

**For more information or to schedule a talk, film, or book study, contact The Circle of Compassion Initiative At judycarman@myvine.com**

**Available films for showing at your church:**

- "Peaceable Kingdom" and "The Witness" Both are Tribe of Heart films.
- "The Emotional World of Farm Animals," an Animal Place film.
- "Honoring God's Creation: Christianity & Vegetarianism," a Christian Vegetarian Association film.
- "Mad Cowboy," a Voice for a Viable Future film based on the book, *Mad Cowboy: Plain Truth from the Cattle Rancher Who Won't Eat Meat*, by Howard Lyman.
- "Eating: It's the biggest cause of disease, disabilities and death in the U.S. today," a BeaconDV film.
- "Diet for a New America," Hosted by John Robbins.

**"Until we extend our circle of compassion to all living things, we will not ourselves find peace"**

Rev. Dr. Albert Schweitzer

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## RESOURCES

### Books

- *Peace to All Beings: Veggie Soup for the Chicken's Soul* by Judy Carman, M.A. Includes prayers for use in services
- *The World Peace Diet: Eating for Spiritual Health & Social Harmony* by Will Tuttle, Ph.D.
- *Good News for All Creation: Vegetarianism as Christian Stewardship* by Stephen Kaufman & Nathan Braun
- *God's Covenant with Animals: A Biblical Basis for the Humane Treatment of All Creatures* by Rev. J.R. Hyland
- *The Dominion of Love: Animal Rights According to the Bible* by Norm Phelps
- *Animal Rites: Liturgies of Animal Care* by Rev. Andrew Linzey
- *Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy* by Matthew Scully

### Websites

- [www.lanternbooks.com](http://www.lanternbooks.com). Some of the books listed above can be found here along with other relevant ones.
- [www.circleofcompassion.org](http://www.circleofcompassion.org). Home of Worldwide Prayer Circle for Animals.
- [www.All-Creatures.org](http://www.All-Creatures.org). A wealth of information regarding the calling of Christians to mercy for animals.
- [www.ChristianVeg.com](http://www.ChristianVeg.com). Home of the Christian Vegetarian Association.
- [www.PCRM.org](http://www.PCRM.org). Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine reports on health benefits of plant-based diet.
- [www.animaloutreach-ks.org](http://www.animaloutreach-ks.org). Many facts as well as links to other websites.
- [www.hacres.com](http://www.hacres.com). Health from a Biblical perspective.

**People of Faith  
Can Help Stop  
the Suffering of  
Animals**

**A 7 Step Plan**

## God calls us to bring an end to violence

God calls us to care lovingly and compassionately for all creation. This, of course, includes the earth, the trees, all the plants and animals, other people, and ourselves. Yet violence toward all that is so precious continues to escalate.

Wars, environmental degradation, torture and enslavement of human beings, starvation, rampant disease, and the suffering of billions of animals—all these are connected to each other by a common cause. All these are a result of human greed, fear, and a seemingly insatiable desire to satisfy the self without regard for the needs of others.

The good news is that, since there is a common cause for all this violence, then there is a common solution. That solution lies in awakening compassion in the human heart and realizing that we are all children of God, all part of and connected to all of creation. Jesus taught this and demonstrated it with his life.

Of course, churches focus well on fostering kindness in our relationships with other human beings, and many churches are working hard to create environmentally responsible programs that recognize our interconnectedness with earth and nature. However, worldwide violence cannot be eliminated until violence toward *all* beings is acknowledged and brought to an end.

## Jesus' birth was attended by animals

Our hearts respond warmly to the image of baby Jesus surrounded by animals as they share their humble stable with Him.

Children love animals so much that toys and books focus mainly on stories and images of animals to teach and entertain our little ones.

Yet somehow, along the timeline of our lives, we are asked to disconnect our hearts from animals. For children who grow up on farms or participate in 4-H, the

disconnect may come when they are told to stop caring about the cow or pig they have grown to love and send their friend to the slaughterhouse. For others, the disconnect may come so gradually we don't even realize it has happened.

Several cows have escaped the slaughterhouse recently and made the news. Suddenly the whole nation is cheering these cows, giving them names, and praying for their liberation.

Clearly, God has filled our hearts with love for animals. It is we who deny the truth of this love. How can we reclaim this love for all creation and bring more compassion into the world?

## The suffering of the innocents

Around the world, over 48 billion land animals are killed for human consumption. This official figure does not include the horses, dogs, cats, wild animals, male chicks, and many others brutally killed for food and other products or discarded as if they were "trash."

In 2000, 89 million tons, i.e., billions of individual fish and sea animals, were killed. Fully one third of these innocent beings were tossed away as "useless garbage."

Billions more animals die at the hands of hunters, fur dealers, experimenters, puppy mill breeders, and others. Vast areas of habitat are being destroyed by developers, oil and timber corporations, and by pollution, causing the extinction of many species. Meanwhile, factory farms confine billions of helpless animals in conditions so cruel that most people cannot even bear to hear about them.

While we pray regularly "...on earth as it is in Heaven," we are largely unaware that many of our customs promote only hell on earth for billions of God's precious creatures.

Surely this brutality is not God's will. Surely our God of love is calling all people of faith and compassion to do our part to put an end to this massive violence, the scale of which has never been seen on this earth.

## The Seven Step Plan

1. Include prayers for animals in church services. Useful prayers and ceremonies can be found in *Peace to All Beings* and *Animal Rites* (see book list). Join the Worldwide Prayer Circle for Animals at [circleofcompassion.org](http://circleofcompassion.org).

2. Include respect for all God's creatures in your church's mission statement

3. Encourage education and discussion by hosting films, speakers, and book studies on the subject of the churches' response to animal suffering.

4. Consider church sponsored family outings that are non-violent, such as hiking, camping, and boating, instead of hunting, fishing, rodeos, zoos, and circuses.

5. Ask that members not wear fur into the church out of respect for God's beautiful creatures who are brutally raised and killed for vanity.

6. Begin purchasing paper, cleaning products, candles, etc. that are ecologically sustainable, fair-trade, and certified cruelty-free.

7. Certainly the most challenging step, but the most dramatic in its message of compassion, will be for the church to sponsor only cruelty-free meals. Sharing plant-based meals, as described in Genesis 1:29, acknowledges our commitment to our own physical health, the health of the earth, the hungry of the world (since a plant-based diet uses far fewer resources than an animal diet does), and the right of all animals to live their own lives free from human exploitation and violence. Such meals signify our desire to mean what we say when we pray together—

**"on earth as it is in Heaven"**

