

Greetings from Tyler,

Everyone has by now seen the dramatic depictions and interviews with survivors of the [U.S. Airways crash in the Hudson River](#). Never has the term “[miracle](#)” or “[miraculous](#)” been so heavily applied to a news story. Those who sat aboard the powerless jet and heard the captain’s warning as they watched the plane glide toward the icy waters reportedly [bowed their heads in prayer](#) as they faced probable death.

Who’s to say that God didn’t hear and intervene? The survivors are convinced He did. Praise and [tributes have been lavished on the pilot](#), and on the [captains of the boats that came immediately to the rescue](#). But one of the most dramatic factors in the story has to be the serenity, [calm and politeness exhibited](#) by the passengers themselves. Had this event transpired most anywhere else in the world (*with a few exceptions*) there would have been struggles at the exits, no doubt trampled passengers and people drowned. Everything about the outcome of this near disaster suggests divine intervention.

We’re reaching a point where that kind of intervention will be required to save the ship of state, so to speak. I spoke to a fine gentleman who is a member in Australia this afternoon, and he told me that from the perspective of the news they’re getting, “It’s like America is a sinking ship.”

Hardly a day passes without urgent calls for new plans to “[rescue the economy](#).” The second half of the \$700 BILLION bailout money has apparently been released, but markets remain weak, national icons of business continue to retract and no one seems particularly confident of the outcome. We have started down the road of the “[nationalization](#)” of private commerce and industry, unprecedented in our history. Apparently we’ve not been told the whole story. Beyond the initial panic that led national leaders to hastily take actions foreign to our capitalist system, there is a line forming that will require untold sums to bail out states, cities and other critical segments of our economic infrastructure. [California, for instance, is pleading insolvency!](#)

Whether you’re looking at our domestic politics, economic forecasts, or most any other aspect of America’s near term future, [optimism is in short supply](#).

It appears that key aspects of the security apparatus that have kept us safe from further terrorist attacks since 2001 will soon be dismantled. The deranged hatred of everything to do with President Bush, from the domestic media to vocal representatives of our traditional allies, may well lead to the [abandonment of the very concept of “the war on terror.”](#)

Iran has just been found to be using third party intermediaries to acquire materials that can only pertain to their nuclear missile program. Apparently the emphasis will remain on diplomacy as the new Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton assumes her role as the world’s most powerful diplomat. This should prove interesting, if not devastating, as Iran completes the final steps toward becoming a nuclear threat. Ahmadinijad is quoted in just the last day as saying, [“It is not feasible that Israel should continue.”](#)

Only a couple of weeks on the heels of the latest [“Global Warming” conference](#) in Switzerland, we read that they’re freezing all over Eastern Europe, not only because of the severe cold but also due to [Russia’s management of gas supplies](#). They’re [skating on the canals in Holland](#) for the first time in twelve years. Here in the U.S., I don’t have to tell you, were dealing with deadly cold. There’s an 11 degree wind chill in Atlanta, Georgia, [Chicago is facing an unbelievably brutal wind chill of 50 below zero tonight](#). Near record cold prevails across the northern half of the U.S., and all time record cold is being reported from numerous locations. They’re actually closing ski resorts and ice rinks to the public, so dangerous is the extreme cold. Meanwhile, our radios and televisions continue to spew “global warming” propaganda to prepare us for the “global” regulation and taxation that’s coming to America.

At least we started out with good news this week. And if it’s any consolation, things aren’t that bad here in East Texas, and it’s hot in Australia this time of year!

On a personal note, the wedding last week (Michael and Melody) was pure magic. We’re still walking on air.

The Garner Ted Armstrong telecast this week offered Resurrection 1 & 2, and When I Die... We’ve tallied 428 requests, with two hundred thirty eight first time contacts.

Keep warm, stay safe and have a great Sabbath.

Mark Armstrong