

20th December 2009

In Response to Copenhagen

'Nero fiddled while Rome burned' is the old saying that keeps popping into my mind this week. Only it is not Rome that is burning this time, it is our lovely planet earth! If it was not so disastrous for the future it would be funny that 3000plus world leaders and negotiators cannot reach agreement on how to 'save earth'. They are negotiating for the smallest possible change to lifestyle and corporate profit margins. All the while it seems these negotiators imagine those of us who watch are impressed with their commitment to drastic change that will lower emissions and give our struggling planet a chance to heal herself from our collective greed. It is a bit of a conundrum for me who has been preaching for years and years on how important it is to take 'now' seriously; to live in the present moment bringing eyes to earth not a distant heaven, and to be positive about yourself. Perhaps the current situation is in part because of that sort of message given by religious teachers and preachers over the years. A too narrow focus on our individual wellbeing and entitlement can blind us to the needs of our neighbours and future generations. It seems to me we are irresponsible and denying the call to love our neighbours and to justice making, if we do not hear the cry of our small island neighbours in the Pacific and of the millions who live in the delta regions of large rivers, and if we do not address our own profligate consumerist lifestyles. If we continue to live as we do, unchanged, the homelands of our neighbours and their capacity to live, let alone live well, will be destroyed. Put the fiddles down, please, and set some firm targets that will really make a difference - even if it means a paradigm shift of lifestyle for those of us who live in the so called 'developed' world.

Susan