

Greetings from Tyler,

We're back from a terrific Pentecost weekend at Land Between the Lakes, KY. The atmosphere was wonderful, with perfect temperatures, a beautiful environment on the shores, nice accommodations and a terrific group of folks. Dr. Ricks organized the schedules with a workshop session and a Bible study in addition to the regular services with quite a range of speakers on the Sabbath and Pentecost. I've heard that the Pentecost observances in several other of our locations were well attended and very enjoyable.

Every week that goes by contains domestic news that we can barely assimilate, and this week has been no exception. In addition, over the last two days we've been treated to a number of statements made in the Middle East that illustrate just how drastically the American posture towards our allies and enemies has been altered. Some of that is illustrated in the attached commentary *Imagine: No Enemies, Only Dissilusioned Allies* [[see below](#)].

The New York Times informed us this week that a thirty one year old has been the key advisor in charge of dismantling and reapportioning General Motors, leaving the vast bulk of ownership in the hands of the U.S. government, and the UAW. The number of "czars" appointed to head everything from energy to healthcare in the United States has grown to twenty one. One column began with the statement that this administration now has more czars than a Russian history book. It's a matter of interest, because these positions are traditionally held by Cabinet members vetted by Congress. In this instance, the positions have no traditional oversight and answer only to the president.

What a shock to see *Pravda*, the Russian news agency, publish the blaring headline, *American Capitalism Gone with a Whimper*. The first line reads, "It must be said, that like the breaking of a great dam, the American decent into Marxism is happening with breath taking speed, against the back drop of a passive, hapless sheeple, excuse me dear reader, I meant people." The article goes on to say that Russians have a bloody past with this ideology, and would never stand by and "give up our freedoms and our souls, no matter how much money Wall Street poured into the fists of the Marxists." It goes on to chronicle, as numerous media outlets are doing, the evidence of the American government takeover of many facets of private commerce and industry.

Even Hugo Chavez of Venezuela tipped his hat, calling our president comrade, and indicating the even he might learn a thing or two.

The Jerusalem Post ran the headline *The American Threat*, in reference to the new administration's apparent strategy of befriending the Muslim world at Israel's expense. Every day the point is driven home, we are no longer the nation we thought we were. We simply watch, as do our allies and those far flung downtrodden expecting the U.S. would assist in their quest for freedom and security, in dumbfounded amazement as we learn what tenets and "values" our nation now embraces.

The Air France flight out of Rio de Janeiro that disappeared without a peep may be the

most recent terrorist action, but then again, we may never find out for sure. The murder of one, and wounding of another, military recruiter in Little Rock may qualify as the first terrorist attack on U.S. soil since 9-11. An American convert to Islam who'd traveled to overseas training camps for indoctrination carried this out, and the evidence suggests that more such incidents may be in the offing.

Much of the rhetoric read to the Muslim world this week sounds soothing. But it would be naïve to think that the extreme dangers threatening western civilization will dissipate as the result of a carefully crafted speech or two. In fact, the threats are still coming, and Iran blocked the TV signals. It is rather doubtful that North Korea paid much attention either. Maybe they don't even realize that the U.S. is now lecturing allies while trying to befriend those refusing to pay attention. The historic lessons involving the appeasement of brutal regimes bent on war will apparently have to be learned all over again. But this is the first time the stakes have involved isolated third world, uh, entities.

The Garner Ted Armstrong program last week was on *Unanswered Prayer*, and resulted in 392 **requests with one hundred sixty nine first time contacts**. This week the program was on *God's Laws*, and brought **316 requests with one hundred five** first time callers. The GTA program is due to air in England and in Europe for the first time in decades this coming Sunday, and that should be interesting.

I hope you're weather is half as nice as ours, and that you'll all have a great Sabbath.

Until next time,

Mark Armstrong

## **Imagine: No Enemies**

### *Only Disillusioned Allies*

From the best available data, one can only surmise that approximately seventy percent of Americans are uninformed or ill-informed. But, we've learned some shocking news, second hand from the Middle East this week. It began with the revelation that "the United States is one of the greatest Muslim nations in the world." No kidding? A Jazeera, with all its resources, including a bureau in Washington D.C. never even figured that one out. Obviously, we're not the only ones being taken for fools.

We also learned that "any world system that elevates one nation above another is destined to fail." What world system? The UN? Some nations are elevated above others for a host of reasons, even in the UN.

The Muslim world learned, hours before most of us this week, that the U.S. has much more in common with them than we, or even they ever guessed. It turns out that we share all kinds of “values” that neither faction ever considered like, “the dignity of man.”

The radical extremists were informed that they’re not really enemies of the United States at all! Sure, the U.S. has made its share of mistakes abroad, just like militant Islamists, just like Israel and so on. But it’s a new day, and we need to recognize now that we really all want the same things and now we can be friends. Never mind the clear doctrines of Islam that warn Muslims against friendship with infidels, and encourage their murder at every opportunity.

No doubt many in the Muslim world, numbering over a billion, were amused to learn all they were told. All the masses learned from the mainstream media here in the U.S. is that it’s a new day in relations. The tone indicates what was already borne out and reported in opinion polls throughout the Muslim Middle East. America has been very bad indeed, showing favoritism to Israel, conducting an unnecessary war in Iraq, even participating in the 1953 coup in Iran. It is now ok for Muslims and Americans to despise that self-serving old colonialist empire of the United States while loving and respecting its new teleprompted president and realizing that we are no longer what we were. Middle Eastern headgear must be whirling, and some of us on this side of the world are feeling a little dizzy too.

If you can boil six thousand words and over an hour of jaw-whipping body language down to a few lines, they would read something like this. That old United States of America was worthy of hatred, but it’s a new day and we’re different now. We can no longer support and defend free and democratic allies that stand in the path of Muslim aspirations. Iran is entitled to a nuclear energy program, and Israel will be snubbed, pressured and warned by the United States while we honor our historical commitments to them and make sure the Palestinians get their state. Motion sickness, anyone?

No one in Iran yet knows the lyrics to “We are the world, we are the children...” Though the message was beamed throughout the Middle East and all over the world, the ruling Mullahs thought better of exposing the Iranian population to the lecture against fear and mistrust.

Osama is not amused by all these claims of shared values. He just warned, “Let Americans prepare to reap what the leaders of the White House sow,” in statements related to U.S. influence in Pakistan.

Israelis fear they no longer have an ally in the United States. Having just completed one of the most comprehensive “missile attack drills” in their history, they are acutely aware of the threats they face from the many enemies around them, but particularly from Iran’s burgeoning nuclear capabilities. Europe has its own well-established concerns with its unassimilated Muslim immigrants. Europe is also wary of traversing the path of profligate stimulus spending of non-existent money. In Germany, Angela Merkel stared

at our president with a combination of horror and bumfuzzlement as he read from side to side.

Nobody on the world stage, least of all, we the people, have any idea who we are or what we're about anymore. Enemies are no longer enemies, they just don't realize how different we've become. Allies are no longer really friends, they just need to get with the program and come to grips with the fact that the past is so yesterday, to reiterate somebody's phrase. Then again, seventy percent of Americans break down into about thirty percent twitterpated and forty percent too caught up in daily pursuits to look beyond the fawning headlines of mainstream outlets.

"Violence is a dead end" we've all learned. But what happens to friends and allies when those factions addicted to the violence their brand of religion dictates acquire the means to eradicate infidels. How much soothing rhetoric will be remembered when nuclear fireballs loom skyward. How will the teleprompter read then? Chances are, we'll find out.

---end---