



This coming week there is an international conference in **Copenhagen** on the dangers of **heating up the earth** by pumping **CO₂ gas** into the atmosphere.

CO₂ and other gases go into the air through **coal fired power stations**.
So the more **electricity** we use the hotter the earth will become.

CO₂ and other gases are also produced by **burning petrol** and other fuels.
So the more petrol we use in **our cars** the hotter the earth will become.

CO₂ and other gases are also produced by **factories**.
So the more **stuff we buy** in the shops the hotter the earth will become.

Number of **people** X **consumption** per person
= amount of CO₂ gas

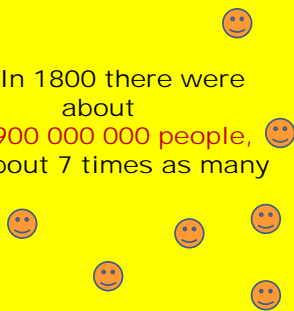
We have become **too many** and we are consuming **too much**.

Number of people

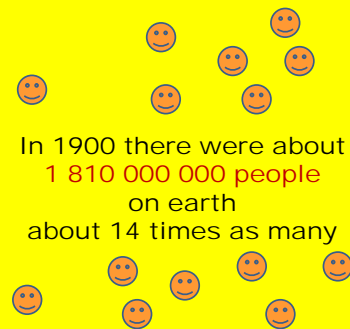
When Jesus was born there were about **133 000 000 people** on earth



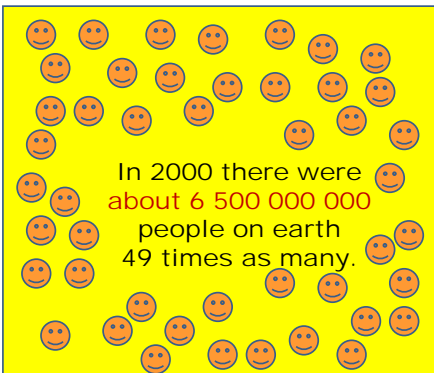
In 1800 there were about **900 000 000 people**, about 7 times as many



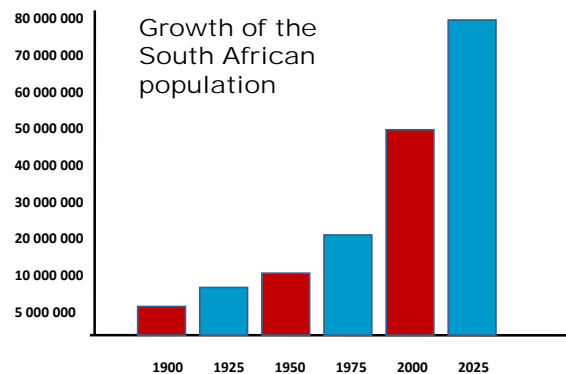
In 1900 there were about **1 810 000 000 people** on earth about 14 times as many



In 2000 there were about **6 500 000 000 people** on earth 49 times as many.



Growth of the South African population



Now let us look at what these people **consume** per person per year counted in US dollars.

In rich countries \$ 48 000

In South Africa \$ 10 000

In China and India \$ 6000.

In Tanzania \$ 1200

In Liberia \$ 300

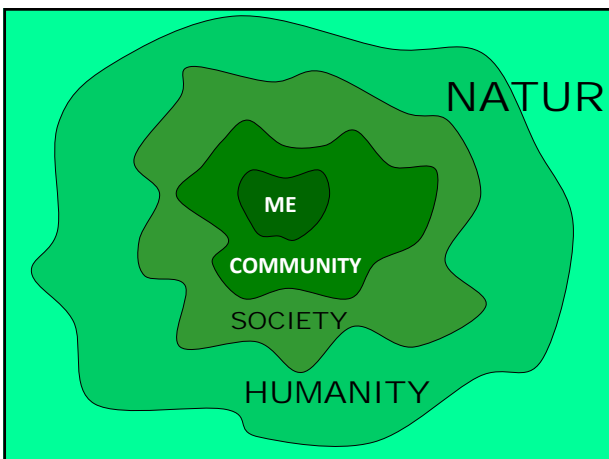
If all these people one day consume **as much petrol** as the Americans today

the earth will become very hot and cause **enormous damage** – droughts, floods, famine.

What can we do?

Stop being selfish!

Think of **all creatures** on earth,
all people on earth,
all people **still to come**
when we are gone.



Switch off **geysers**
Switch off **lights**

Drive **smaller cars**
Cut out **unnecessary trips**
Use **public transport**

Make do with **less stuff**

Read the document of the
SA Council of Churches

and **discuss** it with your
families and colleagues.



Let us do our little bit
for God's world
in this congregation