

Letter from Mark Armstrong,

4/26/2008

Greetings from Tyler,

It's been a full and busy week here at HQ for a whole host of reasons. First we held our annual board meeting for the ICG last Sabbath and confirmed the naming of three new Area Coordinators. I feel no need to explain or promote their selection at this point, because their dedication and service are widely known. They are Mr. Murray Allatt, Mr. John Mitchell and Mr. Robert Nunnery.

This week has flown by at high speed, but we've accomplished quite a bit. Twenty-first Century WATCH is in final corrections and will go to print early next week. The new monthly letter is written and on the way, and three new articles have been completed this week, one of which will go up as a Commentary on the EA site this evening on the idea that Americans may want to Load the Pantry, as was suggested in a recent Wall Street Journal article.

Who would have expected that we would see the prophecies of Ezekiel 38 discussed on CNN Headline News. That is precisely what is about to happen this evening, and from all I can tell, it will be presented in quite an accurate context, asking are we living "in the end of days?"

As my Dad and Grandfather taught and believed, author Joel Rosenberg says Russia is Magog, and Iran is of course Persia. Mr. Rosenberg points out that never until now has there ever been a time when Magog and Persia have had an alliance. He suggests that Putin is allowing persecution of "Christians" on an unprecedented scale, and supporting the construction of Mosques throughout Russia.

This is mighty interesting stuff. Certainly all of the details of the prophecies of Ezekiel 38 and 39 are not addressed or explained, but the very fact that these matters are being discussed in the context of the "end of days" on national and international cable television is nothing short of remarkable.

I would be remiss if I didn't tell you that I heard Mr. Rosenberg in an interview this morning describing a corroborated story of President Ronald Reagan holding meetings with top advisors in the Oval Office in the early 1980's, discussing these very same prophecies. According to the account, he was determined to see that Russia not be in a position to carry out the role of Magog, hence his description of the Soviet Union as an "evil empire," and his determination to break its back, which he did. But that was then, and this is now.

I've often thought that God may well have used Ronald Reagan as an instrument to reinvigorate the United States, and I believe it is obvious that his presidency gave us nearly thirty additional years of relative peace and prosperity following the Jimmy Carter years that brought us very close to ruin. But that is speculation on my part.

We can expect the usual fear mongers to seize on reports of a worldwide food crisis, oil crisis, dollar crisis to try to gouge money out of their followers or worse. Is it smart to take precautions? Yes, always. But it is also time to keep our wits about us, heed the warnings of false prophets which are replete throughout the New Testament and guard against the deceptions of those with self-promoting motives. There is more going up on the website, and much more on its way in the TCW newsletter.

The Garner Ted Armstrong telecast brought in 830 requests over the past two weeks, with five hundred forty six first time responses.

Things are unfolding now at an increased pace, and we definitely have our work cut out for us. Thank you all for your participation!

Have a great Sabbath and Last Day of Unleavened Bread.

Mark Armstrong

Latest Word from Mr. Armstrong New Commentary [going on site later this evening]

Wall Street Journal says:

Load the Pantry

I remember talk of stockpiling food and ammunition as a means of surviving “troubled times” back in the early 1970s amid predictions of globe girdling wars, famines and an imminent breakdown of society. The immediate argument that comes back goes like this, “As for me, I’ll trust in God.”

This week’s article in the Wall Street Journal does not suggest that we Load the Pantry as a response to coming tribulation. The logic it lays out is an economic suggestion. The author, Brett Arends, says that food prices are rising at a much faster pace than the returns that can be realized on short-term investments.

And though we optimistic Americans are hoping that the recent spike in food and fuel inflation will soon pass, Arends lays out logic to support a likely acceleration in the trend.

No, the Wall Street Journal is not suggesting that you hunker in your bunker with an AK and a supply of Spam. They are suggesting that non-perishables are cheaper now than they will be later.

Do you carry a flashlight in your car? Is it smart to throw in a blanket, sleeping bag, some food, matches and a lighter when you drive over snowy mountains or the desert? Why? Because you don’t trust in God? Ridiculous!

We have a God-given responsibility to look after the needs of our families and friends, and to help others in need. The Bible says a righteous man lays up in store for his children and his children’s children. That means that we should prepare for all kinds of eventualities, and make sure that those who depend on us do not suffer as a result of our carelessness or neglect. Whether it’s a road trip, life’s journey in general, or these particularly unsettled times we face, the principle is intact.

Brace yourselves. There are numerous fear-mongers out there who will seize on nearly anything to get people to cough up money, and the unsettling times we are living in give them plenty of opportunity to create panic. Some may try to ship people off to a place of safety a la Jim Jones. Others may try to herd their followers into a compound. Doesn’t that sound like fun?

We’re beginning to hear discussions of the “end of days,” and the

fulfillment of Bible prophecy now on national radio and national television. I'm beginning to hear things in the news and in the mouths of authors and commentators that my Dad and Granddad were saying for decades! Does that mean it is time to get wild eyed; act in panic or hook up with some pretense of a prophet? No!

It means it's time to use our resources wisely, fulfil our responsibilities to our families and friends and above all keep our wits about us. Is that inconsistent with trust in God? Hardly!

It reminds me of an analogy Dad used, and this is a shortened version. There's a man clinging in the top of tree with turgid floodwaters rising around his ankles. When a helicopter shows up and lowers the rescue harness, he waves them off and shouts that he's waiting on God to save him.

Trust in God will be the only way we can endure in this deteriorating environment while remaining confident and in good spirits. A big can of Spam and an AK won't do it. But it's no time to suspend use of our greatest possession. And that is the power of sober discernment that resides in the mind God designed and gave each of us.

Mark Armstrong

addendum

I fear that in my update that I made an oversight and left a false impression. I quoted Mr. Rosenberg accurately. But it is obvious that the prophecies concerning Gog and Magog moving against Israel take place after the return of Christ when David is king over Israel [See Ezekiel 37:23-28]. I watch the program that aired on CNN Headline News tonight, the Glenn Beck program. Mr. Rosenberg is very interesting man and is on target on many of his viewpoints, but seems to have a few inaccuracies in his understanding and expectations to do with Bible prophecy. Ezekiel chapter 38 shows that Israel is living at that time in safety and without walls. That is certainly not the case today. Thanks for your indulgence. -Mark addendum

4/20/2008

Greetings from Tyler,

The pope has arrived, and is being treated like an international head of state by our government. There is no drama in that, because he is the head of the Vatican State headquartered in Rome. He is revered literally by millions here in the United States and around the world. He has been accorded titles that Jesus Himself rejected, including “holy father” and “his holiness.” He did say “God bless America,” which has been warmly received. According to generally glowing news reports, he is here as a reminder that we should differentiate between “right and wrong.”

The organization he heads represents the nucleus of all mainstream Christianity, whether the protestants grasp it or not.

It is the authoritative source of Sunday worship, contradicting the fourth commandment. In fact the “church” has rewritten the Ten Commandments to accommodate their practices, as I showed in last week’s update.

It is the source of the doctrine of the Trinity, which all the protestant preachers also insist is the cornerstone of “Christian” belief.

It is the religious authority responsible for swapping out the Passover (Lord’s Supper) in favor of Easter, with a history of the most vile persecution upon those they called “Quartodecimans,” (meaning those who clung to God’s command to observe the Passover on the 14th of Nisan)

It is the religious authority responsible for transforming the ancient festival of the winter solstice into a celebration of Christ’s birth.

While protestants look askance at the pope’s claim of infallibility, believe that the worship of Mary is in error and tend to reject the “miracles” of crying/bleeding statues, most everything else they accept as “doctrine” comes undeniably from one place, Rome.

The pope represents an organization that has taken upon itself all the detestable outward attributes of the Pharisees, who Jesus Himself so roundly criticized for their outward appearance of piety. (Whitened sepulchers full of dead men’s bones.) And this visiting head of state is the most visible personification of piety

in the entire “Christian” world.

As for us, we will gather to observe the Passover (Lord’s Supper) tomorrow at sunset. We can surely give thanks that God has blessed us with a land where we enjoy the freedom to obey His commands without fear of the kind of retribution for which Rome is historically famous. How long these freedoms will continue to prevail, given the direction of our nation, is anyone’s guess.

We’ll be holding a regular Sabbath service here in Tyler, observing the night to be remembered on Saturday evening and meeting again on Sunday for the First Day of Unleavened Bread. We’ll have at least a couple of guest speakers on hand in addition to Mr. Stan Roberts. I’m sure all of you in the field have similar plans, and we salute all of you and hope all is well.

I’m sending the update this week on Thursday, as Mr. Chris Cumming is leaving Friday morning to visit with the folks in Yakima, WA. So the Garner Ted Armstrong program stats will be reported in next week’s update. All the best during these important days ahead. May God bless all His people who strive to obey Him rather than the “commandments of men..” (Matthew 15: 9)

Mark Armstrong

4/12/2008

Weekly Update from Mark Armstrong - 11 April 2008

Greetings from H.Q.,

Stand by for all the buzz the pope’s upcoming visit to the UN will generate. He’s coming as a “pilgrim of peace” to promote dialogue between cultures and religions based on fundamental human rights. Doesn’t that sound meaningful? You can expect to hear reporters and pundits shamelessly referring to him by his blasphemous title, H___ F_____. I’m not even going to write it, because he is neither. He’ll be promoting the new universal ENVIRONMENTAL religion that threatens U.S. sovereignty. He’ll be preaching to the choir at the UN, and the media will

swoon. Some of his front-men have already warned of that newly identified deadly sin. The sin of “wasteful driving habits.” The universal church has bought into global warming, and it’s not just a political issue anymore. It’s taking its rightful place in the realm of religion. The pope obviously doesn’t want to see the faithful lured away into the “new age” movement. And since there’s no beating the brainwashing blitz of “climate change” propaganda, the Vatican’s obvious move is to get on board.

It’s been a long time since the universal church re-wrote the Ten Commandments. They call it their “Traditional Catechetical Formula.” (Don’t try pronouncing or looking up that word) It simply means the papacy has officially instituted it as doctrine. The Commandment-replacing formula omits the second Commandment about idolatry. I guess that takes care of the statues, crosses and steeples. The other glaring change is the omission of the SABBATH. “Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day,” is how the new version reads, and it is their third papal commandment. It is one more in a long line of examples of these parading “holy men” of questionable orientation overruling God. It’s been leaked that he will also address the priest abuse scandals.

This “greatest” of all “Christian churches” has paid out hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements in the U.S. to try to keep the lid on the unbelievable sexual abuses their “spiritual leaders” have committed against the children (predominantly young boys) of their members.

How helpful can it be when the two most visible of catholic spokesmen, regularly invited to explain the “church’s position” on news programs gaily exhibit unmistakable mannerisms of the alternative lifestyle. If not for their little white collars, you’d think they were designers or hair stylists. (Hide the altar boys.) You’ll surely see them gushing on cable news next week as the pope arrives in New York to preach that concern for “climate change” is now a spiritual responsibility.

A new commentary was posted on the EA web site this week, outlining numerous details of the War Fever that currently grips the Middle East. It is becoming clearer by the day that Iran is an active participant in targeting our troops, and the Green Zone in Iraq. The administration is not telegraphing any moves that may be in the planning. But it’s hard to imagine that the hard evidence under consideration in Washington can be ignored.

Ahmadinejad boasted this week of the installation of 6000 additional centrifuges for the enrichment of uranium. An Israeli Defense spokesman said, "We'll destroy Iran" if it attacks Israel, in the wake of its largest-ever civilian war drill. A Syrian spokesman said, "We are prepared for war." Clearly, a very dangerous escalation is underway. Israelis are living in a precarious environment with tens of thousands of Iranian-supplied missiles stockpiled on its borders. Iran has missiles capable of great range, and boasting of a great breakthrough in its uranium enrichment program.

The Biblical scenario for a King of the North over running a King of the South is clearly not yet a reality. But given the realities of the current situation, some interim fireworks look to be inevitable.

Mr. John Mitchell was scheduled to be in Tyler this week as our guest speaker. Unfortunately, the cancellation of hundreds of flights included the one he was scheduled to be on. We're hoping to reschedule him next month.

The Garner Ted Armstrong program this week flew in the face of mainstream "Christianity" proving from the Bible that the dead do not go immediately to heaven or hell, but are "asleep" until the resurrection. We've tallied 454 requests, with two hundred thirty-five first time contacts. We're enjoying the most gorgeous of springtime weather here in East Texas but its only temporary you know. Global warming is coming to the northern hemisphere and it'll be hot in no time! But it'll be cold in Australia. Be sure to read Murray Allatt's update from Sydney this week.

Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread DVD's have all been sent, and all the regular recipients should have them in plenty of time. If any additional copies are needed, please call us in time. That's it for this week. We'll be in touch again next Thursday at the latest.

Have a great Sabbath,

Mark Armstrong

4/4/2008

Greetings from Tyler,

Sorry for the lack of an update last week. We had visitors to entertain right up to the time we left for last week's visit to Savannah, GA. Once we arrived in Savannah, we were met by Mr. Robert Nunnery and a number of people from Fayetteville. The meeting went very well, with 59 or 60 in attendance, and Dr. Ricks was the anchor speaker. We sure appreciate the support of the warm and friendly folks from Fayetteville, and would also like to thank all of those in Savannah who worked to organize a successful meeting.

The Garner Ted Armstrong program last week was another chosen to coincide with the season, offering Believe it or not, the Resurrection was Not on Sunday, and Did Christ Preach to Spirits in Hell? It brought 793 requests, with four hundred two first time contacts. That program was the last one of this quarter on the ION Network. This week the program aired on our sixteen local stations and was on the subject of Heaven and the Kingdom of God. We had 457 requests with 185 first time contacts.

As many will remember, our mailing list stood just short of 60,000 names and addresses at the time we lost my Dad in 2003. Wouldn't he be gratified if he could know that the work he did was still having a major impact, reaching tens of thousands with truths they're hearing for the first time, and that our mailing list just surpassed 100,000!

We've got our hands full, satisfying the thirst that's been created in the minds of so many recent contacts, and every department in our offices is working hard to fulfil the demand. And again, we have all of you to thank for making this continued work possible.

Mr. Jim Josephsen and his wife Barb are due in within the next thirty minutes. Jim is on the schedule for the sermon this Sabbath, and we'll get the DVD on its way to you next week. Two were mailed this week, and we'll also be sending out Passover services on DVD along with sermons for the First and Last Days of Unleavened Bread. If any groups or individuals need HDO envelopes.

We know the nation is facing a whole series of crises. There is serious concern about the immediate economic outlook. With the clamor for government intervention on behalf of everybody

who's gotten in over their financial heads, it'll be a wonder if we don't tilt into a socialist quagmire.

It appears as though the war on terror may never be won, at least by the United States, and now we face a very bleak future in regard to our national leadership. It's a good thing we're prohibited from involvement with politics, especially at a time like this!

A major international "climate change" conference took place this week in Bangkok. News today indicates a fight over who gets control over all the money that's going to be gouged out of productive society to fight "global warming." CNN billionaire Ted Turner predicted this week that the remaining survivors of global warming will turn to cannibalism within 30 to 40 years. Talk about fear religion!

Another report this week declares that there has been no warming since 1998. As former lead NASA scientist said this morning, temperatures are going to have to start rising much more rapidly if they are to come anywhere near Al Gore's projections. Many of the calculations used to create the global warming frenzy have already been debunked. But it's now a fact of conventional wisdom. Hardly a day goes by without a slew of global warming references in the news. School children in their hundreds of thousands have been subjected to Earth in the Balance, Al Gore's Academy Award winning doomsday movie. Regardless of the scores of scientists who've come forward to declare the whole "carbon credit" movement a scam, the conventional wisdom that "global warming" represents a man-made crisis that man must somehow reverse may have gained unstoppable momentum.

It represents a major threat to the future sovereignty of the United States, calling for trillions of dollars in funding over the coming decades. All three of our prospective presidential candidates are campaigning for the "global warming" vote. We'll have more on the subject in our upcoming 21st Century WATCH.

That's all time will allow for this week. We're looking forward to our Sabbath here, and hope that you all will have a good one as well.

'Till next time,

Mark Armstrong

03/22/2008

Dear All,

There's been too much to write about. The next monthly letter has just gone to the printer, and it's probably the longest yet. That was not premeditated, but seemed like it couldn't be helped.

Can you believe that the papacy is negotiating with the oil sheiks to build Catholic "churches" in the Islamic Middle East? One in Qatar has already had its grand opening, reportedly attended by 15,000 foreign workers, many from the Philippines. According to reports, the Vatican expects Saudi Arabia to allow the building of at least one Catholic edifice there before diplomatic relations will be granted. I'm not even going to state the obvious at this point, it's in the letter. But this reinforces the largely ignored fact, that in this case the "church" is a state.

Musharraf is losing his grip in Pakistan, but it may take months to play out. Up to this point it appears that those lawyers he sacked and put under house arrest during the very unpopular state of emergency in late December are returning to their posts courtesy of the newly elected parliament. The plan is that they engage in a legal play which ensures his resignation or ouster. How very civilized! The question is, who will control the arsenal?

This week we've learned more than we ever wanted to know about "liberation theology," and it's obvious that racial hatreds are being incited in churches in a way that mainstream America never understood. There's no denying that this inflammatory, angrily screeched rhetoric is now an integral part of a presidential election. Now they're trotting out numerous apologists to say America has to "understand" this "point of view."

Up to this point, it looked like we were virtually guaranteed lackluster (to put it mildly) leadership regardless of the outcome. Now it appears we're in for some real fireworks. Not literally, I hope.

The Federal Reserve has scrambled all week to save the banking system, and the stock market has responded, if not stabilized. It all looks like bad news for a longer period of time as the value of our currency plummets and basic necessities soar in price. The U.S. dollar is losing its clout internationally as well. The era of the dollar's international respect as having unquestioned universal trade value may be a thing of the past.

In the upcoming letter, I was able to offer a fantastic DVD by my Dad containing a message few if any have had a chance to see. I'm not going to release the title here, for obvious reasons. But I'm very excited about the quality and the content. Although it was recorded two decades ago, it applies directly to the direct challenges confronting the folks in nearly all the organized churches. What a find! If only those who need it most would lend an ear...

The GTA telecast this week was well timed to offer material on the origins of Easter. It brought 782 requests by the time the computer report was generated, but more calls have already come in and the phones are still ringing! Some were so anxious to receive the material, with Easter looming, that we packaged it by hand and mailed it the same day. Four hundred three callers were first time contacts.

As you know, there has been terrible flooding in the nation's midsection this week. A few of our groups may even have to cancel services, as some major roadways have gone under. Let's hope and pray that all will be well.

We hope you'll all have a proper rest and a good Sabbath, and we'll be in touch next week.

Mark Armstrong

03/15/2008

Greetings from HQ,

News has it that the Federal Reserve is in a full-fledged crisis mode, moving rapidly to try to shore up America's largest financial institutions. It's being called the boldest action taken since the Depression. The stock market is nervous, recording wild volatility as investors bet on whether liquidity

manipulations will stabilize the situation. This week has seen the collapse of Carlyle Capital, a \$22 billion mortgage hedge fund, leading to concern over the viability of one of Wall Street's top five banks, Bear Stearns.

Today's Wall Street Journal carried the following unnerving quote, "The involvement of the Fed -- coordinating with the Treasury Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission -- made clear authorities were concerned about the risks to the broader financial system."

This comes in the wake of what's been called a "meltdown" in the largest of the Federally guaranteed mortgage institutions. The dollar is losing its international value at a frightening pace, as it is constantly devalued alongside other currencies, including gold. and we are all watching it lose its domestic value as well as our basic necessities soar dramatically in price. Milk, eggs, butter, chicken, bread, have posted price increases in excess of 40% over the past year alone, and according to near unanimous agreement among experts, this can be attributed to the idiotic idea that our farm produce should be converted into ethanol. And that wrong-headed idea stems in large degree to the political clout of the environmental movement that is so self-important that it thinks that it can "save the planet" at the expense of its inhabitants.

America has turned its back on God, religiously and socially. Now we see a coalescing movement determined to deny America the benefit of His magnificent blessings! We have vast resources for the production of food, but they're being hijacked in the name of environmentalism. We have vast untapped oil resources, both in Alaska and off-shore, but cannot produce them because conventional political wisdom dictates that mother earth just won't stand for it. Meanwhile the Chinese are working to tap what should be our resources just outside our territorial waters in what will surely not be as ecologically sound a manner as American companies would ensure.

When you listen to the policy plans of those who hope to guide this nation beginning next January, it's enough to make you want to sit down and cry. The better move would be to kneel down and pray. We're obviously not about to turn a corner nationally where everything begins to improve. It's definitely not "morning in America," as Ronald Reagan proclaimed in the early 1980's, anymore.

I posted an article earlier this week on news out of Pakistan. The newly elected Parliament is expected to expel General Musharraf from the presidency within a very few days from now. Only a matter of days ago, Turkey's top military general warned that if Musharraf "loses his grip" we may well see Pakistan's nuclear arsenal fall under Taliban control. That's right. One of the world's most radical terrorist entities allied with al Qaeda could come into possession of a nuclear arsenal of some one hundred nuclear missiles. I suggest we pray for our current President and his advisors. The decisions he makes over the next nine months may well determine whether the U.S. can survive the folly we're guaranteed by any of the three candidates in waiting.

We face more unnerving dangers nationally than we've seen in two generations, with the possible exception of the Cuban missile crisis in the early 1960's. Neither our national social, political or religious fabric is in any condition to deal with it. We've been spoiled by decades of unbelievable prosperity and relative peace, and like the Romans before us, can't imagine it crumbling.

Our organization will never engage in fear mongering as a ruse to gouge support out of the membership. Unfortunately, many of our brethren are under tremendous pressure to "cough up" God's blessings to one or another vaunted "Prophet" or "Apostle." The pretenders apparently think their own self-aggrandizement is more important than the immediate well being of the families that have unwittingly succumbed to their manipulations. I abhor what they're doing, and more so because they're using the Armstrong name. We're admonished to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. I suggest we all seek God's guidance individually and humbly as we collectively traverse into the times we've known were coming.

There may yet be twists and turns we've not foreseen. It's definitely not a time for panic, but for faith and resolve.

The Garner Ted Armstrong telecast this week was on the subject of God's law. It's one that our nation definitely needs to contemplate, but maybe not one most viewers will rush to investigate. We've had 661 requests come in, with three hundred fifty three first time contacts.

Our great thanks to all whom are instrumental in the continuation of God's commission. It appears there is much yet

to be accomplished.

May you all have a safe and peaceable Sabbath.

Mark Armstrong

03/08/2008

Greetings from Tyler,

It's not uncommon for us to go several consecutive years without ever seeing snow here in East Texas. But this morning we were treated to blizzard conditions! The snow has all but melted now, and the highways never froze so it's business as usual. You may or may not have heard about the "Climate Change" conference that took place in New York City this week. It was attended by some 200 respected, scientists and climate experts, all of whom take exception to the alarmist tactics of the "manmade global-warming" fanatics. One of the telling points made at the conference was that actual temperature readings dispute those predicted by the computer models that have been used to make predictions far into the future. You probably won't find references to this conference on the front page of your local newspaper, but it may yet have some impact.

You surely have heard the news of the cold-blooded murder of eight young Israeli students who were simply studying in a Jerusalem seminary library. The Palestinian gunman is being praised by Hamas as a hero! He attacked a group of unsuspecting teenagers with an AK 47 in a library! And we demand that Israel make peace with these people? Several more victims of this attack are reportedly in the hospital, some in serious condition. Last week's update mentioned the ongoing rocket barrage, even hitting the port city of Ashkelon, and Israel's aborted incursion into Gaza to put a stop to it. According to reports, some 120 Palestinians were killed before the troops pulled back, a number of them were civilians. The situation is calculated and virtually unavoidable when civilian apartment buildings are used for bomb making and rocket launching. Where have we seen this tactic of civilian "human shields" employed before? The southern Lebanon conflict of the summer of '06 is one example. But the tactic has a long history. It seems to be standard operating procedure the

terrorists employ. It plays to world opinion when they produce images of women and children killed when the Israelis take out the site of a rocket launcher. But don't worry. The peace process is alive and well.

The UN passed a new round of sanctions against Iran. Ahmadinijad laughed it off and said that uranium enrichment will continue without interruption. This is very likely to turn out to be a much bigger story than the one above, but they are related. How can the world countenance a nuclear-armed Iran? I, for one, hope we never have to find out.

And if Iran goes all the way and achieves the unthinkable, might it be shared with their newfound ally in Venezuela? There is currently a standoff between Venezuela and Columbia with the ever-witty Hugo Chavez threatening war. From his rhetoric you'd think he was taking on the U.S. military, as he keeps referring to Columbia as an American puppet state.

This update is not intended to be alarmist, but current events are rather alarming. I realize there are short-term predictions being made by at least a couple of self-appointed apostles, prophets or ... They've horribly embarrassed themselves before, but never seem to notice. I regard it as a ploy to extract the last borrowed farthing from their trusting, browbeaten members. Dad didn't believe in setting dates, and I sure don't. "Tribulation" can come at any time to any one of us. Our national future is looking a little bleak, alright. But there are major components of the widely understood end-time scenario that are simply not yet in place. We have our individual responsibilities, and are collectively "doing the Work."

The Garner Ted Armstrong telecast this week offered the new edition of the paperback book, The Real Jesus. We'll be sending out 903 copies as a result, and four hundred ninety seven will go to first time contacts!

When I told you about our little snowstorm, I wasn't complaining. We realize that many of you, if not most, have had several conditions to contend with this winter. Thank goodness global warming is about to kick in. It's called springtime!

Thanks y'all.

Mark Armstrong

/23/2008

Greetings from Tyler!

Last week my mom and I traveled to Little Rock for a special Sabbath meeting. You may remember my report from our Little Rock trip last summer. With a very small core group we were pleasantly surprised when approximately 30 people turned out. Well, last Sabbath our small meeting room at the Holiday Inn Express was completely overwhelmed with a turnout of about 65. All available seating was used up, including all chairs from a nearby dining room. A side door was opened into a regular motel room, and 13 or 15 were seated where they could hear but couldn't see.

It seems that people from various groups and backgrounds were drawn to this meeting, perhaps by our letter and by word of mouth. The meeting was hosted by the Little Rock group and Mr. Bill Burchell. I spoke too long and was followed by Mike Garrett, so you can only imagine! But seriously, we held it to about 90 minutes, and the reaction seemed genuinely positive and appreciative.

The numbers from the GTA telecast last week are as follows: The program was on the subject of the "rapture in prophecy" and a way of escape. It brought a total of 815 requests, 506 of which were from first-time contacts. This week's program was on the subject of the trinity. This is a subject that is very touchy with a great many religious people, and consequently brings a somewhat smaller response. However, we had 612 requests for the material, and 356 first-time contacts. Based on TV response, letter returns, recent attendance and several other indicators, it is clear that we are having a positive impact at a time that is critical. Thank you all for your part in it.

Until next time,

Mark Armstrong

2/16/2008

Greetings from HQ,

The winds of war are blowing hot for Israel in the wake of the assassination of one of the terrorist world's greatest heroes. You may not recognize or be able to pronounce this guy's name (Imad Mughniyeh), but the Islamic nations know it well. He was killed in a Damascus car bomb a couple of days ago, and Israel is denying involvement. (Car bombs have not generally been associated with Israeli tactics, but who knows?) The usual suspects are beating the war drums in Lebanon and in Syria, and Israel has ordered its forces to be on high alert all along the northern borders. As far as Lebanon's weird holy man and Iranian cohort, Nazrallah is concerned, the last war in Southern Lebanon and Northern Israel never ended, and he's declared that there is no cease fire.

Meanwhile, some 130 some-odd rockets flew out of Palestinian Gaza at the outpost town of Sderot injuring 8 people and costing a young boy his leg. Israel has shown almost unbelievable restraint under pressure from Washington to keep the "peace process" viable. There's also been another in a long line of desecration and fire-bombings of a sight thought to be the tomb of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh. The Knesset was considering a renovation, and riotous destruction by Palestinian thugs resulted. Ah, the Holy Land. More on this is coming in the next monthly letter.

Iran made news this week, enriching small quantities of uranium gas. It's a process that means only one thing. Even the Russians know it, and are getting a little nervous.

We have serious concerns about the very near future here in the U.S. As you compare our candidates with the ideals of our founding fathers, it's more than a little depressing. Chances are we'll get somebody who wants to disengage from the international arena, apart from funding enormous UN programs to save the planet from global warming, eliminate global poverty and so on. Thankfully, we don't put our trust in men, or, er, women either for that matter. It seems they're all bought in to "what the government can do for (or to?) you." We're not endorsing anybody. What a shock! We have only to put it in God's hands and press on with our own responsibilities.

Some really encouraging calls and letters have been coming in from unexpected sources lately. It seems that some of articles and DVDs are gaining traction and helping at least some people see through the deceptions and ploys that have been foisted upon them. I know that some will gauge success by growth in

attendance. But that is not the point in this instance, and not the motive. My motivation is not only to vindicate the Armstrong name, but more so to hopefully spare some from the heartache and devastation that their “false teachers” are leading them into. Some are demanding their money, all of it and more! Others are running something of a protection racket, saying their “orders” must be followed to escape the coming tribulation. Dates are being set, and re-set. False claims about the ICG “watering down” or changing doctrines are being made routinely. Next month’s letter will spell it out in greater detail.

I’m writing on Thursday, as we’ll be departing for a special meeting in Little Rock tomorrow. The group there has a great core, some new growth, and they are a very enthusiastic bunch. We hope all of you will have an upbeat, positive Sabbath wherever you may be. Reports from this week’s telecast are not yet available.

I’ll have them next time.

Mark Armstrong

2/9/2008

Greetings from Tyler,

We’ve seen some of the most destructive storms in recent memory plowed across the middle section of the country. Numerous tornadoes touched down disintegrating homes, damaging buildings and tossing cars everywhere. The death toll has risen to over fifty, and many more lives have been devastated. If you’ve seen the news, you know that there are a great many heart-rending stories, and many who need our prayers. It goes to illustrate how fragile our lives are in the context of the awesome powers of nature. For those caught up in calculating “the time of the end,” it reinforces the knowledge that “the end” can come without warning to any one of us at any time.

That same line of violent weather blew through our area suddenly with a radical drop in temperature and a brief, but violent hailstorm that lasted maybe fifteen minutes. Hail stones two thirds the size of golf balls covered the roadsides in white, and limbs and twigs carpeted my neighborhood. A few

buildings suffered roof damage, some cars were dented, but our area got off easy compared to some areas of Arkansas and Tennessee.

Nationally, we face an uncertain chapter, unlike any time in our history. My Dad expressed his personal concerns some years ago, about a prospect we now face directly. Many of you will remember. Unfortunately, many goodhearted, longsuffering members of the Church of God face frightening prospects from totalitarian church leaders who threaten their immediate financial security, and their longer-term physical security! Obviously, the psychological sovereignty of some has already been compromised.

On the political front, we may very well have reached a tipping point in the United States of America. There is definitely no Ronald Reagan in the race for the presidency, no matter how often his name may be invoked. And we may well be facing a radical shift in direction that will change everything we hold dear. We've already witnessed major changes in our culture that would have been unthinkable only a few short years ago. The growth of federal government intervention and interference on every conceivable level seems counter to the simple language of our constitution. And yet it has grown incrementally up to this point, and become the norm. Rather than protecting our freedoms and national security, government has expanded its power to become involved in every minute aspect of life.

The same can be said of many of the Church of God leaders, who think they have the authority and the right to insert themselves into every aspect of their follower's lives. How many families have been dissolved, how many lives devastated due to the authority complex of supposed ministers (servants). The true Apostles warned repeatedly that false teachers would arise from our midst, bring in "damnable heresies" and exposing their followers to "swift destruction." Sound extreme? Check out II Peter 2:1. How perfectly does that describe the challenges many of our brethren face today? These references are not meant to demean the efforts or the service rendered by the true ministers and servants who, with humility, do their utmost to serve the brethren. That is the only kind we have in the ICG!

In the Middle East, several reports are showing that Syria is in something of a frenzy of missile acquisition. Iran has

reportedly supplied lots of upgraded missiles to Syria capable of striking many strategic targets in Israel, including the international airport. According to reports carried on Worldnetdaily, Syria's goal is to achieve the ability to fire up to 100 missiles per hour at Israel in the event of conflict. Russia is involved as well, even to the point of operating defensive missile shield operations from ships stationed near Syrian ports. Just as it was during the Cold War, Russia and the U.S. are destined to be on opposite sides of future Middle East conflicts. For that matter, and more importantly from a prophetic perspective, the U.S. and Europe have opposing interests in the Middle East as well.

Are you sitting down? The Garner Ted Armstrong telecast this week brought in 1045 requests, with six hundred forty first time contacts, and the phones are still ringing! It offered The Bible Fact or Fiction, which always produces a larger than average response. Now we've got a good sized job on our hands as well, as we'll be sending a booklet and two audio CDs to each person who called in.

Our work continues, in countless ways, and that includes you too! Thank you all for your efforts locally, and the help and moral support here in Tyler.

We hope you'll have a great Sabbath.

Until next week,

Mark Armstrong

2/2/2008

Greetings from Tyler,

Do I need to tell you that we are in the middle of one of the most disgusting, disheartening political campaigns in memory? The future of the U.S. is in more jeopardy than at any time since the ignominy of the late 1970s. This time it looks like we'll be heading into a phase of income redistribution, government regulation, mandatory health care insurance and an abyss of "funding global warming initiatives" no matter who wins. Will we still recognize this nation five or ten years from now?

Obviously, we don't campaign for or endorse anybody, and that's a good thing! Which of these wannabes deserves an endorsement? If you have warm, fuzzy feelings about one of these candidates, please

accept my apology. But, regardless of party, it appears that our sovereignty, national security and domestic economy are all prospective casualties of the current frontrunners. If you think it's hard to swallow now, wait 'till this time next year!

The Garner Ted Armstrong program this week brought 765 responses with four hundred fifty-two first time contacts! This program was on the subject of the weekly Sabbath. It is both surprising and a beautiful thing that the program is able to reach the minds of so many with a truth that is so difficult for most to accept, given our societal culture and the practices of the big "respectable" mainstream churches.

In the update from Sydney this week, Murray noted that the northern hemisphere is experiencing one of the most bitter winters on record, from the northern U.S. and Canada, to Russia and China, while we're in the middle of a "Global Warming Crisis!" He's been working on an article we'll bring your way next week. In fact, several sizable projects are underway, and will be released and published in the days and weeks just ahead.

Our thanks to all of you, as always.

Have a terrific Sabbath.

Mark Armstrong

1/26/2008

25 January 2008

Greetings to All,

We had quite an economic scare at the first of the week, when our markets were closed due to the national holiday and foreign markets went into a tailspin, dropping up to four and five percent of their total value in one day's time. It threatened to turn into a full scale sell-off worldwide, with the full extent of the consequences unknown. Economic experts have only history to go by. They look at recessions of the past, and always compare current indicators with those that preceded the Great Depression. But financial instruments, stock markets and reserve banks are complicated, and even the most knowledgeable monetary gurus are only correct in their assessments part of the time.

But some of the equation is beyond dispute. A great many people have allowed their desire for material things to outstrip

their ability or their willingness to repay. Financial institutions have allowed their greed for profit to cloud their lending judgment, and they too are paying a price. While the Fed has averted a full-blown market panic this week with a substantial interest rate cut, it may be a temporary measure. It really comes down to a basic violation of Biblical principles with predictable consequences. How severely we feel the longer-term consequences remains to be seen.

I'd like to share a letter received this week in our Sydney office in regard to our television program, and how one viewer sized up the contrast between the GTA telecast and other religious broadcasters.

“Now as for myself I truly believe that the logical and methodical approach that Mr. G.T. Armstrong adheres to during his televised half hour is most definitely the single most educational ministerial program that I have ever had the pleasure of learning from. In all honesty the GTA Ministry is singularly unique. Because as far as I can see, there are only three types of religious programs on the television (with yours in a category all on its own). 1) Lots of music. Lots of puff and repetition—in other words “spiritually empty calories,” 2) Lots of guilt. Lots of, “I’m so great, we’re so good, We do so much, lots more guilt, give us money, lots of back-patting and congratulations and even more guilt, more money, let’s show someone being healed of cancer, AIDS etc., in other words, loud, brash religious salesmen who live like Middle Eastern oil sheiks and who drive European cars, while exclaiming, “Place your hand on the TV and be healed!” 3) Bored looking, middle aged dress-wearing repetitious purveyors of empty soulless religious nothingness. 4) Then there is your program; concise, profound and well-researched. In other words I am left wanting to know more...”

Murray said I could use that without fear of being charged with copyright infringement, so there you go. I've been thinking many of those same thoughts lately, and thought this guy pretty well nailed it.

Speaking of the telecast, we've had 819 requests so far, with four hundred seventy four first time contacts. It offered material on the Mark of the Beast and Antichrist, and those are subjects that will be current from now on out.

The ICN has been mailed, we have printed copies in house now,

and you should have yours pretty quick. We're caught up with the demand for material offered on TV, and in letters, even though that's an increasingly tall order, thanks to the determined efforts of the staff here in Tyler. Everyone should be receiving what they've requested faster than ever before, and that's bound to be positive.

We are starting to get some positive feedback from some of the articles and videos that address some of the abuses of our brethren ensnared in some of these "splinter" groups. Isn't it amazing that literally thousands have been duped into thinking that their relationship with God, their very salvation, depends on agreement with, and obedience to the unpredictable whims of someone who has set himself up to exercise God's judgement here below. A little background knowledge goes a long way, and it's a responsibility that belongs to all of us who have family and friends involved in some of these dangerous groups. Not to try to stampede people from one organization to another, but to help them realize that NOBODY has any business getting between them and God. Dad spent years trying to get the point across, but many never heard or wouldn't listen. Now, at least some are reaching out for reason.

I know many of you are experiencing extreme, bitter, dangerous winter conditions around the country and elsewhere. Where's global warming when we need it? That's it for now. We'll be in touch!

Thanks,

Mark Armstrong

1/19/2008

Greetings from Tyler!

Believe it or not, its been snowing here off and on all day, and the temp. is hovering just above freezing for the time being. But we are aware that many of you are being subjected to much worse conditions.

The ICN has been printed and delivered to the mailer. We're sending out some 10,000 copies automatically, with two thousand in reserve for individual requests. Now that the paper has been dispatched, we'll turn our attention to TCW!

The GTA telecast this week was on the Answer to Unanswered Prayer, a very moving booklet and a strong television presentation. The proof is in this week's response. By mid-afternoon we'd tallied 822 requests with five hundred seven first time contacts.

Our news is at present largely political, and according to our charter we are not expected to get too deeply involved in the twists and turns that will absorb much of the media's attention for the rest of the year. And we won't, except from an overview perspective when the future direction of our nation and its place in the grand scheme of things is implicated. It's ticklish business, and it is our policy to be circumspect.

We've seen quite a number of dire warnings about the economy, the weakness of the U.S. dollar and talk of recession and worse. We don't discount the warnings, but are aware of many dire predictions from the past that never quite materialized. Some of those setting off alarms are anxious to sell books and get audience ratings. However, there has never been a time quite like the present, and we will do our best to stay abreast of the situation as it develops and keep the web site updated.

Our gratitude goes out to all of you in the field. Have a great Sabbath and we'll be in touch before you know it.

Thanks,

Mark Armstrong

1/12/2008

Greetings to everyone,

You've no doubt seen Iran's provocation of the U.S. Navy in the Straits of Hormuz this week. If our guys had fired on the Iranian speedboats, would it have meant war with Iran? Very likely, yes. One presidential candidate even suggested Iran will see "the gates of Hell" if a war is touched off. When Iran gets nukes, or Pakistan's arsenal falls into the hands of the radical turbans, all bets are off as to how wide those "gates" might open. Israel would be first. But, according to the most knowledgeable pundits on our side, the U.S. would get targeted as well. Depending on how the presidential election plays out later this year, the U.S. might just change course and allow the Middle East to ferment without interference.

It seems redundant to reiterate that we here in the United States, and much of the rest of the civilized world, are dependent on the region for our energy supplies. Other than fanciful talk of "new technologies in the future," nothing is being done to remedy this intolerable (oops, that word again!) situation. No new nuclear plants. No production of vast domestic resources. No new refineries. And according to several who seek to lead the free world, the U.S. should

get out of the Middle East and let things play out without intervention. It could happen.

The rush to conclude a "peace agreement" between the Israelis and the Palestinians just might succeed this time. But how many of these agreements have we seen over the past forty years? Lots of them! Mostly bought and paid for by U.S. taxpayers. Photo ops, magazine covers, Nobel prizes, but how much peace? There is a constant and continuing state of war that will not change until somebody is defeated! But then, somebody might get their feelings hurt. Sensibilities might be insulted. And the way things are going, that somebody just might be us. Defeated by default. Does that sound too negative?

We know the end-time scenario, we know who the players will be. The time is not yet, despite the ravings of self-proclaimed apostles, prophets and prognosticators within the broader CoG.

This week's Garner Ted Armstrong telecast, on the subject of the Resurrection attracted 709 callers so far, with four hundred three first time respondents. We mailed this month's letter to 40,000 on our mailing list, and will hope the response there justifies that decision.

It's a gorgeous, cool, sunny afternoon here in East Texas. But some of the country is experiencing some very rough rain and snowstorms. John Mitchell reports extreme conditions in northern California, and many without power. He's asked that we keep the folks out there in our prayers as many are without power, and the cold temperatures, flooding, driving conditions etc. represent real danger. You may want to check out the report he's posted for more details.

That's it for this week. Aren't you glad? Sorry.

Hope you all have a good Sabbath, and rest of the weekend.

We'll be in touch next week.

Mark Armstrong

1/5/2008

Greetings from Tyler,

Now that the smoke has cleared, following the murder of Mrs. Benazir Bhutto and the riotous carnage that followed, news from this crucial outpost in the war on terror is fairly sparse. Relative calm has returned to the streets, and the government of President Musharraf has even succeeded in postponing the highly anticipated elections for six weeks without igniting the storm of protests that had been predicted. But grave concerns persist over Pakistan's role in the global battle between western culture and radical Islam.

It was noted in the opening sentences of the cover story in Britain's The Economist that the war on Islamic extremism and the terrorist

movement may well be won or lost in Pakistan. As we are learning Pakistan is a little understood patchwork, politically. And the world's hopes for averting the prospect of al Qaeda or the Taliban getting control of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal are tied up in the nation's unstable and unpredictable political climate.

According to the conventional wisdom promoted by our U.S. Administration, and noted in *The Economist*, the central hope for the maintenance of a semblance of stability in Pakistan's future is a free and fair election, now scheduled for next month. However, there seems to be little hope that will happen. Musharraf, and his "security" apparatus have a history of intervention to assure political outcomes, and if this is perceived to be the case in February, predictions are that Islamic extremism will spread from the radical provinces into Pakistan's heartland.

Is Europe concerned? The EU is actually planning to play a role in Pakistan's upcoming election by sending a number of "observers" to critique the results. As events in this pivotal crisis play out, we may also see Pakistan become a political football in the presidential race here in the U.S.

With the primary elections already in full swing here in the U.S., Iran and Iraq have virtually disappeared from our mainstream news. The situation in Iraq has quieted down to such a degree that no one seems to pay much notice. Of course, to do so would be to admit that one of the Bush Administration's policies is succeeding, and there is little if any interest among the predominantly anti-Bush media in doing that.

Iran, until recently in the center of controversy, has become a non-story ever since the dubious intelligence report surfaced claiming that Iran had discontinued its nuclear weapons program in 2003. But the Iran nuclear program also has a connection to Pakistan. The so-called father of the "Islamic Bomb," A.Q. Khan has been implicated in smuggling nuclear secrets not only to Iran, but to North Korea as well. Last I heard, he was living under house arrest in a protected compound in Pakistan.

The bottom line is that there are lots of "Islamic bombs" in Pakistan, in fact an arsenal of nuclear tipped missiles. While the Pentagon believes they are currently "secure," there are obvious concerns about what may transpire in Pakistan over the coming months. Meanwhile, Iran continues to enrich uranium, which is the critical ingredient needed to complete nuclear weapons.

The world's attention is, for the time being, distracted by the "beauty contest" of American primary elections. As we look at the prospects for our future American leadership against the backdrop of Pakistan and Iran, realizing that the Taliban and al Qaeda have not been defeated and are still thriving in the ungoverned regions; they are raising up and training another generation of terrorists who are motivated by sheer hatred of everything non-Islamic and anxious to give up their lives in the process of destroying western civilization,

you have to wonder what lies ahead for Israel, for Europe and for us as well.

Due to the X-mas holiday, our television responses were predictably lower last week with only 225 responses with eighty one time contacts. This week we had the New Years holiday, but with the first of a new quarter of GTA programs airing on the ION network (on the subject of X-mas) we received 704 requests, with five hundred twenty first time contacts!

As you look at the weather map of the United States, it's pretty hard to put your finger on the "planetary emergency" everybody seems to have bought into. What we do see is a creeping (you might say creepy) conventional wisdom that is engulfing news, entertainment and advertising. The so-called solution to global warming may play a substantial role in altering our way of life. Any way, stay warm and have a terrific seventh Day!

Until next week,

Mark Armstrong

[Back to](#)

[Top](#)

[Main Page](#)