

RECLAIMING CREATION VICTORY

Tackling Environmental
Racism and Economic
Exclusion as a Team!

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TWO CRISES, ONE MISSION

- Climate change + economic exclusion = Injustice against God's natural creation (clean air) & God's human creation (sustainable quality of life) for urban communities.
- Black and Brown communities face the intersectionality of ecological neglect and job exclusion.

WE'RE ON DEFENSE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE
WE'RE ON OFFENSE BUILDING CAREERS.



PLAYBOOK - BIBLICAL GROUNDING

- “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” — Genesis 2:15 (NRSV)
- In our current cultural context: not ~~farming~~ but defending and advancing as a team (i.e., football team) .
- Black liberation + ecological theology = a new playbook for justice.



HUDDLE – TOUCHDOWNS (AGREED PERCEPTIONS)



- *Divestment in public education of math & science training causes economic exclusion from ecological science and green market advances.*



- *Lack of corporate development investment in Black/ Brown communities. The church can be a partner with local leadership and advocates to highlight our community resources and talent pool.*



- *Divestment in Black/ Brown community infrastructure continues to fuel land abandonment and building deterioration. This waste does not serve creation economically nor ecologically.*



HUDDLE – TIME-OUTS (DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS TO REVISIT)



- *There is little sense of urgency for environmental issues in the Black/ Brown community. Daily survival and individualism are priority. A paradigm shift will be needed - nature can survive without humans; humans cannot survive without nature.*



- *Traditional theology in the Black/ Brown community has fueled misunderstanding our human role in God's creation and the generational traditions of our ancestors who honored nature.*

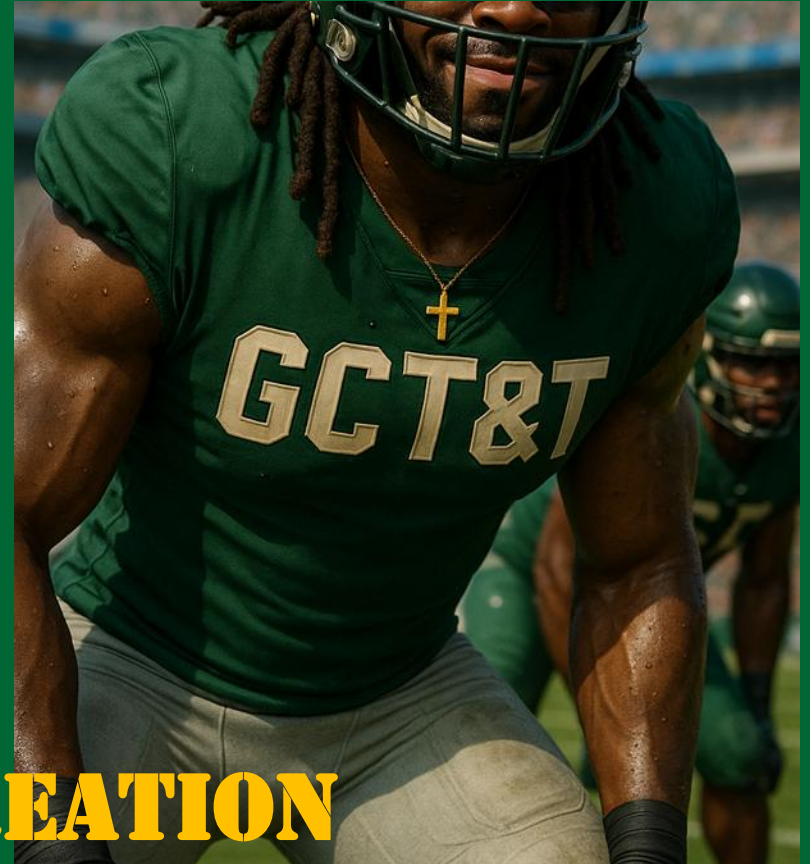


- *We are ignorant of Black/ Brown contributions to science, math and technology in this world. Re-tooling and re-education is needed to highlight our abilities.*

GREEN CAREER TRAINING & THEOLOGY

At the line of scrimmage for climate justice!

This is discipleship.
This is liberation.
This is good news!



**WHEN WE RECLAIM CREATION
WE RECLAIM COMMUNITY**

GAME PLAN FOR CHANGE

- Stakeholders = Coaches, Mentors, Teammates, Sponsors.
- Partnerships: churches, eco-tech firms, advocacy groups, educators.
- Fishbone diagram & listening sessions shape root-cause solutions. (add tools from Lorenzo Lebrija, How To Try and Kaizen Project Development)



HUDDLE – GATHERING INSIGHTS

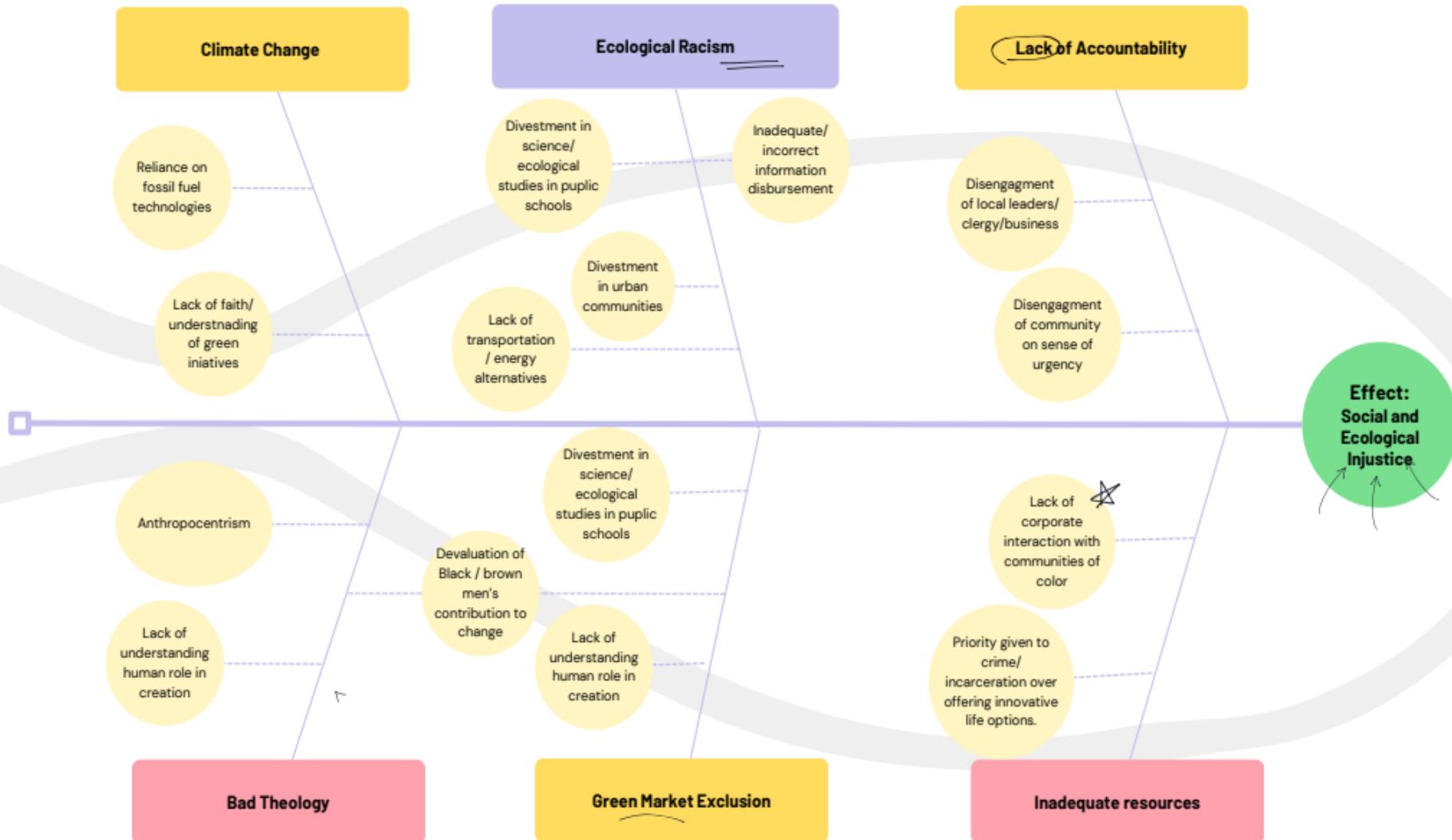
10 *Black/ Brown neighbors, leaders & peers, Chicago, IL – Chatham community*

“Environmentalism without anti-racism is incomplete.”

– James H. Cone

1. What comes to mind for you reading James Cone’s quote? What does one, without the other, look like?
2. What do you think the quality of life will look like in this community 10 years from now? Same, different... Why?
3. If you coached a team charged to build economic growth in our community and improve ecological quality of life – what issues would you tackle first?

HUDDLE – CAUSE/ EFFECT FISHBONE DIAGRAM



TRAINING CAMP FOR GREEN CAREERS



Theology of Creation Care

- Understanding human/ non-human intersection in creation.
- Rooted in Genesis 2 creation story emphasizing man as “farmer”.
- Understanding the theology behind sustainability and beauty.

Vocational Training

Allow for learning inside and outside the classroom

Emphasis on learning through technology, theology and science



Environmental Science and Justice

- Learning what climate change is, why it is, and why Black/Brown communities should care.
- Uncovering opportunities to address economic empowerment and ecological improvement.

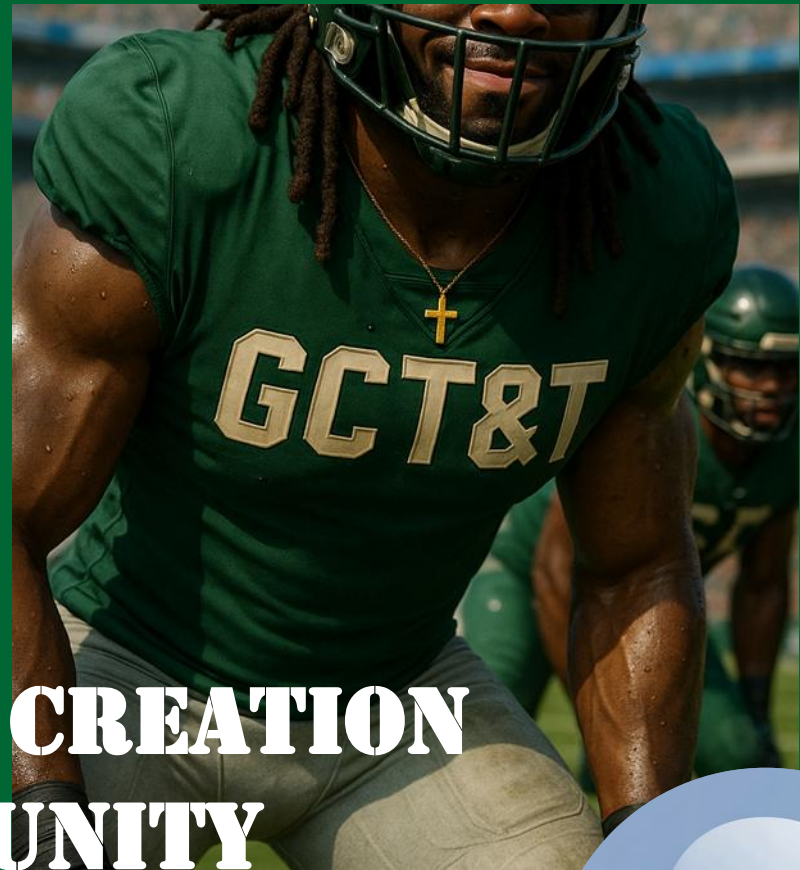
MEASURING THE WINS



- Jobs secured, certifications earned, eco-projects launched.
- Shifts in ecological consciousness + theological understanding.
- Community impact + leadership growth.



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