



## Issue 6 - Sep 2009

Dear fellow members of the TS and TOS around the world,

We hope you'll find this sixth edition of our international TOS electronic newsletter interesting and helpful in keeping you in touch with other TOS groups and issues related to our TOS areas of service.

In this issue we recognise the passing of Dr C.V. Agarwal, a beloved and dedicated Indian TOS member and celebrate the success of the Golden Link College in the Philippines. You'll also find information about a simple way of increasing your support for the College. You'll get to know a little more about the TOS in Italy, read about TOS activities in Wales, India and Australia, learn about current social and animal welfare issues and find some information about the benefits of teaching 'mindfulness' to children. Be inspired to truly listen by another short article by Mirabai Bush and consider the implications of the thought-provoking slide-show about our attachment to bottled water.

Remember that the newsletter is designed to be read while you are connected to the internet.

Please consider sending photographs of your TOS activities and news items that might be of interest to fellow TOS members. We would welcome your contributions, either through your National TOS Director/President/Coordinator/Correspondent or directly to the editors at: [carolyn.tosinternational@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.tosinternational@gmail.com)

### The TOS recognises the passing of Dr C.V. Agarwal

The TOS honours Dr C.V. Agarwal who passed away in mid-June this year at the age of 82 after a life of richly varied service. Dr Agarwal was one of the TOS's most dynamic animal welfare workers. [Read more](#)

### Golden Link School in the Philippines becomes a college

The Golden Link School is now renamed Golden Link College with the opening of its college department and first intake of college students.

[Read more](http://international.theoservice.org/news/200909-gls.html) - <http://international.theoservice.org/news/200909-gls.html>

### Still time to take advantage of the Kern Foundation's offer and support the Golden Link College

Following the enormous success of last year's fundraising project, the Kern Foundation has offered up to US\$20,000 to match donations received by December 2009 to the Golden Link College.

[Read more](http://international.theoservice.org/news/200909-kern.html) - <http://international.theoservice.org/news/200909-kern.html>

### Getting to know the Italian TOS

Sharing the view that no theosophical path exists without service to humanity in the spirit of universal brotherhood, the TS appreciates and supports the TOS's initiatives. In fact the two teams work in close collaboration. [Read more](#)

### TOS news from around the world

Find out about recent TOS activities in Wales, Delhi in India and Australia. [Read more](#)

### What's new on the International TOS website?

Can the TS and TOS help in conflict resolution? In the new [Featured Article](#), Vicente Hao Chin, Jr talks about what the members of the TOS in the Philippines are doing to contribute constructively to the reduction of violence in society. The TOS in Tanzania shares its work in supporting the *Heart Babies Project* in the new [Featured Project](#). In the [Recent News](#) section we congratulate the Golden Link School in the Philippines on becoming a College with its first intake of students enrolled in Bachelor of Education programmes. There are also additions to the TOS photo gallery and the Inspiration section. Go to <http://international.theoservice.org>

## Exploring Theosophy and living in the 21st C at the School of the Wisdom

Colin Price, former General Secretary of the English Section of the TS, is conducting a school from 5 January to 4 February 2010, entitled *Theosophy and its Practical Implications*. [Read more](#)

## Listen!

*Once we begin to understand the path of action, we still have many practical steps to take in finding our way into appropriate service. Here is a guide into the world of service.* This essay is the second in a series by Mirabai Bush that provides a guide for compassion in action. [Read more](#)

## Teaching children to relax

Have you ever considered promoting the benefits of relaxed mindfulness for children or offering workshops for members' families on this topic? [Read more](#)

## Animal welfare in the news – the ethics of breeding pain-free farm animals

Recent developments in genetic engineering have raised the ethical question of whether or not scientists should go down the path of developing pain-free farm animals. [Read more](#)

## UN International Days

For information on UN International Days from [October 2009 to January 2010](#).

## Climate change, people and poverty

Shifting seasons are destroying harvests and causing widespread hunger – but this is just one of the multiple climate change impacts taking their toll on the world's poorest people. In July 2009, Oxfam published their report, [Suffering the Science: Climate Change, People and Poverty](#). The report warns that without immediate action 50 years of development gains in poor countries will be permanently lost. Climate-related hunger could be the defining human tragedy of this century. [Read more](#)

## Appeal to help women's cooperative

The TOS in Chennai is appealing for donations to buy a winch for one of the women's cooperatives making recycled paper. [Read more](#)

## Do you commonly drink bottled water?

Our almost automatic purchasing of bottled water has become an environmental challenge. Did you know that in the USA alone, over 28,000,000,000 plastic bottles of water are bought every year... and 86% of those plastic bottles end up in the garbage. Here's an environmental message to raise awareness and hopefully cause us to stop and think the next time our hand reaches for the plastic bottle on the shop shelf.

[Watch this slide show](#)

## Would you like to receive this on-line newsletter automatically?

- a) To sign up, you only have to send a message to [tos.intouch@gmail.com](mailto:tos.intouch@gmail.com) with **'Subscribe TOS e-newsletter'** in the subject line, and please give your full name and the country where you live, and any other information you like such as TS or TS group you are involved with.

You will then be put on the mailing list permanently or until you unsubscribe. Some people send us 'Subscribe TOS e-newsletter' several times. While flattering, this causes us extra work as we end up with multiple entries for the same person.

The confusion arises perhaps when general comments are sent in under the heading 'Subscribe'. Your comments are most welcome but please don't use 'Subscribe' as the message subject as it will be treated as another subscription.

- b) If you do not want to receive future newsletters you can easily unsubscribe. All that is needed is a blank message to [tos.intouch@gmail.com](mailto:tos.intouch@gmail.com) with '**UNSUBSCRIBE TOS e-newsletter**' in the subject line. Your address will then be removed from the mailing list.

With best wishes,

Carolyn and Diana

*Diana Dunningham Chapotin is the International Secretary of the TOS and Carolyn Harrod is the National Coordinator of the TOS in Australia.*

***When you volunteer to clean the kitchen or scrub the pots, if you practise as a bodhisattva, you will have great joy and happiness while doing so. But if you have the feeling, 'I am doing a lot, and others are not contributing their fair share', you will suffer, because your practice is based on form ...***

***- Thich Nhat Hanh, Cultivating the Mind of Love***

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## The TOS honours Dr C.V. Agarwal

The TOS honours Dr C.V. Agarwal who passed away in mid-June this year at the age of 82 after a life of richly varied service. In addition to 65 years of active and loyal membership of the TS in India, Dr Agarwal was one of the TOS's most dynamic animal welfare workers. Through the Beauty Without Cruelty movement, which has centres located in the Theosophical Society campuses at Varanasi and Adyar, Dr Agarwal and his team organised a great number of campaigns against the exploitation and abuse of our fellow creatures.

For an interview with Dr Agarwal posted on our international website last January, click here:  
<http://international.theoservice.org/articles/agarwal-cruelty.html>



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## Getting to know the Italian TOS

Sharing the view that no theosophical path exists without service to humanity in the spirit of universal brotherhood, the TS appreciates and supports the TOS's initiatives. In fact the two teams work in close collaboration. TS members are fully informed of what's going on around the world in the TOS and of opportunities to participate. The TS's General Secretary, Antonio Girardi, also takes the time from his very busy schedule to try to understand the overall vision of the TOS internationally speaking and to give (very welcome!) advice.

Some 30 TS branches and centres are involved in TOS activities. Eighteen groups meet regularly to meditate for world peace, six perform the TOS healing ritual and four a ceremony called 'The Mother of the World'. The education of well over a hundred underprivileged children is sponsored. Nearly 100 Theosophists offer assistance to the elderly and ill and about 90 are active in promoting the vegetarian ethic.



*Members of Aurora TS Lodge (Vicenza)*



Last Christmas Patrizia Caldo, of Aurora Theosophical Lodge, organised a charity bazaar at the Italian Theosophical Headquarters to raise funds for humanitarian projects. Every member brought something they had made or donated to be sold in the bazaar evening.

*Key TOS and TS workers from Aurora TS Lodge*



*Goods for sale at the charity bazaar*



*Fundraising poster*



Donations are collected for the Olcott School at Adyar, for the literacy home-schools run by the TOS in Pakistan, for the Golden Link School in the Philippines and most recently for disaster relief in Myanmar (Burma), amongst a number of other projects.



At the moment everyone is excited about hosting the TS World Congress in Rome in mid-July 2010. TS and TOS members alike are looking forward to meeting overseas guests and exchanging experiences and ideas.





In the meantime they are engaging in enjoyable activities such as supporting the *Teddies for Tragedies* project for which the TOS in England does so much. This involves knitting teddies for children in developing countries who are hospitalised. In fact the knitting team has just decided to send its next batch of teddies directly to the TOS in Dar es Salaam for distribution to the young children who are flown to India for heart surgery. This collaboration between the TOS in Italy and the TOS in Tanzania is heart-warming. (See the International TOS website's September featured project for more information about the heart project.)



*The Italian knitters:  
Maria Teresa Elicio,  
coordinator of the  
team, and Maria  
Teresa Tinivella,  
Maria Teresa Elicio's  
mother-in-law.*



Tina Trizzino, Rita Zappata, Maria Teresa Mosso, Marisa Lovera, Rosy Berino, Lidia Sartoris, sisters Luigina, Giovanna and Anita also knitted some of these beautiful bears. Carla Nobis made the bags.

We look forward to meeting our Italian sisters and brothers soon.

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## TOS news from around the world

### *TOS in Cardiff, South Wales*

Theosophy Cardiff holds a scrabble evening once a month at which a collection is taken up in the name of the TOS for the Tenovus Cancer Charity. Every little bit helps!



### *TOS in Conwy, North Wales*



In mid-August, the Conwy Branch of the TS in Wales, supported by members from Bangor Lodge, Chester, Portmadog and Holyhead, held a TS Awareness Day. Over 40 non-members turned up to find out about Theosophy. A table was loaded with lots of items for sale with funds going to TOS projects. Bravo!

### *TOS in Delhi, India*

TOS Deepti Group, Noida, Delhi NCR, India has launched a fully fledged Dental Care Unit for the rural and economically disadvantaged children of Noida and surrounding rural areas. The unit, probably the first of its kind, was inaugurated by Brother Birendra Bhattacharyya, National Director of TOS in India on 25 July 2009. Scores of children in the neighborhood who have no access to dental care will benefit immensely. A full time doctor will also be organising 'free dental inspection camps' in the schools for economically disadvantaged children, supported by the TOS Delhi Region.



### *TOS in Perth, Australia*



*WA TOS members who sold donated books at the Mt Helena Women's Spirituality and Fun weekend.*

Another of their projects is focused on a local Aboriginal women's refuge. On Theosophical Society meeting nights, volunteers busily knit squares to make beautiful blankets for the women.

*From L to R: Gailene Wester, the TOS coordinator; Vicky Barker, the TOS secretary and Renae Jonas, a TOS member.*

Members of the Western Australian TOS group based in Perth are having an energetic year supporting a number of projects while promoting the First Object of the Theosophical Society. Their service work is also building their group's sense of fellowship and unity.

Once again they've been raising funds for the TOS Pakistan Home School Project and the Golden Link College in the Philippines. They have also been raising funds to supply birthing kits to women in Afghanistan. It is amazing that such a simple kit saves lives, but the statistics show that 2,000 birthing kits will save approximately 130 mothers' lives. In this activity they have been partnering with SAWA (Support Association for the Women in Afghanistan).



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## Exploring Theosophy and living in the 21st C at the School of the Wisdom

The School of the Wisdom programme at Adyar has recently been announced. TOS members may be interested in the following class being offered from 5 January to 4 February 2010.

### Theosophy and its Practical Implications

Director: **Mr Colin Price**

There are aspects of Theosophical doctrine which are highly technical and only of interest to the serious student of philosophy and metaphysics. However a major portion of the teachings have direct relevance to human life in the twenty-first century. Their deeper meaning only becomes evident to the student after many steps have been taken into the hall of learning. This session will seek to explore the vastness of Theosophy and its great significance for understanding the meaning of life and the mystery of human consciousness.



**Mr Colin Price** is a former General Secretary of the English Section of the TS, a featured speaker at the European School of Theosophy and a member of the Blavatsky Trust in England.

For further information on the School of the Wisdom for the period November 2009 to February 2010, see:

<http://www.ts-adyar.org/school.html>

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## First Steps 2 Listen!

by *Mirabai Bush*

**In this issue, we publish further extracts from Mirabai Bush's advice in *Compassion in Action: Setting Out On the Path of Service* (Ram Dass and Mirabai Bush, NY :Bell Tower, 1992). Her series of essays is prefaced with the following remarks:**

*Once we begin to understand the path of action, we still have many practical steps to take in finding our way into appropriate service. We have to begin somewhere. And often the beginnings are confusing or difficult. Here is a guide into the world of service, a little help on the path, some suggestions to ease the entry, a handbook for compassion in action.*

Pain and suffering may often seem to be calling us to jump in and fix things, but perhaps they are asking us first to be still enough to hear what can really help, what can truly get to the cause of this suffering, what will not only eliminate it now but prevent it from returning. So, before we act, we need to listen. When we do become quiet enough . . . the way opens, and we see the possibilities for action.

We give very little attention to learning to listen, learning to really hear another person or situation. Yet think back to the moments with other people when our hearts were engaged and we felt fed by being together. In those moments, weren't we hearing one another? In times like those, when we have listened to and heard one another, we have felt life arising from a shared perspective.

Each situation, each moment of life is new. . . . For our often humdrum lives to retain the taste of living truth, we have to listen freshly — again and again. A human interaction includes both the uniqueness of each being and the unity of the two, which transcends the separateness. For our minds to take such a subtle process and trivialize it to 'just this again' or 'nothing but that' is to reduce us to automatons, to objects for one another. And for action to be compassionate, we need to eliminate the idea of object, we need to be here together doing exactly what needs to be done to relieve pain and suffering in the simplest way we can. We need to listen.

When we begin to act by listening, the rest follows naturally. It's not so easy, of course — it requires us to give up preconceived ideas, judgments, and desires in order to allow space to hear what is being said. True listening requires deep respect and a genuine curiosity about situations as well as a willingness just to be there. . . . Listening opens the space, allows us to hear what needs to be done in that moment. It also allows us to hear when it is better not to act, which is sometimes a hard message to receive.

The music of life often gets lost in the music of our voices. We think that we already know what there is to hear. Sometimes we are simply moving a little too fast. Recently the phone in a friend's kitchen rang; it was the organizer of 4-a local project that was bringing Guatemalan village leaders to town for a three- week conference. 'Yes,' she said, before he had a chance to ask. 'That's great. I have a house you could use for a gathering.' 'Thank you, that's very nice,' he replied in his Puerto Rican accent that sounded like salsa music, 'but what we really need is someone to drive them around.'

Ah, it's small, you may think, but there it is again — acting without listening. Isn't it at heart the same impulse that leads the World Bank to build a dam for villages that don't want the electric power it provides or the U.S. Agency for International Development to decide that a village needs a road to the market without asking the people if they have anything to sell there?

Listening to others clearly opens the way to understanding the helping situation. But listening to others requires quieting some of the voices that already exist within us. When this happens, there is space not only for the voices of others but for our own truest voice . . .

We need to take time to quieten down and listen to ourselves with attention — not only in the midst of action but when we are alone, walking in the woods, making tea, praying in an empty church, [wading] in a stream, or sitting in meditation. A simple breathing meditation can be helpful, because it returns us to our basic connection with the world. As we breathe in and out, and bring our awareness gently to our breath, we are experiencing the world coming into us and ourselves going back out into the world. We are reminded, in a simple physical way, that we are not separate from the world but continually interacting with it in the very make-up of our being.

. . . We need to listen fully. It's the basis of compassionate action. We need to listen not only to the voice of the person who is hurting but to her bare feet, the baby wrapped in her shawl, and the stars in the cold night. Such full listening helps us hear who is calling and what we can do in response. When we listen for the truth of a moment, we know better what to do and what not to do, when to act and when not to act. We hear that we are all here together and we are all we've got. In Gandhi's terms, we are letting the music of our voices make way for the music of life.

First Steps  
Listen!

## Teaching children to relax

Have you ever considered promoting the benefits of relaxed mindfulness for children or offering workshops for members' families on this topic?

Experts at Duke University, in Durham, N.C., USA, recommend mindfulness, which is a technique borrowed from meditation, to help children deal with the many academic and social pressures in their lives.

"When adults are stressed, they often turn to smoking, alcohol or food to pacify emotions. We need to teach kids how to handle stress in a healthy way," said Dr Michelle Bailey, a paediatrician at Duke Integrative Medicine, in an August 2009 news release from the university.

Mindfulness encourages children to live in the moment and not fret as much about future events, Bailey said. In addition, practising meditative techniques can help children sleep better, reduce anxiety and stay more focused.



The following exercises can help young practitioners achieve a level of mindfulness:

**Mindful breathing:** Ask the child to take time in the morning and evening to pay attention to his or her breathing for 20 inhales and exhales. Steady breathing has a calming effect on the body.

**Mindful walking:** After dinner, take a walk and pay attention to all the sights, sounds and colours. Encourage the child to use this technique on the playground and at school.

**Mindful listening:** At the dinner table, ring a bell or play a note on a musical instrument to capture the family's attention, then give each person a turn to speak about their day while the rest of the family gives their full attention, to encourage active listening.

To get the best results, Bailey suggests that families go to an accredited, mindfulness-based, stress-reduction program.

"Mindfulness helps kids recognise their thoughts, reconnect with their emotions and understand how that impacts their behaviour," Bailey said in the news release. "Ultimately, if we can heighten awareness of our thoughts, we can modify our emotions and that changes behaviour."

## The ethics of breeding pain-free farm animals

***Recent developments in genetic engineering have raised the ethical question of whether or not scientists should go down the path of developing pain-free farm animals. The following editorial appeared in 'New Scientist', 5 September 2009.***



In Douglas Adams's novel *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*, the character Arthur Dent is horrified when a cow-like creature is wheeled to the restaurant table, introduces itself as the dish of the day and proceeds to describe the cuts of meat that are available from its body. The cow has been bred to want to be eaten, and to be capable of saying so.

As often happens with Adams's work, the truth isn't too far behind. This week we report on proposals to genetically engineer livestock to be untroubled by pain – something all too common in intensively farmed animals. The concept treats cows, pigs and chickens as if they were inanimate objects whose suffering is like a computer program in need of debugging.

As with Adams's fictional cow, there is something deeply unsettling about an animal engineered to be pain-free. One researcher called the idea 'icky', and conversations about it around our office often end in awkward silence, the thought too unsavoury to discuss.

But also as with Adams's cow, there is a cold logic that is hard to argue against. Eating an animal that wants to be eaten is surely better than eating one that doesn't; engineering a farm animal so it does not suffer from pain is surely more humane. If factory farming must exist, then surely we have a moral duty to limit the distress it inflicts.

This doesn't mean we should welcome the creation of pain-free animals, though. The reason we find the idea so disquieting is that it runs counter to our visceral sense of right and wrong. This is known as the 'yuck factor' and it is a common reaction to advances in biotechnology and biomedicine such as cloning, genetic modification and human-animal chimeras.

Some conservative commentators argue that the 'yuck factor' is a reliable indicator that the moral Rubicon has been crossed. Yet all too often such distaste is irrational and a barrier to progress. Progressive thought often comes from ignoring such reactions and thinking things through logically instead.

In this case, however, there is value in the 'yuck factor'. Yes, logically speaking, pain-free animals make sense. But only in a world that has already devalued animal life to the point where factory farming is acceptable. Our visceral reaction to pain-free animals is actually a displaced reaction against the system that makes them necessary.

Too many of us are too attached to the pleasures of affordable meat to consider the plight of factory-farmed animals. If the proposal to create pain-free animals achieves anything, it is to force us to confront the pain and suffering that our diets inflict. End factory-farming, and the 'problem' of pain-free animals goes away too.



## UN International Days from October 2009 to January 2010

The United Nations was built on spiritual principles and universal values such as peace, human rights, human dignity and worth, justice, respect, good neighbourliness, freedom, respect for nature and shared responsibility. TOS groups will therefore find that many UN designated International Days provide opportunities for promoting the theosophical principles underpinning TOS work as well as networking with similar community groups in supporting relevant UN activities.

**October 1: International Day of Older Persons**

**October 2: International Day of Non-Violence (Gandhi's birthday)**

**October 6: World Habitat Day**

**October 8: International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction**

**October 9: World Sight Day**

A worldwide initiative aims to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020. About 37 million people worldwide are blind and 124 million people have poor vision. Three-quarters of cases of blindness are treatable or preventable. Without intervention, the number of people who are blind will increase to 75 million by 2020.

**October 10: World Mental Health Day**

**October 15: International Day of Rural Women**

**October 16: World Food Day**

**October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**

**October 24: United Nations Day**

**October 24-30: Disarmament Week**

**November 6: International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict**

**November 14: World Diabetes Day**

This year the theme is Diabetes in Children and Adolescents. Diabetes causes about 5% of all deaths globally each year. 80% of people with diabetes live in low and middle income countries. Most people with diabetes in low and middle income countries are middle-aged (45-64), not elderly (65+). Diabetes deaths are likely to increase by more than 50% in the next 10 years without urgent action.

**November 16: International Day for Tolerance**

**November 20: Universal Children's Day**

**November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

**November 29: International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**

**December 1: U.N. World AIDS Day**

**December 2: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery**

**December 3: International Day of Disabled Persons**

The World Bank estimates that 20 per cent of the world's poorest people have some kind of disability, and tend to be regarded in their own communities as the most disadvantaged.

**December 5: International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development**

**December 9: International Anti-Corruption Day**

**December 10: Human Rights Day**

**December 18: International Migrants Day**

**December 20: International Human Solidarity Day**

**January 27: International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of Holocaust**



## Climate change, people and poverty

Shifting seasons are destroying harvests and causing widespread hunger – but this is just one of the multiple climate change impacts taking their toll on the world's poorest people.

In July 2009, Oxfam published their report, *Suffering the Science: Climate Change, People and Poverty*, to coincide with the G8 Summit in Italy, where climate change and food security were high on the agenda. The report warns that **without immediate action 50 years of development gains in poor countries will be permanently lost**. Climate-related hunger could be the defining human tragedy of this century.

The Oxfam report outlines evidence of how climate change is affecting every issue linked to poverty and development today, including: hunger, agriculture, health, labour, water, disasters and displacement.

To tell this story Oxfam brought together the voices of two communities – scientists who study the impact of climate change, and the people who are suffering harm now. There are people behind every statistic:

- One report estimates that 26 million people have already been displaced because of climate change.
- 375 million people may be affected by climate-related disasters by 2015.
- 200 million people may be on the move each year by 2050 because of hunger, environmental degradation and loss of land.
- Several major cities that are dependent on water from mountain ranges face collapse.
- Farmers from all over the world are experiencing seasons that appear to have 'shrunk', to either 'hotter and dry' or 'hotter and wet'. Seasons, they say, are becoming less distinct. They are uncertain when best to cultivate, sow and harvest.

Scientists are observing increasing evidence of changes and breakdowns in natural systems from a changing climate caused by rising carbon emissions. For the poor countries in the tropics and sub-tropics particularly, almost every observation and prediction about health, food security, water shortage, natural disasters, famine, drought and conflict is worsening at an alarming rate. Climate change is an added burden – yet another threat to their ability to cope with poverty. It is interacting with existing problems and making them worse.



Climate change's most savage impact on humanity in the near future is likely to be in the increase of **hunger**. Some of the world's staple crops, such as maize and rice, are very susceptible to rising temperatures and to more unpredictably extreme seasons. Almost without exception, the countries with existing problems in feeding their people are those most at risk from climate change.

The impacts on people's **health** are frighteningly diverse. Climate change is bringing water- and insect-borne diseases of the tropics to hundreds of millions of people with no previous knowledge of them. In hotter temperatures people will be unable to work for as long due to heat stress, and if they do their health may suffer.

Climate-related disasters have been increasing in frequency at an extraordinary rate. Extend the line of the graph that charts such events between 1975 and 2008, and it says that in 2030 we will experience more than three times as many such disasters as today.

**Water** supply is now so acutely challenged that several major cities that are dependent on the Himalayan and Andes glaciers will face crippling shortages within decades.

Climate-driven **migration** is already a reality, destroying livelihoods, communities and cultures, and leaving women alone and vulnerable to deal with agricultural work and to look after children. Governments are concerned that climate change will spark increasing conflict between countries as scarcity of vital water supplies brings bitter disputes over their control.

'Two degrees' is the target upon which more than 100 governments are basing their strategies, because the rich world has deemed this could be an 'economically acceptable' one. However, even warming of 2°C entails a devastating future for at least 660 million people.

Lord Stern, former chief economist to the World Bank, says there is "a big probability of a devastating outcome" and that "the likelihood of global warming in the 21st century even beyond the threshold of a 2.4°C increase is dangerously high". Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, the advisor to the German chancellor on climate change, says that on the basis of the new evidence, he thinks anything up to 5°C of warming is 'likely' by 2100 under a 'business as usual' scenario. Under such a scenario, Schellnhuber expects the human population of the world to fall to just one billion.



Oxfam's message is: Don't give up. Rich countries must cut their emissions now, and give developing countries the means to pursue low-carbon futures and to cope with the harmful effects of climate change. The true cost of climate change will not be measured in dollars, but in lives and human potential. That price is being paid already.

**To read the full report ....** <http://www.oxfam.org/policy/bp130-suffering-the-science>

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Theosophical Order of Service International Newsletter

## Appeal to help women's cooperative

When the TOS in Chennai engaged in its extensive tsunami relief operations starting in December 2004, two self-help groups were established: the Annie Besant Ammaiyar Coastal Women's Federation and the Annai Theresa Coastal Women's Federation. Both were helped to set up paper recycling plants as ecologically sound employment opportunities, principally for the wives of fishermen whose livelihood had been lost.

The Annai Theresa group, which works in the little coastal town Pazhaverkadu, north of Chennai, has recently run into rough weather, as the land they are using to dry the paper after manufacture is going to be built on. The women have been trudging all the way to a nearby cemetery to dry the paper.



### ELECTRIC WINCH

Type	: Open spool & Wired control
Tray size	: 35" x 40"
Rated performance	: 440 V A.C.
Rated pull	: 1,000 Kgs (2,300 lbs)
Motor	: 2 H.P.
Gear type	: Planetary type
Gear rating	: 153 : 1
Cable size	: 3 mm
Drum size	: 32 mm x 72.7 mm
Breaking action	: Automatic
Rope length	: 8 M
Rope size	: 16 mm

Total cost: Rs. 1,25,000 00

It came to the notice of the TOS in Chennai that the terrace of the existing building could be an alternative place for drying the paper. The women have tried carrying the paper upstairs to the terrace, but they are simply not strong enough to manage it and as a result have been suffering from health problems. On the whole, it is a very pathetic situation and threatens to kill the recycling unit which provides employment for a good number of women. The self-help group is not cash rich and cannot afford a motorised pulley to carry the material to the terrace. In this context, the TOS Chennai proposes to solicit funds from individual philanthropists and philanthropist groups. The total amount required is approximately US\$2600 (1900 euros). We feel that it is important to follow up on the projects we helped start in the first place, especially brave and innovative ones undertaken by local women.

Contributions are welcome. Diana Dunningham Chapotin, the International Secretary of the TOS, has kindly consented to coordinate this collection.

She can be reached at [tosinternational@wanadoo.fr](mailto:tosinternational@wanadoo.fr). Even small donations would be gratefully received.

- C.V.K. Maithreya, President TOS Chennai



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