

24 October 2008

Greetings from Tyler,

We've just arrived home from the Feast of Tabernacles, and I can tell you from having visited five sites that it was a glorious and memorable time. We'll be getting reports from the various coordinators over the next couple of weeks and working to give everyone a full description of all that transpired. Everywhere I visited I saw plenty of warmth and enthusiasm, and the weather was absolutely picture perfect at every site!

Please keep Mrs. Charles Gulley in your prayers. She suffered a major stroke during the feast in Panama City Beach. We've heard that she is improving and chances are good for a full recovery, however she's not out of the woods yet. I'm told that she's about to be transferred to a hospital close to the Gulley's home.

There are some interesting developments on the world scene. For one, you know from every available news source that the financial debacle is not yet behind us. Some are still speculating that it may be worse than a mere recession, as the markets continue to radically surge and plunge with historic losses that may not be recovered for years to come.

If you're able to find news on Europe, you must realize that the United States is no longer viewed as the stabilizing superpower that used to enjoy the world's respect. According to reports from recent European summits, this sad fact is dominating diplomatic discussions in regard to the aggressive bullying moves by Russia, and relating to the economic situation. Confidence in U.S. leadership has faltered, and both world markets and foreign governments are extremely uneasy about what the immediate future holds. As I reported, and quoted during the Feast, right wing political parties are beginning to gain strength in the heart of Europe and this is a trend that may well be the most important for us to watch.

In Israel, the coalition government has faltered and fresh elections are now a virtual certainty. Benjamin Netanyahu is an odds on favorite to become Israel's next Prime Minister. When you factor his hawkish views into the dangerous threats that Israel faces from numerous enemies, not the least of which is Iran, the Middle East situation will be back in the forefront of world attention in a big way.

And here in the U.S.? We may just have to wait for the outcome of the upcoming elections before we'll know what manner of nation we'll have here. The changes may be well beyond the wildest expectations.

All our staff is not back from the feast yet, and it will be next week before I can bring you up to date on recent TV results. I hope you all had a wonderful Feast, and we'll look forward to getting you some of the messages out on DVD in the weeks ahead. Thank you all for your involvement and participation in God's work!

I'll be in touch next week.

Mark Armstrong