

## Climate Change Chronicle 4

### A Great Book on Climate Change

This chronicle will mark the start of the fifth year in which my wife Arlene and I have been sending out these climate change chronicles. My topics have come from books on various subjects related to climate change. Not being a scientist I have been dependent upon authors able to translate the science into something I would understand.

I have searched, in particular, for writers with a broad understanding of the world-wide, international impacts of climate change.

I looked for someone who could communicate the science through stories that people could understand.

I hoped to find authors who could translate knowledge into action, particularly at the community level.

Finally I wished there were someone who saw the need for a vision similar to that of Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme, a vision of “*a mutually enhancing relationship between our species and Earth.*”

Needless to say my requirements were demanding and perhaps unrealistic. They remained unfulfilled until last week when a friend lent me a book entitled “*The Future We Choose: Surviving the Climate Crisis.*” It was written by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac who were among the architects of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change

Then I looked at the end of the book. The authors thanked almost two-hundred people for the help they had given, many of whom we either knew or had heard about. I was particularly attracted by a strong recommendation from one particular person on the flyleaf.

Yuval Noah Harari says:

*“This is one of the most inspiring books I have ever read. It takes a hard look at the frightening realities of climate change but concludes that humans can still*

*deal with this threat. Moreover the book presents the existential challenge as a unique opportunity to build a more just world and to make ourselves better people. Most important, the authors adopt a very practical approach, and suggest ten concrete actions that each of us can take in order to create a better future for all the residents of Planet Earth. I hope we all take this message to heart.”*

Here are the ten concrete actions the authors recommend and expand upon.

1. Let go of the old world.
2. Face your grief but hold a vision of the future.
3. Defend the truth.
4. See yourself as a citizen--not a consumer.
5. Move beyond fossil fuels
6. Reforest the Earth.
7. Invest in a clean economy.
8. Use technology responsibly.
9. Build gender equality.
10. Engage in politics.

It is a small book, barely one hundred and seventy pages. My advice is to get the book and read it. It is a real guidebook for dealing with climate change.

Mike and Arlene Bell

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