

Preparedness – Part 2

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In the last article we discussed the reasons for preparedness. In this article, I want to deal with five of the most important issues that must be addressed, to begin your preparedness process.

The first: “*Am I properly located?*”

Years ago, Jerry and I heard the prophet David Wilkerson make a statement that there would be a time when land would be at such a premium that only the very rich would be able to afford it. That statement resonated in our spirits, and we took it to the Lord. After a season of prayer and processing it together, we decided that the Lord’s plan for us was to rent in the city and buy in the country. Today, we now rent in the city and have a small farm in the country. It took a long time to get it all in order. At the time we heard David make that statement, we owned in the city. We had to sell our city property and then find our little place in the country. This decision required a great deal of trust and a determination that where He led us, we would follow.

Start asking the Lord, “Where do You want me to be?” You may be surprised that God may have you change communities, cities, states or even nations. The answer may overwhelm you, but ask...with the determination to say, no matter what, a “Divine Yes”! Then, begin watching for God’s “suddenlies”! The safest place in anyone’s life is in the center of God’s will.

I have seen God shake up people’s lives more in the last few years than ever before in my remembrance and move them all over the world. The natural mind may say, “It is too big of a risk.” But in these times, the greater risk is to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The next question: “*Would you have enough water?*”

You think you have enough, but trust me, you do not! When we took our trip this summer, the altitude made both of us sick for four days. Water was all we wanted, and though I thought I had plenty, I did not. Not only do we drink it and wash our bodies with it, some of the other common and daily uses are that we use it to wash our clothes, use the toilet, brush our teeth, cook many foods, water our animals, water plants and crops and put out fires.

Start thinking, “Water!” If you have land, dig stock tanks; if not, start putting water in bottles and store them in the garage, fill up a pool, get rain gutters and fill rain barrels. Think water! For the last three years, I have been thinking water and have really repented over my waste of such a precious resource. Here in the country, my gray water (used water from bathing or washing clothes or dishes) goes out into a field. I do not leave the water on while brushing my teeth. I throw dish water on plants. I think water.

Because I have had cancer, my doctors are adamant that I drink pure water, but that often comes with a steep price tag. There may be a warning on your water bill, as there is on mine, that anyone with a compromised immune system, the elderly or the very young, should use caution when drinking the water that comes out of the tap! At the same time, we all need water to live. Therefore, in the search for pure water, I have spent “top dollar” for my water through the years. Additionally, I have used many water purifying systems over the years. I think I have now come up with what I think is the best, most cost-effective, and *most importantly*, completely portable water system! A sophisticated system that I must leave, if I had to leave my home, does me no good! I knew I needed something that could purify anything if need be: swamp water, stock tank

water, old rain water, you name it; I needed something to make any form of water drinkable. And I found a jewel.

The Berkey Water System fit *all* my criteria. Their filter is the best, and the company offers many different sizes and shapes. I initially bought one of the larger units and found it was not as useful or portable as a smaller model, so I recommend the smaller unit. Just fill it up and let it run. If you are adventurous, like I am, go ahead and pour some red food coloring into it and watch as it comes out clean! Anyone interested in purchasing one can go to www.cornerstonereport.com, look for "Sponsors", click on the "Visit New Millennium Concepts On-Line" link, and place your order.

In addition to a water purification resource, I am also working on seed sources, etc., and will have some of these up on Cornerstone's Sponsor page sometime after the first of the year. Remember, everything I recommend, I use. Also, I have researched and experimented and spent money I wish I had not. Now it is time to share some of what I have learned, so others do not have to go down that lengthy and expensive path.

The next big question in preparedness is: *"Where are your most important documents located and are they all together?"*

When Jerry and I were scurrying around trying to get our farm ready for a possible fire, we were yelling at each other asking as we ran, do you know where the car titles are, what about the land deed, the insurance policies, etc. We thought we knew where they were, but when this "fire-drill" was over we realized... we didn't have a clue!

The next two weeks were spent making sure all policies were together, everything was signed properly and in our assigned case, placed in a safe deposit box, in a local bank.

I went to our local bank and asked the manager how secure the bank vault was, in case of a fire? He assured me that if the building were to burn down the vault would still be standing. In the case of fire or natural disaster if you do not have your insurance policies and your ownership titles, you can expect to wait months or even years to get your losses covered. However, if you have your paperwork in order and OFF-SITE, you can begin rebuilding in a matter of weeks.

Fourth question: *"Is my bank secure and solvent (what is my bank's credit rating), if a national disaster or potential bank collapse were to occur?"*

Anyone can check on their banks security, just call this number 1-800-442-2657 and ask about the different bank reports that are available for purchase. The company is Veribanc and they publish regional banking reports that are very informative. Everyone that has money in a bank should be asking, "what is my bank's credit rating"?

Find out who owns and funds your bank through a little research. When I found out Spain owned the bank I was using, I was out of there immediately. Today, I bank at a very small, local, community bank, whose security I have confirmed. Surprisingly, the owner of my current bank calls me and I call him, to ask any question that concerns me!

I am more comfortable with a small town bank, or even a credit union can be something to explore. Often, credit unions have better interest rates and do not have all the charges a larger bank seems to have. At any rate, research, research, research. No matter what the event, crisis,

or circumstance YOU are ultimately responsible for knowing the what “ifs” and “what-abouts” ahead of time. NOT in the heat of the fire of a crisis.

The fifth question: “*Will my vehicle work well in an emergency situation?*”

To quote Larry Burkett, “The cheapest car you can own is the one you already have.” However, if you do not feel your car will be safe, or if you just believe that the car you own will not get you through the next few years, consider getting a car with a four-wheel drive to replace it.

I bought a jeep with four-wheel drive this last year. I cannot tell you how much I have used this miracle-working part of my car. It took us to the mountains on our preparedness journey this last summer. I knew when we had a fire up the road this summer that, if I had to, I could get out! Last year in the ice storm I had wheels. Also, if a natural disaster occurs, a four-wheel drive vehicle will take you where others cannot go, like across fields or along dirt roads etc. You are not dependent on highways and interstates with a four-wheel drive vehicle.

If you are a massive reader, you might want to read the book *One Second After*. It is a fictional book about the effects of electro-magnetic pulse resulting from a nuclear weapon set off in the atmosphere, which caused absolute chaos as everything electric was rendered useless. That included the latest automobiles! Think about all the stuff on your car that would not work if something happened to the electrical grid in your area. You would be stuck. In this book, only really old cars made it, and they were sold at a premium. So if you want to prepare for any eventuality, think about an old working clunker! And if you’ve already got one, keep it! Make sure that your car is well maintained (oil changed, tuned-up, etc.) on a regularly kept schedule. Never go home with an empty gas tank. If an emergency happens you will not want to wait in line with the other “masses” trying to fill your tank!

Stay tuned for the next article... we will be talking about a 78-hour preparedness kit!

Prayer Points:

- Ask God what you are to do regarding preparedness. Are you one He is calling to help prepare many or to help many make it through a major crisis or disaster? Or are you simply to be personally prepared, pulling together what you and your family may need to see you through? One thing I know, and you may have had this thought, some things cannot possibly be prepared for. At those times, our bedrock of trust is fully in Him. Ask the Lord, however, if you are in fear, or in presumption, and really take a “gut check” on what He may be telling you as far as preparedness goes.
- Pray about where you are to be located. You may be exactly where you need to be, but seriously go to God with this anyway and surrender all your plans and roots to Him. Believe that He will make a way for whatever He may say to you; then say the Divine Yes.
- Ask God to shine His light on what is next. Some of you have been preparing for a long time; some are feeling overwhelmed that perhaps you are too late. No one is ever too late! The main thing is that you begin.
- Ask the Lord where He wants you to begin, what research to do, what to read, etc. God has dropped so much in my lap always *just in time!* But I had to seek, ask, believe and

say YES to His direction. Thank the Lord that He will lead, guide and direct you as you lean on, trust in and rely on Him! (Proverbs 3: 5-6 Amplified)