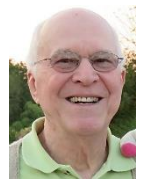




CREATION CARE



#42, Fall 2022

The World and all that is in it belong to the Lord, the Earth and all who live on it are His! –Psalm 24:1

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Occasional Newsletter with relevant articles on biblical, economic, political & social impacts & their consequences on God's Creation & the Church.

On the Web: nohcob.org, click: Ministries, click: Creation Care

In Creation God brought ordered existence out of chaos and called us to be Stewards who will rightly manage and supervise his handiwork and its applications. To be effective, Creation Care must cover more than physical projects like recycling and fossil fuel reduction. We must also expose and understand the philosophical, political, economic, and human values and systems that create and support acts of environmental degradation. Stewardship of all creation begins in the mind and is fueled by the emotions where all physical action is born. The mind and the emotions that lead to action cannot be molded just by facts, ideas and projects; they must also be reimagined by a transformative faith. These newsletters are dedicated to this broader concept.

WATER FROM THE AIR?



David Hertz and his wife have founded Sky Source Inc. which produces atmospheric water generators in Los Angeles, called WeDo. According to Hertz "There's six times more water in the atmosphere than all the rivers on the planet. The real challenge, is how do

you capture this available moisture?" Mark Fralich of Tsunami Products in Liberty Lake, Washington produces plug-in generators that can produce up to 204 gallons of water per-day when the temperature is at 80 degrees and humidity is at 80%. These generators pull in moist air, condense it, store it in tanks, and purify it. The generators work best in areas with high humidity in tropical regions and in coastal areas.

The laws of condensation, *warm air hitting cool surfaces*, results in the production of water droplets. That is nothing new, but harnessing those laws in ecologically sound and cost-effective ways remains elusive. The average American uses about 82 gallons of water per day at home. The World Health Organization says that globally, one in three people do not have access to safe drinking water, so there is a great need.

Severe drought & booming populations are pressing water supplies & usage in various areas here & around the world. The lack of potable water & adequate rainfall is creating agricultural, health, & immigration crises in many places. At the present rate of water supply depletion, it will only get worse. Innovation & conservation are in full swing across the planet, which is a cause for hope, but much remains to be done. Monitor, 8-15-2022, p 16 ☺

WOODEN SAILING SHIPS



Lonnie Lee Hood, in *Futurism*, reports that several companies are "ditching expensive cargo ships" that run on costly, ecologically unsound, fossil fuels for wooden sailing ships that are propelled mainly by the wind (which is free).

The SailCargo company has commissioned two *eco-friendly* ships. One of them, the *Ceiba* has three sails and a back-up electric engine,

charged by solar panels and the rotation of its propellor. It can carry up to 250 tons of product. These vessels may only be suitable for certain kinds of products, but their lower cost and efficiency may leave a permanent imprint on the sea-faring industry. ☺

WIND-THRUSTED CARGO SHIPS

Large cargo ships are beginning to use high-tech 30-meter tall 5-meter wide, motor-driven spinning columns, over their decks, that use what is known as "Magnus Effect" to catch the wind. The additional thrust, provided by the wind, reduces their fossil-fuel consumption. ☺



COLOR CHEMISTRY



The shorter days of fall set in motion an end to the production of chlorophyll in the green-colored leaves that provide food for the trees in spring and summer; a necessary change as the winter rest approaches. As the chlorophyll fades, yellow and orange pigments in the leaves become visible, and in some trees, red pigments are also produced. ☺

MAN-MADE SHOOTING STARS

NASA reports that 48.5 tons of space junk, including a variety of man-made materials, falls to the earth every day. Most of it vaporizes in the upper atmosphere before it can reach the ground, leaving bright trails of light that we call "shooting stars." ☺



CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND STABLE HOUSING

Children's Health-Watch reports that the physical and mental health of children is directly related to having a "safe and affordable home." They report that safe/affordable housing "leads to better test scores and higher rates of graduation and college attendance, especially among children of low-income homeowners." -habitat.org, 9-22 ☺

NEW WATER LOWS IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Low water levels, not seen for decades in some areas and setting new records in other areas are taking place along the Mississippi River creating stretches of shallow water that run ships and barges aground, causing cargo delays and doubling shipping costs.



Randy Statler sits on a rock to watch people walk to Tower Rock in Perry Missouri County, an attraction that is normally surrounded by the Mississippi River and is only accessible by boat. October 19, 2022 by Jeff Roberson; AP Photo.

The shallow water at the mouth of the river allows seawater from the Gulf to push its way inland

threatening salt contamination of crop-land and fresh water supplies. The US Army Corps of Engineers is responding to both the shallow water issues and the seawater push with emergency dredging, to keep channels open to barges and boats, and by building an underwater barrier in Louisiana to keep the sea out of drinking water.

The lack of rain in the Ohio River Valley and the Upper Mississippi is the culprit. The wide-spread drought, attributed to the changing climate, which is plaguing vast areas of the U.S.A., is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. The long-term effects of the changing climate are expected to affect agricultural production and cause population resettlement. -The Wall Street Journal, Business Insider

WHO IS RIGHT OR WHAT IS RIGHT?

History is full of crisis events of one kind or another where instability and uncertainty throw humanity into a tizzy, but in my 89 years of living I haven't seen anything quite like what is going on right now! In my life-span there was a fundamental "glue" that anchored society in the midst of stormy waters. That "glue" had to do with belief in such things as "divine providence," the sanctity of human life, equal opportunity, self-discipline, self-government by the rule of law, truth telling, and the continued effort to "form a more perfect union." Imperfections abounded, but there was always a hopeful struggle to make things better and a fundamental optimism that our religious and civil systems, though never perfect, were up to the task of orderly renovation and change.

We have always sought "heroes" and been enamored by "big personalities," but today we have a crowd of unanchored religious and political leaders who, by hook or crook,



seek to tie us emotionally to them and their "causes" without the use of the restraints that come from historical and fact-based evidence, rationality, and logic. The emphasis is upon what I "want" to believe and my "feelings" about the subject which are both justified by the idea of "alternative facts" and "truth" as a personal matter;

"your" truth and "my" truth may represent opposite polls, but they are somehow "truth" never-the-less!

There are no "human saviors." Those who are in politics are committed to their political parties, their constituencies, their financial supporters/campaign workers and to their re-election. Many of them hold high ideals and want to do good; and, every once-in-awhile one of them becomes a statesman, who is able to see over the narrow vested interests to the broader national and international picture and reject the parochial, to serve the common good. There are also those who work in various aspects of human service, often at great personal sacrifice, to help lift humanity out of the miseries and limitations thrust upon them by nature and culture; but there are no human saviors!

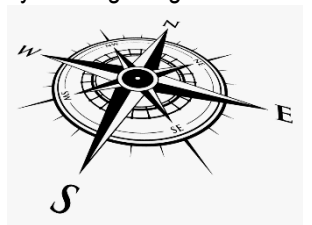
Discussions today are about "who is right?" when we should be talking about "what is right?" We line-up behind "big personalities" and take sides with them. We see differences of opinion and values, not as opportunities for dialog, but as grounds for separation and angry condemnation. Deborah Haarsma writes: "When Christians refuse to talk to each other across disagreement, we miss out on the beauty of the unity of the body of Christ." I would add that this lack of dialog is damaging the Church both on the inside and outside.

I believe that God created a moral universe in which truth is universal and unites life; there are no "alternative facts" and everyone is moved to contribute to the "common good." As surely as there is gravity, there is morality, and morality creates harmony, fulfillment, and joy.

Disinformation flows through our electronic media like a biblical flood that covers our intellectual earth. Disinformation is a deliberate tactic, not an act of ignorance or carelessness. False information is deliberately designed by bad actors to distract people from the truth and drive a wedge between people so that they disengage from the social/political processes that create change. Disinformation's most important goal is to keep people divided so that they do not unite to bring about change. Creating disunity divides people into a bunch of little tribes that flail at each-other in useless and endless combat that can ignite into personal and social violence. Molly Luins writes: "Polarizing people is a good way to win an election and also a good way to wreck a country."

Disinformation propogandists spread their lies and half-truths to protect the status-quo in which their businesses and political practices keep their wealth and power intact.

Shamelessness is another characteristic of our time. People will change sides on issues whenever they think it is to their personal advantage, make ridiculous claims, and tell outright lies without any apparent sense of conscience or propriety. A large segment of the public seems to think that such brazenness is a rejection of the status-quo and a sign of strength and leadership, lapping-it-up in dutiful serfdom. Shamelessness and the intellectual game of "situation ethics" go hand-in-hand. Andrea P. Dilley wrote that "the fear of God is the beginning of ethics." The recognition of divine authority, whether expressed as the "fear of God" or the "Love for God," is the traditional foundation upon which morality is built. One can only be shameless when one has no moral compass.



I Timothy 6:2-5 (The Message) "If you have leaderswho refuse the solid words of our Master Jesus and his godly instruction; tag them for what they are: ignorant windbags who infect the air with germs of envy, controversy, bad-mouthing, suspicious rumors. Eventually there's an epidemic of backstabbing, and truth is but a distant memory."



Matthew 5:21-22 (The Message) "You're familiar with the command to the ancients, 'Do not murder.' I'm telling you that anyone who is so angry with a brother or sister is guilty of murder. Carelessly call a brother 'idiot!' and you just might find yourself hauled into court. Thoughtlessly yell 'stupid!' at a sister and you are on the brink of hellfire. The simple moral fact is that words kill."



Both the Disinformation propagandists and the Shameless persist in their deceptions because current social experience has taught them that eventually, even people with the best of intentions, will become exhausted and move on, and their hard-core believers will eventually overlook and accept the bad behavior and character flaws of their chosen

leader(s) and even consider them “normal.” Such behavior destroys social conscience and any sense of a moral order.

We must **understand the difference between the prophetic and the pompous.**

“Do not think of yourselves more highly than you should.

Instead, be modest in your thinking...” (Romans 12:3, TEV)

“...give first place to [God’s] Kingdom and to what he requires...”

(Matthew 6:33 TEV). For those of you who remember Anna Mow, this was her favorite Bible verse.

The **prophet** challenges the status-quo sternly, but with personal humility and disregard for their own social/political/religious status. They seek to harmonize human behavior with divine intention as revealed in the historical documents and spiritual evidence found in history.

The **pompous** appears to challenge the status-quo sternly, but with self-promotion and deceit. Their hidden agenda is to enhance their control of the structures that have been useful in providing them with wealth and power, and to dislodge that which they believe impedes their way to further gain.



There is a section in Matthew 10 that warns of “*coming persecutions and whom to fear.*” In the facing of persecution, it simply says “*endure!*” (10:22b). In the section of “whom to fear” it points out that “*Whatever is covered up will be uncovered, and every secret will be made known*” (10:26) and, further, that we must “*not be afraid of those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather be afraid of God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell.*” (10:28).

I use the scriptures because they are the source-document of our faith, but remember, there are those who have a mouth full of scripture and a heart full of deceit! Discern carefully. ⊕

FOREVER CHEMICALS



PFAS is a class of “forever chemicals” that number in the thousands and are major contributors to a growing list of health problems that suppress our immune systems and contribute to a number of cancers. They are found in carpets, outdoor gear, water, grease-proof food

packaging, and nonstick cookware. They are slow to break down (thus they are called “forever chemicals”) and release contaminants into the environment during manufacture, use, and disposal.

In June, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued strict new health advisories that reduce the level that it considers “safe” for certain PFAS’s in drinking water. The current House of Representatives and White House are trying to pass federal legislation that would set drinking water standards for toxic chemicals in drinking water. ⊕

SOCKEYE SALMON

A new record of fifty-seven million Sockeye Salmon were harvested this year in Bristol Bay, Alaska. The warming waters have altered the salmon’s habits creating distribution booms in some areas and busts in others making it more difficult for the fishing industry to plan and allocate resources. ⊕



HAWK VS PIGEONS



The San Francisco metro system hires a Harris’ Hawk handler three days per week to use his hawk to patrol sections of the system that are bothered by pigeons. Fear of the deadly hawk drives the pigeons away and the regular appearance of the hawk has, to some degree, changed the pigeon’s gathering points. ⊕

SEAGRASS MEADOW

The world’s greatest known single-organism is this seagrass meadow in Western Australia’s Shark Bay. It covers a seventy square mile area. ⊕



FALL IS PUMPKIN SEASON



The word “pumpkin” comes from the Greek word “peopon,” which means “large melon” and is a member of the squash family. The evidence shows that pumpkins are native to the Americas and have been cultivated since about 3500 B.C. and, with maize (corn), are one of the oldest known food crops in western history. Columbus took pumpkin seeds back with him to Europe, but pumpkins did not do well in northern Europe and the British Isles because pumpkins require warm temperatures and a long growing season and those locations do not meet that requirement.

It is thought that pumpkin was an important food source in early American history since it is low in calories, fat, and sodium and high in fiber. It is also a good source of Vitamin, A and B, potassium, protein, and iron. Pumpkin-pie, bread, fudge, and cookies are the top modern food uses for pumpkin in our nation.

Eighty percent of the pumpkin supply in the United States is available in October and, although it is a good food source, the majority of our pumpkins today, are used for fall decorations at Halloween and Thanksgiving. They can be seen everywhere on the door-steps of homes, store-fronts, and indoor decorations.



Jack-o-lanterns, using turnips, have been carved by people for centuries. As Europeans migrated to America, they discovered that our bright orange pumpkins were larger and easier to carve than turnips and so pumpkins became synonymous with jack-o-lanterns. Jack-o-lanterns originated in Ireland. The myth is about a notorious trickster and drunk, “Stingy Jack,” who was suited neither for heaven or hell, and whose fate it became to wander, between good and evil, with a flaming light, in the endless darkness of night. ⊕

THE NASTY VIRUSES CONTINUE

The CDC reports that the flu season has started early this year with an especially harsh effect on children. More than 70% of the nation's pediatric beds are already full; many are filled with those who are sick with the flu. The flu has not been this bad for over a decade and is expected to be especially bad this year.



COVID silently continues with significant numbers of daily deaths; as a matter-of-fact, it is the third leading cause of death in the U.S. today. On October 25th, for example, COVID related deaths in the U.S. were 1,574; the majority of those deaths were among the unvaccinated. Only 69% of Americans are fully vaccinated against COVID which means that the COVID-fight is far from over.

Since the public/business back-lash against COVID restrictions, it is "politically incorrect" to talk about the virus, with the result that reporting is spotty and counts are inaccurately low. 🍎

THE FOUNDATION OF DEMOCRACY IS PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Pulitzer Prize-winning books on U.S. history, written by David McCullough, have been favorites of mine over the years. In 2005 his statement on public education was put into the congressional record:

"The basis of our public school system began ... with the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ... written by John Adams, in which there is a paragraph unlike anything that had ever been written before, saying that it shall be the duty of the Government to teach everybody, to provide public education for everybody. ... George Washington said that real happiness could only come through education. They all said it over and over again, public education is essential."

Thomas Jefferson wrote: "Educate and inform the mass of people. Enable them to see that it is in their interest to preserve peace and order, and they will preserve them."



In my view the purpose of education is first, to humanize; we enter this world as self-centered little creatures who must first learn to relate to each-other in mutually satisfying ways and to acquaint each person with the ecology and spirituality of creation and its creator, and to teach unbiased history, literature, and the arts.

The second is to help each person learn how to live mindfully and abundantly through the acceptance of one's strengths and weaknesses and to the possibilities of further edification. Life-long-learning, in contrast to a prescribed time of schooling, is a natural part of our humanity and keeps us flexible and adaptable – always ready for changing circumstances.

The third is to receive specific training for success in the economic pursuits of the time with the caveat that technology and market changes will always create the need for adjustments in one's vocation. The concept of life-long learning will meet this need.

The main challenge to public education has always come from those who want to control what is taught to suit their political, economic, and moral views in the protection of their status and self-interest. They often try to use corrupted forms of education to cover-up the existing

structural, social and economic inequities, from which they benefit, in the status-quo.

Xi Jinping, President of the Peoples Republic of China, called to congratulate Mr. Biden on his election to the U.S. Presidency, and also asserted that democracies would eventually all become autocracies because they can't keep pace with rapid change, a view also held by most of the autocratic leaders of the world. Our greatest weapon against such a take-over is public education and robust civics training. Even "Christian Nationalists" in our country believe that the U.S.A. must be organized as a "Christian" nation and that "Christians" must "impose" their beliefs on others! 🍎



NEAR-SIGHTEDNESS OF THE EYES



There are over 200,000 new cases of Myopia (near-sightedness) each year. Many optometrists believe that the cause of this growing problem is two-fold. The first is ogling screens all day; computer screens, TV screens, smart-phone screens, etc. The second cause is spending too much time indoors.

These two causes are at odds with our biology. Eye-health depends upon contrasts in distance, brightness, color, and shape; screens and indoor settings lack the needed variations in those things.

There are also the wider health implications of a lack of physical activity which is natural in the out-of-doors. 🍎

SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS OF THE MIND

In 1616 the word "ignoramus" came into use and referred to those who were unknowing or blissfully ignorant. In 1891 the phrase "short-sighted" came into vogue and referred to those whose opinions were quickly formed without due consideration of the sources upon which their opinions were based and without do consideration of the effects, of what they believed to be true, would have in the long run.



Intelligence is the ability to learn, understand, and deal with new or trying situations. It requires knowledge and the patience to think deeply, reason through contrasting information, evaluate the reliability of sources, and measure all ideas in the light of historical experience and ultimate morality (*in Christian terms, "to measure the ideas in the light of God's will as revealed in the scriptures and traditions of the Church).*

John 8:32 states: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." Freedom depends upon truth, balance, spiritual guidance, moral integrity, reliability of sources, endless concentration, and courageous action. 🍎

E-CIGARETTES



E-cigarettes are used by more than 12 million adults between the ages of 18-24. JUUL is the most popular brand and offers a variety of flavors. Their use is fairly new and so research on their effects has been limited to short-term studies.

Of major medical concern is the daily use of E-cigarettes because they make changes in organs like the brain, heart, lungs, and colon in ways that affect their response to infections and cloud the effectiveness of treatment options. A special concern is the reaction in the brain that takes place in a region critical for motivation and promotes addictive behavior. -University of California, School of Medicine. 🍎