



Sir Ghillean, who has around 50 plants named after him, spent 25 years leading botanical expeditions to unexplored areas of South America. He discovered hundreds of new species and helped the Brazilian government plan rainforest reserves. He has been awarded seven Honorary Doctorates by universities in the UK, USA, Sweden and Norway, won the International Cosmos Prize in 1993, and is a former Senior Vice-President of the New York Botanical Garden.

PROFESSOR SIR GHILLEAN PRANCE FRS

THE DYING PLANET?

My scientific work has shown me much environmental destruction and that the environmental crisis faced by the world is serious. As I read the Bible, I find a great deal about creation and its ownership and stewardship. It clearly teaches that 'the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.' I am concerned that the Church has been slow to react to the problem and I feel that I must use, to the best of my ability, the combination of my scientific knowledge and my love of the Biblical theology of creation to promote better care for our fragile planet by Christians and all people. The best motivated caretakers of our planet should be Christians, who know the Creator and have been saved by His Son, Jesus Christ.

For many years I have believed that God is the great designer behind all nature. I made a commitment to Christ as my personal Saviour while a student at Oxford University. All my studies in science since then have confirmed my faith. I regard the Bible as my principal source of authority.

During my career as a botanical explorer in the Amazon rainforest I have had many opportunities to support and affirm the work of missionaries and local churches in the region. I was constantly amazed at how many Brazilian Christians found it hard to believe that I am a scientist, because their only concept of foreigners was of missionaries. I feel I have been able to show many people that one can be both a scientist and a Christian.

'All my studies in science have confirmed my faith.'

• Director,
Royal Botanic
Gardens, Kew

• Visiting Professor,
Reading University

• Fellow of
the Royal Society