

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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We must decide what our emphasis should be: Do we move Cars, or do we move People?

Psalm 90:12, "So teach us to number our days that we may have hearts full of wisdom." Time is a precious resource that should be filled with being conscious of God's presence and focused on God's purpose; it must not be wasted by sloth or inefficiency.

According to the *Census Bureau*, the average American spends more than **100 hours a year** commuting to work, of which 38 hours are spent in stand-still traffic! In large metropolitan areas like Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, and New York the time is even longer. To make matters worse, the majority of cars have only one occupant, the driver, who can do little more than attentive driving during those hours.

We spend billions on adding, maintaining, and remodeling vast highway systems and, today, find ourselves woefully behind in keeping up with the maintenance that the *American Society of Highway Engineers* say is needed, especially in the area of bridge replacement and remodeling, which they say is urgent.

All of this is done in the name of privacy, comfort, and convenience. We want to drive directly from one place to another without being bothered by further commuting or walking, and we have the pot-bellies to prove that we are successful at it too!

All of this brings us back to the title question above – Should our emphasis be on moving Cars or moving People? It should be obvious to anyone who regularly drives in the megalopolises of our nation that we cannot solve the massive congestion problem with more super-duper highways. In spite of the best efforts of the auto/truck industries and the highway construction conglomerates to convince us otherwise, the attempt to move more cars is a lose/lose proposition. There is a point at which full becomes really full. We must provide a variety of forms of mass-transit to move the number of people that must commute each day and help the public learn to use and enjoy them. I say "to enjoy" them because our modern society has robbed us of too much joy.

I grew up in a suburb of Chicago, in a family that was without a car until I was 16 years old. Our modes of transportation were to walk or to ride our bikes. For distances beyond the reasonable reach of foot and pedal, we would take the bus, or ride the commuter trains into the cities around us. The train rides were wonderful. There were no worries about the reliability of your little four-wheeler and its readiness to "to go the distance," or highway traffic conditions. You could sit in little adjustable "seat neighborhoods" and visit or play games with friends and strangers. You could read, write, doodle, daydream, walk around, use the restroom, or catch up on your sleep. You didn't get stuck in traffic or worry about driving through inclement weather or about being on time; it was delightful! It was also physically safer and mentally and spiritually more productive.

Today, the commuter trains that run through my hometown continue to be filled with relaxed passengers on their way to and from work, shopping, and pleasure in the cities along the rail line. The commuter experience enhances the personal, social, physical, and economic well-being of the entire community. It stands in stark contrast to the aggravations of car-driving with its high per person travel costs or the hyper anxiety, and anger so often experienced while sitting behind the wheel of a car on a traffic laden, pothole strewn highway.

Moving about in large cities is best done in buses, street cars, and taxis. Our cars are great for sightseeing, family vacations and in small towns or suburbs when our travel needs lie beyond biking and walking distances. But our automobile habits have created a dependence that is physically, ecologically, and socially unhealthy. It is also cost inefficient and levies the heaviest burden on the family budget except for housing.

Mass-transit represents "Another Way of Living" that we should embrace for "the Glory of God and our Mutual good." ☩

Today's "Who can you trust?" mania afflicts those who fail to broaden their ideas and/or sources, and remain trapped in the ruts of narrow perceptions and easy affirmations. True knowledge and deeper understanding only come when you expand your exposure and beliefs by reading, listening, watching, and praying outside of your daily routines, expectations, and comfort zones. Open your mind and widen your sources; there are plenty of trustworthy people out there. Don't be taken in by the hidden agendas of the division makers and the fear mongers. The means doesn't justify the ends. It is a strange truth that unity can only be achieved when one is well acquainted with diversity. -CCFry



CATS

Cats are an invasive species. An invasive species is something that is introduced from a foreign source and therefore not native to the area in which it now lives. It spreads to a degree that negatively affects the flora and/or fauna of the invaded area causing damage to the environment, economy, and health. Cats generally have no natural predators to keep them in check and because they are prolific reproducers, cat populations are seriously out of control here and around the world.

The cat species can be traced back thousands of years. They were feared in Europe because the medieval populations associated their killing nature and weird behaviors with evil spirits. The ancient Egyptians took the opposite stance and revered their “*mystical*” behavior which led them to tie cats to the goddess Bastet.

When humans secured their food primarily as *hunters and gatherers* they domesticated wild dogs because they were useful in helping them to hunt. Dogs bonded with their human companions and easily became a harmonious part of their families. When humans took up *farming*, cats in the wild were attracted to the facilities that were used to store grain and other food stuffs because of the abundance of live vermin that fed there. But cats, by their nature, could not be domesticated and simply adapted themselves to live among the human population, who in turn, cautiously welcomed them, because of their killing nature and ability to combat the various vermin that endangered their food supplies.

Cats spread throughout the world on Seagoing vessels who had them aboard to kill rats and mice. Some of the cats would leave the ships while they were anchored in their port-of-call, attracted by the ample supply of vermin they found ashore.

Health Dangers

There are many human health dangers connected to cats. One of the most dangerous is *Toxoplasma gondii*, a common parasite found in nearly half of the world’s human population. It is carried by cats, especially outdoor cats, and is acquired when humans eat undercooked meat from fish and animals or from unwashed produce, contaminated by contact with cat poop. The parasite causes the disease *toxoplasmosis*, which affects the **human brain**. “*Carriers of the parasite seem to suffer higher rates of Alzheimer’s disease, anxiety, migraines, bipolar*

disorder, suicidal tendencies, and obsessive-compulsive disorder.” (*The Case Against Cats*, Britt Peterson, *The Atlantic*, 12-16, Page 40).

Leading Cause of Bird, Small Mammal, and Reptile Deaths

According to Dr. Peter P. Marra, director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, “*Cats are the leading cause of bird mortality in the United States.*” The Smithsonian estimates that cats kill 2.4 billion birds in the United States and Canada every year. Bird reproduction cannot keep pace with this killing rate, pressing some toward extinction. According to Ohio History Connection, Natural History Curator, Erin Cashion, “*The toll among mammals is even higher [than birds] ranging from 6.9 billion to 20.7 billion kills annually.*” Many mammals cannot reproduce fast enough to offset the killings which is pressing some of them toward extinction also. More than a third of all households in the U.S. now have a “*Pet Cat*” or an estimated 100 million animals!

Cats do not kill out of hunger, they kill by instinct; they are perfect killing machines. They are built to kill and spend most of their time outdoors hunting.

Antidotes

The out of control cat population is being dealt with in a number of ways. **Belgium** has laws and penalties requiring that cat owners sterilize their cats, older than 6 months, or face being fined. **New Zealand** has a plan to eradicate all invasive predators including feral cats. The Humane Society in the **U.S.A.** promotes capture/neuter/return programs for feral cats, but the program is ineffective because it fails to reduce either their killing or their overall reproduction. The Society also works at “*happy bird/happy cat*” programs that promote keeping cats indoors, on a leash or out of doors in an enclosure known as a “*CATIOS*” which is a fenced-in cage, similar to a *dog run*, often with ramps and shelves. Some are roomy enough for the cat owner to sit in with their animal. Go on line to find a variety of catios plans for yards, window sills, and patios.

Just as Dog owners slowly yielded to the laws requiring dog vaccination, licenses, and control by leash or enclosure decades ago, some cat owners are finally beginning to acknowledge the killing/extinction problem and are responding by controlling their cats. The Humane Society believes that the same rules that now apply to dogs should also apply to cats. Amen. ☺

GREAT RESOURCE!

Climate Church, Climate World, How People of Faith Must Work for Change

This book argues that climate change is the greatest moral challenge humanity has ever faced. The deadly effects of hunger, refugees, poverty, inequality, new viruses, and war are all multiplied by the effects of climate change. Environmental leader Reverend Jim Antal presents a compelling case that it’s time for the church to meet this moral challenge just as the church addressed previous moral challenges. Antal calls for the church to embrace a new vocation so that future generations might live in harmony with God’s creation. He suggests ways people of faith can reorient what they prize through new approaches to worship preaching, witnessing and other spiritual practices that honor creation and cultivate hope.

The sending of rain is an event greater than the Torah. The Torah was a joy for Israel only, but rain gives joy to the entire world, including animals and birds.

Midrash Psalms 117 (2nd Century.)



Gas powered vehicle phaseouts are gaining momentum through-out Europe and Asia as governments push for emission free vehicles. The Netherlands, for example is pushing a plan to virtually end the sale of gas and diesel fueled vehicles by 2030. France and Britain have announced similar plans for 2040. India wants all electric by 2030 and China, the

world's largest automobile producing country, is expected to set its own goals very soon.

The City of Oxford, England plans to become the world's first zero-emission zone by 2035. They discovered that 75% of their air pollution came from traffic. Since 2014 they only allow low-emission vehicles within city limits including special low-emission and hybrid fleets of buses. Twenty-two percent of their population are bicycle commuters. A sign at the city limits reads: "Welcome to the city of Oxford, a cycling city." ⊕

Farmers in need miss agricultural workers from Mexico

Dowagiac, Michigan – "The apple trees were heavy with fruit, and rows and rows of tomatoes, squash, and hot peppers were ripe for picking. But in the end, Gary and Patty Bartley, prize-winning farmers in western Michigan, had to leave \$250,000 worth of their crops to rot in their fields last year. They couldn't find people to pick them." (Monitor, July 16, 2018, page 11)

The report says that the Bartley's had urged their domestic migrant workers from the year before to return, but only 12 did. They placed ads in out-of-state papers and in the state workforce agency, but not a single person responded. This story has been repeated hundreds of times across the nation. Farm laborers are few and far between these days. Crops are rotting and farmers are facing economic pressure and loss. On top of the labor shortage the imposition of tariffs by the current administration has only deepened the farm crisis.



Why is this happening? The job market for higher paying jobs and better working conditions has siphoned-off younger workers looking for better pay and lighter work. Our current immigration policy and enforcement has discouraged experienced pickers, to cross state lines whether they are legal or ill-legal.

Anti-immigrant forces are saturating the public with misinformation creating hate and anger, while Congress lacks the courage and insight to do anything about it. Historically immigrants have always been assailed by the larger American society when there is social and political unrest of some sort. Much to the chagrin of their detractors however, history shows that, in the long run, immigrants are not a burden but a boon to the overall economy making them and us more prosperous. ⊕

BUSY, BUSY

An editorial about Purpose, Priority, and Proportion

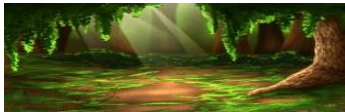
Busyness is a badge of honor, a sign of success, a validation of self-worth and social status. "I am so busy; Our Church is so busy; We are so busy" -- and on and on it goes as the days and hours spin by. Why, it is un-Christian and un-American not to be busy and then marvel about how time flies!

In this time of **government deregulation**, it is interesting that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) managed to sue *Lights of America* (LoA) over misleading claims about the light output and life expectancy of its LED bulbs. The court ordered LoA to provide money for hefty refunds to be paid to those who bought lights from LoA with the expectation that their products would perform as advertised. This FTC action offers a good illustration of reasonable government oversight that protects consumers from the excesses of market capitalism, with its singular focus on profit, by keeping the industry honest. No oversight? No recompense and no justice! ⊕



"In the Woods we return to reason and to faith."

Ralph Waldo Emerson ⊕



The British journal *Nature* reported that the most complete analysis of Antarctica ever done found that the region has lost an unprecedented three trillion tons of ice since 1992 and that the ice loss has tripled there in the last ten years. This melting amounts to more than 4 quintillion gallons of water added to

the world's oceans making it one of the greatest contributors to sea level rise that there is. In spite of all the sceptics' denials, warming temperatures are the culprit. ⊕



No Emissions, Hydrogen-Powered, Passenger Train

Germany is the first country to provide passenger service with a Hydrogen-powered train. It began, as a pilot project, at the end of 2017. Germany and the French company Alstom have signed an agreement to build 14 hydrogen-powered trains, all of which will go into service by 2021.

These trains can travel 621 miles on one full hydrogen tank and can reach a maximum speed 87 mph. Power is generated when hydrogen mixes with the oxygen in outside air and only produces water vapor.

Toyota produces **hydrogen trucks** today with other automakers like Honda and Hesai developing their own vehicles which will go on the market in the coming years.

The progress of **battery technology** like lithium-oxygen and lithium-ion are also creating great optimism for using their power storage to run other kinds of zero emission engines.

