



Transcript of Gaia Guardians North Hollywood Gathering #1, November 25, 2018



Opening song: “We’ve Got The Whole World In Our Hands”

(sung to the tune of “He’s Got The Whole World In His Hands”)

*We’ve got the whole world in our hands,
the trees of the forest in our hands,
the fish of the sea in our hands,
the rocks and the hills in our hands,
the iddy biddy babies in our hands,
the dogs and the cats in our hands,
the rivers and the streams in our hands.*



JD:

We’ve turned that song around a little bit, because we want to claim our stewardship: how we’re taking care of this planet and this is our first Gaia Guardians meeting. Zak came up with that name.

For our first time together we’re going to have a round table discussion to see what ideas anybody has about what we can do as a small group, hopefully ready to grow.

I want to do nothing less than save the Earth. I am having faith for a global human revolution to wake up and not self-destruct as a species. And I won’t settle for less. That’s the gift of faith I’ve been given I believe it’s going to happen. It’s because we’re HOMO SAPIENS: we’re better than this!



Zak:

"When the music comes on, what do you do? Dance, right? We humans have a mysterious urge to dance. The dance has guided many peoples into higher consciousness. When you get into the rhythm, you fall into a trance. You begin to see a world that is invisible when in a lower state; one that is interwoven with the one below and exists simultaneously. This is the "veil" we speak of, when lifted, we see the other side of this dimension, and even glimpse into the next. So the human follows this drug, the vision, and so he dances and dances and dances.

As you must dance, you must LOVE to the music, for it to last. Perhaps this is why music is made. To keep lovers together, since the dawn of time has been the mission. Even to the spirits the ancient tribes would perform to keep them happy. For happiness is love, and Love is God. And hence the pursuit of happiness, or more simply, the search for the Divine. Through love we can connect to this higher source, and at all times. Simply be One with the emotion, and you will reach the Kingdom.

I know this almost sounds like a burden, to be in love for our lives. But we must, for Mother Gaia's sake, for we are her guardians. If not us, who else? We must carry this power for Her, to protect and keep her alive. This is where we are in history: it's now or never! Let us take this opportunity to elevate this world closer to Heaven and raise our Mother nearer to the Father. Let's dance. Amen."



Ed:

I'm not sure what the question is



JD:

Well, maybe we can come up with what the question is together... but the initial question is "what can we do—as a group that's based here in the church but hopefully open to everybody & anybody: non religious, I mean spiritual, yes, but open to everybody, but specifically, this is more focused on the Earth. What can we do? How can we take action? How do we process the pain that we see when we're watching the forest fires and other things that are so painful?



Ed:

I feel like lately we're in a time of the age of Pisces transitioning into the age of Aquarius which has an undoing involved. And it's almost like with politics and climate change there's a lot of "Callie" happening: the undoer of things. She's a very powerful undoer of things. And I really felt that very powerfully driving to Ventura county driving through the fire-ravaged areas, twice, this past week, literally seeing—even though I was driving—I could spot fire patterns. I think in some ways part of my personal shift of consciousness has been involved to become more aware of the elements and not just things, and noting that it's about people and connecting, not just (?) and more in consumerism, because that

leads me to a feeling of the matrix, where I feel like I'm just kind like this worm in a thing and I'm living in a mind thing that thinks I'm in another world, you know this virtual kind of world, and I had to literally stop myself from being sad yesterday, and get in the water and swim and just move: I had to feel the elements and not just watching TV and politics and getting sad, and the grief of missing people on the holidays, and actually doing something, I think, helps. And one of the things that I believe in personally is when I don't really need something I feel so good: I've given six or seven bags to Out of the Closet because I know that helps people with HIV and people right here in our community, and it's things I don't really need, and there are homeless people that can get discounted... and there are bigger homeless people that need... when I was previously bigger (clothes size) so it's like, that's an action that I can do, because I think right now, yelling and screaming at politicians is not going to do a lot at this moment, but I can change the things I can change... I'm thinking back at the 12th step, like what you (Revered Pat) were mentioning today, and then, some of the trees in the fire-burned areas were still standing, even though they had been burned. So there's a lot of things, and looking at the picture I saw of the firefighters in Ventura County, because last year the Thomas fire went all the way up to Santa Barbara from Santa Paula, so, just seeing literally miles of fire hoses, it looked like noodles, it was amazing. So I don't have any answers for all of this but I know that I can at least do my part. I also want to acknowledge what reverend bob (Reverend Bob Shore Goss, the previous pastor of MCC UCC in the Valley), was saying to you about the history of this church, the whole green ministry, just to acknowledge those who have gone before us who have made efforts, you know, we can build on that.

I saw something on Facebook about the trees, how they give us so much oxygen and the roots take things out of the soil, and just remembering that it's not just about product, that this is the air that we breathe, this is the water we drink. It's not "we save the earth" the earth will be here.. if it becomes a toxic environment the earth—this floating rock in space—will be here, but we will not be able to exist here, so it's kinda saving ourselves!



Norm:

Speaking of that, Mars: I didn't realize the main reason that scientists are so into landing on Mars is because it was created at the same exact time in history that the Earth was, so they're figuring that they can learn a lot about how to save us by going there and exploring being there, and I guess NASA's next rocket that they had just sent up a couple months ago is actually landing, going through the seven minutes of fury/inferno, which is the seven minutes of atmosphere that the ships have to go through to land... I thought was interesting, because I've always wondered why the fascination of Mars was about, I thought they were interested in sending us there, but now I see that they are more interested in learning from Mars things that can help us to heal what's going on here.

I actually have a friend who is 22 years old who is freaking amazing, he and his partner just won a scholarship thing to do a project with NASA and they shot up their experiment in August and they got their first opportunity which is going well. They are sending up a bottle of Neosporin that will actually take the black holes in the ozone and pull everything back together so that there's no more holes in the ozone.



JD:

Really, Neosporin can do that?



Norm:

No no no, I'm saying this in human layman's terms. I asked my friend to explain what he was doing in a way that I could understand it. He said, "Basically, we 're finding the wounds in the Ozone and we're putting particles and chemicals in that can actually filter it and put it back together as Neosporin does to a wound." So maybe we (Gaia Guardians) can hook up with them, and find out what they're doing and if we can reach out to other people to get them to even know that this is happening, so maybe they can get more funding, or something.



Laura:

If we can involve the youth, try to get fliers—maybe ten, twenty—that we're going to have a meeting like this, so they can know where we are? Because they'll be very much interested in this because the youth—the tomorrow people—they have to be involved in this thing, because this is huge: no more fishes, no more clean water, no more trees, no more bees. Young people, they won't have to fly anywhere, no nothing, no trees, no food, and we're not doing anything about it. It's just as "well it's okay, it can go on. " But we have to start somewhere. What I was thinking, if we might have fliers, and maybe invite people into the church, maybe ten or twenty in the evening. And then we can be able to go to some schools—if we're aloud—some schools, young people can be involved and we can help places like the pageant square*—when the whole thing gets born—it's still a baby, now, for we are still want to get how to handle this whole thing, but if we start with fliers and young people, and I think we can grow, because this is not a small thing, this is huge: the air we are breathing, the fires and all these things that bring in all kinds of sickness that won't get better: we're just getting the medicine and not getting better. Just dying, like those fishes that were just dying at the beaches that were just out there, dying. And the ice is melting already, and if other people, they don't see if this is global warming, I don't know who is going to see it, but I think if we can go to the young adults and have them with us, we can have a get going thing. Like Norman just said, if we can have some people get connected in the whole thing, because people, they want to get connected but they don't know how.



JD:

Right! Exactly, That's huge



Norm:

What did Troy tell us? We have to...



Pat:

Who we are...



Norm:

Show and tell who we are, how to find us and what we're about.



JD:

Right! Thank you, Norm, for reminding us! And now Troy was present at the first Gaia Guardians meeting.. through Norm! This is great.

“wisdom is in a multitude of counselors—it’s something from Proverbs (Proverbs 15:22 Without consultation and wise advice, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they are established and succeed)--it’s what we need here, that’s what we’ll always be: not one person or two people leading: we’ll find out together how we can save the Earth.

(Introducing Jeffery Gladu, the next person to speak in this round table discussion): Jeffery’s been here for eleven years at this church, and he was very much a part of all the Earth ministry efforts, including the building of this garden! Thank you for that.



Jeffery:

The pond is deeper than it looks... I’ve been in it many times (laughter).

There are a number of different avenues that can be taken to help save the Earth. We were just talking about the forest fires. although forest fires effect us, that’s because we’ve encroached on the forests. Forests have been burning for millions of years and they rejuvenate themselves. The falling trees dying are replenishing the nutrients in the soil and everything else. They'll sustain. We go in and put the fires out because we’re threatened by it and that’s because we’ve built too close to these areas and really shouldn’t be in them. Scientific American

(<https://www.scientificamerican.com/>) posted last week that I thought was sort of interesting. How many trees are there? The answer is the world is home to three trillion trees, with almost half of them living in tropical or subtropical forests. That’s roughly 400 trees for every human. Twelve thousand years ago—before the advent of agriculture, Earth has twice as many trees as it has now, and currently our planet is losing ten million trees a year through deforestation—us destroying them, and that hurt me. (he pauses) How we can fix that? I don’t know. Promoting less deforestation, both for saving the trees and the nature that lives in those areas is tantamount to our survival, too.



Pat:

I am very excited at this gathering, I will tell you. For those of you who don't know, my doctoral studies was with Matthew Fox, in his university, in its intersection of the cosmos and science and spirituality, and in that process we had the opportunity to really take a look at—like you said (referring to Norm)—how did it all start? Let's look at it. For me, I see everything through a spiritual lens, but you know, which is one of the reasons for me why I always like to deconstruct what we learned, and what if we saw it in a different way —i.e.: creation, and such—so I am thoroughly excited that there is a large interest in how can we continue one of the cruxes of this congregation—this community of faith—which is to support creation in a healing way. For me the issue is it can be completely overwhelming and it can paralyze us, or we can decide to do , you know, we all have the ability to do what we can do, and we're called to do what we can do. I believe that if we figure out and focus on what are some things that we want to do, we do it and we do it well, and it's a ripple effect. Even if we can't do it all—which we can't—but we can encourage and be the example—in my opinion—for others to take up their passion of the thing and to have it as a move. I also believe that all things are possible. I believe in the pebble in the pond. I believe in the “don't ever underestimate the power of the mosquito to irritate and get things moving. You know, even though we might be small, let's not focus on fixing everything, but just what's the passion? I feel that if we can identify what some of the passions are and focus on that, we're going to be making a significant difference, in Hollywood, and Los Angeles, and California. What I would like to be able to bring to the table, personally, is to be an encourager and facilitator of the spiritual studies on the topic. Seb (JD) and Ed knew me from the time I've done a few Bible study series on “Going Green With God” and one of them is more of a theological thing and one of them was more of a practical thing, like how do we look at eating as a spiritual practice—these daily things—and to incorporate them into our daily lives.

I will support anything the group comes up with and wants to do: I will offer help whenever or wherever I can. I have encouraged and supported Seb in creating what this will become, and my biggest challenge is to not micromanage you: because I really do feel this needs to be organic and come from the group. What I will offer is some structural basics, and requirements for the church, but I really see this as something not just for the church, but for the community. How does that take place?

I'm looking at all these fabulous books (referring to the spread of books JD (aka Seb) brought and spread out on the table in front of all of us) and I'm thinking, “Oh my God! We need a book study! And we can go to Moby's and have the book study and support local business. You know? That's where my thoughts go. Wouldn't it be great to have a book study on one of these. (Turning toward Seb) and I know you know some of these authors: bring some of them in, you know, to learn, I think that would be hot. On my side of the street, I'll figure out how to develop something in parallel to this for the teaching series. I'm just excited. I'm big on learning and action. So how does it integrate in our lives and what simple or more elaborate actions can we take to continue to do and improve and to teach others. Thank you Seb, and Zack, and Ed...



Ed:

One thing that the Gay Men's Medicine Circle does—when the leadership in the cave meets—one of the rounds that they do is something they call “Elder Wisdom” where they would bring something that they learned from books, that maybe we can include something like that. A simple action, maybe if you saw something on Facebook and printed that out and brought it in to share with the group, or something you read from a book, something like that. Or if by actually observing Nature you can share with us, “You know, yesterday I saw a bird...” or anything that you may have witnessed and made a mental note on to share with us.



JD:

Something small we can do, until the next meeting. Pat, you mentioned the books. I want to mention a couple of things.

At the time the people who opened my eyes to what was going on with climate change, the threat of water scarcity, the basic science of global warming, when I asked these people what I should do, they said “Start off by watching Al Gore’s movie, *Inconvenient Truth*, and when you watch it, understand that he’s telling the truth, that this is real, and you’ll be able to figure out how to take it from there.” So after watching the movie and having my eyes opened, I started buying and reading books that really focused on how bad the situation was, and that was very helpful for me in that it helped me to grasp the gravity of the situation, it helped me to understand how worthy it was of my full attention and devotion.

A little over ten years ago I dedicated my life to doing what I could do to help out with the cause of—when I say “Save the Earth”, I’m talking about saving water, oxygen and food, basically. I’m talking about saving wildlife that we’re causing to run off into extinction, saving forests.

So other ones.. this one is beautiful (JD holds up the green-colored book titled “*Love Earth Now*”). This one is written by an author who will be visiting us soon. She lives here in Eagle Rock. *Love Earth Now*. She started gathering Earth-kind of meetings like this. Her name is Cheryl. She’s wonderful. And this book is her journey, talking about what it’s like be eco-conscious in a world that has Trump... to put it lightly.

(JD then lifts up Paul Hawken’s collaboration work, *Draw Down*). This one right here is amazing. This one is the most amazing of them all because people say “what can we do?” A lot! There are solutions to what is going on. There absolute are solutions. Climate change is manmade. And if we’re causing this, then we can stop causing this. That is important to understand. If we don’t stop causing this, we will be extinct, and very soon, ‘cause the Climate Change is not going to stop all of a sudden: stop getting warmer, stop getting drier, stop flooding more: it’s going to keep getting worse until we turn it around.

My dream and goal and what I believe—what’s been put in my heart—is there will be a global human revolution. Humanity will awake. Humanity is approaching a time of decision whether or not we choose to live. We’ll have to make a choice to live. And choosing to live will not be as simple as “yeah, okay” it’s going to take some cost: changes, and it’s going to take solidarity. This is a powerful book. It’s edited by Paul Hawken. Notice it doesn’t say “written by”> he edited it because it’s full of hundreds of authors—experts from all over the world leading in agriculture, in climate science, in power sectors, clean power, so many things about how we do energy, how we do food and how we do water, that can be drastically changed and improved.

There are solutions that we can not only focus on as a small group but we can promote on a larger level because I know personally, I’m a web developer, I do websites and I’m a video editor, so there’s ways to get the message out there. I know some of you are much better on Facebook and social media than I am, and can help get the message out there.

I want personally with all my heart I want the connecting factor for the global human revolution where we’re all getting on the same page, where we’re all moving toward the same page, I want us to have a part in that. That’s what’s been in my heart. And I think also because I come from MCC... MCC is a revolution! What Troy did impacted the world, at least the Christianity world and the gay world. I think that revolution is not over but it’s widening its arms. The potential to impact the world in a better way. So...



Norm:

then lets' go



JD:

let's do it, yeah? So I want to make a quick poster here, because Ed mentioned "Something we can do" One thing I'd like to invite everyone to do... (JD holds up blank piece of paper with the letters, WEPT.TV.) What does this remind you of?



Ed:

Jesus wept.



JD:

Very good! What's the shortest verse in the Bible?



Chuck:

Jesus wept



JD:

Jesus wept. So, add "dot TV" to it and you have a website. WEPT.TV is a double acronym that stands for "World Environment Protection Team" and "World Event Prayer Team" and it's the beginning of.. I'd like you to visit the website. There's little one-minute videos up there. Videos are limited to one minute. The goal is for them to be translated into all languages. But right now, when I put up a video, I type in all the text of it, and then I let Google about "Live Simply". I've got a video up there about having emergency water stored up in your house. That's a huge passion of mine. I don't want to see people die of thirst . So please consider visiting this website and being a part of it. It's only my website in that I am starting it. It's intended to be a website that belongs to the world, and there's a strategic path that I'm pursuing to get it that way, to put it in that direction.

So what else can we do as a group besides visiting "Jesus Wept... dot TV" Anything else, guys? How can we make this fun? How can we make this attractive?



Ed:

A couple people in the group haven't spoken yet. I was wondering what they have to say!



Chuck:

Well one of them is holding the camera.



JD:

I can hold that camera, while you speak. (Chuck hands over the video camera which is being used to film and audio record our discussion). I heard you make a speech at your last big birthday party, a wonderful speech about your concerns for our planet.



Chuck:

Well I was thinking when you hear some of the large numbers we've been talking about, like the trillions of trees, I was reminded of the story of the little boy who was seen throwing stranded, beached star fish back into the ocean. Somebody asked him "Why do you do that? It doesn't matter! There are so many of them!" And the little boy looks and says, "It matters to them." And you know, sometimes these things can seem so overwhelming that you don't know where to begin. If I put solar panels on my roof, am I helping to solve the problem? I don't know. It cuts our power bill. Right, Jeff? So we're helping to solve the problem and we're using less electricity.

It just seems that it's really easy to become overwhelmed by all of this. Just looking at those fires burning, and Jeff's right: it's natural for forests to burn. The problem is when we build our homes in the forests we want to try to save our homes, but the forests really belong to the trees, and sadly, to the animals, and that's something; that people don't really think about. We know a lot of people died, but how many animals died in those fires that we'll never know? So I agree with JD. We need to do something and I guess the answer is just do something! Start somewhere. And maybe wept.tv is part of it.

I know you've encouraged us to have water in our house. Of course, we're storing a whole bunch of water on the 12th floor of a high rise building--which sounds like it might not be the smartest thing—but it's there, we have to rescue it someday.

This is obviously really important stuff because the world is changing. Islands are disappearing. Venice on November 1st had five feet of water in the square, in St. Mark's Square. I remember that used to only happen in January. It's now happening in the fall! So, it's real. And it's absurd that people don't recognize it that it's real. If we can do anything do bring awareness to that, I think—again—it's a start. Lot's to be done.



Norm:

Talking about the animals.... something that has always bothered me. Since recently over the last five years when we've been having really a lot of crazy fires, and a lot of the animals have been showing up our areas, and they used to tranquilize the animals and take them away, take them up north or something. And now—without questioning—they strictly shooting them! Why? And how can we stop that as well as get people to remember what he said (referring to what Chuck just said): Not only are people losing their homes in the forests, but the animals are losing their homes and they have nowhere to go, they have no where to eat, they have no way... so I mean, even if we come up with like, when fires are happening, go to restaurants and get their scrap foods and put in a truck and take it up to somewhere and just dump it in the woods so animals have a place to like roam and go to so they're not roaming into our areas. I mean, I don't know, I'm just pulling that out of my ass, but you know, just like something, there has to be something that we can do that can be a mutual like thing. Because I mean, screw these million dollar home owners. You can buy another home You can buy all of your memorabilia again. I don't... you know, I mean do feel sorry for you about that.. but I don't feel sorry for you! Not whenever there's animals that can't do a damn thing and God said "Let me be the judge of everything and you people just take care of each other and everything I created" When are we going to go back to the simplicity of all of that? Sorry! It just pisses me off in many ways. (everyone encourages Norm, we share his feeling). So yeah, go back to just taking care of each other for each other and the animals and the Earth, and when we do that, it's going to take care of us, and Yeah, we'll have problems in life-of course—but we'll be prepared to deal with them, in a way. There's something that we have to be able to do to help, put a band aid on that.



JD:

Thank you for that! Helping animals fleeing wildfires... (JD says, while writing down notes)



Laura:

As Norm talked about animals, I'm worried now, because people from here, they go to Zimbabwe, they shoot those animals—those tigers, those elephants for their horns, they bring them back here, as if there was nothing happening. There's a doctor who went and shot one of the favorite Cheetah in Zimbabwe. Nothing was done about it. And they're still doing it, even unto today. They go to South Africa and shoot them, and bring their pieces as their arts and all that, and what do we do now to protect that?



Norm:

Well, the Humane Society and the ASPCA are still actually on that doctor and they do have a law suit against him. Just recently, because it was pushed away, but recently they have brought it back up that they're going to try not to let this go because it was very obvious that this was wrong and he knew it was wrong, what he did.



Laura:

What they are doing now, they are shooting these babies, the mothers and the babies, and they take some parts and bring them back. Shooters are from here (USA). It really hurts me because they can't fight for themselves. And these people they live from here (USA) and just go (to Africa) and the government there—as long as they give them money—says it is okay to do things like this. It is sad. It's sad. South Africa, and Zimbabwe and Kenya is where they play these games about these animals. And they have lived long, long, long. these gorillas with their children—they kill the children, and the fathers, and everybody, and nobody is saying anything about it. In order to help, what can one do? 'Cause two wrongs, it makes a big wrong!



Daniel:

Well, I don't know what to say. I'm like you said (referring to Laura), I'm a youth who wants to get involved but who doesn't know how—that's for sure, so I was just curious, seeing your post in the Facebook about what you guys are doing here, what we're going to talk about and what you have to offer. Now I understand, you're just starting your little group here, and it's great, because I can be involved in the creation of a new movement! I'm not really sure what we can do, and yeah of course, I'm just 25 years old: what do I know about all of this. We definitely need more people, for sure, we need to act, and we need to film it, and share it with people. It doesn't matter what we do, we have to do at least something, and show it! Let people know what's going on. I don't know, I mean, that's what I have in my mind. There are probably events going on in this country. Something got burned or animals got hurt. We can check it out and get involved as a new group, meet others who do the same thing, maybe other groups around California or other states: we can learn from them what they are doing. Yeah, that's what I have in my mind. Since we are starting a new thing we definitely should educate ourselves about what other groups do, and what people have been doing before us. Yeah, I think this is it for now from me.



JD:

Fantastic. So you are here on the ground floor. Thank you for coming. And you can be a part of shaping what we're going to do.



Daniel:

It would be nice to actually grow into something bigger with you and all the new comers in the future, for sure. That would be awesome.



JD:

And thank you for affirming filming and showing. That's very important.



Daniel:

That's very important these days. It has to be everywhere. We have to be everywhere. People are supposed to know the name of the group, like Greenpeace, or whatever. So people know there is something going on and there are places where others can join.

I remember when I was actually trying to get involved with Greenpeace, or those wild animals associations at the time when I lived in Ukraine, and it was kind of hard. I was able to invest my time in my youth in something big and worthy, but I never really could, even those associations are so big and influential, I didn't know how to do that through the Internet, while being a teenager. So it has to be more open for people who have a will to change something but don't know how, because my desire faded out over time. Maybe I would be doing something great by now if I would have found the way to get involved, but I just couldn't at that time, and thank God now I am getting that feeling again, I'm getting it back, but when I was a kid, it just faded out, it disappeared. I thought that I cannot do anything as kid from Ukraine, how can I change something? And kinda like that.

I've been self-educating myself about everything: about farming, about all kinds of stuff, our Earth dying from, and there is so much going on and nobody is doing anything. I mean, those who can do, they don't because they're afraid of government or whoever has money, I don't know, if there's any way to change that, that would be so great, to be above those huge associations who are not actually changing anything as far as I know. I mean they do try, but nothing is happening. The planet is still dying, animals are still suffering and disappearing from the world. I don't know what's going on, to be honest, but yeah, people have to do more, that's for sure.



Norm:

Yeah, there's just easy step-by-step, starting instructions.



Daniel:

Yeah, 'because those uneducated people, I believe, they think that there are groups who are protecting this world, but people don't know that those groups are actually powerless against government, and against corporations. Most of the people don't know about that. We can inform them about it too, that huge associations with the serious big names, they are powerless, they are still powerless. That might be interesting for others to get to know, for sure.



JD:

Those are great observations, too. No matter how wonderful Greenpeace is, they cannot save the planet without global human cooperation. And our government is in a deadly dance with the economy which is in a deadly dance with the fossil fuel industry, and they're entangled and so our government leaders can't do what they're supposed to do, which is to protect their constituents: they're unable to;



Norm:

Some of our government leaders, though, don't want to, because I know a lot has changed from back whenever I was growing up, but...



Ed:

But there are positive things that we can do. Because if we go to the extreme and we tell people "well you can't do this.." like some people go to the extreme leftist, and that isolates people.

I think what I'm hearing—especially from Chuck—if we do some positive things, like just a good reminder, yeah we can set aside if an earthquake happens, if all the electricity stops, I can have water for my family to drink, I can do that! Or, even piggy backing on things that work already, I'm thinking of Reverend Alex at MCCLA Founders that takes all those lotions or soaps that you're not using and takes them down to Tijuana to people who have literally nothing. And there are things that are working. You know, I'm not really using that. Let me clean out my cabinet. Let me go of the old. You know it's not like there's not enough hand lotion in the world, but they don't have it!



JD:

That is a reoccurring theme coming out of you and it's damn beautiful, thank you!



Ed:

Yeah! So it's like what is already working so we don't spend all of our energy reinventing the wheel, like how can assist with other organizations, or network, or.. (looking at Norm) You were just recycling bread today, that someone else from a second hand store because they couldn't sell because they have to have... but we can give it out to the homeless people here, and I was remembering Maya making sandwiches and we took them out to the red line, so there are some things that we can do, and have done, and can continue.

And I believe that a positive message is better than—I think people—since the 70s—have heard "oh the world is falling.." they've heard this negative and they're not hearing it anymore.



JD:

Right



Norm:

Yeah



Ed:

So sometimes looking at the beauty of animals or looking at, I mean, yeah, show the tragic animals being hunted for nothing, that's a truth that isn't really being told—I agree with you—but it's like, if it's all negative, then it associates negative with this group, and I think we can do more by positive, saying, "Hey, it doesn't matter what the government says. I gave my leftover soap to someone in Tijuana that didn't have any, and it already exists so I'm not just going to throw it in the trash and pollute the environment with something that somebody needs, somebody needs it. I did that one little act. Like Chuck was saying, "Well, I couldn't save all the starfish, but it mattered to that one!" (looks at Chuck) As you were saying!



Norm:

I wonder about all the stuff that goes out from those fancy schmancy hotels, like the Peninsula and the Montage and what not, like—literally—if a guest goes in there and they don't even like use the toilet, like they are only there for two hours, the house keepers have to change everything: the toilet rolls, the soaps, even when they're not open, they have to take them out, and they're not allowed to use them again. So what do they do with them? If they just throw them away—like they do with most of the food—I mean, is there a way that we can figure out how to get that and distribute it to the homeless? I mean I'm sure we'll probably have to go through some kind of legal law, I don't know, who knows? But because they're so today, "oh you can't do this and you can't do that because of this..." But, I guess if we do it on our own personal, so it wouldn't be, I don't know...



JD:

I just want to say thank you, both of you guys (Ed and Norm) sharing about giving to the homeless. The refugee crisis is only going to exponentially..it's going to be us, it's going to be people from the coasts running inland, it's going to be people from areas that are flooding all the time, or droughts...



Ed:

The first trans refugee from the United States just reached Finland. They say I'm afraid I'm going to be killed here in the United States so they fled to another country, seeking asylum.



JD:

So that's part of what we can have a heart for. Is how do we care for people who don't have water, who don't have toiletries.



ED:

And especially of our own, because so organizations may overlook the LGBT and Allies—the Q-Gibbets group



Laura:

When Reverend Pat was at the Founders, we were feeding homeless and we were bringing soaps, anything that people in Tijuana can use, clothing and everything. There were seven times books and clothing that you no longer use them, in order to bring them. There were different boxes, and reverend pat would make sure that they go to the people that they're supposed to. These things have to reach there. We (at MCCLA) no longer have those things now. I was asking the other day "What happened to the sandwiches that we used to serve downtown? Brown bag ministry is gone, the funding, or something like that is gone. The books and the blankets and things like that Reverend Pat used to make sure this holiday, this month, these things have to be done, we no longer have that, and it hurts, because we all have things that we don't need, we need to give them out to people who need them. Like right now, the fires, I have some other suitcases, that I've asked them to come and get them that we can share them with the people.... Nobody seems to.. I don't know who to turn to. Reverend Pat was making sure all these ministries happened, and now they're not. So it can't be just one person looking out for this, it has to be all of us. I agree with you, Norman, and you (Ed), it's very important!



Ed:

There were some people that even like when they went to the hotels they would save those soaps, so that they didn't get thrown out, or that there would be a second one, and I don't need two, but I just used one and the new one, and then we gave those out at the Jeff Griffith Center, and we would raise for LGBT youth that had been homeless or cast out by their family and they needed socks, they needed underwear, those kind of things that they don't have. That's why I like giving to Out of the Closet because it goes to our community that gets overlooked a lot. I don't know what that looks like, but I know that there are people that know what we don't know—people like Reverend Alex, or whomever—that could guide us a little.

There are people who collect those empty plastic bottles and they take them. I have a coworker who supplements her income because she's older, and she's this lovely Asian lady, and she knows she can always come by to me and I have

like three or four empty water bottles. I just save them and put them in the back of my car and I give them to her. It's a little thing, but it helps her get a little bit of money, but I know she's recycling, too.



Norm:

Speaking of recycling, can I just throw out that if you guys can or will kind of spread it out, whether you bring it here, or wherever, but the caps to water bottles, soda bottles, milk cartons—any kind of plastic kinda screwy cap, or the white pulley caps (like on large arrowhead bottles) save those and bring them, because we turn them into a place that actually melts it all down and recycles them into prosthetics for wounded soldiers.



JD:

Wow, those caps become pretty valuable!



Norm:

Right? Because recycling centers, unless you've already taken the caps off, when they take them to wherever to get squished, those caps are like taken off and thrown away—discarded, because they can't use those to recycle to make the bottle again, they can only use the bottle part to make plastic—but the prosthetic people can.



JD:

We're going to be closing soon (ending our meeting). I think one of the most key solutions to reversing climate change is going to be a measured fair fossil fuel phase down that's globally participated voluntarily by people all across the world. As I have been praying all these years, requesting to hear from Mother Nature, I think I have. I believe the Earth wants an Earth Sabbath: One day a week of none of our smoke, because She's choking. The Earth—the System of Life that sustains our life—is choking from our constant onslaught of smog. And so if there were a possibility that humanity would make a choice as individuals and collectively that we want to live, one day we can do it to participate in global earth Sabbath, and it will begin as soon as any one of us begin. And so, we're going to try it out – my partner and I, this weekend, on Saturday we're going to unplug: we're going to literally turn off the power to our apartment and our wifi, and we're going to put the food in our refrigerator into an ice cooler. For 24 hours we're not going to do anything that is attached to any kind of dirty power that's connected in any way to burning fuels. I'm not asking you guys to do that... yet.



Norm:

Yet (laughs)



JD:

But, perhaps some other people will say “Well I want to try that, too” So we’re not only going to do that, we’re going to document the process. We’re going to do videos on that. And we’re going to show putting the food in the coolers, and do videos on it, and we’re going to show putting food in the cooler and turning off the circuits. So literally, we’re going to unplug, and we’ve never done it before. So I’m going to try that. I just wanted to let you know we’re going to give it a try.



Zak:

That’s great.



JD:

I know... and we’re going to TOTALLY freak out without the television... (laughter starts) and Facebook...



Norm:

Yeah, when you have to talk to each other?



Pat:

It might be good for relationships, too (laughs)



Chuck:

Don’t forget not to use your cell phone



JD:

You can use it but not connected to the wifi and the... you can still play games, or...



Pat and



Norm:

No... that's still electric.



JD:

That's battery. Batteries are okay. Clean power's okay. That's the... Well, you know what? What are the rules? Who's done this before?



Ed:

Baby steps



Pat:

I wouldn't unplug your fridge, though, but that's just me



JD:

Well, I've got a good ice cooler



Norm:

Actually, if you're only doing it for 24 hours, if you don't open it or close it that often, if you just got ice and put a thing of ice in the refrigerator part, you would be fine for 24 hours.



JD:

What? I didn't know that. You mean I didn't have to buy that big cooler? That's great!



Norm:

Oh yeah, because in the South, we get tornadoes and hurricanes and your powers out like 48 hours, 72 hours, and as long as for the first 48 hours, as long as you don't really open it more than say four or five times a day, stuff stays cold in it for like days.



JD:

Ahhh.... That's fantastic! So that's one reason why we're starting off. We wanna figure out how to do it. Then when we try to promote it, we can tell people, "Hey..."



Pat:

I think it's a great idea, myself



Norm:

They also make solar generators, actually, if you want to try that. And the solar generators actually come with a solar panel thing or a little wind turbine for you to charge it.



JD:

That's so cool



Norm:

Yeah, I know, it's about time!



Chuck:

you'll have to blow into it.



Norm:

we'll have you blowing into it... for hours!



Laura:

What about the meat?



Norm:

The meat's fine.



Laura:

No, I'm referring to something JD mentioned to me earlier this morning



JD:

Okay, I'll just mention that (to the group). Right now, the rainforests of the world—which are the lungs of the planet—are under serious threat. Especially right now, because the new president of Brazil has declared that he's going to sell all the forests that we depend on for rain and oxygen to the highest bidders to develop, to plow it out...



Ed:

It's the same thing with the Coral Reefs!



JD:

(continuing) And so there's a conversation on Facebook going on about what are we going to do and there actually is something we can do – and international boycott on the products that we the consumers are demanding that is causing this in the first place. It is the consumers of the Earth that control all these things.

So, what are the products that we have to plow all our forests down in order to get those products? I would say an International boycott on ones that can be boycotted, ones that we can do without, that we can survive without, namely cows, and even if it's temporary, it's enough to send a message that we don't want the world to be destroyed. Because we can't live without the rainforests--we literally can't.

And then the other thing is the massive development going on. A factor that I think it helps to be cognizant of is that our species—homo sapiens—have spawned. Since I was born, the human population has more than doubled and this is becoming a problem so we can't do business as usual. What was good enough for grandpa is deadly for us. So we have to reevaluate how we do business on the planet, how we're eating and how much we're building.



Norm:

Sorry, I can understand that to an extent, but doing away with or whatever is a little extreme because you may not have meat to live, but I do. I don't eat vegetables. But for the same thing that people are saying that they are destroying crops to put more cattle in, or whatever, they're also destroying more crops to put more grains and more fruit trees that they're only pumping full of chemicals that is actually depleting the earth. Cattles actually fertilize the Earth with their shit and their sweat.



Zak:

Well, in the natural cycle of things, yeah.



Norm

(continues) Every plant in the world—except for hemp—pulls iron and nutrients out of the soil in order to produce itself. Hemp is the only plant that actually feeds. That's why our forefathers used to change out their crops where when they would plant soy beans, when they would take that out, they would plant one 90-day row for things of hemp because it would naturally fertilize their soil. And we've gotten away from that. So it's not the animals that we're giving that's pulling everything away, it's all the plants that everybody's demanding on growing, so we need to educate and really fully before we start saying something about that, because that is one of the things that I've never really understood, they keep saying "we need more veggies, we need more veggies, we need more veggies, but we gotta save the earth, gotta save the earth" but you're gonna kill the earth if you plant more veggies!



Zak:

We shouldn't be giving it all to the cows, I mean, the grain could be going to a better purpose because it takes a hundred times more grain just to feed the cows, so you're not getting the same nutrients. It seems a waste to give it to the cows, you know all that land, like I say, it's intensive, it's resource intensive, to produce meat, and the more meat you have, the more you're going to be using up the land.



JD:

Very soon those cows won't be able to live because they won't have water to drink



Zak:

And not enough grain



JD:

(continues) so it's not about "not meat" it's specifically, "what are the products that we're demanding the rain forest to be devoured down because us consumers are going to buy that product. It's the consumers of the world—all of us 7.6 billion people—we're the ones that are saying "we want this—give it to us" and the people that are making money off that are saying "okay, whatever it takes!"



Norm:

Right. So even though what you're producing is pulling minerals and substances from the earth and not putting anything back, you're still going to want it, and regardless of whether they stop selling meat or whatever, if you continue to plant all these plants and these farms, you're going to nothing but dry the earth.



JD:

Yeah. We need balance is what you're saying



Norm:

Exactly, there needs to be a balance and there also needs to be a real education about it whenever you're doing it, like talking about it.



Zak:

There needs to be a revolution in farming, no matter what. There needs to be a revolution in agriculture is what you're saying



Norm:

Well, yeah.



Zak:

In all regards, in all aspects. Because we're not doing it the natural way. Those animals are useful.



Norm:

In both sides, because there just needs to be that happy medium because we don't need to overdue either one, I guess is what it is, basically. I just.. yeah.. we can't push for just, you know, because it needs to...



JD:

I say, identify what are the products that the consumers are demanding; supply and demand, we should at least pay attention to that



Norm:

I don't even know if we can even go with that, because if you go with consumers' demand, in reality, if they're not educated about what they're doing, they're going to want the worst stuff for them. You can't say that, because if we do that, we're going to back fast food and restaurants, because that's what American people want. But if they're educated about what's better for them on both sides then they can make an actual healthy choice and a conscious choice and then everything would be a conscious effort, I mean, we would all be making a conscious effort to be doing something good.



Zak:

The goal is not to start this problem somewhere else, you know, in the developing countries, that's where Brazil comes in, I mean, they want to get the American diet, and they're following in our footsteps, and in those other countries they can't, I mean it's not sustainable, where everybody has this lifestyle, you know, so we've gotta stop it from starting this problem before it gets bigger. We need to reign it in



Norm:

yes, reign it in



Zak:

(continues) teach them the new way to do it, so they start off on the right foot, not following us.



Ed:

One of the things I wanted to talk about is single-use plastics, like certain medications where they want to make sure it's tamper resistant so you break that plastic—it's used just for that one time: it's not even something that you can even reuse again, and some of those are made of plastic that even if you put in the recycler it doesn't get recycled. And I've learned—and I've always dreamed of this, and I found out that it already exists—that there are a lot of plastic bags in the ocean, becoming a part of that big, huge soup of something the size of Texas or something in the middle of the Ocean! And there are people developing things like the boats that scoop that up and solar paneled, and this and that, but also the plastics that are made in the first place—like, you know, to make a water bottle, that if it does end up (in the Ocean) that this could be made up out of (something) like sugar, like corn stuff, because God knows—humans-- we don't need to be eating high fructose corn syrup, because that stuff is poison! And then you need more medicines and so you produce more plastics for the medicines that you need, so it all—you know—becomes cyclical, but at least if something does wind up in the Ocean, we know that it would degrade and not be something that, you know, we have a whale coming up on the side of the beach and they're full of plastic! You don't have to be a scientist to know that that can't be good for our own health and for our own future, and our grandkids are going to die from that!



JD:

Is plastic killing whales?



Zak:

It's killing everything: Birds, it's killing ones like seagulls with bellies full of plastic...



JD:

Yeah, I heard about that (the bird deaths)...



Ed:

(Continues) so if does—not that I think we should be throwing it in the Ocean!—but if it does end up in a landfill somewhere, or if something does, at least we know it would degrade eventually.



Chuck:

I lost my chair (Chuck, after having stepped out momentarily, returns to find Norm's adorable large-sized dog, Chopper, occupying his chair.)



Norm:

Oh you should have told him to get up!



Ed:

(Affectionately) Chopper!



JD:

Pat, I noticed you looking at that book, Drawdown. Did you get some ideas from that?



Pat:

Yeah, I was looking at all of these. (Pat lifts up the book, "The Earth Wants YOU" by Reverend Billy Talen) Is this yours?



JD:

My sister, Linda, sent that.



Pat:

Can I borrow it?



JD:

You sure can



Pat:

I just wrote down some notes down, you know, there's the possibility to do things global, local and individually, and if—in the next coming together—there's one or two issues globally—global issues, we've talked about a number of them)—that the group wants to focus on... community: what are some of the things we can do locally within our neighborhood and within our church.

I was thinking of doing kind of an audit—how are we doing, you know, within our church community, even, and then individually, what are the individual things that we would want to do, like we ourselves, at home, our family units.

I'm a strong believer that if not everybody within the group wants to do the same thing, they don't have to, but if there can be a common goal in either of one of those three areas (global, local community, and individual) or some type of common goals of the many things we've been talking about, and then encourage and support individuals to—if it's a passion for something that might not be the groups, but how can we empower you to do what you want to do?

So those are just some thoughts that went through my head. Of course, there's the figuring out process of what that looks like. So I think the next steps might be when's the group going to meet again, and then the structure, how it kinda grows after that



JD:

I'm going to pass around the Email list (passes clipboard with Gaia Guardian's first "sign up sheet" for people to share their names, mobile phone numbers and email addresses)

I would like to know if anybody's okay with Monday Night.



Ed:

Tomorrow?



JD:

No, no, no. I'd like to have an Earth Summit every Monday Night, but Pat said don't do that until you have more than one person who's willing to be responsible for it, which is great—that makes sense! But I've been putting it out to people like the author of "Love Earth Now" and some other people, and they say "Monday night is great".



Pat:

My only question is, do you really want to do it every Monday Night?



JD:

I do, but I value your wisdom, I defer to your judgment



Pat:

Let me ask those present: Who here could commit to every Monday



Ed:

I have an obligation



Pat:

And the reason I put that out is because the thing I would not want to see happen is sometimes something of this magnitude—if done weekly—your attendance will drop significantly, and then it fizzles out.



JD:

Right. So, how about we start off with monthly?



Pat:

I would suggest... here's something I put out: What if there was one Monday Night and one meeting Sunday afternoon.



JD:

That sounds good



Chuck:

Sunday afternoon is good because people are here



Pat:

For me, this is...I made arrangements for Maya to be watched, for instance, so this is very easy for me, but yet there could be more in depth stuff on Monday night...



JD:

Perfect!



Chuck:

I'd like to suggest for the Sunday, maybe doing it at 12:30? Because that's a pretty good hour after church



Pat:

So that, being the case... let's look at the calendar... You could do the first Monday and the third Sunday. You wanna do something like that?



JD:

I like the second Sunday, it just sounds...



Pat:

Second Sunday? Okay



Ed:

The second or fourth is better for me



Norm:

Well the fourth Sunday is Christmas Eve



JD:

So the first Monday and second Sunday?



Zak:

Second Monday, Fourth Sunday



Pat:

Okay



Chuck:

(jokingly) I think the fifth Sunday



Zak:

If there is one (then laughs, realizing Chuck was only joking)



Pat:

So the Second Monday and the Fourth Sunday?



Zak:

There you go!



Pat:

Okay. And then there will be a meeting every two weeks



Norm:

What time on Monday?



JD:

7 o'clock?



Norm:

Anytime you want works for me



Zak:

So that way, people, if they miss the morning, they could do the night, Monday Night?



Pat:

Mondays at 7pm



Zak:

There you go



JD:

And then Sundays are at 12:30pm



Pat:

Sundays are 12:30. Okay?



JD:

(holding the email list which has now gone full circle) And we have an email list so I can let you all have a preview of the video I make, and you can say "Yes, okay" or "No, I don't like my hair" (laughs)



Pat:

(taking notes) So the next one will be December 10th and the 4th Sunday is the 23rd.

Now, do you want the Sanctuary, or the Annex?



JD:

Sanctuary! We're going to do it up. There's going to be music and multimedia.



Pat:

Thank you, Sebastian, so much for being the torch-bearer of this. I will tell you, and I'm excited for you, and I'm excited there's an opportunity to start putting flesh on the skeleton that you have had in your heart. And this group will be and become what it is to be and become. It will probably ebb and flow, and how it will be, will be good. And even if it's a season, it's a season, and it's a start. I'm excited. I'm really, really filled with gratitude for you and for this start, and that you were willing to wait to be sure, until the people were ready, and they're ready.



Chuck:

And this is a nice turnout for the first meeting



Norm

and



Zak:

Amen!



JD:

Alright, closing song.

Amen (5x) Hallelujah. Amen. See the Planet. Amen. See the Forests. Amen, Amen. See the Homeless. Amen. They need us. Amen (3x).

There could be a thousand verses to this song.



Norm:

Oh yes!



Ed:

(resumes song, singing, looking at Norm's dog, Chopper, now sleeping in one of the chairs) Chopper's gone to sleep. Amen...



*End of video and of the first official Gaia Guardians meeting,
on Sunday afternoon, November 25, 2018, in the
gardens of MCC UCC in the Valley,
5730 Cahuenga Blvd, North Hollywood, CA 91601*

Later in the day, Zak's mother joined Gaia Guardians. Who will speak for the bugs? Marilyn will!



Marilyn:

Hello, my name is Marilyn Razeg, and I'm here to let you know about the major bug problem our world is currently facing, and not in the way you may think!

I have read so many news stories lately documenting the "hyper-alarming" decrease in abundance of insects around the planet. Studies have shown massive declines, ranging from 45% up to as high as 90% within countless species over the past 40 years!

This will have major effects on our Earth's ecosystem because insects pollinate 3/4ths of our food crops, recycle nutrients to make healthy soil for plants, and are the basis of the food web for wildlife. Without any insects to eat, and fruitless plants, large numbers of birds, fish, frogs, and lizards are also dying.

Causes of this catastrophic die-off include Humanity's pesticide and herbicide use, loss of habitats (including meadows, forests, grasslands), and anthropomorphic climate change (warmer temperatures cause a decline in fertility).

Most people have not noticed this problem, but just look around, and you will see hardly any bugs!

We must always keep in mind that Insects are a part of Mother Gaia's Life-support system too, and they both must be defended!



Marilyn:

Hello, my name is Marilyn Razeg, and I'm here to let you know about the major bug problem our world is currently facing, and not in the way you may think!

I have read so many news stories lately documenting the "hyper-alarming" decrease in abundance of insects around the planet. Studies have shown massive declines, ranging from 45% up to as high as 90% within countless species over the past 40 years!

This will have major effects on our Earth's ecosystem because insects pollinate 3/4ths of our food crops, recycle nutrients to make healthy soil for plants, and are the basis of the food web for wildlife. Without any insects to eat, and fruitless plants, large numbers of birds, fish, frogs, and lizards are also dying.

Causes of this catastrophic die-off include Humanity's pesticide and herbicide use, loss of habitats (including meadows, forests, grasslands), and anthropomorphic climate change (warmer temperatures cause a decline in fertility).

Most people have not noticed this problem, but just look around, and you will see hardly any bugs!

We must always keep in mind that Insects are a part of Mother Gaia's Life-support system too, and they both must be defended!



And two days later, during a “Nature’s Muse” meeting at Griffith Park, Reni Fulton joined us, as our first Gaia Guardians remote member, and expressed this:



Reni:

I would like to join Gaia Guardians as your first official East coast member. I live in West Virginia, a few miles from Virginia, near the Appalachian Trail. Big oil is running their pipeline right through our neighborhoods, destroying Nature and threatening our water supplies. We who live there are doing our best to fight them and hold them back, but we need as much support as we can get. Let’s care for each other from coast to coast and work together. Sign me up, I’m in!

Several days before our first meeting, Cheryl Leujten, who has been holding meetings at her Eagle Rock home similar to Gaia Guardians, called “Love Earth” meetings.



Cheryl:

I Gaia Guardians, I love it! I love the idea. Count me in. Monday, Monday, Monday... if there’s any night of the week I am most available, it’s Monday.

And after our first meeting, when asked, Cheryl accepted the invitation to be our first keynote speaker, and she is speaking at Gaia Guardians Gathering Monday Nights, the first one, at MCC UCC In the Valley in North Hollywood, in the Sanctuary, at 7pm...



...which will be live broadcast, thanks to the technical volunteering of **Chuck!**