

Script for *If a Tree Falls...* powerpoint New Community Project

(title slide)

Forests are an important part of God's creation.

They are home to millions of species of plants.

And lots of creatures—from the colorful toucan ...

... to these ponderous pachyderms—otherwise known as elephants.

Plants in the world's forests are a major source of the planet's oxygen—thanks plants!

Forest also store and release water for rainfall—and waterfalls! —like this one in the rainforest in Ecuador.

Plus plants take in a good chunk of the carbon dioxide we produce through our factories, cars, power plants and farming—they store the carbon and keeping it out of the atmosphere. The Amazon rainforest itself stores 2 billion tons of CO₂ a year.

Forests are also home to millions of native people—like Delio from the Ecuadorian Amazon. He's a leader of the Siona people and friend of the New Community Project

You might say trees are big in the rainforest, with the tallest ones reaching 100-150 feet above the forest floor. Altogether, forests cover about one-third of the world's land. Sounds like a lot—but they used to cover half of the land. Where did they go?

This is slash and burn agriculture—cut it down, burn it off, put in cattle or corn or other crops.

Cutting trees for paper and lumber is another cause of deforestation. In our country, we each use over 700 pounds of paper each year. It all came from trees.

Raising food is responsible for clearing of about one-third of the world's forests—like this cocoa plantation in the Ecuadorian Amazon

There are lots of these animals in the rainforest. Do they belong there? There are 57 million of them on ranches where there used to be rainforest.

And large companies cut the rainforest to raise crops like soy beans to feed cattle or palm oil to add to our foods.

Along the world's coasts, like here in Burma in Asia, mangrove forests are cut for golf courses and shrimp production—and this causes lots of problems.

Drilling for oil also leads directly to removing and polluting forests; here in the Amazon over four million gallons of poisonous oil waste goes into the rainforest every day.

Poverty is also a cause of deforestation, as poor people clear land to grow food or to gather firewood. This nine year old girl has to walk four hours a day to get wood for her family to cook its food.

For all these reasons, there go the forests.

Does that scare you? It scares the creatures God made, since cutting forests takes away the homes for the world's plants and animals. With tropical forests disappearing at an acre a second, the earth loses 50-100 species a day. Yes, be very afraid ...

Another consequence of deforestation is a changing climate. With fewer forests around to absorb CO₂, the earth is heating up.

As it gets warmer, glaciers are melting all around the world—if they ever all melt, it will raise global sea levels by 219 feet.

Humans aren't escaping the heat—millions of Africans people will have less to eat as the climate heats up.

And of course climate change is affecting polar bears and lots of other creatures. Half of all species of plants and animals could be gone by the end of the century as the earth heats up.

And a warmer world brings more tornadoes and hurricanes—and people suffer.

So, guess we'd better get busy ... and the If a Tree Falls... program is doing just that!

One place the If a Tree Falls... is planting trees is in the Southeast Asian nation of Burma. These boys have something on their faces called *thanaka*—it's made of tree bark and protects them from sunburn.

See anything missing on these mountainsides? Trees!

NCP director David Radcliff sits talking to villagers about the problems of deforestation. As they talked, the idea came up for planting fast-growing native trees

NCP now helps Jimmy, a Burmese friend of NCP, plant and distribute thousands of seedlings every year.

One of them is the pin sein tree—when its limbs are cut for firewood, they grow back—making life easier for young women who have to walk to get the wood—and for the forests

Jimmy is known and respected by local villagers, who work with him to reforest the areas around their communities

Let's visit the African nation of South Sudan

They've had war going on for many years, and it's just ended

But many challenges remain—like how to preserve forests when there is still so much need for basic things like firewood

Meet Paskwale Ben—a man on a mission to plant trees all over his part of South Sudan

The If a Tree Falls... program of NCP supports several tree nursery sites, where he's raising tens of thousands of seedlings

The seedlings grow into trees that offer shade, food, medicines, and lumber, keep the soil from blowing away, and help keep the rains from stopping

Paskwale is a man with big dreams—and we can help them come true—only \$10 plants 100 trees

Here's Delio again. He has great knowledge of the forest, and can tell you what plants fixes which problem. Got a headache? Stomach ache? Problem with your math homework? There's a plant that can take care of it ... well, maybe not the math ...

But as we saw earlier, the rainforest is going fast—20 percent of the Amazon is already cut or degraded. Someone had begun to farm this 137 acres in the rainforest, but NCP saved it by buying it

Most of it hasn't been cut, and we're beginning to reforest the part that was cut. It takes only \$200 to save an acre of rainforest—a little money, a lot of good!

NCP Learning Tours go to the Amazon, Burma and Sudan to learn about the problems, but also to see what's being done to make things better. That young man in the middle? His name is Stephen and he sends NCP the money he earns bagging groceries to help save the rainforest. He's sent \$2000 so far! Then he went to visit the forest he's helping to save!

By caring about the forests and helping to save them, we can let the native people know they're not alone in caring for and trying to preserve these special parts of God's creation

(no text) (footprints)

We need to act now—these places are fading fast, but there's still time to make a difference

And what a wonderful world it could be--

(end slide)