

# The Messenger

May 31, 2023

Zion United Church

Sunday worship — 9:30 am

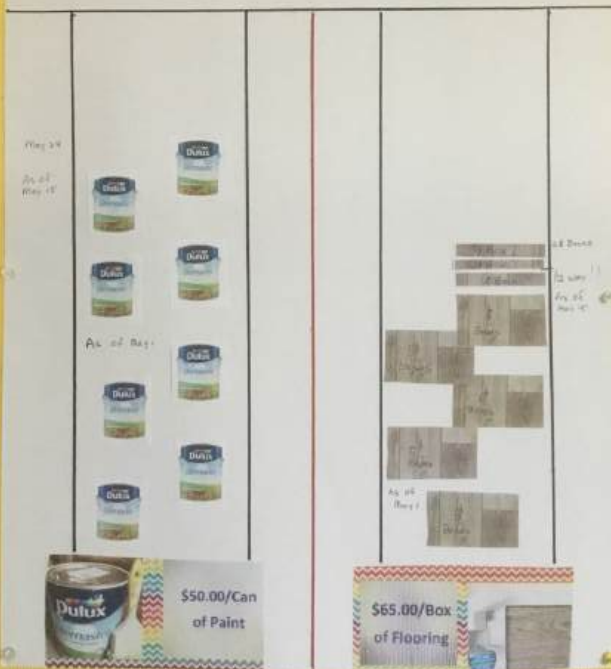
St Andrews United Church

Sunday worship — 11:00 am

## Goal thermometer

*Let's keep our  
heritage church  
looking beautiful.  
Thank you!*

Can you help us reach our goals??  
9 cans                      52 boxes



Yes, you counted right, I think.  
Only one more can of paint needed.

If you have announcements to be included here  
please email them to: [ckooyman@shaw.ca](mailto:ckooyman@shaw.ca)

It would be helpful if announcements for The Messenger  
are sent to the above address before Wednesday.

Next Messenger will be  
June 7, 2023

## Askew's Cards



Thanks for continuing to purchase **Askew's gift cards**.

They are available in denominations of \$20, \$50 and \$100.

**They make great appreciation gifts  
as we all need to buy groceries!**

Get them from Eleanor at  
church or call her at 250-546-8195.



**Can** you help keep our heritage church looking beautiful? Please indicate if your tax deductible donation is for paint or flooring.

Let's make the thermometers rise.

**Thanks for your support**

Zion Finance Committee & Property Committee

# The Annual MacKenzie Camp Golf Tournament!



**Salmon Arm Golf Club  
Saturday, June 10, 2023**



**For pledge forms contact Doug Lammle 250-549-0757 or Les Ellenor 250-832-7827**  
**All proceeds help kids go to camp this summer!**

# Learning to live without endless growth

By Jim Taylor

*Sunday May 21, 2023*

I never thought I would write this column. For years, I have ranted about overpopulation. During my lifetime, the world's population has grown from about two billion to eight billion. Canada has gone from 11 million to 38 million. And while Canada seems to have lots of space to accommodate its growing population, the rest of the world doesn't.

UBC professor William Rees has calculated that every human currently needs about two hectares (five acres) of arable land for food and warmth.

There isn't enough arable land on the whole planet for eight billion people. So we draw on capital assets deposited some 300 million years ago. We call them "fossil fuels."

But now, I discover, we have to deal with the economic implications of declining populations.

## The population crash

Before I start, I acknowledge that I rely on other writers whose work I trust: syndicated columnist Gwynne Dyer; authors John Ibbotson and Darrel Bricker, writing in the *Globe and Mail*; backed up by Google.

Those three writers cite some shocking statistics.

Japan, for example, declared a national emergency over its declining birth rate.

To maintain a country's population, the average woman has to have an average of 2.1 children. It takes two people to have a child. And two surviving children to replace the two parents. The hypothetical extra one-tenth of a child accounts for deaths from disease or accident.

But Japan's birth rate has dropped to 1.34.

South Korea has the world's lowest birthrate, at 0.78.

Canada's is currently 1.4. Quebec once had the country's highest birthrate. English Canada blamed it on Catholic doctrines, and feared that francophones would take over the country. Quebec now has a birth rate around 1.5.

B.C. has Canada's lowest birthrate at 1.18.

Just so that you can't miss the significance of these figures, Ibbotson and Bricker forecast that at present birth rates, countries such as Spain and Italy will have only half their present population by the end of this century.

I had to read that statistic twice to get it – HALF their present population!

By mid-century, Gwynne Dyer says, 151 countries will have a falling population.

When China's population soared past one billion, it instituted its infamous one-child policy. It cancelled that policy in 2016. But the birth rate continued to plunge, from 1.8 five years ago, to 1.1 now.

China's population is expected to drop from 1.4 billion to 732 million by the end of this century.

India's population surpassed China's this year. But the Indian birthrate is also slowing. At 2.0, it has already fallen below sustainability.

## African genesis

The only part of the world where populations will continue to grow is Africa. By 2060, Africans will comprise roughly one-third of world population.

Ironic, isn't it? Africa exported the first homo sapiens 300,000 years ago; once again, Africa will export its humans to the rest of the world.

As Dyer writes, "The only way to keep a population stable, or even growing, in a developed country is mass immigration...Canada is the world leader in proportional terms, bringing half a million immigrants a year."



But even African birthrates are starting to decline. Kenya's birthrate fell from 8 per woman, 50 years ago, to 3.3 last year.

There are dozens of speculations about causes for this near-universal decline. Male sperm counts are down. Miscarriages are up. Maybe it's all connected to global warming and climate change. Or to wireless radiation from cell-phones. New "man-made" chemicals. Plastics. A conspiracy by the Illuminati...

Regardless of the cause, some implications are obvious. For as long as we humans have been around, we have counted on younger generations to support their aging elders. Once that support came from within the family. Now we have pension plans.

But a steadily declining proportion of younger people cannot carry a steadily growing proportion of older people.

### **Growth? Or de-growth?**

To date, all economic theory has been based on growth. We need more customers to buy our products. More resources for building our products. More savings and/or more credit to finance our ventures.

More. More. More.

Professor Rees calls growth "the supreme overriding objective of policy" around the world.

Declining populations levels, particularly in the northern nations, will shift the mantra to less, less, less.

Economists label the new reality "degrowth." Whatever you call it, the implications are startling.

I would be surprised if any corporate entity, anywhere in the world, bases its business model on fewer and fewer customers. Or on lower and lower profits. But they will.

Now that's a revolution.

\*\*\*\*\*

Copyright © 2023 by Jim Taylor. Non-profit use in congregations and study groups encouraged; links from other blogs welcomed; all other rights reserved.

### **You were asking ---**

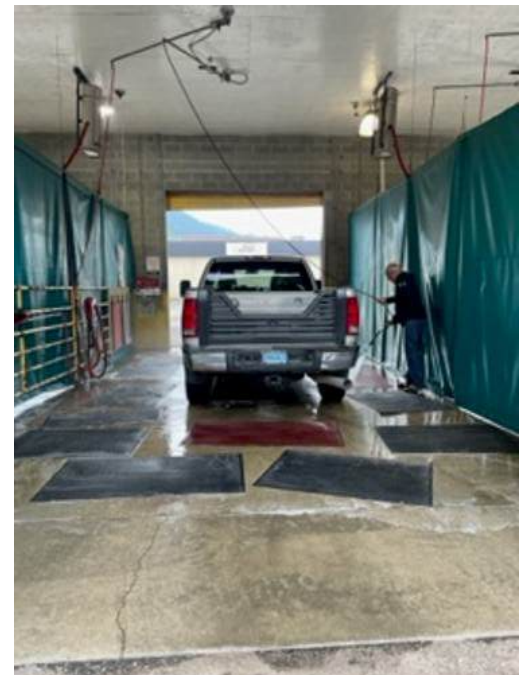
**What happens to my offering when we are attending church at St. Andrews in Enderby??**

(Like June 4 or during the month of July)

Bring your offering with you being sure it is in a Zion envelope or has Zion written on it.

It will be forwarded to Eleanor Kiefer who is the Envelope Secretary.

Thank you



**Thank you Bruce for helping me load and wash all the matts from the church and the hall.**