

FAITH IN THE WORLD-17

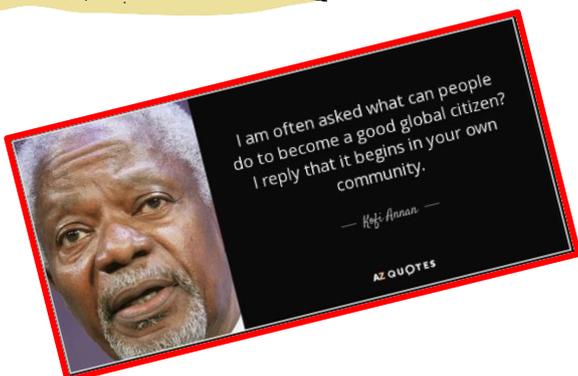
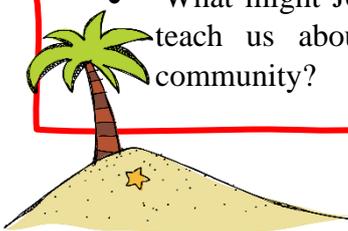


The poet John Donne, who lived over four hundred years ago, begins one of his poems with these words: “*No man is an island*” (Had he been writing today he would have said “No person is an Island!”)

- What do you think he meant by these words?
- What do you understand by them?
- Do you consider them to be true?

He goes on to say ‘*No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main;*’

- How do these words help us understand the importance of community and living well together, both locally and globally?
- What might John Donne’s words teach us about being a global community?



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK!

Christian Aid's work began at the end of the second world war in 1945. It was founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the War. For more than 70 years, they have provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people’s rights. They offer help to people regardless of faith, all around the world.

Theodor Davidovic, a refugee and long-term Christian Aid supporter tells his story here;

<https://youtu.be/KWLK9VfOw5o>



John Donne’s poem reminds us that none of us lives in isolation. We share our everyday lives with other people, and our actions and choices often have an impact on them and the world around us.

One of the biggest challenges that our world faces is the challenge of climate change, causing the weather across the world to become more extreme or erratic.

This often makes life harder for people in poor countries, yet it’s the wealthier countries that have done most to cause climate change, through actions such as reliance upon fossil fuels. The actions of a few have a huge impact on the many.

One of the biggest challenges that our world faces is the challenge of climate change which causes our weather across the world to become more extreme or erratic, causing sea levels to rise, homes washed away and livelihoods disrupted.

Just as the ball on one end of a newton’s cradle causes momentum, so too do our actions have serious consequences for people far from us.

In scripture, there are many accounts of the prophets, who rose up and spoke out about things that were wrong, and who spoke about how people could show God's love in action.

We still read the words of the prophets to help us better understand how we should live justly. The prophet Micah says,

*“What shall I bring to the Lord the God of heaven, when I come to worship him? Shall I bring the best calves to burn as offerings to him? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased if I bring him thousands of sheep or endless streams of olive oil? Shall I offer him my first-born child to pay for my sins? ⁸ No, the Lord has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: **to act with justice, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God.**”*

Tim Hughes, a contemporary hymn writer used the words from Micah in a worship song. As you listen to it consider.....

- consider how it might help Christians to speak up about justice and all the issues that affect our world and our global neighbours
- consider how you can “live” the words of Micah
- consider why justice is so important to God?
- how we can live a “just” life.
- consider what it means to walk humbly with God. <https://youtu.be/LRT-NBjnViU>



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Week Father God, help us to take small actions day by day which help to protect our world, and show care for all our global neighbours. Amen.

A climate change account.

In 2013 a terrible typhoon, called Super Typhoon Haiyan, hit their island. As the water surged and the terrifying winds pounded the island, Glory and Lanie's parents prayed for safety; people in the village, with nowhere else to go, crowded into Lope and Eva's home. There was barely enough food for the family, never mind all the neighbours, but somehow everyone was fed and safe. After the terrifying storm, they saw that nearly everything around them was swept away – including precious coral reefs in the sea and mangrove trees which help to protect the environment.

With great courage Lope and Eva chose to rise up and take action. They spoke up about how climate change is caused, how it affects their community.

Working with Christian Aid's partner ICODE, the communities on the small islands rose to the challenge of climate change. ICODE have helped the community to build artificial reefs in the sea, which encourage fish and new marine life to gather in the waters around the islands and the communities are now able to catch plenty of fish without destroying the environment.

The community trained to plant mangroves, which now help to protect against typhoons, These projects were paid for by donations to Christian Aid.