

The Holocaust of the powerless, and the silence of churchmen

A New Year's letter to the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury

By Christopher Monckton of Brenchley

Your Holiness, Your Grace,

In this message for the New Year, I invite both of you to make a new resolution: “I will no longer curry favour with the global governing elite by spouting fashionably fatuous, scientifically spurious, preposterously pietistic platitudes about the imagined – and imaginary – threat of global warming. Instead I will do what the Lord of Life did. I will speak up for the 1.2 billion people worldwide who are poor, and who will be condemned to remain poor because they are denied access to electrical power. I will demand that coal-fired power stations be built at once, for coal is plentiful and provides the cheapest and most reliable energy supply.”

Consider Africa. The literally Dark Continent has the world's lowest rate of electrification. According to Akinwumi Adesina, the president of the African Development Bank, speaking in 2017, consumption of electricity is little more than 600 KWh a year, less than a tenth of the average consumption in Europe, and only a twentieth of the United States figure.

The true picture is even worse than that, as Paul Driessen and David Wojick point out in a recent study. Excluding South Africa, which was already largely electrified before it became independent, sub-Saharan Africans use less than 200 KWh of electricity a year – about one-seventieth of the average U.S. household consumption.

Of the 1.2 billion with no access to electricity – “access” being scandalously defined by the International Energy Agency as no more than the capacity to turn on just one 60-Watt lightbulb for an average of four hours a day - half are in sub-Saharan Africa. All these are forced to fall back on burning wood, grass and dung for cooking and heating.

To bring light to the Dark Continent, the African Development Bank trumpeted a \$12 billion “New Deal on Energy” in 2017, followed by a Light Up and Power Africa Initiative the following year.

Rightly, the Bank said what you two prelates have somehow failed to say – that access to reliable, continuous, affordable, easily-maintainable power is essential to the social and economic development of Africa. As this column has pointed out before, affordable power – and that means coal power – is also essential to life itself.

According to the World Health Organization, some 4 million people a year die from the smoke pollution from their cooking fires, and 500,000 women die in childbirth for lack of electricity. These are just two of the many causes of death that electricity prevents. How often must I draw your attention to this Holocaust of the powerless before you awaken from the genocidal fantasy of emissions abatement to which you have both unthinkingly sworn your undying support?

The African Development Bank announced that it would ensure that all cities on the continent were fully electrified by 2025, and that almost all rural districts would have power by then as well. In 2018 the bank approved investment in a Nigerian coal project and prepared to finance a 350 MW coal-fired generating station in Senegal, as well as laying plans for a \$2 billion coal-fired station in Lamu, Kenya.

Then the climate Communists swung into action. They pressured the Bank to toe the Party Line on global warming. No longer will the Bank lend for urgently-needed coal-fired or gas-fired power, or for extraction or processing of coal, oil or gas. Instead, it waffles about “responding to global concerns about climate change,” following a “low-carbon and sustainable growth path” towards “green growth” and “clean renewable energy”.

Mr Adesina announced: that the Bank was getting out of coal. Here is his vapid slogan: “Coal is the past,” he said, “and renewable energy is the future.”

Nor is he alone. As far back as 2010 the World Bank cited global warming as its reason for refusing in principle to fund coal-fired power generation. Since 2019 it has also refused to lend for coal, oil and gas extraction in developing countries. In 2015 Credit Agricole, Citibank, ANZ and Goldman Sachs were among banks refusing to lend for coal-fired power, also citing global warming. They were followed in 2015 by Société Générale, BNP Paribas, Natixis, Nordea, SEB, ING, Wells Fargo, Morgan Stanley, Royal Bank of Scotland, UBS and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; in 2016 by JP Morgan, Deutsche Bank, PNC, Crédit Suisse, ABN Amro, Standard Chartered, US Bancorp, Commerzbank and Barclays; in 2017 by DZ Bank and NAB.

Not one of these banks has asked even the first and simplest question about global warming: “What is the ideal global mean surface temperature?” The fact that that surely central question has not been asked demonstrates that the global warming scam is political and not scientific. The fact that it has not been answered demonstrates that there is no rational scientific case for stating that warmer worldwide weather will be net-harmful.

So-called “renewable” energy is cripplingly expensive. Poor people cannot possibly afford it. Tens of millions a year are already dying because they cannot get electricity and could not afford it even if it was available.

Windmills – 14th-century technology to address a 21st-century non-problem – kill birds, bees and bats by the billion. They don’t work when the wind does not blow. And they emit more CO₂ per TWh generated than coal-fired power, because real power stations have to run on inefficient spinning-reserve to provide backup for when the wind is not blowing at just the right speed.

The energy density of wind and solar farms is so low that massive acreages are gobbled up to produce minuscule amounts of electricity at exorbitant cost.

The batteries in electric cars weigh so much that they add 30% to the energy needed to travel at a given distance and speed, reducing the fuel-efficiency of electric cars to what real cars achieved in the 1950s.

What is more, the batteries cripple and kill the slave children of Chinese-run mines in occupied Tibet and economically-colonized Uganda and the Congo, where the lithium and cobalt for so-called “clean” batteries are extracted in appalling conditions. Why have you remained silent on this continuing atrocity? Why, by your silence, and by your maundering on about “global warming” and “climate emergency”, do you not merely condone it but support this massacre of the innocents?

You, and the Churches you lead from behind, have a crucial choice to make in this New Year. Are you going to get back on message – the message of salvation – or are you going to be just another pair of well-meaning but unthinking metro-Leftists, comfortably insulated from the reality of poverty among the one-sixth of the world’s population who have no electrical power and who will not get it anytime soon, not because of global warming but because of the half-baked policies intended, however piously, to mitigate it?

Will you continue to support the Holocaust of the powerless? Or will you, at last, oppose it? Will you take the side of the poor, as the Lord of Life did? Will you make it a happy New Year for those who have no electrical power?

If not, what in Heaven or on Earth are you there for? I love you both dearly, but I do not love your deference to the cult of Thermageddon.