

1 August 2008

Greetings from Tyler,

It's scorching hot in our neck of the woods, but not near record territory. We hit 100 degrees for the first time this year on Sunday, and have topped out in the upper 90's every day since. But, this is normal for our neck of the woods in late July early August, and we'll get through it. Talking to my friend Wes Kerlin yesterday in Anchorage, Alaska, I heard that they're having the coldest Summer in recent memory, having broken seventy degrees only a handful of times so far. Wes says the tourists are miffed that the Alaskan summer this year is not as advertised. But lots of our politicians are determined to "save the planet," global warming or not!

Mere talk of drilling has, as mentioned last week, has resulted in a fairly substantial fall from recent record high oil prices. Congress has just adjourned for Summer recess, amid loud protest from some members, without allowing debate on the prospect of opening up some of our huge known reserves to production. This has become a central focus of the upcoming presidential election, and obviously, it's a major point of concern to nearly all Americans. At the risk of being seen as intervening in the political debate, it won't be solved by tire inflation.

But, in the event of an Iranian EMP attack on the U.S. mainland, the drilling debate would definitely take a back seat. Concern over the prospect has been resurrected over the past couple of weeks, and surely must be one of the greatest threats we face. It trumps all other economic concerns it certainly trumps the usual political scuffles over healthcare, Social Security etc. But, as was just stated, Congress has gone off on vacation and this issue hasn't risen to prominence in the national psyche anyway. If it should ever transpire, it will most certainly be front and center on every American's mind. Without going into further depressing detail here, you might be interested in a commentary just posted on the EA website that suggests that an EMP attack on the U.S. might actually be an Iranian priority over launching against Israel, and might actually precede it.

Will it take that kind of wake-up call to get this nation to begin to focus on the things of real importance? God forbid.

The Garner Ted Armstrong telecast this week centered on prophecies concerning the Antichrist and the Mark of the Beast. So far we've had 426 requests with one hundred sixty three first time respondents. We know those prophecies are on the horizon and will remain cognizant. Right now, our national way of life faces some major threats, some of which would be utterly devastating, and certainly represent tribulation on a Biblical scale. May God grant our national leaders (current and future) wisdom and judgment as we face the greatest challenges in the history of mankind.

Have a great Sabbath, and we'll be in touch,

Mark Armstrong

