



***‘Enlarge the site of your Tents’***

**Isa 54.2**

# **Let the Church Enlarge her Tent Lessons from Sustainable Agriculture**

By

Canon Dr R Daniel Premkumar, Ph D



# Revisiting Gen 1&2 with Sustainable Farmers

## Farmers' Perspective

- Wrestles with Soil, Dew, Rain, Environment and the Sun (Gen 1-3),
- Integrates Soil with Environmental Seasons caused by the Heavens
- Soil Theology Resonates with the Bible: Ex. Torah, Prophets, Jn 1.14, Parables & Miracles of Jesus, Bodily Resurrection of Christ (Lk 24), the Coming Down of New Jerusalem (Rev 21.2).

## Church's Focus

- **Other-worldly Spirituality & Second Coming of Christ,**
- **Strives with Eternal Perspective not Present Stewardship**

## Lessons

- **Church needs to catch up with *'Mustard Seed Spirituality'* that combines the things of Heaven with things on Earth (Eph 1.10)**



# A Vision Beyond the Present

## Farmer's Vision

- Ecological Stewardship
- Health of the Soil for future Generations
- Sharing the Non-renewable and pristine Earthly Resources with next-gen

## Church's Approach

- Day to day Challenges and Immediate Demands
- Less attention to Long-term Planning or Legacy

## Invitation

- To Create Ministries that Endure and Bless Future Communities.



# 3. Ethics in Marketplace

## Sustainable Farming that Demands Fair Trade

- Farmers often Contend with local and Global Pricing for their produce
- Seek Fair Trade.
- Value Sustainable Organic Livelihoods and Ethical Economies.

## Church's Challenge

- Tidy up Self Economic Practices— Investments, Expenditure, Community Support.
- Champion Ethical Practice in Public Place,

## Lesson

- Demonstrate Kingdom Values in Tangible Ways.
- Ethical Engagement in Public Space.
- Improve her Financial Practices,
- Model an Economy of Generosity and Justice,



# 4. Faith and Science- Farmers' Perspective

## Farmers' Embrace Technology

- S.A. thrives on Ecological Science and Innovation.
- Adopts Pro-life Techs with Faith that these innovations may Honor God's Creation.

## The Church's Historical Hesitation

Often Church has struggled to reconcile faith with scientific progress, leading to missed opportunities of enlarging Tent for Public Space and Greater understanding/integration.

- **Invitation**

To Foster Scientific Temper bridging Faith and Science and see them as Partners in Revealing God's Truth / Wisdom and Caring for God's Creation.



# 5. Rethinking Humanity's Place in Creation



## Farmers' Understanding

Aware of the Interdependence and Interconnectedness of all Life Forms

- As in Gen (2) Humanity survives within the **Web of Life**.
- Humans are not Rulers of Creation but as Stewards.

## The Church's Opportunity

- Rather than Viewing Humanity as the Crown of Creation, the Church can adopt a Theology that Honors all Life.

This Shift Fosters Humility and Gratitude, Enriching our Worship and our Witness.

- ***A Proverb for all Generations***

***“Only when the last tree is cut down when the last fish is caught and last river is poisoned, only then will you realize that you cannot eat money” A Native American Tribe what is now Canada:***



## 5. Church's Kairos – (Almanac) via a vis Creations' Kairos

- **Farmers' Seasons of Divine Interventions**

Their Sacred Calendar is Marked by the Nature's Seasons, Aligning their work with the Rhythms of Nature.

- **Church's Almanac**

Christian Calendar offers Spiritual Anchors

- **Lesson**

- Room to Integrate these with Ecological Rhythms— Aligning Worship with Creation's Cycle.- Celebrating God's Provision in the Harvest, Acknowledging Seasons of Rest (Eccl 3.2)
- the Church can Cultivate a Deeper Appreciation for God's Creation by Adopting an Ecological Sense within Sacred Time, and help the Congregation Live in Harmony with the Nature.

# 6. Multi Faith Engagement



- **Farmers' Experience**
- Farmers Work alongside those of Different Faiths, united by Shared Dependence on Land and the need for Wisdom of the Community.
- ***Scripture Plough Movement*** Exemplifies how Agricultural work can Foster Interfaith Dialogue through Shared Values.
- **The Church's Role**
- Jesus enlarged the Tent to include Samaritans, Syrophenicians, Centurions and the like
- While holding firm to the Gospel, the Church can Create Spaces where Diverse Voices are Heard, and Where Love for the Planet is the Common Language that binds us all
- **Invitation**
- The Church is called to '***Enlarge her Tent***' become a Welcoming space for Dialogue, Partnership, and Shared Service— Particularly in areas of Common Concern like S.A. Practices, Environmental Stewardship and Community Welfare



## 6. Multi Faith Engagement



# 8. Miracles in Agricultural Domain and Human Realm

- **Farmers' Miracles**
- Farmers Witness Miracles In The Regeneration of Soil, The Sprouting of Seeds, and the Rhythms of Creation (Isa. 35:1-2). Evidence of God's Handiwork In The Natural World.
- Shared Values.
  
- **The Church's Perspective**
- Mostly Recognizes Human Healing and Change of Circumstances as Miracles.
  
- **Lesson**
- Recognizing The Divine In Nature's Processes can Deepen our Sense of Wonder and Gratitude our Spiritual Imagination, Allowing us to see God's Provision not only In Human lives but also In The ***'Lilies of the field' and the birds of the air.***



# 8. Miracles in Agricultural Domain



# Farmers' Bible School, Malapalle Village Welcomes You

At the LGA Centre, the Farmers Bible School provides a powerful example of how agriculture and faith can intersect:

IRCA Join us in the following Tent Enlargement Programs-

- **Farmers Bible:** Teaching a Theology of Sustainable Farming, Rooted in Scripture.
- **Publications:** Offering Bible-based Agricultural Teachings to Guide Ethical and Sustainable Practices.
- **Farmer's Almanac:** Integrating Agricultural Wisdom with Spiritual Guidance.
- **Farmers' Creed:** Affirming Faith through the Lens of Stewardship and Sustainability.

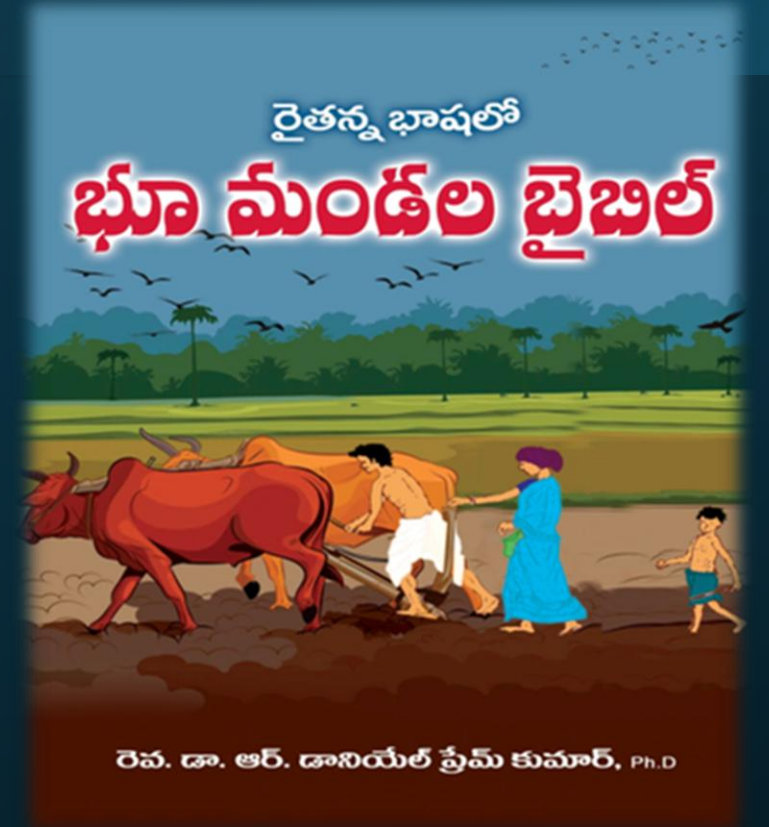
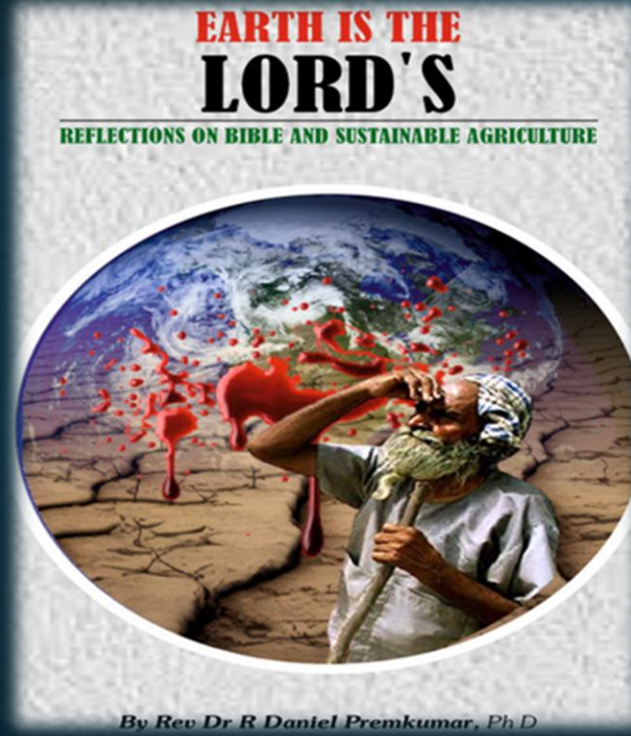
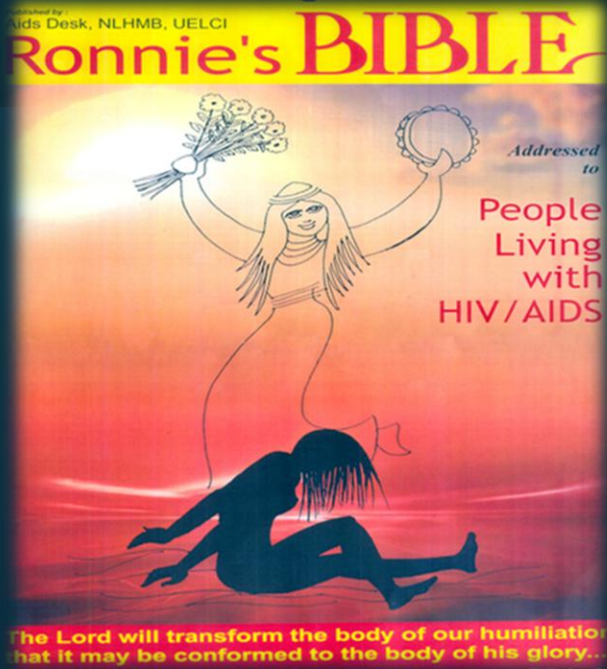
This initiatives not only enriches the Lives of Farmers but also Serves as a Model for the Church universal — Demonstrating how Embracing agricultural wisdom of Centuries can lead to Practical and Spiritual Fruitfulness.

So be it, Amen!

---



# Publications



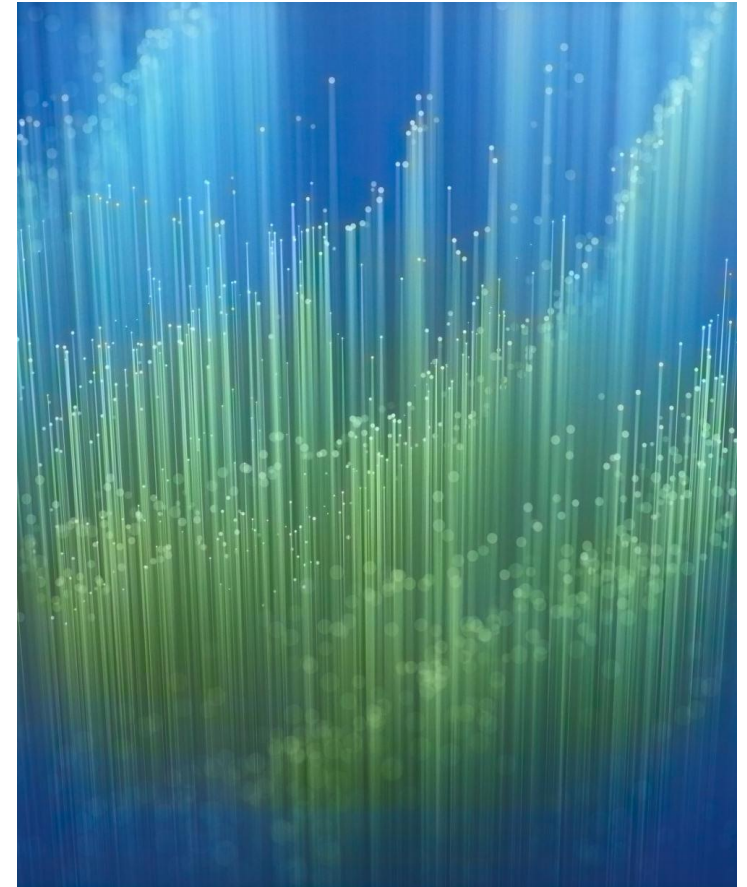
# Conclusion

## Expanding our Reach, Deepening our Roots in these Turbulent Times

To Enlarge our Tent is to Grow in Love, Wisdom, and Reach. By Learning from Farmers, the Church can Cultivate a Spirituality that is as Nurturing as the Soil and as Enduring as the Seasons.

When we Align our Ministries with the Principles of S A — Planning for Future Generations, Practicing Ethical Stewardship, and Embracing the Rhythms of Creation—we Create a Church that is both a Shelter and a Garden, where all who Enter can find Nourishment, Rest, and Renewal.

May we, as the Body of Christ, Plant Seeds of Faith that will bear fruit for Generations to come—ensuring that our Tents are wide enough to Welcome all, and our Roots Deep Enough to Sustain us through every Season



THANK  
YOU

