

Greetings from Tyler,

Mr. Robert Nunnery is here for the Sabbath, and we just finished the full tour of our facilities. He brought four other gentlemen along for the trip and they all seemed to enjoy meeting our staff and getting acquainted with the various aspects of our operations. Mr. Nunnery will be the main speaker tomorrow, and we'll get the DVD of tomorrow's service out to all the groups and congregations as soon as we can.

The Garner Ted Armstrong telecast this week offered material on the subject of the "Rapture..." the sermon Way of Escape and the booklet Heaven on Earth. The numbers seemed a little low, particularly based on the timeliness of the subject matter. But then I realized that we've just changed back to daylight savings time, and it may be a week or two before audience habits stabilize.

We have contracted a new time for the program to air in Los Angeles. It will be on KHIZ at 8:00 am Sabbath mornings, with a sister station carrying the program in Modesto, California (day and time to be announced.) It may be premature to mention, but we're also looking at a Sky Channel outlet for Great Britain. It is billed as a wholesome secular network that will carry only a couple of hours per week of religious programming. It may be too expensive to stay on indefinitely, and may not bring tremendous response (how many Brits will snatch up the phone and call Tyler?). But it does seem to be within the scope of our work to give jolly old England a blast of the truth, even if only for a few months. And there is a strong likelihood that many would be directed to our web site.

The country is a little more hopeful this week, as financial markets made some gains over four consecutive days. The U.S. is still the object of the world's anger, as it is reliably estimated that about forty five percent of the wealth of the entire world has been destroyed over the past six months. Europe is in dire straits, with its banks heavily laden with bad debt, much of it in the former Soviet possessions in eastern Europe. As Dad said, and I've quoted before, economic calamity brings regime change. The sober publication the Economist is saying this could be the crisis that "breaks up Europe." That means not only the European Union, but also the euro. Germany is the only European nation in any condition to bail out bad debt east Europe, and none too happy about the spot they're in. A quote from the Economist reads, "Now Germany feels encircled by economic menace."

Don't we all?!? This situation in Europe and Germany in particular could well lead toward the fulfillment of the scenario we've expected for decades. The new U.S. administration wants everybody bailed out, and the Europeans are pretty sure they've already piled up about as much debt as they can handle. This is a central concern that we will continue to watch with great interest.

I don't have to tell you that the situation throughout the Middle East remains dicey and dangerous. Sentiment is strong in Israel to release some 450 terrorists (each of whom is directly implicated in acts that killed Israeli civilians) for the young Israeli soldier (Gilad Schalit) who was kidnapped two and a half years ago. There is a rush of negotiations

because Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled to assume the post of Prime Minister in two weeks time, and may not be inclined to make the exchange.

The Jerusalem Post reports that Netanyahu may only serve as the head of a provisional government for a period of six months when elections would again be held. The article says Netanyahu expects that Israel will be involved in a major military conflict during the interim six months. Iran comes to mind.

At a time when the U.S. is known to be dependant on China to purchase American debt, a standoff between U.S. and Chinese naval vessels is developing in international waters in the South China Sea.

And lastly, Japan is threatening to shoot down an ICBM North Korea is about to launch under the claim that it is intended for their “space program.” (What space might that be?) This could get interesting as well.

Sorry to bury you in so many fluid events this week. But this is, after all, one of our primary responsibilities. We are living in a time like no other time in world history. Thank you all for you’re critical role in the field, and your support of the work going out from Tyler.

Have a good Sabbath.

Mark Armstrong