

Greetings to all,

I am on the road with my mom for a long overdue and much anticipated visit with the [Sacramento congregation](#). My intent is to make this update short, if not sweet.

Once again, close attention to domestic and international developments could easily result in deep facial frown lines. No one seems to know how or why an [oil rig in the Gulf](#) blew up, but the results promise to be with us for the foreseeable future, ecologically and politically.

You get the unavoidable impression that our country is entering a period of deep social discontent that promises to divide our peoples in ways we've never seen before. There is unbelievable [mayhem along the border with Mexico](#).

Attempts to bring the situation under control in Arizona cities being a [rash of kidnappings, home invasions and wild encounters with law enforcement](#) putting innocent bystanders in harms' way has resulted in virulent charges of racism and more. It's another in a growing list of conflicts between the states and the Federal government bent on imposing its agenda at every turn. All attempts at preserving the America of our youth are vigorously opposed, no matter the concerns of citizens.

The latest outrage at the UN is the appointment of [Iran to a commission on Women's Rights!](#) It's like something a comic might write into a stand-up routine.

You may have seen that [Spanish and Portuguese debt](#) has severely downgraded amid Europe's accelerating financial crisis. [Greece's national debt](#) has been reduced to junk bond status. The sad thing is, [the US is heading in the same direction](#).

But don't let the frown lines get too deep, dark as things look.

We have to look to the faith of our fathers historically and biblically. God is surely acutely aware of all that is transpiring here below, and He knows our trials. Our calm assurance of His power and ability to see us through is the key, so long as we do our part and put our trust in Him.

The new monthly letter is complete and on its way and the offer this month is perfectly tailored to bolster our confidence at a time we might otherwise despair.

Until next time,

Mark Armstrong