



The image shows a news article header. On the left, there is a portrait of Tony Broadbent in a hexagonal frame. Above the portrait is the word 'OPINION' in gold. Below the portrait is a gold box with the name 'Tony Broadbent' and a smaller gold box below that with his credentials: 'Award-winning author, writer, speaker, brand-strategist, and...'. To the right of the portrait is a blue box with the word 'NEWS' in white. Below that is the title 'Suffer The Little Children Unto You And Me' in blue. Under the title is a quote in blue: "...if we fail to rein in emissions, it's all but inevitable the worst health effects of climate change will be disproportionately felt by children and will irretrievably go on to affect and alter the lives of all children now living, as well as all those yet to be born."

Suffer The Little Children Unto You And Me

Environment
Tony Broadbent Fri, 22 Nov 2019 16:33 GMT



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So here's some news about the latest report on how 'climate change' is going to affect your children and mine, and yes, our grandchildren, and their children and grandchildren, too.

All of the facts, now, presented, taken from an unimpeachable source: the peer-reviewed medical journal 'The Lancet'. A publication as highly respected in the US as it is in the UK, as any research it does publish is considered to be both ethical and highly credible. The whispered word in academic circles, that only about 5% of submitted manuscripts are ever accepted for publication. Fair enough, wouldn't you say?

So, no "Fake News!" this, just cold hard facts and rock solid conclusions published in the journal's latest 'Countdown' report: its comprehensive annual assessment tracking links between 'climate change' and human health and the likely impacts. The report drawn from research conducted by a hundred health and climate experts from all around the globe.

This year's report outlining how two potential 'emissions pathways' would impact human well-being. One way; business-as-usual; that is, little or no concerted effort by world governments to meet the goals of the landmark 2015 Paris 'Climate Agreement.' The other, the road less travelled, but very much the preferred and hoped-for way, of course, that would see every country doing everything humanly possible, and more; as new technologies and inventions might allow; to meet the goals as defined and agreed

to in Paris. And that could, with God's grace, result in cleaner air, safer cities, and more nutritious food, coupled with renewed investment in health systems and vital infrastructure.

The report's key takeaway: that if we fail to rein in emissions, it's all but inevitable the worst health effects of climate change will be disproportionately felt by children and will irretrievably go on to affect and alter the lives of all children now living, as well as all those yet to be born.

A bitter enough pill for any caring and/or sane person to have to swallow; let alone any parent or grandparent; no spoonful of sugar ever conceivably large enough to help the 'Countdown' medical report go down. Or, and far worse, this, for it to be dismissed and/or discounted, outright.

All of which is to say, yet again, we can't ever say we were never warned.

The all too inconvenient truth of the matter: that 'climate change' is already adversely impacting public health, worldwide. And even if not always in ways that are immediately apparent to the naked eye and, inevitably, therefore, all too open to disputation by climate sceptics, the evidence is increasingly there before us.

Let me count the ways:

'Global warming' has already created a world climate that's much more prone to extreme weather. Which, not unnaturally, has led to conditions where crop yields are far less productive; poor conditions being coupled more and more with dismal harvests. Worrying enough all by itself, but an even more potentially disastrous effect is that world climate extremes have also become far more suitable for disease transmission.

Some facts to chill the blood: That nine of the 10 most suitable years for the transmission of dengue fever have occurred since 2000. And that air pollution, primarily driven by fossil fuels and made worse by climate change, caused somewhere around 7 million deaths, globally, in 2016.

Let that number 'carbon sink in' for a moment.

I did. And I know it's but a single indicator of the coming cataclysm of 'climate breakdown', but for some reason this particular one hit me harder than usual. And immediately put me in mind of Joseph Stalin's infamous remark, when as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; undisputed lord and master, despot and dictator of all he surveyed; he said: "One death is a tragedy; a million deaths is nothing but a statistic."

I struggled to understand the depths of Stalin's mendacity, when I was a callow schoolboy, having been told the "Man of Steel" had personally directed the deaths of

tens of millions of his own countrymen and women and children; untold numbers, not as casualties of war, but as “politically necessary” collateral damage for the common good. Unsure whether it was an utterly indifferent, woefully callous excuse for the massive scale of his butchery or whether it was a coldly calculated steely-eyed observation about human nature.

It took me many years to realise it was both. That there are numbers, as well as lies, so huge as to be almost impossible for the mind to truly fathom. And therefore all the more easy to let them just slide from mind and conveniently fade away until such time as they're dismissed and, more's the pity, forgotten completely.

The number of deaths from ambient air pollution in but a single year, a singular and all too necessary “whack” to the side of the head for me. One that thankfully shocked me back awake and made me realise it's never been more important in my life to remember to remember: To stay awake, aware, and alert to the ever-growing climate crisis in all its many manifestations.

As, one thing's for sure, it's all too easy to find oneself becoming completely overwhelmed and benumbed by the bleak metrics of ‘climate breakdown’. And it needs to be guarded against, as numbness all too easily leads to indifference, then denial; lassitude even; all of them very hazardous states of mind.

The only viable path forward for any of us: outrage at the ‘climate crisis’ we all now find ourselves in; followed by precipitate, concerted action. Even if only to do all one can to reduce one's own and one's family's carbon footprint and to vote people into power who will act and continue to act for us all, and all of our children and our children's children, on all available local, regional, national, and world stages.

For as ‘The Lancet’s medical report’s authors speculate, that spectral figure of 7 million or so deaths, in 2016, doesn't even begin to compare to what's likely in store for the world in the future. Given the current global average life expectancy of 71 years, it'd mean that a child born today could experience a world that has warmed 4° Celsius (7.2°F) above pre-industrial temperatures, if greenhouse gas emissions are allowed to continue at their current rate or, God-forbid, go even higher.

“We roughly know what that looks like from a climate perspective,” said one of the many medical doctors involved in ‘Countdown’. “We truly have no idea what it looks like from a public health perspective, but we know it's catastrophic. We know it has the potential to undermine the last 50 years of gains in public health and overwhelm the systems we rely on.”

“With every degree of warming, a child born today faces a future where their health and well-being will be increasingly impacted by the realities and dangers of a warmer world.

Little wonder children are marching in the streets today, because they recognize that their health and well-being and quality of life are being robbed.”

As another of the study’s authors so tellingly framed it: “Without accelerated intervention, this new era will come to define the health of people at every stage of their lives and severely challenge already overwhelmed health systems.”

So hug your children and grandchildren, if you have any. If, indeed, they’ll suffer you to let you hug them, that is. For they have every right to be hopping mad with the grown-up world that’s let them down so very, very badly. As they and others of their generation have no other option now, but to face a world that’s come to such a sorry state, because of thirty plus years of inaction in the face of mounting evidence of ‘climate breakdown.’

Have a nice day.

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