

The background of the book cover is an aerial photograph of a lush, dense green forest. The trees are packed closely together, creating a vibrant green canopy. The lighting is bright, highlighting the various shades of green and the intricate patterns of the foliage.

# Redeeming Creation

The Biblical Basis  
for Environmental  
Stewardship

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## Vision Statement for Foundations for Farming

Foundations for Farming is an apostolic initiative  
for  
Preaching the gospel, strengthening & planting churches & extending the  
kingdom  
Of God  
With an  
emphasis on sustainable agriculture as a model for life transformation of  
individuals,  
Communities and nations.

Therefore go and make disciples of nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything i have commanded you. And surely i am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28v19)

### An Apostolic Initiative:

Ephesians 4 -The Church .....This is an initiative that aims to equip and mobilise the church works of service for the building up of the body, using gifts of men that God has given the church. It is essentially a churches-to-churches initiative that builds up the body and extends the Kingdom of God.

Matt 28-The Mission.....As an apostolic initiative, it is a 'missional' initiative, taking the church into the mission field and long-time held territory of the enemy,providing breakthrough power for the extension of the Kingdom through the preaching of the gospel and signs and wonders.

Acts 19 v 24- This is an initiative that calls for repentance and whole-hearted, undivided devotion to Christ. Isaiah 58 and Luke 9 v 24 encapsulate God's call to emulate Christ in the laying down of his life for the blessing of many and the glory of God. FfF provides a platform to address the church on these fundamentals.

### Preaching the gospel, strengthening & planting churches & extending the Kingdom of God:

Essentially FfF is about building a platform for evangelism, discipleship and church-planting within a New Testament church context. A fundamental premise of this initiative is that no ultimate progress can occur outside of repentance and receiving of Christ and that the church is primarily mandated to address this issue through the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom, resulting in change of heart and precipitating in all life.

### Sustainable agriculture as a Model

FfF is not so much about farming, as about life in Christ using farming as practical expression of this. In a 3<sup>rd</sup> world, and largely oral culture, FfF provides a MODEL for thorough repentance and change leading to abundant life.

## Transformation of individuals, communities and nations:

True transformation is a creative work of God by his Word and Spirit. In terms of salvation, this work essentially addresses the dead spirit of man, causing him to be born again, receiving new life in Christ. As new life is born in the spirit of man, so it has the sanctifying potential of transforming the same man in his mind, will, emotions and physical body too-with great blessing of renewed life in Christ expressed in many ways. (This sanctifying will not be complete until death and glorifying in Christ)

As evangelism grows the church grows in Christ, so this principle above may be experienced in whole communities, result in great blessing and the extension of the Kingdom of God.

This same principle may outwork on a national level as many communities turn away from evil in receiving the salvation of Christ and life-transforming work of the Word and Spirit. Such deep and widespread conviction and life-changing would be termed 'national revival'.

Isaiah 58 guiding passage for this process of true, wholehearted repentance, leading to personal regeneration and corporate transformation by the Spirit of God for the glory of God.

### How does Foundations for Farming work?

INTERNAL TRANSFORMATION > EXTERNAL TRANSFORMATION  
LUKE 8 V 15

But seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop

Foundations for Farming begins with God and His creation and then addresses the heart-problem and solution for fallen man in relation to Jesus Christ, before giving direction on more practical issue of farming. Foundations for Farming teaches stewardship and management principles for breaking the cycle of poverty, made effective in the context of renewal by the Holy Spirit.

The scriptures tell us that God 'has given us **everything** we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness' (2 Peter 1 v 3). Foundations for Farming aims to fulfil the commission given by Jesus Christ in Matthew 28, by 'teaching them to obey **everything** that {God has} commanded (Matt 28 v 19).

### 9 Distinguishing Elements of Foundations for Farming

- 1) **The Sovereignty of God.** Acknowledgement of the Sovereignty of God, Creator of the Heavens and Earth, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The declaration of God's ownership and Lordship over all.(Genesis 1, Colossians 1, Psalms 2)
- 2) **Creation of Man in the image of God.** Acknowledgement of that God made Man in His image, with a core mandate to 'Be fruitful and multiply and have dominion on the earth.' Man was given the work of caring for the garden before the fall. Man has been created by God for fruitfulness, created to bring glory to God in the way we live and steward that entire God has entrusted to us. (Genesis 2, John 15, Colossians 3)

- 3) **Man has fallen in sin and has been offered salvation in Christ.** Acknowledgement that man has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and is offered reconciliation with God by receiving His free gift of righteousness through repentant faith in Jesus Christ who gave His life as a sacrifice for the sin of the world, once for all time. Apart from Christ we can do nothing, however as Christians we are called to gloriously reign in life by Christ Jesus-Romans 5.
- 4) **The Church.** That Man, now re-born in Christ, is designed to function in the Body of Christ, The Church, and participate in building it up and extending the Kingdom of God through evangelism, discipleship and the demonstration of God's glory in all of life.
- 5) **Selfishness vs Faithfulness.** Acknowledgement that true, 'serving' faith in God will show itself in actions of faithfulness, bringing glory to God. As the land is stewarded with faithfulness, this faithfulness is demonstrated by activities carried out 'On Time', 'To Standard', 'Without Wastage' and 'an Attitude of Joy'. This lifestyle rages against the natural fallen tendency of Man to live for himself, rather than in a way that glorifies God. Man would be late, sub-standard, negligent and begrudging in the way he conducts his affairs. (James 2, Hebrews 11).
- 6) **Wisdom in caring for the soil.** This wisdom comes from observing God's natural creation (Romans 1 v 19-20). Where we see that there is no deep level inversion of the soil and the earth is covered with a natural mulch layer of fallen leaves and dry grass etc that we call 'God's Blanket'. The soil is cared for in two primary ways :
  - a. Minimum disturbance of the soil
  - b. Mulching -God's Blanket

Minimum tillage of the soil allows the soil structure to retain and develop its natural form, which is most conducive for crop propagation. In its natural structure the soil has the highest properties of oxygen, micro-organisms, humus and other indicators of fertility.

Mulching protects the soil from run-off or erosion as well as providing a natural recycle for humus and micro-organisms.

- 7) **Wisdom in caring for the crop.** The crop is cared in two primary ways:
  - a. Planting
  - b. Weeding
- 8) Seeds are planted, and fertilised, with precision and accuracy. The crop fundamentals of timely and appropriate land preparation, planting season dates, crop-stand and crop records are adhered to with determination and diligence.

Weeding is carried out consciously at critical times of the year, preventing the stripping of soil fertility, and competition for soil space, nutrients, moisture, sunlight, etc

- 9) **Giving and generosity.** Acknowledgement of the God-given principle of sowing and reaping. The issue of generosity and the spirit of giving is a fundamental key in reversing the cycle of poverty. God has taught us to give by giving us His Son (John 3 v 16). We are like God when we give. This principle should pervade our lives and affect the way we sow, share information, tithe, offer and steward all that God has entrusted to us. God has promised, 'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured to you.' (Luke 6 v 38)
- 10) **Hope for the extremely vulnerable.** FfF is feasible and appropriate for orphans and widows those weakened by hunger, disease and HIV/AIDS. It requires far less hand labour,

energy and draught power and gives a far higher yield per unit area, enabling a sufficient supply of food and income for even the very vulnerable. FfF principles also apply to nutrition and herb gardens by also making them more productive and sustainable.