

Environment

Environment evolution of truth

By DR. JIM HOLLINGWORTH
 "All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident." When Arthur Shopenhauer said the above, he was not specifically referring to the message of environmentalists. However, it is helpful to know that the lack of healing of our planet is linked to politicians and industrialists being stuck in the first two stages of the evolution of truth.

When it was first brought to the attention of Mr. Ronald Reagan that trees in Canada and America were being killed by acid rain, he responded by saying it was quite possible that the acid rain was being produced by the trees!

When his successor, Mr. George Bush, was presented with extensive evidence from the world's leading scientists, that global warming had already started, Mr. Bush responded by asking for more research before committing himself to remedial action!

In Canada, two years ago, our federal government promised Canadians that it would present a major environmental plan in the spring of 1990. Canadians waited patiently and hopefully. Instead of the plan, we were given a series of meetings with government officials to discuss environmental problems and possible solutions!

It seems that the present federal government, like so many other governments is having profound difficulty in reaching stage three of the evolution of en-



vironmental truth. What can concerned individuals do to help different levels of government find the truth?

The information is now conclusive that the 5.3 billion people who live on planet earth will have to change their values, goals and lifestyles if human life is to continue.

It is only a question of time before major changes will occur as a result of ordinary people demanding that their governments pass the necessary laws to bring about planetary healing. Bio-theologian, Thomas Berry, spoke clearly of this planetary healing when he addressed the Institute of Cultural Affairs, in Toronto, earlier this year. The following is an excerpt from his speech.

"I am concerned with the ultimate revolution, the ecological revolution - the assertion of the planet as the primary concern. Humans are derivative; the planet is primary. The earth is primary; the human economy is derivative. Earth health is primary; human health is derivative.

The human community and the

natural world will go into the future as a single sacred community or we will both perish in the desert. It's that simple. Interspecies community is presently the great urgency. This needs to be achieved by emotional, aesthetic as well as mystical bonding into the single community of a bio-spiritual planet."

And so, if our planet is to be healed, if it is to be left habitable for children born and not yet born, it is up to us, the ordinary people of the planet to bring about change. We have been given the mandate to lead. If our voices are loud and united, governments will form and act in response.

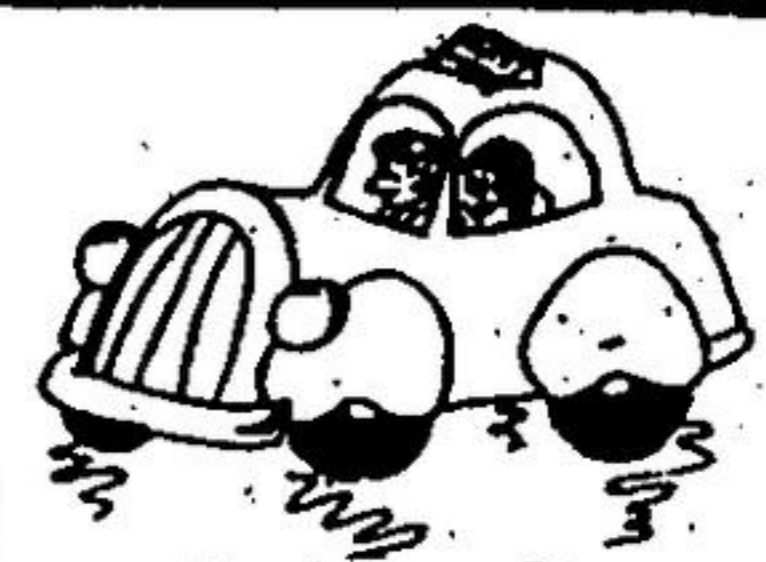
Jim Hollingworth is a Family Physician in Goderich, who believes that individual well-being demands planetary well-being.

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