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News
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ONE TRINITY PLACE • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78212-7200 • PHONE (210) 999-8884 • FAX (210) 999-8838

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MORE INFORMATION:

Goldberg McDuffie: Kathleen Carter Zrelak | 212.446.5107 | kcarterzrelak@goldbergmcduffie.com
Trinity University Press: Tom Payton | 210.999.8882 | tom.payton@trinity.edu

**"This is not about whales anymore. It's about us.
And what we do about the challenges of energy and climate,
conservation and preservation, will tell our kids who we really are."
—Thomas L. Friedman**

Contributors include the Dalai Lama, President Barack Obama, Bill McKibben,
Pope John Paul II, Ursula K. Le Guin, Wendell Berry, Thomas L. Friedman, Barbara
Kingsolver, bell hooks, Terry Tempest Williams, and others.

**"We can either create assets for the future or take the assets of the future.
One is called 'restoration,' and the other 'exploitation.' And whenever we exploit the Earth,
we exploit people and cause untold suffering. Working for the Earth is not a way to get rich;
it is a way to be rich." —Paul Hawken**

Scientists continue to provide evidence that environmental degradation and consequent global climate change are profoundly dangerous to humans and to other life on Earth. As we approach tipping points where climate change will trigger irreversible alterations in the conditions under which we live, scientific knowledge alone does not tell us what we ought to do. Nor can political processes or economic incentives give us all the answers. What is missing from the public discourse about our environment is an affirmation of our moral responsibilities in the world.

Now, in a landmark publication, eighty of the world's visionaries, leaders and writers from across the political and religious spectrum present a compelling call to honor our individual and collective moral responsibility to the planet in **MORAL GROUND: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril** (Trinity University Press; September 7, 2010; \$24.95 hardcover). In fresh and provocative essays, contributors from around the world bring forth a rich range of perspectives from a variety of cultural traditions offering a new approach, one that calls on our ethical and moral code and puts us on the same page when it comes to the reasons behind the need for action. In the end, their voices affirm why we must move beyond relying on science alone and why we must embrace a moral vision for environmental repair and sustainability.

The book includes a Foreword by Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu and an introduction and essay by Kathleen Dean Moore, who is co-editor of the volume along with Michael P. Nelson. Writes Tutu in the Foreword, "We are called to understand that climate change is a moral challenge, not simply an economic or technological problem. We are called to honor our duties of justice, to prevent the enormities of climate change, as the price of the

lifestyles of the privileged is paid by millions of poor people, in the loss of their livelihoods and their lives. We are called to honor our duties of compassion, to prevent the suffering of millions of innocent people, especially the hungry children... Climate change is real. It has begun."

MORAL GROUND asked each contributor to answer the question: "Do we have a moral obligation to take action to protect the future of a planet in peril?" Yes, writes the Dalai Lama, for the survival of humankind. Yes, writes Gary Snyder, for the sake of the children. Yes, writes Sallie McFague, for the stewardship of God's creation. Yes, writes James Garvey, because compassion requires it. Yes, writes Hank Lentfer, because the world is beautiful. Yes, writes Bill McKibben, for the full expression of human virtue. Yes, writes Terry Tempest Williams, because our moral integrity requires us to do what is right.

"Faith communities have found a new point of agreement with student activists, organizing around the conviction that caring for our planet is a moral obligation."

—Barbara Kingsolver

"Take an intergenerational view, to recognize that we are borrowing this planet from our children and our grandchildren."—Barack Obama

"People must reclaim a spiritual legacy where we connect our well-being to the well-being of the Earth." —bell hooks

These are only a few of the richly varied arguments in the book, which empowers readers to take themselves seriously as moral agents and inspire us to see ourselves within our world and understand our obligations to future generations. Most importantly, the book reminds us of the big picture and what is at stake if we continue arguing about the relatively small differences in opinion.

We need a call to action that everyone can agree with. **MORAL GROUND** is the book that can lead the way and inspire real change. Finally.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Publication: 7 September 2010
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ISBN: 978-1-59534-066-5

MEDIA AVAILABILITY

Kathleen Dean Moore, Michael P. Nelson, and select contributors are available for interviews. Contact: Kathleen Carter Zrelak (above) to make arrangements.

ONLINE

Website: www.moralground.com
Twitter: @moralground
Facebook: Moral Ground

ABOUT TRINITY UNIVERSITY PRESS

Trinity University Press was revitalized in 2004 and is associated with one of the leading private, liberal arts and sciences universities in the U.S. The press is known for publishing distinguished, award-winning books that contribute to culture and knowledge primarily in the following areas: Texas, Mexico, and the Southwest; writers on writing; and landscape, nature, environmental issues, the built environment, and literature of place.