

Brothers and Sisters, it is my privilege and honor to stand before you this afternoon.

I know I've been quiet and soft spoken with not have much to say in the past so when I was asked to speak for 12 to 15 minutes, the first thing that came to my mind was I hope I'd be prepared. So I printed of some things to say ☺:

Stack of papers

Now might be a good time to get out the Cheerios :)

I have titled what I have been asked to share with you today:

"It's About Prudence, Not Paranoia"

Given the current national climate of fear and suspicion, it would be all too easy to say the Church's long-established teachings of personal self-reliance, common-sense food storage and provident living are some sort of **Doomsday Theology**. The **welfare program** of the Church has been in operation since the 1930s, when it was created to assist people struggling through the Great Depression.

I have been asked to prepare and share with you today how we as a **ward family** can be **and** are preparing for the many trials we may face together. I will speak plainly and expect the spirit to be here with us.

Before I begin I wish to first share with you my **testimony** of the restored gospel. I know that our Father in Heaven is working a Marvelous Work and a Wonder in these Last Days before the return of our Lord and Savior. Often at church I prefer to speak of our potential to become like Him. Today instead of this spiritual witness of the Atonement of Christ, the Ordinances and Covenants of the gospel to return to our Father I will speak of the temporal nature of Christ's Gospel for our day.

For me the subject of the **Last Days** is a very strong part of my testimony. It is the balance between the spiritual salvation and exaltation that my membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints offers me AND my belief that I am now seeing and experiencing the events leading up to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Personally I believe it to be many years from now however the trials are now upon us. Because of this I will speak regarding what we must do individually and as a ward family to be prepared.

Emergency Preparedness Response

As members of the Church we have been counseled for many years to be prepared for adversity. Preparation, both spiritual and temporal, can dispel fear. With the guidance of Church leaders, individual members and families should prepare to be **self-reliant** in times of personal or widespread emergency.

I see this as the **5 Stages of Preparation**. (Write this down)

Phase One – This is the time of plenty, the time to prepare.

Phase Two – Short Term setbacks, under or un-employment, sickness

Phase Three – Long Term Un-Employment, Disability, House Fire, Death in the family

Phase Four - Temporary Chaos and/or Destruction

Phase Five - Economic and or Civil Unrest, War

Before I go into the 5 phases I feel it is important we begin with the words of our Lord:

He spoke of the wise and foolish men:

24 ¶ Therefore whosoever [heareth](#) these sayings of mine, and [doeth](#) them, **I** will liken him unto a [wise](#) man, which [built](#) his house upon [a](#) rock:

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a [foolish](#) man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that [house](#); and it [fell](#): and great was the fall of it. - [Matthew 7:24-27](#)

The Church's Personal and Family Preparedness Manual

reads: As our freedom is diminished by debt, increasing hopelessness depletes us physically, depresses us mentally, and burdens us spiritually. Whenever we practice the principles of welfare, we are living "pure religion" as it is defined in scripture ([James 1:27](#)). Our ability to serve is increased or diminished by the level of our self-reliance. - [Elder Robert D. Hales](#)

As President Marion G. Romney said: "Food for the hungry cannot come from empty shelves. Money to assist the needy cannot come from an empty purse. Support and understanding cannot come from the emotionally starved. Teaching cannot come from the unlearned. And most important of all, spiritual guidance cannot come from the spiritually weak" ([in Conference Report, Oct. 1982, 135; or Ensign, Nov. 1982, 93](#)).

How do we become self-reliant? We become self-reliant through obtaining sufficient knowledge, education, and literacy; by managing money and resources wisely, being spiritually strong,

preparing for emergencies and eventualities; and by having physical health and social and emotional well-being. - Julie B. Beck Relief Society General President

We are responsible for our own spiritual and temporal well-being. Blessed with the gift of agency, we have the privilege of setting our own course in life, solving our own problems, and striving to become self-reliant. We do this under the inspiration of the Lord and with the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

This brings us again to the 5 Stages of Preparation which I will now cover in detail.

Phase One

This is a time of plenty when the Lord has blessed us with abundance. It is here that we have ability to help those in need. This is why we have hope. "If ye are prepared ye shall not fear."
(D&C 38:30).

"We encourage members world-wide to prepare for adversity in life by having a basic supply of food and water and some money in savings. "We ask that you be wise as you store food and water and build your savings. Do not go to extremes; it is not prudent, for example, to go into debt to establish your food storage all at once. With careful planning, you can, over time, establish a home storage supply and a financial reserve." —The First Presidency, *All Is Safely Gathered In: Family Home Storage*, Feb. 2007, 1

Now we go from the time of preparing to the time of need. They may appear as the following:

Phase Two

Under or Un-Employment, Sickness, Unforeseen setbacks

Phase Three

Long Term Un-Employment, Disability, a House Fire or perhaps a Death in the family

First and foremost it is here that we are to demonstrate our self-reliance. If and when you find yourself in this situation the instruction is clear:

First - Self

Second - Immediate Family

Third - Extended Family - When individuals are not capable of providing for themselves, immediate family, as well as extended family, have an obligation and opportunity to assist. - Bishop H. David Burton, Presiding Bishop

Forth - The Lords House, The Church - When Church members are doing all they can to provide for themselves but still cannot meet their basic needs, they should first turn to their families for help. When this is not sufficient, the Church stands ready to assist.

Firth - Government - Members may choose to use resources in the community, including government resources, to meet their basic needs.

It is here in these 2 Phases (Short and Long Term Needs) that the role of the **Bishop and Ward Council** is crucial along with access to the **Lord's Storehouse**.

Now I ask again for your attention as I wish to speak of some things that are often left unsaid.

Phase Four

Temporary Chaos and/or Destruction

* Weather, Earthquake, Hazardous Material, Plague

1 – 14 days expected

* Most disasters receive external relief within 14 days

* It is not unheard of assistance arriving 30 days later

* The state of crisis may last for 6 to 12 months

We may be fortunate enough to never experience such chaos and wide spread tragedy but we must prepare. I continue now in my plainness. Just as we should have for each of our families a gathering place outside of our homes, perhaps in the case of a fire, we have as a ward family this ward house to gather to.

Imagine with me something tragic has happened that is beyond our single families. Once we are individually accounted for then what.

I have two very personal examples I would like to use to stress this point. In this example I will use the idea of a large earthquake here. I work in Salt Lake; in the event there was an earthquake of a large magnitude as we are forecasted to receive I may be at least 24 hours away. Consider this, as some of you may know I travel often and my children are here. In either case I turn to you, my ward family.

For some of us such an event could bring death or serious injury. It is for this reason I wish to look out into this our ward family and say you are not and you will not be alone. It is in your eyes I look as I trust my family will be safe. Within our ward family there are many of you who are now old but you are not alone. You will be cared for and you are not a burden!

Let me pause for a moment and share an example that I believe most of us can relate to. Before an airplane takes off instructions are given and one refers to when there is a lack of oxygen in the cabin, they state that masks will fall from the ceiling of the plane. Parents are told that BEFORE placing one on your children you are to put yours on FIRST.

There is the first lesson again. We can not help when we are not in a position to help – Self Reliance.

When a disaster occurs here in our neighborhood the first thing is that you must be well, then your family and then we must rally here as a ward family. It is from here that the arm of the Lord will be outstretched to those in need. When our family is well we then will be able to reach out to those around us.

Listen carefully as I do not take this lightly. For this reason we gather here at the ward house and organize, that as a ward family our burdens may be light.

Having discussed this with the Bishop here are some things that you can expect to see:

The Primary organization will take care of the children so that adults can attend to the more immediate needs. Imagine with me primary songs being sung to occupy the time and keep the spirits high.

The Relief Society along with the **Elders and High Priests** will be assigned to account for all members. Time will also be dedicated to the following:

1. Water
2. Food
3. Shelter
4. Outhouses
5. Security / Protection
6. The Rule of Law

* Some individuals at this time may be looking for ecclesiastical leadership and others local civic leaders but in such a situation here at the ward house the Bishop will be in charge, the judge.

Each of these will require the assistance of **the Young Men and Women.**

Some of you may want to know whether or not you will be asked or required to give up your supplies and storage. I actually don't know but I will say that there is a difference between being asked and being told or having them taken. Personally I do not believe there will be a problem other than we will need to work together.

Brothers and Sisters I do not feel any of this is far fetched. These are the things we have prepared for.

This brings me to the fifth phase. Yes, there is one more.

Phase Five

Economic and or Civil Unrest, War

* Collapse of the dollar, Famine, etc. – All of which have been prophesized

I quote Elder Eyring; “The giant earthquake and tsunami that went crashing into the coasts around the Indian Ocean are just the beginning and a part of what is to come, terrible as it was.” – [President Henry B Eyring, January 2005](#)

The Lord has warned and forewarned us against a day of great tribulation. Too often we bask in our comfortable complacency and rationalize that the ravages of war, economic disaster, famine, and earthquake cannot happen here. Those who believe this are either not acquainted with the revelations of the Lord, or they do not believe them. Those who smugly think these calamities will not happen that they somehow will be set aside because of the righteousness of the saints, are deceived and will rue the day they harbored such a delusion. – [President Ezra Taft Benson, October 1980](#)

Change is also accelerating in the world around us. Much of the acceleration in the world is in trouble long prophesied for The Last Days. – [President Henry B Eyring](#)

I stand before the Church this day and raise the warning voice. It is a prophetic voice, for I have said and shall say only what the apostles and prophets have spoken concerning our day.

There is a common axiom among us which states: A religion that cannot save a man temporally does not have power to save him spiritually. If we cannot care for our temporal needs in this world, how can we ever succeed in spiritual things in the world to come?

Peace has been taken from the earth, the angels of destruction have begun their work, and their swords shall not be sheathed until the Prince of Peace comes to destroy the wicked and usher in the great Millennium.

There will be earthquakes and floods and famines. The waves of the sea shall heave themselves beyond their bounds, the clouds shall withhold their rain, and the crops of the earth shall wither and die.

I do not know if or when we may experience such trials here but the storm is raging around us. Perhaps we will be fortunate and miss such trials.

Some of you may say your too old, maybe you are saying this has been said for years and still nothing. Be careful, listen to the spirit.

With this Elder Uchtdorf stated that "Hope teaches that there is a reason to rejoice even when all seems dark around us. To all who suffer, to all that feel discouraged worried or lonely I say with love and deep concern for you, never give in, never surrender, never allow despair to overcome your spirit." - [President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, October 2008](#)

I echo the words of President Monson:

I assure you that our Heavenly Father is mindful of the challenges we face in the world today, he loves each of us and will bless us as we strive to keep his commandments and seek him through prayer.

All who participated in this moving drama of real life had discovered a new and personal appreciation of the Master's teaching, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" ([Acts 20:35](#)). To all within the sound of my voice I declare that the welfare plan of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is inspired of Almighty God.

Indeed, the Lord Jesus Christ is its architect. He beckons to you and to me, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him" ([Revelation 3:20](#)). May we hear His voice, may we open to His presence the doorways of our hearts, and may He be our constant companion as we strive to serve His children.

For family home evening I now give this challenge, **this is your assignment.** Discuss how after your family is cared for you can then assist those here within your ward family.

For now perhaps it is an increase in Fast Offerings but what more if we as a ward family were to need one another in a time of crisis?

What can we do to help one another? How will you exemplify King Benjamin's counsel that "when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God?" [Mosiah 2:17](#).

Remember: (Write this Down)

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TESTIMONY

Recession – your neighbor is unemployed

Depression – when you are unemployed

National Debt & Foreign Policy

Immigration / All but a war on our southern boarder

Chilean earthquake

Amen