

Greetings from Tyler,

Last week, my Mom and I traveled to [Kingsport, TN](#) for meetings that included a Sabbath service (about 60 in attendance) where the speaking schedule was shared with [Mr. Chris Cumming](#). Introductions and announcements were delivered by Mr. Robert Nunnery, followed by a Bible study with Chris Sabbath afternoon, and another session on Sunday morning.

We were able to attend a terrific group dinner event at a local restaurant on Friday evening, with about twenty-five people including the locals and some others who had driven in for the occasion. The events were planned and organized by Mr. Judd Carter, Mr. Kelley Pierson and Mr. Wayne Graves, and we appreciate their efforts. The potluck meal prepared by the local congregation was enjoyed by all, and was nothing short of a “feast!”

Are you familiar with the term “[cap and trade](#)?” If not, stand by. It is about to enter the mainstream of American consciousness. In short, the term represents government monitoring of energy usage and “emissions” at every level. The “cap” means the maximum amount of energy that can be consumed, or as the [EPA](#) puts it, “an aggressive cap, or maximum limit on emissions” according to a prospective formula before financial penalties are levied for exceeding established targets for energy usage. The “trade” part of the term means that an entity using less energy could “sell” its unused energy credits to an entity using more energy than the formula allows.

In case you’re not sufficiently bewildered, you can check out the official EPA explanation at the [EPA’s own website](#). This appears to be the next shoe to drop in America’s submission to “[global warming](#)” ideology. All three remaining presidential candidates are on board with the prospect of “cap and trade” becoming a part of the legal landscape in the United States. A lengthy overview from the [Heritage Foundation](#) documents results experienced in European countries where “cap and trade” laws have been implemented. The result has been an increase in energy costs, with no decrease in emissions. Heritage also warns that the selling of “emission credits” is fertile ground for economic fraud.

Fuel prices are affecting every single one of us, and driving up the price of food and nearly everything else. Rather than increase the supply by tapping new resources, building refineries and building nuclear power plants, our politicians are turning their attention to punitive legislative solutions that will not reduce prices, but rather exacerbate an already untenable situation. The concluding statement of the Heritage Foundation article calls proposed “cap and trade” laws, “nothing short of a government reengineering of the American economy...” that would, “put the nation on a path of serious economic harm not justified by any benefits.”

Freedom and prosperity are the hallmarks that have made the American way of life the envy of the world. Now, after decades of institutional brainwashing by God rejecting educational institutions and the mainstream media, where the radical philosophies of the

1960's are dogma, America is poised to forfeit its divine blessings in a fit of new age self righteousness. So "cap and trade," right alongside national recognition of "gay marriage" may well become the hallmarks of our once proud United States.

In better news, [the CIA](#) reports that [al Qaeda](#) is seriously crippled and on the run. We still face the danger of some horrific attack that would attempt to make the terrorist entity relevant, but for all the hatred and disdain directed at the [Bush Administration](#), at least we've had seven years without the repeat of a [9-11](#) type event. But there's still a vast sea of radical [Islamic](#) hatred against [Israel](#) and the United States, and it appears that it is so well established that it will never be quelled short of divine intervention.

[Iran](#) and its nuclear program remains the central concern of Israel, the U.S. and even the [United Nations](#) whose [IAEA](#) expressed grave concerns in a report issued this week. There seems no question, even in the eyes of the UN nuclear watchdog agency, that Iran's nuclear ambitions are military. This situation may yet come to a head before the year is out, and if so, its effects will be pivotal to the balance of power in the [Middle East](#).

There are times when the prophetic scenario seems to race ahead rapidly, followed by a lull that is hard to understand. Right now, Iran seems to be in the forefront of militancy toward Israel with proxies in [Syria](#), [Lebanon](#) and [Gaza](#). But the other Arab nations are not embracing Iran's pretense of leadership, and something dramatic will have to transpire before the situation changes. We can speculate about the outcome of this or that possibility, but what would it accomplish? Something is going to have to give in the Middle East standoff, and it may have a profound effect on Europe's posture. For now, we'll have to wait and watch.

The Garner Ted Armstrong program last week brought in 425 responses, with one hundred sixty six first time contacts. This week we tallied 438 requests with one hundred seventy two first time callers. The monthly letter has been written, printed and should reach you any day now. We are staying completely current with incoming requests, and preparing for those about to arrive. Dr. Ricks has invited my Mom and I to meet for [Pentecost weekend at Land Between the Lakes](#) near [Paducah, KY](#), and we'll look forward to seeing a good many of you there. If you need information about that, or any other locations where we'll be observing Pentecost, give us a call or contact the web site.

[Mr. John Mitchell](#) and his wife Charlotte should be rolling into [Tyler](#) just about any time now, and we're looking forward to having him as guest speaker here tomorrow. Our love, respect and thanks go out to all of you in the field, and we hope you'll all have a terrific Sabbath.

Until next week,

Mark Armstrong