

Greetings from Tyler!

Apart from a few days without power and some downed trees to contend with, last week's hurricane Ike left us here largely intact. Unfortunately, as you've seen yourself, the same cannot be said for Galveston, TX. The Feast site that had been planned for Galveston has already been relocated to San Antonio, and the specifics are posted on the intercontinentalcog.org web site.

We awoke this morning to troubling reports of the most massive government intervention in our "free market economy" in our history. This we are told was absolutely "essential" to prevent a full blown meltdown of our financial system that would threaten the rest of the world as well.

As the Federal Government has intervened on behalf of one major financial institution after the other, we've heard again and again that this or that institution was "too big to fail." Failure, if allowed, would take out other institutions at all levels of our economy resulting in a "meltdown" which would reverberate around the world. The price tag to taxpayers on the massive bail out is projected in hundreds of billions of dollars, possibly a trillion. The ultimate question is, is the USA "too big to fail?" Will world markets retain the confidence that keeps the whole system afloat? For now the answer seems to be yes, as world markets have rebounded wildly from some devastating sessions. The longer term is less certain.

I could go on about numerous grave situations on the world scene, and just did in the monthly letter you should receive on or about Oct. 1. Certainly we face troublous times economically, politically and internationally from the Middle East to Russia, Europe and even Venezuela which has allied itself with Iran and Russia! Israel faces grave uncertainty domestically, and an array of threats beyond any in its short history. As for us, we're continuing the work of witness and warning, and preparing to attend a joyous Feast of Tabernacles, that looks ahead beyond the calamities this world is facing.

The GTA program this week offered the two part series on the Resurrection and the booklet, *When I Die, What Happens Next*. It brought 374 requests with one hundred seventy four first time responders. These numbers will increase dramatically beginning Thursday, Oct. 2, when we begin airing again on the full ION network.

Thanks for all the support and prayers! We have Mr. Jim Josephsen and his wife Barb arriving very shortly, and you'll get tomorrow's service on DVD. We hope you'll all have a great Sabbath too!

We'll be in touch,

Mark Armstrong