



# CREATION CARE



#36, Spring 2021

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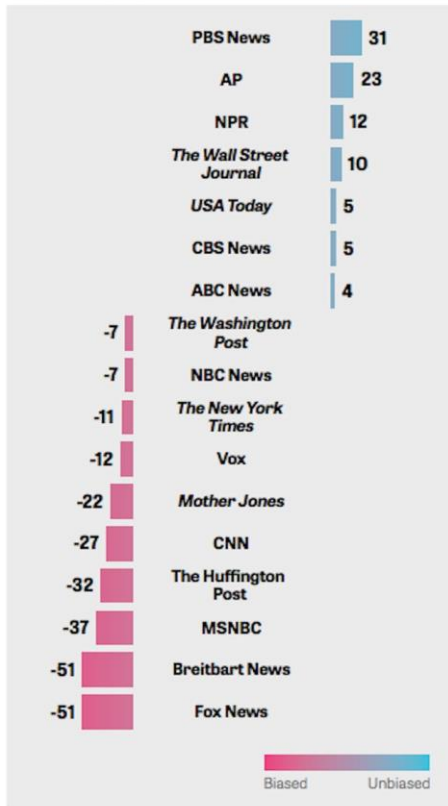
Occasional Newsletter with relevant articles on biblical, economic, political & social impacts & their consequences on God's Creation & the Church.

On the Web: [nohcob.org](http://nohcob.org), click: Ministries, click: Creation Care

## INFORMATION FLOW: WHAT EFFECTS DOES IT HAVE ON FORMING VALUES AND OPINIONS?

### Net Bias Scores of News Organizations, U.S. Adults

Percentage rating each as unbiased minus percentage rating each as biased



90% of U.S. media are owned by only 5 corporations! Remember, they are businesses that must produce profits by attracting and holding large numbers of customers. This reduces things down to what satisfies appetites, pumps-up ratings and makes sales; not necessarily to what is needed for the common good. They have created an obsession with domestic politics that adds to a narrow nationalism which colors world events and warps our understanding of them. CC #33, Spring 2020 issue, Chart Source: Knight Foundation-Gallup Organization

**NEVER RELY ON JUST ONE NEWS SOURCE. ☹**

### CIRCUMSTANCES ARE PUSHING US TOWARD AN URGENT NEW NATIONAL CORE AGENDA:

**HEALTH SECURITY**  
**CYBERSECURITY**  
**CLIMATE SECURITY**

Pete Buttigieg,  
 Former Presidential Candidate; Current Secretary of Transportation



### ORTHOOREXIA

Orthorexia nervosa is an eating disorder characterized by an excessive preoccupation with eating healthy food. The term was introduced in 1997 by American physician Steven Bratman, M.D. He suggested that some people's dietary restrictions intended to promote health may paradoxically lead to unhealthy consequences, such as social isolation, anxiety, loss of ability to eat in a natural,

intuitive manner, reduced interest in the full range of other healthy human activities, and, in rare cases, severe malnutrition or even death.

### What is orthorexia?

People with orthorexia have a preoccupation with healthy eating that negatively affects their physical, social or psychological health. Anyone can develop orthorexia. It often begins with a positive intention to improve your health, but evolves into rigid rules for eating that take over your life.

### What are the symptoms of orthorexia?



Source: Jessica Setnick, MS, RD, CEDRD-S

People with orthorexia may exhibit different warning signs depending on their unique diet and the severity of their condition.

### Some symptoms to watch for include:

- Assigning food, a moral value, for example, good or bad.
- Obsessive-compulsive behaviors, such as strict meal planning, or creating rules around the ingredients you can eat or how your food needs to be prepared.
- Eliminating specific foods or entire food groups, without a medical reason.
- An extreme lack of dietary flexibility.
- Isolating yourself from social situations where food is involved.
- Feelings of anxiety, guilt or impurity when you deviate from your diet.
- Judging others for eating what you deem unhealthy.
- No longer enjoying food you once loved.
- Disgust when near prohibited foods.
- An inability to change your diet, even if you know you should increase calories or be more flexible
- Denial that you have a problem with food.

### How does orthorexia affect the body?

Some people with orthorexia become so restrictive with their food choices in one area that they develop a nutritional deficiency in another area. For example, someone who avoids dairy may not get enough calcium. In rare cases, severe malnutrition or even death can result. Professional intervention through counseling can assist a person in managing or avoiding severe complications. ☹



## ONE OF THE LESSONS OF THE ANABAPTIST FEET-WASHING RITUAL IS THE ABILITY TO SERVE AND BE SERVED.

I have often heard people comment that it is more comfortable to wash someone's feet than to have their own feet washed. It is a good thing that our egos push us toward self-reliance and independence if we don't take it too far. It is also a good thing when our reliance on Jesus carries us over troubled waters. *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* (Philippians 4:13) is a comforting and empowering thought; but we must realize that we do not have to, or are meant to do everything, because it is God's plan to provide and equip (1 Corinthians 12) other believers and comrades who will share our confrontations and tests if we are humble and open enough to allow their ministry on our behalf.

The temptation is to aspire to be *"Alpha-Christians"* who can do and endure anything. It may look good; it may sound like an expression of great faith and complete dependence on Jesus, but it can also be a denial of our human estate (Romans 3:23), and that borders on idolatry. Even Jesus needed help in carrying his cross and cried out in pain and anguish in the midst of his ordeal hanging on the cross (Matthew 27:32, 46).

Not all pain and suffering should be locked away in some private stoic corner. There are many times that we must allow others to **take the lead** in ministering to us for our own good and to demonstrate to the community and to those who have like struggles that it is not a sign of weak faith to open ourselves to the ministry of others when we are in the midst of a crisis or personal loss. ☹

## THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST IS ON THE BRINK OF A CLIMATE CHANGE DRIVEN MEGA DROUGHT

The climate record shows that mega drought in our southwest and its accompanying wildfires are happening at a scale not seen for a thousand years. Stronger and more severe hurricanes blast through Central America, pulverizing



whole communities sending refugees fleeing north to the overwhelmed U.S. frontier. Thousands of cremation pyres burning from New Delhi to Varanasi, like an apocalyptic scene right out of Dante's circles of hell, are harbingers of fast-moving COVID mutations bound to spread beyond India's borders into other parts of the world. A mutation from India has been reported in the United States.

It is abundantly clear that such global problems require global solutions, but our system of nation-states make it difficult to create those solutions. It is even a stretch these days to get resistant constituencies within nation-states to wear masks and get vaccinated. Governing authority is already so diminished inside the long-established sovereign confines of democratic nations that it is nearly impossible to imagine how effective global power can ever be delegated to address our mounting planetary challenges.

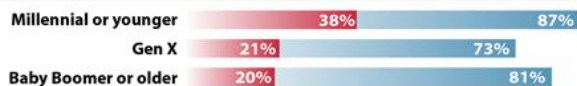


## A Climate Change Divide

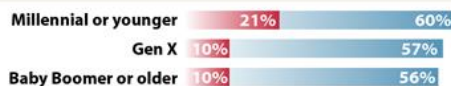
Young Republicans are more likely than older Republicans to identify with climate activists, while there remains a partisan divide between Democrats and Republicans of all ages.

REPUBLICAN DEMOCRAT

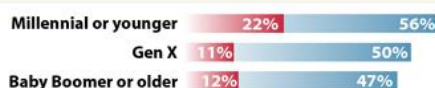
### ▼ Support climate activists who urge elected officials to take action to reduce global warming



### ▼ Identify with climate activists who urge elected officials to take action to reduce global warming



### ▼ Willing to join a campaign to convince elected officials to take action to reduce global warming



% who "strongly" or "somewhat" support climate activists; identify with climate activists "a great deal" or "a moderate amount," and would "definitely" or "probably" join a political campaign.

Nov. 2019. Base: 1,045 adults — Millennial or younger (1981 or later) n=283; Gen X (1965-1980) n=262; Baby Boomer or older (1964 or earlier) n=500

SOURCES: George Mason University Center for Climate Communication; Yale Program on Climate Change Communication

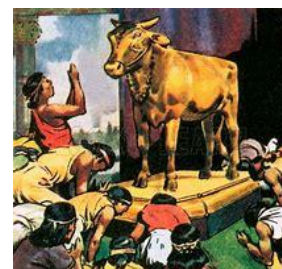
PAUL HORN / InsideClimate News

## THE DEADLIEST SPECIES ON EARTH IS THE HUMAN SPECIES!



## THE NEW ERA OF THE GOLDEN CALF!

When the LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS are not well articulated by the Church and applied to the personal, social, political, and economic issues of the times, it leaves a void that humanity will fill with the products of their uncertainty and their idolatrous hunger for power over others.



You will remember that when Moses's strong leadership was interrupted by his mission in the mountains the people became nervous and self-absorbed. They cried: *"Make us god's who will go before us!"* (Exodus 32:23). What happened? Well, when Moses returned, he *"saw that the people were running wild!"* (Exodus 32:25). That's exactly what is happening in our nation today...people are running wild!

Shadi Hamid, in the May 22 issue of The Atlantic, writes: "Without Christianity Americans no longer have a common culture upon which to fall back. - As religious faith has declined, ideological intensity has risen. Will the quest for secular redemption through politics doom the American idea?" I think that our nation, media, and people are politics crazy and spiritually impotent. As a result, we have a subverted patriotism that is running wild with unhinged groups like QAnon and its puzzles and theories; disconnected evangelicals; armed militias and patriot groups; conspiracy theory claims of deep



state and shadow government; the willingness to disregard the truth with a litany of big lies that are repeated without logic, or fact-based evidence; the pontification and adulation of human leaders with uncritical acceptance of their flaws and history or demand for their accountability; religion that is filled with Jesus-symbolism, but empty of his teachings and their application that is undermining the Biblical foundation of the church with the result that the majority of the current younger generation has rejected organized religion time-dating most congregations with a small older adult population.

In the aftermath of the attempted insurrection of January 6<sup>th</sup>, which many neo-politicians are now trying to cover-up and white-wash, I sought consolation and hope for the survival of the American social and civic ideals into which I was born; I wrote:

WHEN TROUBLES DOUBLE;  
THEN DOUBLE AGAIN  
AND WE LOOK LONGINGLY  
FOR THEM TO END;  
WHEN OUR BEST EFFORTS  
JUST FAIL AND COLLAPSE  
AND WE FEEL NO ENERGY  
LEFT TO TAP;  
WHEN FAITH AND REASON  
ARE PUT ON THE SHELF  
AND UNBRIDLED EGO  
DEIFIES ITSELF;  
WHEN MOBS BREAK THROUGH  
WITH BARBARIC AMBITION  
AND FREEDOM BREAKS DOWN  
IN ACTS OF SEDITION;  
THEN OUT OF THE DARKNESS,  
IN SOBER REFLECTION,  
REASON IS REBORN  
TO SEEK CORRECTION.  
JUSTICE RISES UP  
TO PUNISH AND RESTORE;  
FAITH REBUILDS HOPE  
TO BOOSTER OUR CORE  
AND RIGHT CHALLENGES MIGHT  
TO SLOWLY RECOVER  
THE IDEALS OF OUR BIRTHRIGHT  
FROM SHORE TO SHORE.

I must admit that, as things stand today, I cling to the hope expressed in the last twelve lines with shrinking faith, at least in the short term!

In this land of uneven abundance many people are feeling victimized and unheard. Democracy, as a form of government, is being challenged by trading the truth for big lies, and the rule of law is threatened by the promoters of neofascism all in the name of holding on to power and wheeling special advantage. In seeking power above process, many Americans, and the politicians who represent them, are increasingly disconnected from evidenced-based truth and reality exposing the disconnect between individual freedom and the need for individual responsibility. The controversy between the science of public health and our so-called "individual rights" in the COVID crisis is a case in point.

Our founding fathers, Jefferson, Franklin, Adams, Madison, etc., knew that the great enemy of freedom was the rejection of science and learning and the acceptance of ignorance (which includes the idea that *what I feel is more important than what I know*). Jefferson wrote: "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what

never was and never will be." Carl Sagon recalled Jefferson's wisdom when he wrote: *"It wasn't enough to enshrine some rights in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the people had to be educated and they have to practice their skepticism and their education, otherwise, we don't run the government, the government runs us."* Blind faith is exactly what it says it is – BLIND! There are no human saviors and God does not use evil to establish the truth. God did not send Satan into the world as an example of what not to be, God sent Jesus into the world to show us what we should be! But Jesus must be followed in our thoughts and actions, not just adored in our emotions and our public exercises! ☸

## THIS AND THAT

**1,167%** – The percentage increase in CEO income between 1978 to 2019, compared with 14% for the average worker, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

**1 BILLION** Genetically modified mosquitoes that will be released in Florida and Texas in the next two years to curb the increase of dengue, Zika, and yellow fever that are spreading northward because of our warming climate but, there is concern for the ecological implications of the modification over the long term.

**WOOD-BASED BIOPLASTIC** – Yale and the University of Maryland have made a breakthrough in the search of a sustainable plastic alternative that, when discarded, disintegrates in a few months or can be re-slurried and used again. Conventional, petroleum-based plastic, can take centuries to break down.

**NEW TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION NORMALS** have been established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) because of global warming. As a result, we will have fewer "above normal" temperature days in most of the U.S. because of the change in what is normal. Interestingly the North Central U.S. showed somewhat cooler temperatures, especially in the spring. Precipitation is expected to be greater because warming oceans and lakes will evaporate more water into the atmosphere, but changes in intensity and type of precipitation can also occur without changing the annual total. Erratic is also the new norm with more rain, less snow, heavier downpours and longer dry spells.

**16 BILLION** dollars in excess electricity charges to Texas residents and utilities during the unusual February winter storm that pushed deep into the state has left customers in the lurch. The competitive demand-based system lies within the borders of the state with no back-up from utilities on the outside. Severe competition between companies to keep their charges low along with a lack of a viable state oversight resulted in the producer's failure to invest in preparing their facilities for abnormal cold temperatures; they froze up; proving that private enterprise, without adequate government oversight, has its limitations.

**75 BILLION** dollars in damage from climate driven rainfall has been noted in the past 30 years in the U.S., according to a Stanford report.

**350 LANGUAGES** – the number of languages spoken in the homes across the United States; another sign of our diversity and the cultural difficulties it presents.

**FASTER** – Fareed Zakaria, GPS, reported that climate scientists have found that the climate is changing faster than at any time in history; that fact requires that we must change our thinking from dreaming about what might happen to the practical preparations to deal with what could happen.

**A VERTICAL FARM IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN COLUMBUS THIS YEAR** – Kalera Industries announced that it will build a 75,000-square-foot facility, employing 65 workers, to grow greens for restaurants, groceries, etc., at 1302 London-Groveport Road near Rickenbacker Airport. Among the advantages of this huge, multi-floor, “greenhouse” is that local production and market, being so close to each other, guarantees really fresh produce. Vertical farming allows for controlled growing conditions year around, uses 3% to 5% of the water traditional farming requires, and is able to adjust crop production more easily to market demand. Kalera, based in Orlando, built its first farm in Atlanta and has started building additional farms in Atlanta, Houston, and Denver.

**THE U.S. IMPORTS ABOUT** 15% of its food, including just over half of its fruits and vegetables, and most of its coffee. ☹

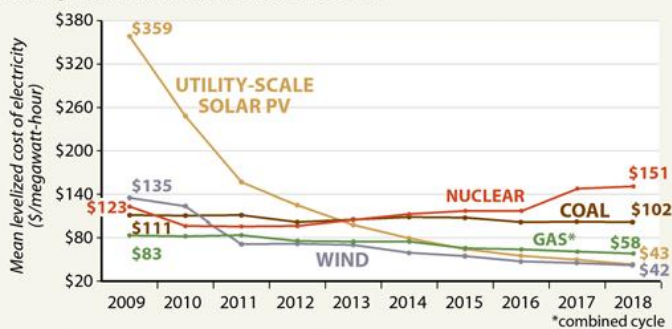
## THE PAST IS A TEACHER AND A TREASURE KEEPER

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### Renewable Energy Costs are Falling

Analysts at Lazard compared the changing costs over time for generating a megawatt-hour of electricity from different energy sources, including coal, solar, wind, nuclear and natural gas.

**HISTORIC AVERAGE LEVELIZED COST OF ENERGY**  
Per megawatt-hour, unsubsidized values, 2009-2018



NOTE: Reflects average of unsubsidized high and low levelized cost of energy range.

SOURCE: Lazard

InsideClimate News

As predicted, renewable energy costs are declining as their installation grows. Renewable energy is the future! If you have money to invest, consider renewables. It will help secure your future. ☹

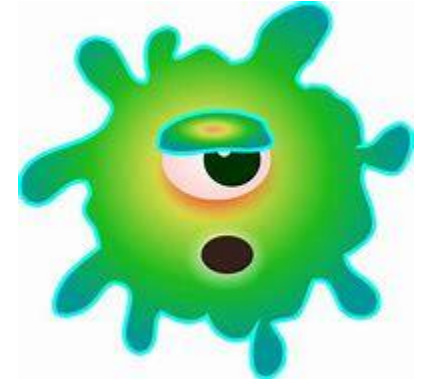
### COVID KEEPERS

The statistical drop in COVID cases, attributed to the millions who have received the vaccines in our nation, has prompted the relaxation of protective measures, especially mask-wearing and crowd restrictions. At the same time, we are told that “herd-immunity” (the point at which a large enough group has become immune to the virus through vaccination and/or contact so that it will no longer spread) is not likely to be reached in the U.S. precisely because

not enough people have been or plan to be vaccinated and therefore will not have sufficient antibodies to protect them. Interesting double-talk, isn't it?

Over 7,000 people, who have been fully vaccinated have contracted the virus anyway; and some have died. That number is a drop-in-the-bucket compared to the millions who have received the vaccine – unless, of course, you or a loved one is one of the drops! We must also remember that the virus continues to be out there and that contact with it is not uncommon, vaccinated or not. When the virus is confronted by antibodies built up in a person through vaccination or survival from infection, its nature is to try to figure-out how to overcome those antibodies so that it can attack the host once again and continue its life – enter the world of viral mutations!

A mutation is simply an alteration in the viral structure which enables it to overcome anything that stands in the way of its ability to continue to feed on its host. Wherever the virus remains active in the world it will continue to re-invent itself and spread in new forms. For example, the more contagious “UK variant” that developed in England months ago has now become the common type spreading in the U.S. Other variants from South Africa, South America, and India have also been spotted in the U.S. The crucial question is “will our current vaccines cover them?” Moderna, Pfizer, and others, expect to have “booster-vaccines” ready this fall that will add some new variants to their formulas. It is anticipated that we may have to deal with COVID like we do with the annual flu vaccines in order to deal with these variants.



Finally, one in three persons who have contracted and survived COVID have developed neurological problems of one sort or another. “Long-Haulers” also have manifested various other problems linked to the virus that don't want to go away. All this is clothed in mystery at this point as scientists work to unravel the perplexities of COVID. This simply means that regardless of what the business and political powers, who seek to protect and promote various vital interests in our society, may say, with COVID, all of us will “travel at our own risk” as we continue to try to unravel and protect ourselves from the perplexing life of this family of viruses! It is not a biblical passage; although it is a biblical concept: “The Lord helps those who help themselves.” ☹

### FALSE PROPHETS

*“Christians have let self-promotion, the preservation of power, and fear of losing influence motivate the practice of false prophecy. False prophets have long circulated among God's people. We must not become jaded by their proliferation.”*

-Dennis R. Edwards (associate professor of New Testament at North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago) in: “The Prophecy Test,” page 30, Christianity Today, March-2021.