

Sept. 1998

JUST HOW PREPARED ARE YOU FOR ANY SUDDEN UNEXPECTED EVENTS?

"More over, no man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them"

Eccl.9:12

As world conditions worsen, the chances of some "major crisis" effecting you personally increases with each passing day. "But it can't happen here" or "this could never happen to me" or "this type of thing only happens to other people" are statements people make on news broadcasts after they've undergone some serious catastrophe! And those people usually will verbally admit how unprepared they were! (Granted there will always be some degree to which we couldn't possibly be 100% prepared, but there is more than you think that you should do ahead of time). We all potentially face the possibility of experiencing the following sometime in our lives.

1. Natural Disasters (floods, hurricanes, blizzards, tornadoes, asteroids, earthquakes...)
2. Power outages (think how much of our lives depend on electricity)!
3. Accidents, personal injuries.
4. Fire (does your family know exactly what to do & not to do?).
5. Economic collapse.
6. Personal loss (job, spouse, house, loved ones, property, possessions...).
7. Victimization by criminal activity (theft, rape, shooting, assault...).
8. Terrorist or nuclear attack.
9. Health/medical problems (viruses, cancer, or some other debilitating life threatening diseases).
10. Even consider prophetically where we're at with the fulfillment of many "signs of the times"! (see separate study listing over 80)
11. (Y2K) Year 2000 "computer collapse" (at the time of this study I have hundreds of newspaper & magazine articles, facts, & quotes from senators, economists, computer experts, & researchers all warning of a massive computer meltdown when time/date sensitive embedded chips interpret 2000 (ending in 00) as 1900 & they say we better be prepared to live like it! (see separate books, videos, tapes, & information available). "Even if only 10% of the computers crash it will cause a domino effect" that will create a worldwide major recession!

Certainly as Christians we don't walk in fear of "what if.." nor do we focus on "doom & gloom" (we must keep our eyes on Jesus, the author & finisher of our faith (Heb.12:1-2). However realistically we are still in this world & God's word clearly reveals that we are not exempt or immuned from trials, testings, afflictions, persecution, suffering, or any other type of problems, be they physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, financial or even political! Therefore, we should not be ignorant of even Satan's strategies (2Cor.2:11) to use the world system (which he is god of 2Cor. 4:4) to defeat us...but rather be prepared (Eph.6:10-18) ahead of time for any sudden unexpected events.

No one knows what the future holds, but when all kinds of evidence surfaces

saying that "problems" will occur, it only makes sense to be "better safe than sorry" or "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". Obviously, just because you may not have had an insurance claim (due to accident, crisis, or injury) doesn't mean you cancel all your policies. You hope you don't need it, but you're sure glad you had made the preparations ahead of time! Even if the yr. 2000 arrives & nothing serious (let alone catastrophic) happens - just how prepared are you in the case of any sudden unexpected events? After all God Himself warns us saying, "but realize this, that in the last days difficult (hard to live in) perilous times will come" (2Tim.3:1). Also see 2Tim.3:12; Jn.16:33; Acts 14:22! Ultimately, you can be sure that Noah (Gen.6-9), Joseph (Gen.41-) & the early church (Acts 11:27-30) heeded Prov.27:12 "the prudent see danger & take refuge, but the simple keep going & suffer for it". Also see Prov.6:6-11 & James 4:13-17 which puts into perspective the submitting of all our planning to the Lord's will! Obviously, we are responsible to trust God with what's out of our control, but we can only take comfort in His Sovereignty when we've been faithful stewards of what He's entrusted to us (time, resources, wealth, information...). We must do what's in our control (our responsibility) by providing for our households (foods, clothing, shelter, protection, whatever they need) otherwise we are worse than infidels (1Tim. 5:8). Therefore, the following suggestions are for those who take seriously the uncertainty of the times in which we live & recognize that planning for any "sudden unexpected event(s)" must be a priority if we're to survive/endure victoriously! (these are some of the common denominators).

1. Prepare spiritually (Mt.6:33)
 - a. Putting & seeking God first in your life will cause everything else to fall into place - He will provide (Phil.4:19).
 - b. You must first be right with God & growing in your Christian life. (ask for other materials)
 - c. Ask God for wisdom (Js.1:5) depend on Him to guide & direct you regarding preparations.
 - d. Trust Him & do your part (Ps.37).
 - e. Prepare for spiritual warfare (Eph.6:10-18).
 - f. Learn what God teaches us through trials, suffering...(why He allows it).
 - g. Be discerning, test the spirits (1Jn.4:1-6) there's much deception in the world - we should know the truth so well that we'll spot the error a mile away!
 - h. Study Biblical examples of how God's people prepared for & responded to crises.
 - i. See me for further details Bible studies/resources/teaching on any of these areas.
2. Form a study group, meet with like minded people as a support group or an accountability group.
 - a. Research & study (Acts 17:11).
 - b. Think through "life" together.
 - c. What are others doing to prepare for _____.
 - d. Discuss & "role play" possible scenarios that could occur.
 - e. Look into different web sites, resource manuals, survival guides.
 - f. Share all the information helpful & pertinent to your "goals" (save others the time from looking it all up themselves).
3. Have a garage/yard sale - get rid of extra junk that's taking up valuable space needed for new shelving & storage of supplies. Plus use the extra money for purchasing necessities.

4. Evaluate present living conditions (location, location, & location...).
5. Examine financial picture.
 - a. Down scale, cut back if need be to wisely invest in preparations, supplies, ect..
 - b. Protect your assets. Some strong warnings are being given by numerous economists about the stock market..."they even say it's run by fear & greed"! Pray for wisdom & do your homework!
 - c. Have at least a month supply of cash in hand.
6. Get & keep at home papers (hard) copies of all important records & official documents.
 - a. Birth, Marriage, & Baptismal (licenses & certificates).
 - b. Social security information.
 - c. Deeds, titles, mortgages, loan agreements.
 - d. Financial - bank, credit card, stock, tax returns.
 - e. Medical records.
 - f. Business... (keep in a fire proof file box).
 - g. Educational, graduation records.
7. Start looking into alternative ways of doing almost everything
 - a. power (generator...)
 - b. transportation (bicycle...)
 - c. heating (coal, wood, gas...)
 - d. communications
 - e. cleaning
 - f. lighting
 - g. washing
 - h. cooking
8. Start purchasing & storing extra: (a little at a time goes far)

a. food	h. medical supplies	n. batteries
b. tools	see other list	o. flashlights
c. fuel(s)	i. candles	p. vitamins
d. radio	j. lighters, matches	q. oil lamps
e. trash bags	k. fire extinguishers	r. shelving
f. water - for washing, cleaning, & drinking (purification/filtering may be necessary)	l. storage containers	s. special medications
g. " <u>camping</u> " supplies	m. toiletries	t. clothing, shoes
		u. glasses
		v. home repair supplies
9. Form an emergency preparedness library
 - a. survival books are available
 - b. medical encyclopedia
 - c. gardening/farming
 - d. disposing of waste safely
10. Home & family protection (even neighborhood) looting/lawlessness is not uncommon even after a simple hurricane.
 - a. self defense
 - b. security plans
 - c. dead bolts
 - d. battery operated alarms
 - e. neighborhood watch
11. Have contingency plans for everything; plan "B" & plan "C" should be discussed & understood by all family members & only on a "need to know basis!
12. Meet your neighbors & inform them of the need to be prepared for potential crisis/problems...

13. Make a list of:
 - a. things need to do - walk through & around your home.
 - b. things you need to buy - walk around in stores (hardware, camping, food, clothing...)
 - c. people, places you need to contact
 - d. prioritize the list
 - e. put dates next to things
 - f. set aside a specific period of time daily & weekly to start working on the list
 - g. have someone else hold you accountable
14. Think about how people lived & did things in the 1900's, or how they do things in 3rd world countries. Formulate ideas that you can implement.
15. Be prepared to use any "crisis" time as an opportunity to witness to others & share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those whose world is shattered when their "gods" fail! These suggestions are compiled from over 10 different publications. My goal is not to detail them here since it's already been done in other resources, but to get you thinking about these areas of preparedness, many of which speak for themselves.

Christian Coalition

Family-Readiness Checklist

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gas grill | <input type="checkbox"/> Generator (to keep refrigerator and other electrical necessities running) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tooth brushes | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Propane tanks for grill (It is better to have too many tanks than not enough, if your power or natural gas service is interrupted, you could be cooking on your gas grill for several days or weeks.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wrench (to turn off water and gas in your home) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dental floss | <input type="checkbox"/> Disinfectants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kerosene heater | <input type="checkbox"/> Battery-operated smoke alarm | <input type="checkbox"/> Tooth paste | <input type="checkbox"/> Tweezers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kerosene oil | <input type="checkbox"/> Battery-operated carbon dioxide detector | <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant | <input type="checkbox"/> Antiseptic/disinfectant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood stove | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra blankets (for cold climates) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shaving cream | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plenty of wood to last from January 1, 2000, thru spring of 2000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing materials like needles, thread, buttons, elastic | <input type="checkbox"/> Razors | <input type="checkbox"/> Tube of petroleum jelly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portable AM/FM radio with good reception | <input type="checkbox"/> Household chlorine bleach | <input type="checkbox"/> Feminine products | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety pins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Several hand-held flashlights | <input type="checkbox"/> Chlorine tablets for drinking water | <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Ace bandages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Several battery-operated lamps | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility knife | <input type="checkbox"/> Products to care for contact lenses | <input type="checkbox"/> Latex gloves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walkie Talkies, to stay in touch with neighbors | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches | <input type="checkbox"/> Denture needs | <input type="checkbox"/> Q-tips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries for radio, flashlights, lamps, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra eyeglasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Ready to eat cereals (Containers to store cereals and other products) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mess kits or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils (You may need to conserve water and your dishwasher may not be running.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mouse traps | <input type="checkbox"/> Bug spray | <input type="checkbox"/> Oatmeal and other hot cereals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonelectric can opener | <input type="checkbox"/> Candles | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet food & supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> Potatoes (fresh and boxed flakes) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoe laces | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum foil | <input type="checkbox"/> Candy bars |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Rope | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic wrap | <input type="checkbox"/> Instant coffee |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Napkins | <input type="checkbox"/> Tea bags |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Wet wipes | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels | <input type="checkbox"/> Powdered drink mixes |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Bars of soap | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Canned nuts |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid soap | <input type="checkbox"/> Screw-top jars | <input type="checkbox"/> Hot chocolate mix |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Various seeds for a spring garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Peanut butter |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening utensils | <input type="checkbox"/> Diapers |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical and first-aid book | <input type="checkbox"/> Other baby or infant supplies |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Sterile adhesive bandages in various sizes | <input type="checkbox"/> Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables (i.e. tuna) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Gauze pads | <input type="checkbox"/> Beans, both canned and dry |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Adhesive tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Rice |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Dried beef jerky |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry pasta |