

VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS July 2021

*Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go.
Proverbs 3:6, The Message*

Greetings,

I've been thinking a lot about travelling. Getting stuck in traffic jams once more and waiting for Boris to allow me to fly home have made me ponder the theology of journeys.

It's wonderful to be back to normal – or near normal - life. Praise God for immunology and inoculations! (Many thanks to Edward Jenner, too!) But I am sad that the beneficial effects of a year with little travel will soon be lost.

The New York Times reported that, *"The longtime goals of reducing the number of cars on the roads and unacceptable levels of air pollution was achieved in a few weeks."*ⁱⁱ Fewer journeys and less industrial activity made it possible to *"see the Himalayan blue skies for the first time in 25 years."*ⁱⁱⁱ Wow! A lockdown benefit surely worth preserving ...

My dad worked in the accounts department of Esso Petroleum (Exxon) his whole life.

For many years, their TV jingle was, *"The Esso Sign Means Happy Motoring."*

I'm not sure what "happy motoring" is, or whether Shell and BP gave rise to mirthless driving. But I do believe that Godly motoring is a thing!

As stewards of God's good Earth, environmentally-friendly travel should be part of our Christian discipleship. So, more energy efficient cars and more efficient erranding. More people per vehicle (ride sharing and improved public transport), fewer trips and fewer flights. ("Real Christians Use Zoom").

Journeying has always been a metaphor for the life of faith. Now, it is time to make faith our model for journeying. We even have a built-in navigation system. Our **God Positioning System**^{iv} already rescues us from lostness and leads us onto the right routes. Let's make this Inner Compass, our travel and motoring guide.

Have a blessed and Earth-beneficent summer!

Brenda

ⁱ Dr. Edward Jenner (1749-1823) discovered that exposure to cowpox prevented smallpox infection.

ⁱⁱ Tanya Mohn, "The Traffic Trade-Off," NYT, June 4, 2020

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Thanks to Thomas Opoku for this image.