

Sustaining the World: Christian Faith and the Environment (TMM1247)

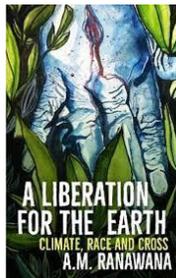
Common Awards



Level 4 Module

Diversifying the Curriculum

Books



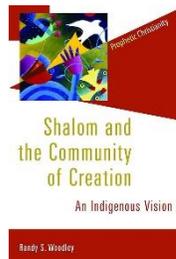
Ranawana, Anupama, *A Liberation for the Earth: Climate, Race and Cross* (London: SCM Press, 2022)

Content:

This book uses rage as a theological concept to explore ecological and racial injustice, which the author sees as intertwined. Anupama Ranawana not only provides historical context for the present ecological situation, but also draws on stories and case studies from ecological justice movements in the Global South to argue that centring rage holds the potential to bring about action.

Author:

Anupama Ranawana is a Sri Lankan theologian and postdoctoral research associate at Durham University.



Woodley, Randy, *Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans 2012)

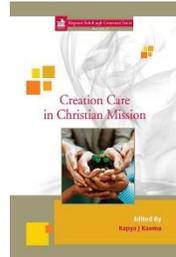
Content:

Woodley explores the points of synergy between the biblical concept of 'shalom' and the narratives and values of what he refers to as the Native American 'harmony way'. Chapter 3 is perhaps the most relevant for this module, focusing on the interconnectedness and sacredness of all of creation, and the reciprocal relationship between humans and the rest of creation exemplified through the biblical text.

Author:

Randy Woodley is a Native American scholar and activist based in the US.

Edited Volumes



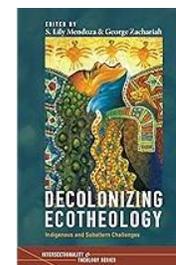
Kaoma, Kapya J. (ed), *Creation Care in Christian Mission* (Oxford: Regnum Books, 2016)

Content:

With contributions from a range of scholars including Amos Yong and Kwok Pui-Lan, this edited volume seeks to address issues related to creation care and ecological crisis by bringing together voices and perspectives from differing geographical contexts, Christian traditions and disciplines. The book comprises three sections: the first, titled 'Glimpses of Hope,' contains case studies from Zimbabwe, Brazil, the US and Norway; the second covers reflections on earth care from different denominations; and the third consists of missiological reflections.

Editor:

Kapya J. Kaoma is a Zambian scholar and pastor.



Mendoza, S. Lily and George Zachariah (eds), *Decolonizing Ecotheology: Indigenous and Subaltern Challenges* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2022)

Content:

Contributions to this edited volume span diverse social and cultural locations, and emphasise the political nature of environmental issues and colonial and neo-liberal underpinnings of much contemporary ecotheology. The editors have grouped the chapters into four parts that explore in turn the earth's speech, the conservation of such speech, sites of political struggle in the Global North and South, and contemporary uprisings rooted in alternative ecotheologies that point towards a more just and liveable future.

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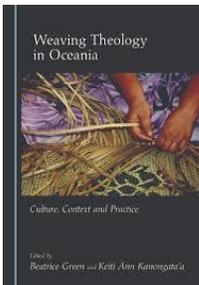
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Editors:

S. Lily Mendoza is a Filipina scholar currently working as Professor of Culture and Communication at Oakland University, US; George Zachariah is an Indian theologian presently based at Trinity Methodist College in New Zealand.

Book Chapters



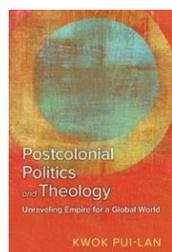
Kivi SM, Donato, "A Marian-Ecological Spirituality for the Healing of the Vanua: The Land and People," in Green, Beatrice and Keiti Ann Kanongata'a (eds), *Weaving Theology in Oceania: Culture, Context and Practice* (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2020)

Content:

This chapter is part of an edited volume that emerged from a conference at the Pacific Regional Seminary in Suva, Fiji in 2018. Donato Kivi SM draws on *Laudato Si'*, Marian theology and ecology to develop a Marian-ecological spirituality that holds the potential for the healing of the 'vanua', a Fijian word that means both 'the land' and 'the people'.

Author:

Donato Kivi SM is Director and Superior of Marist College Formation House in Suva.



Pui-Lan, Kwok, "Christian Mission and Planetary Politics," in *Postcolonial Politics and Theology: Unraveling Empire for a Global World* (Louisville, KY: WJK Press, 2021)

Content:

Kwok Pui-Lan highlights both the complex relationship between Christian mission and the environment, and the ways colonialism and imperialism have impacted environmental practices. Emphasising the prevalence of anthropocentric exceptionalism and consequent need for soul care to be explicitly expanded to earth care, Pui-Lan argues that Christian mission must foster planetary consciousness and planetary solidarity and as such, learn from communities whose spirituality is earth-based.

Author:

Kwok Pui-Lan is a Hong Kong-born feminist and postcolonial theologian.

Journal Articles

Gnanadason, Aruna, "Yes, Creator God, Transform the Earth! The Earth as God's Body in an Age of Environmental Violence," *The Ecumenical Review* 57, no. 2 (2005): 159-170.



Content:

Gnanadason challenges the dualism, hierarchicalism and anthropocentrism prevalent within Christian theology, arguing for a 'subject-subject' rather than 'subject-object' relationship with God and the earth. Echoing critiques of 'dominion theology' and the language of 'stewardship' from eco-feminist theologians and Indigenous peoples, she advocates for a new epistemology rooted in the wisdom, spirituality and lived experiences of those whose daily lives are most closely connected to the earth.

Author:

Aruna Gnanadason is an Indian theologian who previously worked at the World Council of Churches.

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Adedeji, Joseph Adeniran and Roman Lenz, "Christian eco-theology and urban climate adaptation in the Yorubaland, Nigeria," *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* 93 (2024): 1-11.



Content:

This short article provides a window into the localization of climate change impacts via qualitative research in 16 different Christian denominations in Nigeria. Further, it helpfully highlights the interconnectedness between ecotheology and mission.

Authors:

Joseph Adeniran Adedeji is a Nigerian scholar whose work focuses on landscape hermeneutics; Roman Lenz is a German agricultural biologist.

Videos

[Gnanadason, Aruna, Jione Havea and Robert Song, Creation and Climate Justice, Common Awards Webinar Series 2022](#)



Content:

This hour-long webinar explores the climate crisis in the context of creation and mission. It begins with two 20-minute presentations. In the first, Havea discusses the place of the Bible in relation to climate (in)justice, addressing questions such as: How has the Bible contributed to climate crises? How might it shape our response? Gnanadason then explores the climate crisis using the example of India. She discusses the way the Church in India has reacted to the environment through history, highlighting how Christian missions undermined the sacredness that Indigenous peoples attached to the earth. This ultimately led to the Church in India losing its connection with the earth, and with the peoples of the earth. The webinar ends with a Q&A in which the speakers discuss signs of hope, what Christian thinkers in the West

should be focusing on, whether there is a need for alternative economic models, and several other questions.

Speakers:

Aruna Gnanadason is an Indian theologian who previously worked at the World Council of Churches; Jione Havea is a native pastor and theologian from Tonga, Oceania and part of the DARE initiative at the Council for World Mission; Robert Song is a Professor in Theological Ethics at Durham University, UK.

[Ueti, Paulo, Trees in the Spiritual Life of the Church, 2023](#)



Content:

In this 10-minute talk, Paulo Ueti discusses the influence of indigenous spirituality on the Anglican church in Brazil. Ueti highlights the centrality of trees in indigenous spirituality and culture, where they are viewed as relatives, as living beings with their own spirituality. Trees are not to be used as resources, but instead related to and learned from; trees are a source of God's revelation and to harm a tree is to harm oneself. Anglican communities in the Amazon have been learning how to listen to nature, and many services and ceremonies now include trees. Such spirituality fosters a deep sense of ingratitude and reciprocity with the natural world.

Speaker:

Paulo Ueti is a Brazilian theologian and theological advisor for the Anglican Alliance.