

Greetings from Tyler,

At least one or two calls come in almost every week where I will be asked, "How is the income holding up?" I know it is of increased concern at a time when we, as a nation, are hearing terrible economic news and terrible predictions about what the future may hold. My answer is that our income has remained solid and steady. We actually finished 2008 at a slight increase over 2007, despite the loss of some dedicated supporters and the financial turmoil that became apparent last fall.

Some new, and very exciting outlets for the television program (nationally) are under examination, and we'll be circumspect (with board involvement) in making any major decisions of that magnitude.

I have some positive news to report about our group in Sacramento. Mr. John Mitchell has located, renovated and decorated a beautiful facility for our growing congregation there. They held their inaugural service at the new location last week, and were thrilled to have their highest attendance to date for a regular Sabbath service. They are poised for growth, and off to a great start.

I'm also pleased to report that a small group of people from Trinidad and Tobago got into contact and I had the pleasure of speaking with a very happy and enthusiastic lady who we will assist in organizing a regular Sabbath and Holy Day observance there. There are six adults with three children to start, and we will notify others on the mailing list once it is established.

It's much easier to be upbeat and hopeful about our organizational prospects than it is to stay optimistic about the direction of the country. The national news, I'm sure you're aware, is distressing to put it mildly.

The new 21st Century WATCH has been printed and is being mailed. We've already taken delivery of the extras here at the office.

Now it appears that Benjamin Netanyahu is the one who will be forming a new government in Israel, to the "disappointment" of the new administration in Washington D.C., according to reports. Here in Tyler, we're not disappointed. It will be good to have at least one staunch realist in power somewhere in the free world.

The Garner Ted Armstrong program this week was on the Answer to Unanswered Prayer. We've had 377 requests, with two hundred three first time contacts. It is unusual and surprising that this program pulled fewer than the one last week on whether God's Laws remain in force. But as you can see, first time responders made up well over fifty percent of the total.

We must remain positive and upbeat personally and organizationally despite the heartache national and international news causes. It would seem prudent that we keep some of our "powder dry," if you will, so that we can remain in a position to sound the

alarms when indicated by important prophetic events that yet lie ahead. Thanks to all of you in the field who continue to go above and beyond the call of duty locally in addition to the encouragement and support you lend to HQ.

Have a wonderful Sabbath day,

Mark Armstrong