on oil from unstable regions of the world—and kills .0001 squirrels or other small furry creatures (educated guess!). On the other hand, a bicycle gets the equivalent of 1000 miles per gallon of gasoline, keeps us from fighting over oil, and spares innumerable small critters. And a little exercise won't hurt us either. *Think Twice—New Community Project*

Thinking Twice

"They treated us like dogs." That's how Noe Urbina of El Salvador's Emmanuel Baptist Church summed up his time working in a sweatshop in the capital city. Timed restroom breaks, no talking, no complaining about anything—"There's the door," the foreman says to complainers, "there are 20 other people who will work for less than you." Who's making your clothes? How are they treated? Find out at www.responsibleshopper.org "Woe to you who sell the needy for a pair of shoes..."-Amos *Think Twice—New Community Project*

Thinking Twice

In the U.S., the average person will spend \$30 on bottled water this year—and we have perfectly drinkable water from the faucet for 1/1000th the price. Meanwhile, 1.1 billion people around the world don't have access to clean water and 3-5 million die annually from impure water, a condition the United Nations says could be resolved for \$30-\$50 per person. Hmmm. "Let justice roll down like waters..."-Amos *Think Twice—New Community Project*

Thinking Twice

In the U.S., we waste about half the food we produce. It rots on the vine or in the ground, spoils in shipment or in the 'fridge, or gets tossed at home or at the cafeteria or fast food

place. Meanwhile, around 700 million of the world's children are stunted in their growth from not having enough to eat, and 250,000 go blind every year for lack of Vitamin A—and 80 percent of those die within the first year of losing their sight. When the rich man didn't notice poor Lazarus wasting away outside his door, he was held accountable. *Think Twice—New Community Project*