

THE SOUNDING MEGAPHONE



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Are you ready now? Prepping is about preparing for calamity of any and every kind. There are some among us that won't be taken out by natural disasters, cyber attack, etc. because they have a plan and a will to carry out their plan. Their plan has a backup plan and their backup plan has another backup plan. This is prepping. God bless you.

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OBSERVE THE ANT

*Go to the ant, O sluggard,
Observe her ways and be wise,
Proverbs 6.6*

What do you think of when you hear the word “prepping?” Maybe you think of preparatory exercises at a sporting event or starting preparatory school. However, there is another kind of prepping that is becoming harder to ignore or be ignorant of. That is emergency prepping. It is hard to ignore because in recent years prepping has gone from being a hobby to a world-wide movement. Prepping is simply common men and women organizing their resources in such a way that they have extra staple food, water and living supplies that can carry them through tough times, natural disasters and even end-time tribulation. It is

concerned individuals and families striving for independence, self-sustainability and mobility.

Why should someone prep? We live in a world that is falling apart. Economic crisis, natural disasters, threats of terrorism, cyber attacks, etc, are all realities of our fragile twenty-first century world. Prepping is facing this reality proactively and doing what you can to prepare yourself and your family.

Is it more comfortable to sit back and not prepare?

Yes, it is for the time being. However, while you are sitting back the world is moving on its course and the world is changing at a ferocious pace.

For advice on whether or not to prep, observe the ant. “Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise,” (Proverbs 6.6). Ants are workers. They are constantly

digging holes in the ground and making tunnels. Then there is a highway of them gathering and carrying food and stashing it away in their underground chambers. There is seemingly no end to their activity. They are busy. They are collecting and they are storing. When trouble comes, they are ready. Observe the ant.

The world of prepping is an interesting one. On the far end of the spectrum, there are extreme preppers. There are extreme preppers who have even purchased decommissioned intercontinental ballistic missile silos which they have converted into bunkers. I am not advocating this kind of extreme prepping. However, there is such a thing as mild prepping. What are some things that you and I can do as mild preppers? For starters we could:

- have a supply of non-perishable food (maybe even freeze-dried foods)
- have a supply of clean water
- have a plan in place for re-supplying yourself with water if the city water supplies are shut down (perhaps even having a water filtration system).
- store items like batteries, matches or candles which may be useful if there is no power
- store medical supplies
- store fuel in a safe place
- store a tent and/or shelter items

Have a plan to “bug in.”
Bugging in is when, because of an emergency, you convert your home into an emergency shelter for yourself, for family and, perhaps, for friends. Your bug-in

shelter should be self-sufficient and not dependent on the city electrical or water supply. The idea behind bugging in is being able to hold out in your own home, in an emergency, for as long as possible.

Have a plan to “bug out.” Bugging out is when, because of a prolonged emergency, you leave your home for another emergency location. This is needed when it is no longer safe to remain in your home.

Bugging out is expensive and should be carefully planned out over time. Bugging out may involve having a trailer or even a small piece of land in a remote location.

Preparing is always the wise thing to do. Take some time to observe the ant. Take some time to start building a plan for you and your family. God bless you.

Shawn Stevens

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"Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible[®],

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PREPARING FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

What if the wind outside of your home started moving at three hundred miles an hour? You would be experiencing a tornado. You had better have done something in advance to prepare or you may be swept out that window. Tornados, fires, floods, hurricanes, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanos are all natural disasters which occur in our world and which displace people around the world. Many preppers are preparing for natural disasters.

Many have thought, "Oh, but that sort of thing only happens to other people." That's what the other people thought. Just because something hasn't happened to yourself or your family yet, or hasn't happened in your life-time yet, does not mean that it can't happen. Every year our news is filled with multiple instances of catastrophic natural disasters around the world. Most people in the disaster areas did not prepare.

They had a rude awakening and that is because natural disasters strike quickly.

Many preppers are preparing for natural disasters. One good place to start preparing in is getting an emergency kit put together. Your emergency kit may include first-aid supplies, short-term food and water supplies and communication equipment. Have a pet carrier for your pet. Purchase extra insurance to cover your home and belongings. Pack a "go bag". Your go bag may, again, include food and water but also duct tape, blankets and extra clothing. You may need an extra supply of prescription medicine. Most governments provide an "emergency preparedness" guide which you can read. The Canadian government supplies one on their web-site which you can download. For the long term, you may even invest in making your home stronger by implementing seismic design upgrades, flood proofing and wind design upgrades. Have a

“bug in” and “bug out” plan.

Hopefully, they won't be needed but, if natural disaster comes knocking at your home, take the steps ahead of time so that you are ready for it.

God bless you.

Shawn Stevens

PREPARING FOR CYBER ATTACK

Cyber warfare is computer hacking conducted for the purpose of espionage or sabotage. We live in an electronic age. The average person is strongly dependent on, both, computers and power grids. The problem with this kind of dependency is that computers, satellites and even power grids contain vulnerable electric components which can be tampered with by hackers on the other side of the world.

Transportation, communication, fuel supply, energy supply and even food and water supply are all

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vulnerable to disruption when they are targeted by hackers. Many preppers have seen the need to prepare for cyber warfare.

Cyber warfare is a reality in our world today. It goes on every day. The extent of it is hard to gauge because the perpetrators work hard at keeping their identities hidden. In 2009, numerous reports surfaced indicating that the United States' electrical grid system had been infiltrated by hackers. The U.S. Government has admitted that their electric

power transmission is susceptible to cyber attack. The perpetrators of cyber warfare may be individuals, terrorist organizations or even governments. The government of Iran has boasted of having the world's second-largest cyber army.

How can you prepare for cyber attacks? Concerned individuals can prepare for cyber war the same way as preparing for other emergency crisis. Have an extra food and water supply. Prepare a “go bag.” Have a “bug in” and “bug out” plan. Because cyber warfare threatens computer systems and the power grid, try to organize your life so that you can live independently of these things.

Consider alternative sources of energy such as solar panels. Do not have all of your financial assets in the form of electronic saving. Own hard assets such as property, gold and silver. Also, guard your personal information closely. Do not put personal information on the internet unless you feel it is necessary to do so. A little preparation can go a long way in prepping for cyber war.

God bless you.

Shawn Stevens

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