

## Meditation For May 11

We have seen several meditations lately, including a couple of mine, that have emphasized God's miracle of life on the Earth he created. I have given a number of online and face to face presentations over the years, in which I have tried to show people how closely we humans are related to, and depend on, the health and well-being of all other living things around us. It is so difficult to make people see how wonderful that connection is, how delicate it is, and how easy it would be to break that connection through our own careless actions. Here's an example; just before I typed that previous sentence, I stepped out of the house to check one of our bee hives that sits in our front yard.... it's cloudy out, the temperature is only +5 deg.C, but the bees are out there flying and they are bringing in pods of orange pollen, much of which is coming from a few patches of dandelions in the neighbourhood.



They will also be carrying some nectar from those same dandelions. While the worker bees are gathering pollen and nectar, the queen bee is laying eggs that will hatch into larva in three days. The pollen and nectar the worker bees have brought in will feed that larva, and twenty-one days after those eggs were laid, young bees will emerge. There's danger though; many people don't want dandelions growing on their lawns, so they spray with a weed killer, that is also a bee killer.

What I have described in the previous paragraph, is one small example of the miracle of life that God has blessed us with, but it's tenuous and can be destroyed through human indifference. Life is all around us; most we can see, but some we can't. Wendy and I both enjoy baking. Bread products are mainly my specialty.....I use the yeast you can buy in a store for a couple of our breads, but my favourite is sourdough; sourdough bread, sourdough muffins, sourdough pancakes, sourdough coffee cake; even our Easter hot-cross buns were made from sourdough. I don't have to buy yeast for sourdough, it's in the air we breath; you can't even see it, but it is a living organism and it finds its way into our flour/water mixture. One of God's miracles of nature, right?

I've quoted Stephen Jurovics' book, *Hospitable Planet: Faith, Action, and Climate Change* a few times. Jurovics used to be Dr. Stephen Jurovics, Emergency Room Specialist, with a successful career, beautiful home, and as he puts it, "all the things that are supposed to make you happy." In his mid-forties, he picked up a Bible for the first time, and began to question the good life he had been chasing; "Jesus helped me see the world through a new lens, a lens focussed less on *me* and more on serving *we* and *Thee*." He decided he would work full time at a new kind of health care: healing the planet. He and his wife sold their home, and built a new one with exactly the same footprint as their old garage. They disposed of most of their possessions, reduced the amount of energy they used by two-thirds, and their waste production by nine-tenths. He has written many books on the subject of healing the planet, has helped seminaries and churches across the U. S., "put the theology of creation care and Sabbath living into practice." Stephen Jurovics sacrifice is huge, but through the simple act of reading the Bible, he realized how truly wonderful is God's gift, and how careless use of this gift has placed it in a precarious position. It is easy for us to dismiss how important one little bee or a microscopic yeast floating in the air is to life on earth, but people have to realize that if the bee, the yeast, and other living things like them disappear, we will eventually disappear too.

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