

## FROM OUR PASTOR

May 14, 2016

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Warm Sabbath Greeting to Everyone!

This past Thursday, thousands of dead fish surfaced at a lake in Bengaluru, India. The current trend of massive animal's deaths continues all over the world.

On Wednesday, hundreds of snow geese were found dead in Idaho.

On Tuesday, Masses of dead prawns wash up on the coast of Arica, Chile, and thousands of dead fish were found in the waters of Saint Petersburg, Russia. The week before, thousands of fish died due to pollution in the San Juan River in Mexico, 40,000 TONS of Salmon and 8,000 TONS of Sardines washed up dead, due to red tide in Chile, and more than thirty tons of dead fish appeared in a lake in Hainan, China.

The beautiful teeming wildlife that our Creator gave this earth is dying at a staggering rate. The "Death List of Animals for 2016: reports 217 known Mass Death Events in 59 Countries so far this year alone. The list includes everything from shrimp to birds to whales. The most alarming is the report on Monarch Butterflies, perhaps the most incredible of all migrating flying creatures. According to [rt.com/usa](http://rt.com/usa): "A shocking statistic released by the US Fish and Wildlife Service on Monday summed up the plight of the monarch butterfly: Since 1990, about 970 million of the butterflies – 90 percent of the total population – have vanished across the United States. The massacre provides a grim testimony to the delicate balance that exists between man and nature, and how the introduction of a single consumer product – in this case, Monsanto's Roundup Ready herbicide – can wreak so much havoc. Sold to farmers and homeowners as an effective method for eliminating milkweed plants, Roundup Ready, introduced in the 1970s, is widely blamed for decimating the monarch butterflies' only source of food in the Midwest."

We have also seen the devastating effect of agricultural pesticides and herbicides in the Northwest. Fifteen years ago, when "roundup ready" wheat was just getting started, there were large populations of pheasants and deer in Southeast Washington. Now the birds have all but vanished and the deer population is much smaller. The farmers I have talked to about the wildlife decline all agree that it is the result of the "Roundup Ready" farming. If these chemicals kill animals, why are we eating them?

God predicted eons ago that the creation and wildlife would suffer the consequences of a world bent on sin.

Hosea 4:3 says, "Therefore the land will mourn; And everyone who dwells there will waste away with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air; even the fish of the sea will be taken away." Zephaniah 1:3 adds "sage."

The current state of the entire earth today is described by the Apostle Paul as being in bondage and in corruption, but it will be delivered! Romans 8:21-22 says, “because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”

The good news is that when Jesus Christ returns a great healing will take place for the entire earth! No more hurting, no more destruction, no more harm due to greed.

The hope of the earth is Isaiah 11:9. “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”

*Rex Sexton  
Pastor, UCG Portland*