

# CREATION CARE

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

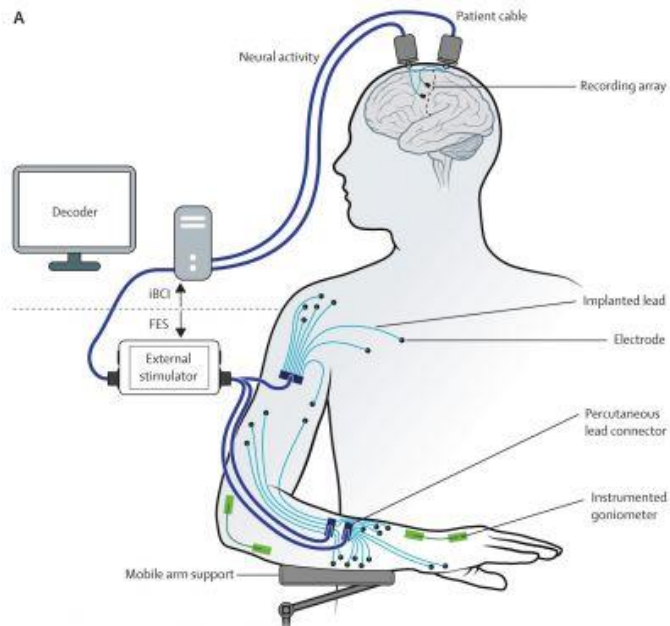
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## SENSORS IMPLANTED IN THE BRAIN & ARM

Bill Kochevar, 56, of Cleveland, who was paralyzed below his shoulders in a bicycling accident is believed to be the first quadriplegic person in the world to have certain arm and hand movements restored with the help of a computer programed network of electrodes placed under his skull and implanted into his upper and lower right arm. He had been paralyzed for eight years.

Kochevar is part of a research project at Case Western



Reserve University in Cleveland, the Functional Electrical Stimulation Center at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, and University Hospitals. He had to undergo 18 weeks of muscle-stimulating exercises to strengthen atrophied muscles and practice maneuvering his brace supported arm and hand. He was able to scoop forkfuls of mashed potatoes from a bowl and to scratch the side of his nose. He said, "For somebody who was injured eight years and couldn't move, being able to move just that little bit is awesome to me."

The current implants are not a permanent solution, but they provide yet one more step in the search to overcome the massive paralysis caused by spinal-cord damage through the use of neuro-prosthesis.



The Science of Nature estimates that the world's spiders consume at least **400 MILLION TONS** of prey each year.

## BAN COMMERCIAL TURTLE TRAPPING



Turtles have been among the world's most stable survivors through thousands of years, until now. They are disappearing at alarming rates to the point that a number of species are now uncommon and some are in danger of extinction. There are many reasons that turtles and their eggs are vulnerable including natural predators, low and slow reproduction rates, habitat destruction, migration obstructions, highway traffic, chemical pollutants, the human pet, food, and medicinal trades.

In Ohio one of the critical problems is the unlimited collecting of for-profit wild turtle trading. Anyone with a fishing license can trap turtles. Snapping and softshell turtles lie at the heart of the turtle trading business these days. Although Ohio law prohibits the live export of turtles, traders can sell live turtles within the state or process them to sell across state lines and overseas to the meat and medicinal markets.

The *Center for Biological Diversity* and the *Sierra Club Ohio* have sent more than 3,800 letters asking the Ohio *Department of Natural Resources* to end unchecked commercial collection of the state's wild turtles. None of the states which share a border with Ohio allow unlimited commercial collection of turtles. Kentucky, Michigan, Indiana and West Virginia prohibit all commercial collection of turtles, and Pennsylvania enforces strict bag limits.

Does it really matter? First, remember that **God's creation is a unity in which everything plays a role**. Nothing that God created is irrelevant or inadequate and everything has its place. Decades ago scientists and naturalists began to realize that something was going wrong within the natural balance of nature. Reptiles and amphibians are sensitive

to subtle environmental changes such as water quality and abnormal ultraviolet light exposure, and are considered an early warning system alerting us to lurking environmental dangers that upset the “balance of nature” in God’s creation. As goes the reptiles and amphibians so goes the human race?



## **I AM NOT LOST**

**GOOD INTENTIONS CAN HURT  
LEAVE WILDLIFE IN THE WILD**

See, [wildohio.gov/staywild](http://wildohio.gov/staywild) for a variety of helpful hints about what to do when you encounter wild life.



## **SPACE JUNK IS IN THE NEWS AGAIN**

It is estimated that more than 750,000 fragments, larger than a centimeter, from man-made space-craft of one sort or another are floating around the earth. In 2016, a small piece of debris punched a gaping hole in the solar panel of *Copernicus Sentinel-1A* observation satellite operated by the European Space Agency. Satellites have a life-expectancy of about 25 years before they “die.” After that most of them simply continue in their orbits as “junk.” Dead satellites pose a double danger – they can collide with other spacecraft or be hit by debris themselves and break apart, creating more junk!

Is this a problem? The more junk floating around in space the greater the likelihood of collisions. The *Kessler Syndrome* (named after a NASA scientist) reasons that as space junk increases so will collisions with the vital equipment we have placed in near-earth orbits. Near-Earth orbits, the highways of our communications systems, could become unstable and unusable for future generations. That’s a big deal because weather reports, stock market, air travel, broadcasts from the other side of the planet, online shopping, and GPS systems all depend on satellites in near-Earth orbits! Is there a way to clean up the junk? Perhaps, but we would need to invent new technology the cost of which will certainly be “sky-high.”

**The University of Alaska reports that about one half of SEA-LEVEL-RISE is caused by unprecedented Arctic sea-ice melting.**

## **THERE IS NOTHING MORE BASIC THAN TO PLANT A GARDEN**

After God had finished creating the heavens and the earth and everything in it, He rested (the Sabbath). After His rest, the Lord God created man, from the dust of the earth, in his own image. Then, he planted a garden (Eden) and told the man to tend and keep it.

Springtime and Summer are garden planting and tending times. Many a spiritual person has observed, through the years, that God seems especially near when they are working in their gardens or fields. They sense a primeval partnership with God as they plant and till and observe the miracle of growth through the giving of rain, sun, night and day, as a divine blessing on their efforts.

A number of commentaries, on various passages of scripture, were written by the Rabbis between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the *Leviticus Rabbah* 25:3 is written: “*How can a person of flesh and blood follow God? God, from the very beginning of creation, was occupied, before all else, with planting. As it is written: ‘And first of all, the Eternal God planted a Garden in Eden.’ Therefore, occupy yourselves, first and foremost, with planting.*”

In *Ecclesiastes Rabbah* 7:13 a word of warning is issued: “*See my works, how fine and excellent they are! All that I created, I created for you. Reflect on this; and do not corrupt or desolate my world; for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you.*”

## THE POLITICAL WINDS MAY BE CHANGING COURSE AT THE MOMENT, BUT THE PEOPLE ARE NOT!



In the USA, "Climate-Change" continues to be a controversial subject, especially in Washington DC and on Wall Street, but on Main-Street the vast majority of the people have not changed their minds. For example, on April 29, 2017, there were 370 *Peoples' Climate Marches* in 39 countries and throughout the USA. 200,000 marched in Washington DC alone! The current White House has weakened the EPA and removed vital climate change information from its web-site, but 70% of Americans still believe that the climate is changing and that emissions from fossil fuels are a large part of the cause. Even 56% of Republicans have now climbed on the climate-change bandwagon. As of December 2016, a total of 688 institutions and over 58,000 individuals representing \$5.5 trillion in assets worldwide had been divested from fossil fuels companies as a protest. The vast majority of industrialized nations accept the scientific basis of the climate-change reality and are rapidly moving to address it (as was evidenced in the unprecedented, but still inadequate, agreements that came out of the Paris Accords). In the USA the major question is; What will determine our response to climate-change? Will it be *science or corporate politics* -- the *common good or short-term profit*? If we procrastinate and stall an activist agenda to meet the challenges of climate-change it will be costly in the here and now, but devastating to our grandchildren and their offspring.

Climate-Change investigation had a good and honorable beginning. *Inside Climate News* (9-16-15), in a well-documented historical report, traced the main leg of the climate-change story that began inside of the Exxon corporation. In July 1977, Exxon senior scientist, James F. Black, revealed the connection between the use of fossil fuels and climate warming with, what has turned out to be, astounding accuracy. He addressed a representative audience of prestigious oilmen using a series of detailed slides to show that there was a general scientific agreement that carbon dioxide released from the burning of fossil fuels is the key factor in the generation of what was then called, "greenhouse gasses". One year later Black warned that carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere would increase average global temperatures by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius

and as much as 10 degrees Celsius at the two poles. He predicted that rainfall might get heavier in some regions and turn to desert in others. He pointed out that "some countries would benefit but others would have their agricultural output reduced or destroyed."

Exxon was an innovative leader in climate research from 1977-1986 committing itself to fact-based analysis. In March 1978, speaking of Exxon's climate research program, Exxon research manager, Harold N. Weinberg stated: "This may be the kind of opportunity that we are looking for to have Exxon technology, management, and leadership resources put into the context of a project aimed at benefitting mankind." In their 1982, *Corporate Primer* on carbon dioxide and climate change, it was noted that Exxon recognized, despite the many lingering un-



knowns, that heading off global warming "would require major reductions in fossil fuel combustion." In 1988, a *New York Times* headline declared: "Global Warming Has Begun, Expert Tells Senate." NASA's climate specialist, James Hansen's,

testimony before a senate committee compelled Sen. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.) to declare: *Congress must begin to consider how we are going to slow or halt that warming trend.* Confronting climate change seemed to be on track and, at least some of the fossil fuel industry, was on track to creatively deal with its challenges. What happened?

**The Friedman Effect:** Milton Friedman, leader of the School of Economics at the University of Chicago and winner of the 1976 Nobel Prize in Economics, said that the **sole purpose of a firm** is to make money for its shareholders. Friedman wrote that any business executives who pursued a goal other than making money were "unwitting puppets of the intellectual forces that have been undermining the basis of a free society these past decades." Friedman's influence sped across the economic world like a wild-fire. "Maximizing Profits" became the mantra of the corporate world and *profits before people* became one of the practical outcomes of that teaching. A kind of *Social Darwinism* (the survival of the fittest) took control. The ideals of the *free-market* economy were quietly undermined by corporate take-overs of smaller companies as giants sought to absorb their competitors and control their market shares. Many corporate giants are larger in funds, influence, and management than some national governments!

**The Oil Supply:** In the mid 80's it was feared that the world was running out of oil -- prices climbed along with profits -- but an unexpected oil glut caused prices to fall in the late 80's and Exxon cut its staff, including many in its climate research department. At the same time climate change issues slowly entered the public/political debate. Because

of changes in leadership and a different emphasis on profitability Exxon began to finance efforts to **amplify doubt** about the reliability of climate science and helped to found and lead the *Global Climate Coalition*, an alliance of many of the world's largest fossil fuel companies, as a lobbying and propaganda tool with the **purpose of bringing to a halt government efforts to curb fossil fuel emissions**. Fact based analysis was tossed out the window. The *American Petroleum Institute* along with other so-called 'right-wing' think tanks, campaign contributors, lobbyists, and the enlistment of "scientists" who questioned or rejected the majority view of their peers, were all used to push the agenda that **"climate science was too uncertain to justify cuts in fossil fuel emissions."** The automobile industry strongly resisted attempts by the federal government to impose fuel efficiency standards on their products sighting increased costs and fearing more government interference in their businesses.

Our eternal struggle in understanding the difference between "big government" and "good government" has often confounded common sense. Today, with a substantial crew of businessmen occupying the White House, the politics of climate-change and federal involvement in it appear to be going the way of the *climate-change doubters* and *extractive capitalists*. However, much of the business community across the globe understands that we face a new world reality that is best served with **sustainable capitalism** that requires climate savvy, and innovation in business practices with moral and social responsibility, because, in the long run, it's good for both their "bottom-line" and *public relations*! Banks are getting into the act also. *Citibank* has pledged to invest 100 billion and *Bank of America* has pledged to invest 125 billion in clean energy by 2025. That's not a lot of money, but it's a start. Even the stock-markets of the world are seeing weaknesses in the fossil fuel sector signaling that things are a-changing. Entrepreneurs, take notice!

### **Lawsuit Claims that the Feds Overlooked Danger to Wildlife Watersheds and the Ohio River**

Tuesday May 2, 2017, Columbus, Ohio - Conservation groups sued the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management over plans to permit hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in Ohio's only national forest, the Wayne. The lawsuit aims to void BLM leases and halt fracking in the national forest.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Columbus, charges that the agencies failed to analyze threats to public health, endangered species and the climate before auctioning off more than 670 acres of forest land for large-scale, high-volume fracking.

**SKIN CANCER** Between 40 and 50 percent of Americans who live to age 65 will have either basal cell carcinoma or squamous cell carcinoma at least once. Each year there are more new cases of skin cancer than the combined incidence of cancers of the breast, prostate, lung, and colon. In the U.S., over 5.4 million cases of non-melanoma skin cancer are treated each year in more than 3.3 million people. Further, about 90 percent of non-melanoma skin cancers are associated with exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Skin cancer is a broad term that refers to any type of cancer that begins in the cells of the skin, usually developing in the top layer of skin, also known as the epidermis. It is "the uncontrolled growth of abnormal skin cells," occurring when "unrepaired DNA damage to skin cells (most often caused by ultraviolet radiation from sunshine or tanning beds) triggers mutations or genetic defects that lead the skin cells to multiply rapidly and form malignant tumors." What can you do? **Cover up bare skin and use a broad-spectrum sunscreen.**



**TODAY, 20 MILLION PEOPLE ARE ON THE TIPPING POINT OF UNPRECEDENTED FAMINE IN FOUR COUNTRIES. AT LEAST 1.4 MILLION ARE CHILDREN!**

Across two continents, from Nigeria, South Sudan, and Somalia in Africa east to Yemen in the Middle East, people are staring death in the face because there is not enough food available to them. Why? These countries are reeling from the horrors of armed conflicts, corrupt governments, and prolonged drought forcing many people to leave their homes and possessions to travel in harsh environments in search of food and shelter.

There is enough food in the world so that no one should have to die of hunger. The only thing that is lacking is the political will, human compassion, and economic provision to do something about it.

Want to help?

Nigeria crisis fund: [www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis](http://www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis).

Church World Service: [www.cwsglobal.org](http://www.cwsglobal.org)

Bread for the World: [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

**Oil Spill** -529,838 gallons of oil spilled from a leak in North Dakota's Belle Fourche pipeline in December – three times the initial estimate.

**The Children of Immigrants** -83% of America's top high school science students are the children of recent immigrants. -Stuart Anderson is executive director of the *National Foundation for American Policy*