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## Book Review

**Christoph Stueckelberger, *We All Are Guests on Earth! A Global Christian Vision for Climate Justice***, Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications, 2010. Pages: xviii+58. ISBN: 978-81-89958-37-4.

The author Christoph Stueckelberger, is the Founder and Executive Director of Globethics.net (A Global Network on Ethics, based in Geneva, Switzerland). The book, *We All Are Guests on Earth!* is a collection of lectures delivered by Prof. Stueckelberger as part of the Paul Wiegelmann Annual Lectures on Environmental Studies 2010-2011 at the Centre for Environmental Studies in the Faculty of Philosophy at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore.

This small book has four chapters, a brief introduction and a conclusion. The introduction is an attempt to highlight the Global Environmental problems with special focus on the Indian context and the need for decisive action in favour of environmental protection. It also raises the question how Christian faith can contribute to meet the environmental challenges especially the global climate change.

The first chapter analyses the position and task of human beings on earth. The author presents human beings as guests on earth where God is the owner of the Guesthouse and Host (Eco-Theology). Human beings, being the invited guests, (Eco-Anthropology) should celebrate the caring and just God (Eco-Spirituality) by acting as responsible guests and 'careholders' (Eco-Ethics) – responsible to maintain and develop the Guesthouse in the name of the owner – God. Acting as a 'careholder' includes non-violent caring for human and non-human beings (p. 15). The author has succeeded in pointing out the human responsibility to preserve Nature supported by a discussion based on the biblical background.

The second Chapter of the book, titled 'Contextual and Global Environmental Ethics,' attempts to explore the interreligious outlooks for caring for the earth from a contextual and global perspective. This caring aspect according to the author is deeply rooted in all world religions and he draws our attention to some of the religions including Hinduism. The third chapter, 'Climate Justice,' is all about the ethical question with regard to climate change which is basically a question of climate justice (p. 29). Stueckelberger presents various levels of ethical life depending on a value based climate justice (pp. 29-34). It provides some concrete and relevant ethical guidelines to bring about climate justice in the present day global context (pp. 38-43).

Chapter four poses the question whether something can be done about the huge and disastrous challenge of climate change? Put clearly, the question is, is it too late or is there any hope to find solutions for the problem of climate change? According to Stueckelberger, cynical, fatalistic and fundamentalist answers cannot be ethically allowed as they do not adapt to the complex reality of climate change (p. 48). But differentiated answers from a Christian perspective, he argues, can empower and encourage for decisive action from faith perspective which evokes hope in God's promise in supporting life in dignity on earth for all beings. Humankind is called to continue the journey of nature and culture and constant change, always seeking orientation in the constant dialogue with God in alliance. Acting as responsible stewards is our answer to God's alliance. Responsible stewardship is the basis for the responsible management of resources and this management is the key for caring for creation and sustainability.

This beautiful discussion on climate justice concludes with an invitation to use and care as good stewards and 'careholders' of the mother earth which is God's own household. The author reminds us that it is now time to do more in a sustainable way for a sustainable lifestyle also in the context of India with an environmentally sound behaviour. Nevertheless, who in a global way will take the necessary steps towards a responsible climate justice still remains a question unanswered.

Stueckelberger's great merit is that he has dealt with a most interesting topic which has greater relevance for our contemporary thinking and acting. His attempt to approach the problem of climate change and the need for climate justice are deeply reflected in almost every page of his book, always with a positive and creative note based on faith for a hopeful tomorrow for human beings and every other beings on earth.

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