

How to care for the Earth and for the poor.

By Marize Puvimanasinghe

Age:13

(Essay entry – first prize)

The Earth is a gift from God that we have to look after. Whether it's looking after our trees, our animals or each other, we have to love, give and actually care.

Firstly, we need to help our planet; water the plants, plant new seeds, feed the animals, recycle our resources as much as possible, reduce pollution and littering, stop wasting and much more. Although this is easy to just say, we need to get to work. Using our bare hands, we must dig into the soil, plant some seeds and sprinkle water. We should start everyday things that could help our world that are just as easy as planting a seed. However, the most important part is not just planting the seed, but continuing to look after it, so continue to do the everyday things.

To help reduce electricity waste, you can do the easiest things by just switching off a light or by using heaters and air conditioners less. We can also use energy efficient light bulbs.

To waste less water, have shorter showers or off the tap whilst brushing your teeth.

Instead of throwing away everything in one bin, separate the objects and recycle paper and cardboard, plastic, glass, tins and cans. For marketing, use a reusable bag instead of a plastic, disposable one.

However, not only do we need to look after our planet. We have to look after each other. While some of us may be living in comfortable homes, with food everyday, with education, family, friends, love and support, many people have the exact opposite. There are people living on the streets with no shelter, starving and dehydrated. There are children and adults who have no education, no family, and no support. We must remind ourselves how lucky we are, no matter what the smaller difficulties we may face.

This does not mean that we cannot help. We can donate to charities like Red Cross and Caritas that help people in crisis. With the money we give, we could be saving lives. We can help soup kitchens to made warm food for poor people. We can donate used clothes, shoes, toys, books, games, accessories and much more. Imagine a child's heart bursting with happiness just to receive a toy, and the glow on a persons face to receive something basic like clothes or shoes. While we are enjoying extra luxuries, many people don't have basic needs that we could be providing for them.

We, children and adults, with Gods everlasting love, must help our Earth and each other. It is not a chore, and neither a bore, but our duty. May God help us to help each other and the world transform into a happier place.