

*A note from Chris Searles, founder / ceo, BioIntegrity*

*Jan. 7, 2021*

## **Hey everybody! Happy New Year,**

Wanted to quickly review the big, good things that happened in 2020 for BioIntegrity. The quarantine of course caused us to change most of our plans. However, we have been fortunate with good health, and the extra time that came from cancelled plans created space for evolving our mission, vision and activities, which I will talk about later this month.

So, what are the good things that happened in 2020?

Our programs, our projects — kept moving forward. Here's a quick report:

### **AllCreation.org**

BioIntegrity maintained its quarterly issues of [AllCreation.org](https://www.allcreation.org), a project “for people of faith & spiritual practice” (and anyone else), which explores connections among sacred texts, contemporary views, and Earth's biodiversity. AllCreation has been growing steadily since it began in 2016. We now have more than 300 posts on our website, which serves as a “living archive” on Faith Spirit Biodiversity and related environmental and justice concerns. More than 70,000 people from 99 countries have utilized the site so far. We maintain a team of 25+ clergy, religious scholar, and artist contributors from around the United States. In July 2020 we began a partnership with Rev. Carmen Retzlaff as guest editor. This has been wonderful. She just edited our final issue for 2020, entitled “Re-framing Darkness”, which includes outstanding content from such notable clergy as Rev. Kwame Pitts and Rev. Ragan Sutterfield, and authors Gayle Boss and Paul Bogard. Carmen will continue as guest editor in 2021. We are very happy with this project's leading-edge content and organic audience, looking forward to investing in its growth.

Visit [AllCreation.org](https://www.allcreation.org) for more.

## Earth Day Celebration

In April we produced a series of “at-home, mini-concerts,” starring my wife, Alice Spencer. I played drums on three of her originals and she performed three more solo. Alice is the real deal, one of Austin’s finest musicians, *and* this was fun. If you like music, I recommend checking it out. It also raised emergency funds for BioIntegrity at a critical time, Thank you very much for that, and helped us get our message out to a few more people.

Watch on our YouTube [Tinyurl.com/bio-ed20-yt](https://Tinyurl.com/bio-ed20-yt)  
or Facebook [Tinyurl.com/bio-ed20-fb](https://Tinyurl.com/bio-ed20-fb).

## Strings In The Park

We were just weeks away from producing our 3rd annual Strings In The Park concert with partners HEB Central Market, KUTX, and Edible Austin, loads of amazing sponsors, and special guest Carrie Rodriguez, with Eva Ybarra, ir’ene lara silva, Suzanna Choffel, and music director Will Taylor. We were so excited about presenting this event. Our first two, with Guy Forsyth and Kevin Russell were fantastic. We’ll get back to these asap.

Currently on hold, [stringsinthepark.com](https://stringsinthepark.com).

## “Biospheric Reformation”

In August, I posted the first draft of a paper on BioIntegrity’s new direction, with the subtitle “a call for biospheric reformation.” I have been tightening-up these concepts in the months since. I look fwd to sharing the final draft on January 14, 2021. This paper, i believe, is breakthrough. Hope you will check it out.

Coming, 1/14/21.

## Presentations & Blogs

This Fall, 2020, I had the opportunity to do a few “beta” presentations on the new direction with friends and partners at Austin Community College, the City of Austin, and Hays County. From these presentations I created a 20-part blog series entitled, “Biosphere Earth.” The series explores a biospheric perspective on today’s environmental and social crises. “What is *the biosphere* and how does reversing its current collapse affect our society, climate, and future?”

Visit [Tinyurl.com/bio-presentations20](https://tinyurl.com/bio-presentations20) for videos.

Visit [Tinyurl.com/bio-synopsis20](https://tinyurl.com/bio-synopsis20) for a synopsis.

Visit [Tinyurl.com/bio-blogs20](https://tinyurl.com/bio-blogs20) a table of contents.

## Social Media

Our currently very limited social media has grown steadily throughout 2020. My Facebook Group, “The Systemic Climate Solution,” which is a climate-centric distillation of BioIntegrity’s material, doubled in size. Our Facebook page now has more than 2,000 followers. The AllCreation email list is consistently adding about one new, organic subscriber a week. We have long way to go here, but are excited about development in this area.

Visit [Facebook.com/biointegrity](https://facebook.com/biointegrity),  
[Facebook.com/groups/669723436537221](https://facebook.com/groups/669723436537221),  
[AllCreation.org/toc](https://AllCreation.org/toc), and  
[Facebook.com/allcreation.org](https://Facebook.com/allcreation.org) for more.

## Globally-Strategic Conservation

Most tangibly, BioIntegrity’s ongoing efforts to champion tropical forest protection and restoration has led to our supporters protecting more than 30,000 additional acres of old growth tropical forests around the world this year. That’s you guys, *Thank You!* We’ve done this via an ongoing partnership with Rainforest Trust, who exemplify most affordable, best practice tropical forest conservation. Total acres of tropical forest we’ve

protected with Rainforest Trust, 2015 thru 2020, including matching donations they provided, is 304,796.21.

Our collective, globally-strategic protection of Earth's tropical forests has resulted in the protection of at least 60 million trees, which are keeping more than 82 million tons of CO2 out of the atmosphere, saving tens of thousands of species from extinction, supporting more than 400 indigenous communities, and much more.

In addition to protection, we've helped the exemplary nonprofit Plant With Purpose plant more than 2,000 trees in the Tropics as part of their regenerative farming development programs. BioIntegrity connected Plant With Purpose with First Baptist Church of Austin. As a result 18 severely impoverished families have been funded to build their way out of poverty by becoming regenerative farmers, self-sufficient community members, through community-based agro-forestry and investment cooperatives. The net effects of these programs restores community-scale watersheds, which lifts more than half of the larger community in the areas Plant With Purpose works out of drought poverty.

Visit [BioIntegrity.net/solutions](https://biointegrity.net/solutions) for more.

### **Tangible, Global Impacts**

+304,795 acres of Tropical Forests protected, containing:

- +60 million trees
- +80 million tons CO2
- +400 indigenous communities
- +2 million people's annual oxygen supply
- +5 billion gallons annual freshwater filtration
- +270 thousand tons annual CO2 absorption
- 10's of thousands of species of plants & animals

Tropical Forest integrity is:

*Essential* to global climate

*Essential* to global weather

*Essential* to global biodiversity

*Essential* to global temperature

*Essential* to global food production

*Essential* to global moisture circulation

*Essential* to indigenous rights and continuation

*Essential* to our global life support system's continuation

We are proud to be championing this awareness and calling for tropical forest protection and restoration—as fast as possible, to be the #1 climate solution priority. Please read more about the value of Tropical Forest protection and restoration to the global climate solution in my paper, “The Systemic Climate Solution”.

The Systemic Climate Solution, [Tinyurl.com/systemic-cs](https://tinyurl.com/systemic-cs)

## **2021: Let's Change The World**

BioIntegrity is currently, perhaps, the only entity pushing the ideas that bio-rich ecosystems are humanity's primary asset, and global biospheric integrity is Civilization's first priority. We are moving in this direction as both a reckoning and response to the global life support system self-destruction crises humanity is creating today. Collectively, we have very little time to respond. Therefore, BioIntegrity's 2.0 goal, launching in a few weeks, is to help catalyze the greatest private investment in history into the evolution of the global human economy such that it transforms today's worst destroyers of the planetary biosphere into permanent biospheric asset generators and stewards. This is “The Decade of Restoration.” I look forward to sharing more soon.

***Thanks so much for your support —***

Stay tuned!

Chris Searles, 1/7/21