

EVOLUTIONARY TIMES: the e-newsletter of Michael Dowd & Connie Barlow • Dec 2013

PART 1: Links to significant resources (available since our last e-newsletter)



- **EARTH STORY CALENDAR 2014: "Belonging to Earth & Sky" (by Peter Adair)**
Preview all 12 pictures and evolutionary/spiritual storyline captions, [here](#).
 - **ELEMENTAL BIRTHDAYS: "Edition for Ages 11 - 20" (NEW! volume 3)**
Celebrating birthdays by chemical atomic number (e.g., age 6 = Carbon; age 15 = Phosphorus): [a most helpful guide](#) for creating memorable science-celebrating birthday parties.
 - **PAINTING THE STARS DVD: "Science, Religion, and Evolving Faith"**
New dvd in "[Living the Questions](#)" series; a dozen progressive religious leaders, including yours truly (MD), explore Evolutionary Christian Spirituality.
If you purchase the "Curriculum" version, receive a 20% discount by (a) creating a username/ password, then (b) using this coupon code for checkout: **DCE2PTS**
 - **BECOMING INTIMATE WITH THE EARTH: book by Pauline Le Bel**
[Science-rich, artful, soul-nourishing book](#) that explores 5 paths: The Way of ... Wonder / Emptiness / Imagining / Transformation / Community
 - **BIG HISTORY series on History Channel (H2)**
Autumn 2013 multi-part series; [watch episodes online or order the DVD](#) (with free downloadable study guides).
 - **THE WHAT AND WHY OF BIG HISTORY: videos of 3 new talks to view online**
Watch three superb illustrated talks (2013) by Big History leaders, sponsored by our friends at [Metanexus Institute](#).
 - [DAVID CHRISTIAN](#)
 - [BOB BAIN](#)
 - [WILLIAM GRASSIE](#)
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PART 2: What we've been doing . . .



• MICHAEL DOWD says . . .

For most of September 2013, Connie and I presented talks in a half-dozen villages and cities in **Ontario, Canada**. Along the way, the United Church of Canada's national magazine printed [an interview](#) with me (which was fabulously edited).

October through early November we launched a major speaking tour in **North and South Carolina**. One highlight was a university-wide lecture I delivered at the **College of Charleston**, which was preceded by an [interview in the Charleston newspaper](#).

The pace was exhausting, but it gave me a chance to **test out new ideas** on various audiences, and to save up enough financial resources for Connie and me to spend most of the winter on a writing/video retreat in Colorado. By the time we leave to begin speaking along the route of **The Great March for Climate Action** (March thru November 2014), I hope to have completed a draft of a **new book**, tentatively titled, ***God 2.0: The Prodigal Species Comes Home to Reality***. The six bold contentions I will be making can be previewed in an audio podcast that Connie and I recorded in late September, "[Religion 2.0: Ecology As Theology](#)" -

Note: **The Great March for Climate Action** will traverse these states west to east: s. California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, n. Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, then orienting southeast through Pennsylvania, Maryland, and culminating in Washington D.C. Some of those marching will have signed up for the entire route, but the organizers have also made it possible for others to **march for short portions** of the route (for a week, or through your state, etc). This is a wonderful option for those who want to participate in this historic event but cannot take 8 months off work (or simply don't have the physical stamina!) to march 3,000 miles. Donations are, of course, most welcome to help support the marchers. Here's the website: <http://climatemarch.org>

• CONNIE BARLOW says . . .

My volunteer role to assist The Great March for Climate Action will be to speak along the way on a primary topic I am knowledgeable about as a science writer and climate activist: **how CLIMATE CHANGE affects North American forests — and how foresters are already helping warm-adapted populations and species migrate north**. Thomas Berry was right: Humans have become a geological force, shifting the climate of Earth. We are now in the Anthropocene epoch of Earth

history. We need to both *mitigate* further carbon emissions and *adapt* to the warming already locked into Earth's future.

Since 2004, I have been helping "**the poster plant for climate change in eastern North America**" move hundreds of miles north, from Florida into the Appalachians. *Torreya taxifolia* (a tree in the yew family) is the most endangered conifer in the world, as climate already exceeded its ability to reproduce in Florida beginning in the 1960s. As **founder of Torreya Guardians**, I regularly speak with the press and post our actions and results online [here](#). Following a very successful seed harvest and distribution this fall, I created a videoblog to visually document our record of success: "[Helping Plants Move North in Anthropocene Climate](#)".

As part of my role in The Great March for Climate Action, I hope to call more attention to the desert **Joshua Tree** (the world's tallest yucca) as "the poster plant for climate change in western North America."

Finally, I am thrilled to learn that a **PBS youtube series, "It's Okay to be Smart"**, created a **science-rich, playful video that draws on my book**, *The Ghosts of Evolution*. Watch the 5-minute video here: "[The Ghosts of Evolution](#)". And if you enjoy it, do check out [my own 4-minute music video](#) on the same theme.

SUPPORTING OUR WORK (one-time gifts or monthly donations):

[Non tax-deductible](#) [comes directly to us]

[Tax-deductible](#) [goes to our fiscal sponsor and then to us]

Thank you!

PART 3: Classics for the holidays . . .

As always, we recommend as a **gift to children and grandchildren** [Jennifer Morgan and Dana Lynne Andersen's award-winning book trilogy](#) that imaginatively presents the entire Universe

Story: ***Born with a Bang***

Also, experience the end-of-year classic song by [Peter Mayer: "One More Circle"](#) (with videography by Connie Barlow).

Finally, there is Connie's own sing-along music video, "[Silent Night \(for the cosmically inclined\)](#)".

Together in the Great Work,

~ Michael Dowd & Connie Barlow