



## Global warming film to be shown

"An Inconvenient Truth": Speaking out about the issue is an act of faith, clergy says.

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Six Inland churches will join a nationwide effort next week to inform communities about global warming, which some religious leaders call a serious concern. These churches will show "An Inconvenient Truth," the documentary film about global warming that features former Vice President Al Gore, and discuss what individuals can do.

"This is one of the greatest moral issues of our time," said the Rev. Sally Bingham, an Episcopal priest from San Francisco who co-founded Interfaith Power & Light, a national interfaith ministry that is sponsoring the "Spotlight on Global Warming" program.

"How we respond to global warming will define what it means to be human," she said. "Do we love our neighbors? Do we leave a catastrophic world for our grandchildren?"

About 4,000 congregations -- Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu -- will participate, Bingham said. Global warming refers to the increase in the Earth's temperature that many scientists say results from more heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide and methane.

On Wednesday, Gov. Schwarzenegger signed into law AB 32, which seeks to curb greenhouse gases emitted by California industry by 25 percent by 2020.

Bingham said the nationwide screenings of "An Inconvenient Truth" and two other films - "Too Hot to Handle" and "Lighten Up" -- and discussions afterward are meant to teach people about global warming and suggest lifestyle changes.

For example, switching from incandescent to fluorescent light bulbs can cut energy consumption of those fixtures by 25 percent in a year, she said. Buying energy-efficient cars and appliances will save on energy costs and consumption.

Bingham said "Spotlight on Global Warming" was scheduled for the first week in October to coincide with three major religious holidays -- Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of atonement; the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, and Ramadan, the holiest month of the year for Muslims.

Sister Susan Wells of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary said her religious order decided to sponsor a showing of the documentary at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church in San Bernardino to show people what they can do to make a difference.

"Many people think of global warming as something that's too big a project to take on," she said. "What we hope to do ... is help them understand that we as individuals can make a difference. Things we do in everyday life can help turn it around."

Bingham and Inland religious leaders whose churches will host the documentary said speaking out about global warming as an act of faith.

"Any person of faith who sits in the pew and professes a love of God has a responsibility to care for God's creation," Bingham said "If you love your neighbor, you don't pollute your neighbor's air. Neighbors are the ones who come after us as much as they are the people next door."

Humans are stewards of God's creation, said the Rev. Dr. Aloha Smith, rector of St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in San Bernardino.

"God put us in charge," she said. "The Bible is very, very clear. We're supposed to take care of it (Earth)."

The faith community is making a difference in the national debate about global warming and other environmental issues, said Lyndsay Moseley, who works with the Sierra Club's faith outreach program.

"Values underlie public policy," she said. "Tapping into those values definitely has the ability to shape policy."

Much of the environmental movement in the United States has grown out of the faith community, said the Rev. Dean Kokjer, senior minister at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Riverside. The Presbyterian Church USA, for example, has addressed environmental issues at every annual meeting for at least 30 years, he said.

"It matters a great deal what we do with the kingdom of God here and now," Kokjer said. "Environmental issues fit Jesus' injunction that 'as much as you do for the least of these, you do it to me.'"

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