

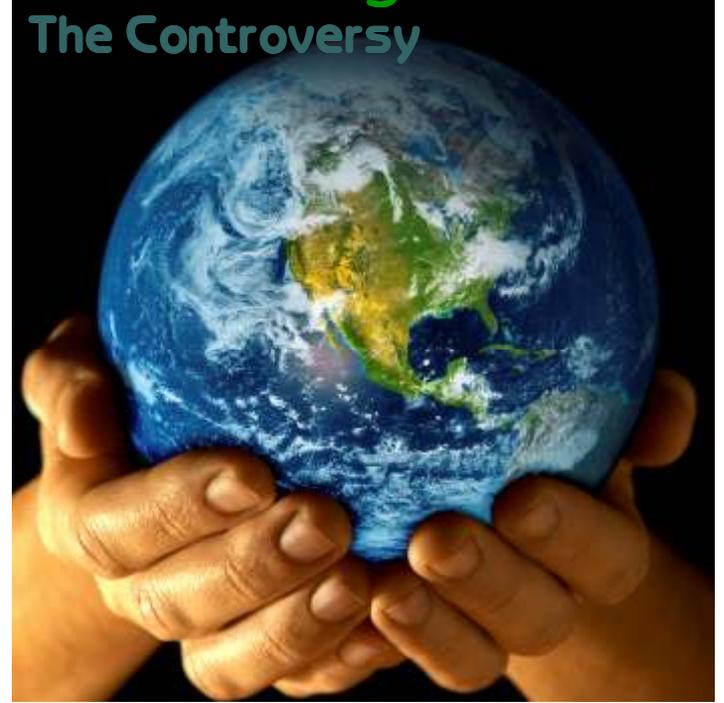
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Christian Stewardship and Global Warming: The Controversy



- God and Global Warming
- Human-Caused Global Warming Slight So Far

Can a Christian be a Good Scientist?

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.

4130 Harvest Lane
Racine, Wisconsin 53402-9562
<http://www.lutherscience.org>

The mission of the Lutheran Science Institute is to learn, share, and promote the glory of God as revealed in His holy Word and demonstrated in His created world, beginning with the pastors, teachers, and laity of the WELS (Wis. Ev. Lutheran Synod) and the ELS (Ev. Lutheran Synod).

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MEETING SCHEDULE*

- ◆ 4th Saturday in January, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Saturday in June, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Last Saturday in October, 1 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday *before* Thanksgiving in November, 1:00 p.m.

*Dates, times, and locations subject to change. Additional meetings may be scheduled. Check with the president, secretary, or editor or see our web site for verification.

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Send your suggestions, comments, and manuscripts to:

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The Annual Meeting of the Institute is held the Saturday *before* Thanksgiving. At least three other meetings are held during the year at locations selected by the president. Meetings are open to the public and announced in the LSI JOURNAL and/or on our web site.

Christian Stewardship And Global Warming: The Controversy



Editor's Note: this article on global warming was submitted by a reader who wishes to remain anonymous. Christians, of course, are expected to practice good stewardship with the gifts God has given us, but there still is a strong minority view regarding global warming. We have been requested to also present the minority view, which in this case is a summary by the editor of an article by creationist author and meteorologist, Michael Oard, who urges caution.

“God and Global Warming”

The Environmental movement has grown with renewed momentum in recent

years, due largely to the increased attention on Global Warming. This movement has several important lessons and exciting opportunities for Christians today. Too often we take the fatalist look at life which says, “God is coming soon, why should we worry about the environment? The world will not last long enough for our actions to make a difference.” (see Revelation 22:20) or “everything will be destroyed anyway, what does it matter if this destruction happens sooner?” (see 2 Peter 3:10) Other views may include “God will take care of it anyways so we don't need to worry about the environ-



ment” (See Genesis 8:22). These views may have some truth to them, yet they miss out on our responsibilities as human beings to care for the world. They also miss out on a wonderful evangelism opportunity in America and the world today. This paper will document our responsibility as Christians and will provide evangelism ideas for us to take advantage of.

This first point to consider is whether and to what extent we are responsible for the earth and how that ought to translate into our actions today. Adam and Eve were given a job by God “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” (Genesis 1:28). These are the first recorded words of God to Adam and Eve, presumably spoken on the 6th day of Creation. Adam and Eve were created to take care of the earth. This responsibility is as old as humankind. Earth is God's creation and we are to respect it. Too often we overlook this duty we have. We may claim Christian freedom allows us to do what we want. (However, see 1 Corinthians 8:13. This is not to promote vegetarianism. Rather the point is that we must give up our Christian freedom if it means

more souls in heaven.) Other times we, as churches, present a false choice to ourselves (that is, if we even take environmental considerations into account when making decisions.) After all, has it ever been suggested when a church is replacing its furnace to use the most environmentally friendly model? Too often, if not always, the choice is made to purchase the cheapest appliances “to allow more money for missions.” This is a false dilemma considering we do not then spend the difference on missions. If we did, then it would be a legitimate concern. It is also misleading because we really do have the resources for both environmentally efficient appliances at church and for missions. This is not to burden consciences of those who may not have considered this when installing a heater at church. It is rather to step back and take a look at what stewardship really is. Stewardship is often discussed only when there are budget shortfalls at any given church, school, synod level, etc. Stewardship is much more than giving money to church; it is taking care of all of the gifts God has entrusted to us and not wasting any of them—whether the earth, our wallets, our time, etc (See Matthew 25:14-30). Some people may claim that I am making a big deal out of a fairly small point. Any damage we do to the

environment may be insignificant with regard to the big picture. Here it is important to take a look at what God says about what is significant and insignificant when it comes to nature. Here is what Jesus says in Matthew 6:26: “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” Again he says in chapter 10 verse 29, “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.” Twice Jesus describes God's care for even the seemingly most insignificant animals, birds worth half a cent, that God still keeps track of—each and every one of them—making sure they are fed and taken care of. The point of both of these passages is that since God cares so much for these little insignificant creatures, he also cares so much more about us. However, the conclusion loses all of its weight if we attempt to deny the premise it rests on (God DOES care for all of his creation). I hope this has sufficiently established that God does care about his creation and we also get to care for that creation whether through Environmental activism, planting trees, actively fighting Global Warming, or passively being sure that we are not being wasteful and harmful to

God's creation. With the importance established for ourselves we now can look to others—not to make them environmentalists but to share Christianity with them. There may be any number of reasons for us to choose or not choose any of the forms of environmentalism listed above. However, there may be several other reasons why we ought to select certain ones carefully as it is a great opportunity to reach out to others.

Environmentalism may be traced to any number of people from John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt in the late 1800's and early 1900's to the renewed movement in the 1970's to the again renewed interest with the idea of Global Warming. The environment is on a lot of people's minds. This is especially true on college campuses among students and professors alike. Muir's early Environmentalism was very religious. In chapter 6 of *A Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf* (1916), Muir describes the importance of having a proper view of Creation and the Creator in order to understand life. He underscores the importance of understanding that all of God's creation is important—from plants and bugs all the way to humans. He also recognized that this understanding is often ignored, similarly to what is described

above. A true understanding of Creation is necessary for Environmentalism to succeed. More importantly, however, is the fact that a correct understanding of Creation, the Creator and the Savior is necessary for Environmentalists to survive the next life. Many of these people with the environment on their mind fail to understand why nobody truly cares enough about the environment to make any real change. When they believe that they are just here for this life, there is no motivation to make a difference. Their failures show them that something is missing in many of their lives. We have what they need. Not only can we show them how “Creationism” helps their cause. We can show them that our Creator also gave his life and came back to life so that we can spend an eternity with him. God's love for us goes so much farther than providing a place for us to live. God has also provided a place for us to spend eternity. In my own experiences, I have found the environment to be a great conversation starter to explain how wonderful God's Creation is and how much God loves us. This, then, naturally flows into conversations about how God loved us so much that he sent his Son for us and brought him back to life so that we can spend forever in heaven with him. Paul describes



in 1 Corinthians 9:21-23 how he became all things to all men in order to try to reach as many people as he could with the Gospel. This is a great example for us. Often times we do become like other people—in worship styles, worship times, learning their language, etc. in order to try to reach more people with the Gospel. Why not try becoming Environmentalists to win the Environmentalists? This is not to suggest that we all can and must do this. If we all became Environmentalists, we would be missing out on tons of other opportunities. However, we can begin by making small changes—not wasting, keeping the planet in our considerations, showing that we do care and that it does fit well with our faith. This may be a great outreach opportunities for Campus Ministries to consider. If they began student organizations as Christians who cared for the Environment it would be a great testimony to their faith and a great ADDITIONAL opportunity to reach out besides what they are already doing. God cares about every creature he has created—even every little bird. More importantly, God cares about every soul he has created—even those who only seem to care about the environment. Let's take this opportunity, when we have it, to reach many more people with God's love. ☪☪

“Human-Caused Global Warming Slight So Far”

In an article published in September of 2006, Michael Oard points out that there is a sizeable minority of scientists who disagree with the dire predictions of the global warming community.

A petition sponsored by the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine has been signed by over 20,000 scientists, about 2,700 of whom are physicists, geophysicists, climatologists, meteorologists, oceanographers, or environment scientists. The statement says:

There is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth.¹

Oard advocates further reasoned research and a forum for stating the views of both the advocates and the dissenters of the extreme human-caused global warming scenario.

Reasons for Caution

Christians are urged to (1) evaluate the assumptions and goals of not just those advocating urgent action on global warming now but also the entire environmental movement, (2) checking the data, and then (3) evaluating any proposed courses of action to mitigate global warming. He quotes 1 Thessalonians 5:21: “But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good.” (NASB)

Oard fears that some people in the environmental movement may want to change our way of life and, in particular, the Christian worldview that has guided the Western Hemisphere.

He does mention the Evangelical Climate Initiative (ECI) which was endorsed by 86 prominent Christian leaders and which supports taking action on confronting global warming. But he also mentions the Evangelical Interfaith Stewardship Alliance which he says took the ECI to task for “poor analysis” and for the likelihood that the poor would be harmed by “draconian government regulations.”

Examples of Hysteria

Examples of misinformation and hysteria are not hard to find, Oard writes. The April 3, 2006 issue of Time magazine stated

without any qualifications, “The climate is crashing, and global warming is to blame.” The same magazine in a January 22, 1996 article even blamed global warming for blizzards, such as the powerful January, 1996 East Coast northeaster.

A video produced in 1990 claimed world temperatures would rise 55°F by the year 2050.

Oard mentions Al Gore's contention that some opponents of his global warming position are working for the oil companies, but Oard says the agendas of the environmentalists should also be examined because some are benefiting economically.

The Data

What does the data actually show? Oard says the apparent average degree of surface warming in the Northern Hemisphere since 1880 has been only 1.2°F. However, he does say analysis of such data is complex because over the years measurement techniques have changed, instrument shelters have changed locations, the type of thermometers used has changed, there has been a change in the time of observation, and the microclimate around the shelters has changed.

Oard admits that even most critics of the current global

warming movement agree that global warming over the past 100 years is undeniable. However, there are other possible causes for this warming in addition to an increase of carbon dioxide. An example is the increased irrigation in the San Joaquin Valley which has caused warmer nighttime and cooler daytime temperatures.

Another key observation is that carbon dioxide has been increasing in the atmosphere, probably since the 1850s due to the industrial revolution and the destruction of tropical rainforests. However, carbon dioxide is only a minor greenhouse gas, providing less than 5% of the greenhouse warmth that makes our planet livable. It is water vapor that actually stabilizes our climate. If it gets too hot, evaporation will increase and clouds will cool the climate by reflecting sunlight.

Both advocates and skeptics of runaway greenhouse warming use the same data but their interpretations differ, just like in the creation/evolution controversy, says Oard.

Natural vs. Man-Made Global Warming

Recent global warming is partly due to natural fluctuations, such as effects of the sun² and

volcanoes. Fewer sunspots and more volcanism can result in cooler temperatures. Fewer sunspots results in less solar radiation. These were probably major factors in causing the Little Ice Age from about 1400 to 1880. However, preceding the Little Ice Age was the Medieval Warm Period. Scientists though are not sure how much global warming is caused by natural fluctuations. One has stated:



The mechanisms driving natural climate variations are too poorly understood to be included accurately in computer climate models. Hence, the models risk overstating human influences.³

Oard also mentions some of the gloomy climate predictions of the early and mid-1970s—when it was thought a new ice age was on its way. A cooling trend at that time was leading to an increase in sea ice, at a time when the buildup of carbon dioxide should have been increasing the temperature.

At the present time, while the North Pole seems to be warming up, the South Pole may actually be cooling down.

How Much Warming after Carbon Dioxide Doubles

Climate specialists run computer simulations to predict how

much global warming will occur if carbon dioxide (CO₂) continues increasing in the atmosphere. Many climate models have been proposed with a wide variety of responses. Simulations that assume a doubling of CO₂ have predicted temperature increases ranging from 3 to 11°.

Oard provides data that shows a 60% increase in CO₂ since 1880 but only a 0.6° temperature rise (that can be blamed on human activity). This means, if CO₂ doubles, the actual rise in temperature should be closer to 1%. The differences in these projections may be due to difficulties in estimating global variables. Clouds, precipitation, radiation, ocean processes, and snow and ice reflectivities all are difficult to predict.

Will There be a Net Harm To Man and the Environment?

Advocates of dealing with global warming now point out the potential dangers: more and worse hurricanes, melting ice sheets, rising sea levels, droughts, increased death rates from heat, and even a surge in the growth of poison ivy.

But there are potential benefits. While it is true more people may die from severe heat, fewer will die from severe cold. Nearly ten times as many people die

from severe cold as from excess heat.⁴

More warmth will also result in an increased growing season and more area for agriculture. Furthermore, since global precipitation increased 1% per decade during the 20th century, global warming may lead to a wetter planet causing more plant growth. More plants also could mean more of the carbon dioxide could be absorbed by the vegetation. There appears to be no long-term increase in droughts because of global warming, though some experts dispute this.

What about action by governments to deal with a perceived increase in hurricanes and carbon dioxide levels? One study says that the cost to fight global warming could be in excess of a trillion dollars per year. The economic hardship, especially on the poor, would be substantial.

What about the predictions of rising sea levels due to global warming, the degree of which is under dispute? People could move inland or build higher dikes. A beneficial result of rising sea levels would be more shipping in the Arctic Ocean.

More Research is Needed

Oard's closing comments restate his contention that more research is needed. Arguments on

both sides of the issue should be heard and evaluated. Potential negatives should be considered along with possible benefits of global warming. If more research shows that those scientists who are in the minority on this issue are in error, that we need to invest in new, cost-effective technologies that will reduce global warming. ☺

Note: Michael Oard's article along with full documentation can be found on the Answers in Genesis web site.

Notes:

1. Oregon Petition Project, <http://www.oism.org/pproject/s33p37.htm>
2. Recent reports indicate that the planet Mars is also undergoing global warming at a similar rate to that of Earth. Visit "<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/02/070228-mars-warming.html>" or type "Mars+global warming" in a search engine.
3. http://www.cornwallalliance.org/docs/Call_to_Truth.pdf
4. A new book titled *Cool It* predicts that if the temperature rises 3.6° in Britain, there will be an estimated 2,000 more deaths from heat during the next century but more than 20,000 fewer deaths from the cold.

Can A Christian be a Good Scientist?



By Pastor Robert Hein

Can a Christian who accepts the Bible as literal truth also be a good scientist? Many secular scientists insist that is not possible. Christians receive insults to their scientific intelligence all the time. Consider this statement from Jude Dougherty, dean of the School of Philosophy at the Catholic University of America, "I don't think anyone who is at least minimally, scientifically literate doubts that the theory of evolution is correct." The conclusion? If you don't accept the theory of evolution as scientific fact, you are not worthy to be called a scientist.

And so Christians studying and preparing for careers in the scientific world often feel the

pressure to compromise or reject what the Bible teaches in order to gain acceptance from the scientific community.

But is that really necessary? Can a Bible believing Christian also be a good scientist? It depends on which kind of science you are talking about. It is useful to make a distinction between "**operational science**" and "**origins science.**" **Operational science** is based on the laws of physics, chemistry, biology etc. that God established when he created the world. The discoveries and applications of observational science are based on the scientific method of observation

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and experimentation. We use observational science to understand how a computer works, how to send a spaceship to the moon and back, how plants and animals reproduce after their kind, how medicines fight disease, and how gravity affects our world. While Christians humbly admit there is still much we do not understand of how God governs this universe, we really have no conflict with the findings of operational science. In fact, we expect the world to follow the rules of operational science since an orderly God established them in the beginning, and keeps them in working order to this very day. We do recognize however that present findings can be proven wrong, and replaced with new scientific discoveries.

Bible believing Christians also believe in **miracles**. Miracles, by definition, usurp the laws of operational science. For example, operational science teaches us that people can't walk on water and dead people don't rise to life again. Christians don't deny these laws of operational science; we simply believe that our supernatural God who established those laws also has the authority to intervene in human history to usurp them.

Some of the greatest scientific discoveries and advances were made by scientists who also ac-

cepted the Biblical account of creation. Consider Isaac Newton who co-discovered calculus, formulated the laws of motion and gravity, calculated planetary orbits, and invented the reflecting telescope. Consider Johannes Kepler who discovered the three laws of planetary motion, or James Maxwell who discovered the four fundamental equations that light and all forms of electromagnetic radiation obey. A belief in the evolutionary claims of origins science was not required for any of these great scientists to advance their work.



Bible believing Christians do not have a problem then with the findings of operational science when it comes to how our present world functions. Rather we disagree with the claims of **origins science**. Origins science is not based upon observation and experimentation of the present, but rather on speculation and unproven assumptions concerning the past. For example, opera-



tional science teaches that everything reproduces after its own kind. That is what we see happening today. Within a specific animal kind there is a great deal of room of variety and adaptation. However, we never observe microbes becoming monkeys or monkeys becoming men. In fact, the laws of operational science teach us this is impossible. But proponents of origins science insist that in the distant past, things worked much differently. Back then mutations occurred on a regular basis over millions of years which continually added new genetic information to succeeding generations. We don't see it happening. We can't make it happen in a laboratory. The findings of operational science actually say it can't happen. And yet we are expected to believe that all these beneficial changes did happen over millions of years simply by random chance. Louis Pasteur developed the law of Biogenesis, which teaches that life

only comes from life. No one has ever refuted this law of operational science. And yet we are expected to believe that billions of years ago, things worked differently, that life, intelligent life, could spring from non life, all on its own. Understand then that the claims of origins science are not based on sound scientific observation and experimentation, but more so upon a premise of naturalism that clouds the interpretation of the evidence we observe.

Christians don't have to put their brain in the closet to be good scientists. We do always need to keep our human reason subject to the Word of God. As God's Word teaches, "**We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**" 2 Corinthians 10:5-6. However, we normally expect our world to follow the rules of operational science which God established. This will enable Christians to excel in all sorts of scientific fields such as biology, chemistry, astronomy, botany, medical research, and in the development of new scientific technology. But Christians must always reject the unproven claims of origins science when these theories contradict the clear teachings of the infallible Word of God. ☞

► LSI News

Office of President Vacant

Pastor George Enderle has announced that he has accepted a call to fill a vacancy in Germany. Consequently, he will not be able to continue serving as LSI president at the present time.

We are sorry to see Pastor Enderle go and thank him for his work, especially in securing funds for our new library.

We do understand the important role he will have in furthering the work of the Kingdom in Germany and wish him God's blessings.



Library Catalog Included With This Mailing

The new catalog listing the resources in our library, regulations and rental fees is included in this mailing.

It is recommended that those churches, schools, and LSI members who have Internet access reserve their materials via our web site. We will try to update the library section daily so as to provide more timely information on which resources may be available for the dates you desire.

► The Mail

Creation Web-sites

I have just received my July-August LSI Journal and was pleased to note the article about creation web-sites. I feel there is one other web-site that should be noted. It is for Creation Moments at www.creationmoments.com. This web-site has a new article every day relating to nature and God's design in it. It also has an article library listed under resources which could prove useful and interesting. They produce a daily radio program which groups may wish to sponsor as a outreach tool. Creation Moments, Inc. was formerly Bible-Science Association begun by Rev. Walter Lang in 1963. It is my understanding that he was a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastor.

I hope you make note of this link in the LSI Journal and on your web-site.

Thank you.
H.A., Wyoming

We are considering it. editor



Creation Museum Drawing Big Crowds

Less than 2 months after it opened, the \$27,000,000 Creation Museum in Kentucky has already welcomed over 100,000 visitors, putting it on track to easily surpass its goal of 250,000 visitors for its first year. Packed parking lots and long lines of people waiting to get in are common at the museum. The response has been so overwhelming museum officials are petitioning to add 650 spaces to the parking lot, to build a canopy over the main entrance, and to possibly add a second entrance for deliveries and staff. — www.kentucky.com (7/23/07)



Louisiana Wants to Ban ‘Partial Birth’ Abortion

Louisiana became the first state to ban “partial birth” abortions since the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a federal ban this year. The bill would create fines of \$1,000 to \$10,000 and jail terms for doctors who perform the procedure. An exception would be made if failure to perform the procedure would endanger the mother’s life. The measure must be still be signed by the governor, a Democrat, who has described her views as anti-abortion. — *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (6/27/07)

‘Listen to the Earth’ The Pope Says

Pope Benedict has said humans must listen to “the voice of the Earth” or risk destroying it. Last April the Vatican sponsored a scientific conference on climate change which suggested it is sinful to willfully damage the environment. The pope also said there is much scientific proof for evolution, but the theory could not exclude a role by God. — news.yahoo.com (7/25/07)

A Family’s Oldest Child Is Smartest, Survey Says

The oldest sibling in a family is, on average, 2.3 IQ points more intelligent than younger brothers and sisters according to a Norwegian study. A survey leader believes the reason is social upbringing rather than biological birth order. Older siblings receive more parental attention. The mean IQ for first-born kids was just over 103, second-borns just over 100, and third-borns about 99. — news.bbc.co.uk (6/21/07)

Embryonic Stem Cells — No Embryo Deaths

Three teams of scientists working independently have reported they have produced the equivalent of embryonic stem cells in mice without having to destroy embryos. Getting ordinary skin cells to behave like stem cells, they hoped their breakthrough could possibly lead to medical treatments in humans without the need for using embryos. Experts cautioned though that a lot of work was needed before ensuring the procedure would work in humans. — news.yahoo.com (6/6/07)

Museum Boosts Darwin

The American Museum of Natural History in New York City has opened a new 9,000-square-foot exhibit hall on evolution. Previously the museum had hosted a popular exhibition on Charles Darwin’s life and work. Science museums in major cities have recently been staging major pro-evolution exhibits in response to the increasing impact of the creation movement.—*Answers magazine* (July-September, 2007)

Wetter, Warmer World

A study based on two decades of satellite observations suggests global warming will increase worldwide precipitation by three times the amount current climate models are predicting. The difference between the models and the new data means either that the models are wrong or that two decades is not long enough to test predictions. Since warmer air holds more water, each 1°C in rise in global temperature may increase the amount of water vapor in the atmosphere by about 6.5%. — www.nature.com (5/31/07)

Pollution in China

A national push in China to reduce pollution levels has failed so far to prevent the worsening of air and water quality in that country. Only 38% of 585 cities surveyed met air quality standards and that is down from 45% in 2005. Levels of healthy water has also slipped by 7.24%. The economic boom in China has led to the harmful pollution nationwide, but progress is being made in some places in treating sewage and in properly disposing of garbage. — news.yahoo.com (6/12/07)

Terrorist Cyber Crime

The global Jihad terrorist group is using the Internet to engage in cyber crime, according to U.S. and British investigators. Three United Kingdom residents pleaded guilty to a terrorism charge of using the Internet to incite murder. They also used computer viruses and stolen credit card accounts to set up a network and Web sites that sponsored lessons on computer hacking as well as videos showing beheadings and suicide bombing attacks. More must be done to confront cyber crime, the investigators say. — www.washingtonpost.com (7/5/07)

Frozen Baby Mammoth Found In Russia

A “10,000-year-old” frozen baby mammoth was discovered by a reindeer herder in May on Russia’s Yamal peninsula. The remains of the six-month-old female were in a remarkable state of preservation. Scientists hope the four-foot-tall animal might yield DNA samples that can be used to clone and resurrect the extinct members of the elephant family. — www.cnn.com (7/11/07)

Greenland Once Warm

Ice-covered Greenland was once covered with forests in a climate much like that of Sweden or eastern Canada today. This observation is by an international team of researchers which recovered ancient DNA from an ice core. The DNA indicated the presence of pine, yew and alder trees as well as insects such as butterflies and beetles at the bottom of the core which had been drilled through 1.2 miles of ice.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (7/6/07)

Space Pioneers Needed

Wanted: space pioneers to embark on a 520-day “trip to Mars”. The European Space Agency has called for applications for six “astronauts” who actually will be spending 17 months on a simulated Mars trip in an isolation tank on Earth. Once inside the interlocking series of modules, the volunteers will be cut off from all contact with the outside world except for a delayed radio link. The volunteers will face simulated emergencies, daily work routines and experiments and probably some personality clashes as well. The goal of the experiment is to discover the psychological challenges a crew will face on a trip to Mars. — news.yahoo.com (6/19/07)

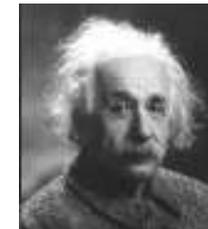
Moon Land for Sale?

Since 1980 more than 4 million people have purchased “Lunar Deeds” allegedly giving them ownership of property on the moon. A man named Dennis Hope of the “Lunar Embassy” is trying to take advantage of a loophole in the 1967 United Nations Outer Space Treaty which prohibits nations from owning moon real estate but which says nothing about individuals. However, some experts say the official-looking deeds which sell for \$19.99 are worthless because the rights of individuals can’t prevail over those of nations.—*Discover magazine*



Space Probe Supports Einstein’s Theory

A NASA space probe has seemed to verify Albert Einstein’s general theory of relativity. Nearly three years ago the \$750 million Gravity Probe B Relativity Mission was launched to see if a massive body like Earth could really bend the space-time fabric of the universe. Einstein also claimed that as massive bodies in space rotate, they “drag” space behind them. — *Discover*



Classifying the Galaxies

Volunteers are being recruited for a project called Galaxy Zoo, which has the goal of categorizing over a million galaxies into different types. All one needs is a computer and a pair of eyes. Galaxy Zoo’s website hosts around a million images which it is hoped can be classified into two main types of galaxies: spiral, like the Milky Way, or elliptical. The experiment’s leaders hope it will help answer questions about how galaxies form. — news.nature.com (7/11/07)

Phones OK in Hospitals

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic discovered that cell phones have no effect on the 192 medical devices they studied in their own clinic. They recommended that hospitals allow cell-phone use except in surgical operating rooms.—*Parade* (6/24/07)

Can't Beat Chinook

A computer program called Chinook has proven to be unbeatable at a game of American checkers. A team from the U. of Alberta, Canada has been working on the program since 1989, sometimes running calculations on as many as 200 computers simultaneously. Chinook requires almost no time to "think" before its next move, and a perfectly-played game against it will end in a draw. — *www.nature.com* (7/19/07)

Hard Drive Failures

Neither excessive usage nor high temperatures may be as dangerous to computer hard drives as formerly believed, the search engine Google says. A survey covering over 100,000 hard drives found that more damaging to hard drives were the parameters found in the self-monitoring facility or SMART. Drives with more surface defects (indicated by scan errors) or damaged sectors are more likely to fail. — *Smart Computing* (May, 2007)

Prosthetic Ankles and Feet Help Amputees

A computerized prosthetic ankle and foot that can change the lives of a growing number of amputees returning from battle was unveiled in July by U.S. researchers. The prosthesis has a built-in power source and multiple springs that mimic a real human ankle, thus giving amputees more propulsion when walking and reducing the limping and back pain that often is associated with existing prosthetic devices. The new device is expected to be sold by iWalk, a Massachusetts company. — *news.yahoo.com* (7/24/07)

Talking Plants?

A group of postgraduate students at New York U. are actually working on a way for over-watered or thirsty plants to phone for help. The project which is called "Bontanicalls" uses sensors in the soil to send a signal over a wireless network when help for a plant is needed. The messages use recorded voices that are assigned to each plant to match its biological characteristics. — *news.yahoo.com* (7/25/07)

Competitive Plants?

Plants growing next to unrelated neighbors are more competitive than those growing near their siblings. So say two researchers at McMaster U. in Ontario who determined plants put more energy into growing roots when they are not related to their neighbors. Plants can apparently sense nearby plants through changes in water or nutrients available to them or through chemical cues in the soil. — *www.nature.com* (6/13/07)



Everglades No Longer Endangered

Everglades National Park in Florida and a rain forest reserve in Honduras have gone off the U.N.'s list of endangered world cultural sites after improvements in conservation programs. The Everglades is a sanctuary for a large number of birds and other animals. It had been threatened by urban growth and pollution as well as Hurricane Andrew in 1992. — *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (6/26/07)

New Cars May

Prevent Drunk Driving

Toyota is testing a car which has an engine that will shut down if the driver is drunk. Set to debut in 2008, the car features sensors on the steering wheel that measure the alcohol level in the driver's sweat and a dashboard camera that can check for dilated pupils as well as a computer monitor for erratic steering. Nissan is working on a built-in Breathalyzer that a driver must blow into before starting the engine. Some DUI offenders in the U.S. already use such a device. — *Parade* (6/24/07)

Traffic Deaths Falling In United States

Traffic deaths in the U.S. are falling, an official with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says. Last year saw the lowest number of traffic deaths in five years and the rate of deaths per miles traveled was the lowest in history. In 2006 42,642 people died in highway crashes compared to 43,510 in 2005. The fatality rate was 1.42 deaths per 100 million miles traveled. — *(Racine) Journal Times* (7/24/07)

After Nineteen Years Man Comes Out of Coma

Nineteen years after a head injury put a Polish man into a coma, he has regained consciousness. Doctors had predicted that Jan Grzebski, 65, wouldn't live more than 2 or 3 years after the accident. What is more, Grzebski's wife says he remembers everything that was going on around him including the weddings of their children. — *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (5/4/07)—reported in *Clearing Caring* (July/August, 2007)

Nurse Almost Gets Sucked Out of Plane

A window blew out of a cabin of an air ambulance while it was flying at 20,000 feet, and a critical-care nurse aboard had to fight to keep from being sucked out. The male nurse, Chris Fogg, who was flying from Twin Falls, Idaho to Seattle said he didn't know the reason he was spared. Fogg's head and right arm were pulled outside the window while he was unbuckled, and he suffered cuts to his head. His 6-foot-tall 220-pound frame may have saved his life. — *www.cnn.com* (7/2/07)

Sub Explores Big Underwater Valley

Researchers using a British robot submarine to explore a vast underwater valley the size of the Grand Canyon just off the coast of Portugal were in for some surprises. The canyon had never before been properly studied. Among the surprises: a shark found swimming at a depth of 12,000 feet; cold water corals seen clinging to rock, and evidence of climate change even at great depths. — *news.bbc.co.uk* (6/19/07)

Yawns Keep You Awake

Yawning helps keep us awake, say researchers. Psychologists studying 44 students have concluded that yawning sends cooler air to the brain, helping it to stay alert. Yawning thus seems to delay sleep rather than promote it. The experiments showed that raising or lowering oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in the blood did not promote yawning, which goes against conventional wisdom that yawning is needed to increase oxygen intake. — *news.bbc.co.uk* (6/19/07)

Bald Eagles Taken Off Endangered List

Bald eagles are no longer an endangered species. The federal government announced on June 28 that the eagles would lose their protection under the Endangered Species Act although they will continue to enjoy some protection. Bald eagles once were nearly wiped out by hunters and the insecticide DDT, but they began their comeback in 1972 when DDT was banned. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may allow a limited "take" of bald and golden eagles by landowners who follow specific conservation measures. — *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (6/28/07)



Cat Predicts Deaths

A two-year-old Rhode Island cat called Oscar can apparently predict the deaths of patients in a nursing home where he lives. In 25 different cases Oscar was seen to curl up on the beds of patients only hours before they died. Like doctors, the cat makes the rounds, sniffing and observing people and then sitting by those who will soon die. Doctors say most of the patients who died probably were unaware of Oscar's presence, but most families are grateful for the advanced warning and for the companionship the feline provided. — *(Racine) Journal Times* (6/26/07)

One Pill Could Curb Smoking and Drinking

A single pill could curb two separate temptations—to drink and to smoke. Called varenicline, it is already being sold to help smokers kick the habit, but preliminary research suggest it also might help heavy drinkers to quit. Because it targets the pleasure center in the brain, it might also help people having problems with gambling or the overuse of painkillers. Experts caution that more research is needed. — *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (7/10/07)



Marijuana Linked to Psychosis

Using marijuana may increase the odds of becoming psychotic according to researchers in an analysis of past research. The new review says that even infrequent use of pot could raise the small but real risk of serious mental illness by 40 percent. The researchers said they couldn't prove that marijuana itself increases the risk but that its use could be linked to certain personality traits or a tendency to use other drugs. — *(Racine) Journal Times* (7/10/07)

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What likely caused a whole lake to suddenly disappear? What is more dangerous at the beach than drowning or shark attacks? What is the truth about the Monster Pig? Find these and still more News Briefs online at www.lutheranscience.org

Horses

“His pleasure is not in the strength of the *horse*, nor his delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.” Psalm 147:10-11 (NIV)

What does God love more than strength? It is our faith and trust in Him that delights Him more. Yet, God has given to many creatures the gift of strength, such as that of the horse.

What is a horse? A horse is a mammal which has lived and worked among humans for thousands of years?

Why do we find horses so valuable? Most horses can be used for transportation, either by carrying humans on their backs or by pulling wagons or carriages. Heavier work

horses can be used by farmers to pull plows. Lighter horses can be used for entertainment, such as in racing. Horses can also be pets or, in some countries, sources of food, fuel, or clothing.



Thoroughbred race horses

What different names can be given to horses according to age? Horses according to age can be called *foals* (less than 1 year), *yearlings* (1 to 2 years), *colts* (males under 4), *fillies* (females under 4), *mares* (adult females) or *stallions* (adult males). Horses commonly can live to be 25 to 30 years old today although there was a horse in the 1800s who lived to be 62.

How big are horses? In the English-speaking world,

the size of horses is measured in units called *hands*. A hand is 4 inches in length.

Typical heights of some horses are 14 to 16 hands (small riding horses such as Arabians or Quarter Horses), 15 to 17 hands (large riding horses such as Thoroughbreds and American Saddlebreds), or 16 to 18 hands (heavy horses including Clydesdales and Belgians).

The largest horse in history was a Shire horse named Sampson or Mammoth which stood 21.2½ hands (7 ft. 2½ in.) tall and weighed 3,300 pounds. Horses usually weigh from about 850 to 2000 pounds. The smallest known horse was a miniature horse called Thumbelina which stood only 17 inches tall and weighed 60 pounds.

What is the usual behavior of a horse? Horses are prey animals which usually run when there is danger. However,

they have been known to fight to protect their young or when flight isn't possible.



Wild Mustangs

Horses are social animals needing other horses or, when trained, humans as companions. When their freedom to wander is cut off or when they are denied companionship, they can become difficult to handle.

What are some other interesting facts about horses? They can sleep standing up or lying down, eat grass, hay, or grain, and need annual vaccinations and regular dental exams.

Source: wikipedia

Activity: See if you can unscramble the words from the story:

SOREH _____

SLOAF _____

SWOLP _____

POMSANS _____



Children In Danger

The African elephant is in danger of going extinct. So is the Bengal tiger, the blue whale and a host of other animals. But there are some signs that there may need to be at least one addition to the list of the endangered—Western civilization.

It is well known that Europe’s population is sinking. According to the BBC, with 2.1 children per woman considered the minimum just to hold the population steady, statistics show that many European countries are falling far short of that including France (1.90 national average), U.K. (1.74), Germany (1.37), Italy (1.33) and Greece (1.29), just to name a few.

The population of the United States continues to grow, and projections indicate that, thanks almost entirely to immigration, this population increase will continue for decades.

However, a recent Pew Research Center survey may provide some answers as to Europe’s decline and raise questions about America’s projected growth.

The survey asked what

Americans considered keys to a good marriage. The 2007 survey was then compared to a similar survey in 1990 with some interesting results.

In 2007 faithfulness was considered by more respondents (93%) to be important to a successful marriage than any other factor. This was down slightly from 95% in 1990.

The biggest jump in any factor was “sharing household chores” which went from 47% in 1990 to 62% in 2007.

The factor with the biggest decline is a shocker. In 1990 65% of respondents indicated having children was important to a good marriage. In 2007 it was only 41%!

Adequate income, good housing, happy sexual relationship, shared religious beliefs and shared interests all came out ahead of having children.

More than likely Europeans have similar feelings and, if so, that is an answer to their falling populations. For Americans, this survey should be a warning.

Shouldn’t we pay attention to what God says about children? Psalm 127 states that children are a “reward” from God and a “blessing.” For Christians especially, children should be right up there with faithfulness as keys to a happy, blessed marriage. ☺

—Warren Krug, editor

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