ALINE & PAÇOCA

Aline Silva, Executive Director | she, her

ah-lee-nee

ASHLEY

Ashley M. Lewis, Contributor | she, her
CREATUREKIND'S MISSION

...is to advance collective liberation — for animals, peoples, and the earth — with a special focus on farmed animals and food systems. We encourage and equip Christians to embody the interdependence of God’s whole Creation by creating educational and worship resources, and curating sacred spaces for spiritual formation, leadership development, and community change-making.
To equip

Christians with a theo-ethical framework from which to discuss animal issues in the church and the place of animals in Christian life.

To provide

education and support... on the importance and validity of including animals... in Christian life and practice in order to change the way that animals are viewed by Christians.

To seek

commitments from churches, institutions, and individuals to a new approach regarding their sourcing and consumption of animal products – the CreatureKind Commitment.

To strengthen

the church by affirming the call and meeting the spiritual needs of individuals working in animal protection; to provide a community in which they can express their experience, strength, and hope.
Define "human"
Define "human"

Define "neighbor"
"decolonizing Western Christianity's assumptions of the human requires us to view 'being human' as praxis, a process of learning, unlearning, applying, and realizing our humanness in antioppressive ways...Our humanness is reflected in our commitment to living in ways that undo the structures of coloniality."

3 PRINCIPLES OF BEING HUMAN AS PRAXIS

- Self-love
- Solidarity
- Holistic interdependence
TODAY'S WORKSHOP

1. Ashley  
   Shalom and its implications in our food choices

2. Aline  
   How the Farming of Animals has Changed Landscapes

3. Q&A

4. Next Steps  
   resources, and some practical ways to take action
SHALOM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD CHOICES
SHALOM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD CHOICES

- God-human
- God-nonhuman
- Human-human
- Human-nonhuman
“Shalom is meant to be both personal... and structural...In such relationships human beings should make room for the possibility that all creation, in some way, bears the image of the Creator. In other words, there is something of God in all of Creation. Living out these relationships as sacred is living in shalom.”

SHALOM throughout Creation animals, humans, and ecologies

TESTED AT THE MARGINS treatment of the poor, oppressed, and disempowered
SHALOM throughout Creation
animals, humans, and ecologies

INDUSTRIAL ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

TESTED AT THE MARGINS
treatment of the poor, oppressed, and disempowered

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Global Wildlife Populations Suffer Catastrophic Collapse
Decline in monitored vertebrate species populations between 1970 and 2016*

- 33% North America
- 24% Europe & Central Asia
- 45% Asia Pacific
- 94% Latin America & Caribbean
- 68% Worldwide
- 65% Africa

* Based on 20,811 populations of 4,392 species (mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish).
Source: 2020 Global Living Planet Index

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Wild mammals and birds are just a fraction of humans and our livestock

Animals are compared in terms of biomass, measured in tonnes of carbon.

**Mammals**
All mammals – including land and marine – have a combined biomass of around 162 million tonnes of carbon.
Wild mammals are just 4% of global mammal biomass.

- Livestock: 62% of mammal biomass
- Humans: 34% of mammal biomass
- Wild mammals: 4% of mammal biomass
  (If we only include land mammals (without marine mammals), wild mammals are just 2%)

**Birds**
All birds have a combined biomass of around 7 million tonnes of carbon.
Poultry – mostly chickens – biomass weigh more than twice that of wild birds.

- Poultry: 71% of bird biomass
- Wild birds: 29% of bird biomass


OurWorldinData.org – Research and data to make progress against the world’s largest problems. Licensed under CC-BY by the authors Hannah Ritchie and Klara Auerbach.
LAND USAGE FOR INDUSTRIAL FARMING

Here's How America Uses Its Land, Bloomberg, July, 2018
INDUSTRIAL HOG FARMING IN NORTH CAROLINA

335 million tons
(1 ton per U.S. citizen)

7.6 million tons

Dry waste, millions of tons
HOG FARM, BEFORE AND AFTER FLOODING

THE HUMAN TOLL

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WHAT ARE WE TO DO?
“As human beings in the West, we are all mired in an unjust food system, and in some ways, we are all complicit in the oppression of others; moral purity is not an option, nor should it be a realistic goal. Rather, our goal must be to dismantle the logics of coloniality, reduce ecological harm, and promote sustainable ways of being in the world...”

“In this way, how individuals and institutions choose to practice seeking justice for food workers and caring for the earth will play a critical role in increasing food access to those who would struggle with the economic and access implications of soulfull eating.”

- practically wise
- attention to particularity and complexity
- self-love, solidarity, holistic interdependence
- (aspirational) radical compassion
SHALOM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD CHOICES
HOW THE FARMING OF ANIMALS HAS CHANGED GLOBAL LANDSCAPES

history, theology, current effects

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Anderson documents the use of domesticated animals to attack Native American communities in North America, by driving animals towards said communities, would forcing Native populations to either kill the animals and depend on violence, or allow the animals to do significant damage to the homes.

Creatures of Empire: How Domestic Animals Transformed Early America, Virginia DeJohn Anderson

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"By the end of the sixteenth century, only eight decades after the Spaniards arrived, the picture had changed. The Indian populations were decimated and their fields reduced. The once fertile flatlands were covered in a dense growth of mesquite-dominated desert scrub, the high, steep-sided hills were treeless, and the piedmont was eroded and gullied. Sheep grazing, not agriculture, took precedence in regional production...Sheep did not simply replace men ... although that was the final outcome; rather, they displaced them—ate them, as the saying goes. The processes by which sheep grazing displaced agriculture, and sheep displaced humans, resulted in the formation of a new and far less hospitable landscape within which the indigenous populations were marginalized and alienated, their traditional resources degraded or lost, and their access to the means of production restricted” (p. 39).
Brazil is the world’s second-largest livestock producer, behind only the United States. The 2022 Food and Agriculture Report of the United Nations (referred to as FAO report) forecasts that Brazil will soon become the largest exporter of cattle, surpassing even the US (FAO 2022). Livestock production generates significant profit for agribusiness at a very high cost for non-humans and all Brazilians, especially for the most marginalized populations and Indigenous peoples. The earth itself also pays the price. For instance, the desecration and devastation of the Amazon rainforest are caused by profitable industries — logging, mining, cattle grazing, and ranching, which have all become weapons of mass destruction.
Scorched country: the destruction of Australia's native landscape

Michael Slezak
The work of colonisation is always a multispecies affair but infrequently recognised as such. The [current] climate crisis is sedimented into the colonisation of the region by white invaders and the animals they/we brought here.

Fiona Probyn-Rapsey in *Cattle and colonialism: the animals that built Sydney*, published 8 FEBRUARY 2022 on The Architectural Review
CHAPTER 6: Sheep, Pastures, and Demography in Australia
William Beinart, Lotte Hughes

“A living and working on the land has been part of the popular image of Australia since the earliest days of settlement. Colonisation of Australia saw a transformation of the natural landscape of our continent though agriculture.”

Life on the land Published on State Library of NSW (https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)
Prior to colonisation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples used ‘fire-stick farming’ to manage the landscape for sustainable food production, but the events of colonisation resulted in profound changes in the landscape.

Colonising the landscape, published on the Indigenous Knowledge Institute
LAND USAGE FOR INDUSTRIAL FARMING - USA

Here’s How America Uses Its Land, Bloomberg, July, 2018
Agriculture is Georgia’s oldest and largest industry. Since 1733, settlers and colonizers stole and appropriated the knowledge of Native Americans on hunting and growing food, and changed the shape of the land to produce agricultural commodities for export, and profited from the enslavement and killing of Black and Indigenous Peoples.
The 2020 GA census showed more than 42,000 farms operating across the state, with 9.9 million acres in production. More than 17,000 of those farms raised cattle, either beef cows or dairy cows.”
Top Environmental Concerns for Georgians: **air quality** and **food safety**
if there are more than 42,000 farms operating across the GA state, with 9.9 million acres in production, how are their practices impacting the air and food quality of our state
if there are more than 42,000 farms operating across the GA state, with 9.9 million acres in production, how are their practices impacting the air and food quality of our state?

9.9 million acres of deforested land; **what is the impact on our water ways?**

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if there are more than 42,000 farms operating across the GA state, with 9.9 million acres in production, how are their practices impacting the air quality and food quality of our state?

42,000 farms across one state; what is the impact on food security and access?
if there are more than 42,000 farms operating across the GA state, with 9.9 million acres in production, how are their practices impacting the air and food quality of our state?

Shalom;

For Whom??
GEORGIA

#3 in the nation for profiting from prison food factory

H. Claire Brown, The Counter
Mapping prison sales across the public sector

The following represents a sample of select transactions between prisons and state institutions.

1. Arkansas prison sells eggs to Oklahoma prisons. The Oklahoma Department of Corrections paid $1.32 per dozen in April 2018, which was 26 cents less than the wholesale average at the time.

2. Food banks called by incarcerated people in California sell products to former inmates like research and hospital Sales to customers outside the Department of Corrections and the education system from 2016 to 2020.

3. The biggest player in food industry in the state of prison is Arkansas, totaling more than $1.2 million in 2019 and 2020. Arkansas has five medical providers and an education system.

4. The biggest player in food industry in the state of prison is Arkansas, totaling more than $1.2 million in 2019 and 2020. Arkansas has five medical providers and an education system.

5. Missouri Correctional Enterprises runs a food factory that sends meals to the state psychiatric hospital.

6. New Jersey’s prison bakery operation sells blueberry donuts, muffins, cupcakes, and fresh rolls to eligible buyers, which include government agencies and public schools.

7. Virginia Tech serves with processed food to inmates prions. In recent years, the state’s Department of Corrections has put food to nearly 10,000 inmates, middle, and high school staff.


10. Mississippi Prison Agriculture Enterprise is a standard, earning nearly $6 million at harvest in two counties at an average of $55.04 per acre.

Source: Public records obtained by The Counter

Credit: Task Moore | Icose via The Nixon Project/Caracal.
Food factories staffed by incarcerated people in California sell products to publicly funded institutions like veterans’ homes and state hospitals. Sales to customers outside the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation totaled $10.7 million from 2018 through 2020.

The biggest buyer of food produced in Georgia prisons is Aramark, totaling more than $31 million in 2019 and 2020. Aramark is a food service provider for the Georgia Department of Corrections—and many other prisons and universities across the nation—and is contractually obligated to source the food it serves in prisons from Georgia Correctional Industries.

Meat processed by incarcerated people in Maryland is sold to the Maryland School for the Deaf, among other institutions.

Montana Correctional Enterprises runs a food factory that sends meals to the state psychiatric hospital.

Source: Public records obtained by The Counter
Herschel Walker’s chicken firm tied to benefits from unpaid prison labor

PBR News Hour

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MANUEL TERAN (TORTUGUITA)
Is this a political issue?
or is this a justice issue?

MANUEL TERAN
(TORTUGUITA)
If Factory Farms are sourcing cheap labor from prisons, actively disrupting Shalom, polluting our shared home, causing insurmountable suffering to animals and peoples, then what is a Christian ethical response?
WHAT'S NEXT?
INDIVIDUALS

- Consider how the food on your plate impacts animals, peoples, and the earth
- Reduce your animals consumption
- Add more veggies to your plate
- Get to know your food growers and handlers
- Commit to Learning more, start here
- Contact your local leaders and advocate for better legislation:
  - The Farm Bill has a huge impact on how food in the United States is grown, what kinds of foods are grown, and the livelihoods of the people who grow our food.
  - The Justice for Black Farmers ACT by the National Black Food & Justice Alliance here, and updated legislation on Senator Cory Booker’s website here
- Ask your religious leaders to preach, teach, and engage in animal advocacy
Communities

- Consider our communion tables and how the food at our gatherings impacts animals, peoples, and the earth
- Participate or lead a Book, Devotional, or Bible Studies
- Use the Christian Ethics and Animal Agriculture Framework Document when speaking to your community. This document is a draft for discussion outlining the basis for a collaboration between US church organizations, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, and CreatureKind on the Christian ethics of animal agriculture.
- Invite the CreatureKind staff to preach, teach, and share more with your community
- Apply to the CreatureKind Fellowship
enter to win free books!

valid for conference attendees only*
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