

Climate change opinions vary

Posted: August 25, 2015 - 2:18pm

Re: The news article "Hayhoe, Farley talk climate change on '700 Club,'" A-J, July 18.

Thank you for Karen Michael's excellent article about Dr. Katharine Hayhoe and her husband's appearance on the "700 Club." But I disagree with one statement made by Hayhoe in the article — she said "If you're talking about climate change to people who read 'Scientific American' or 'Popular Science,' then you're speaking to the choir." Friends who are scientists but not climate scientists know climate change is happening now but don't follow the details. When I described some of climate change's serious risks, they pooh-poohed me because I'm not a scientist. I'm just a rabbi.

My husband, a scientist, answered them with details in scientist-language. They listened to him respectfully and asked follow-up questions, but they're not going to do anything about it.

There's a tendency to associate climate change denial with lack of scientific training or with particular religious traditions, but that's simplistic.

People who discount climate change do so because they haven't discussed it with an expert they trust who can talk to them in shared language.

Also, I think evangelical Christians are more likely to care about climate change and fix it (unlike my scientist friends who won't do anything) because religious people have strong moral fiber. Basically, climate change involves an industry selling the righteous for a handsome profit of silver.

I hope readers contact Dr. Hayhoe for more information. She's a wonderful teacher.

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