

## ***Stake Emergency Preparedness & Self-Reliance***

Quarterly Newsletter



### **Spiritual Thought**

*By Lee Lacy  
Stake Emergency Preparedness Director*

World War II started in 1939 and ended in 1945. The U.S. did not enter the war until late 1941. At the time, Church leaders were wisely inspired by the Lord to prepare themselves for the hardships of war, long before hostilities began. Then, Apostle Harold B. Lee spoke in General Conference, in April 1943, about how the Church counseled members to be self-sufficient. He stated this was not new counsel, and quoted President Wilford Woodruff, who in 1894, counseled the Saints to provide for themselves. "We will be preserved in the mountains of Israel in the days of God's judgment. I, therefore, say unto you, my brethren and sisters, prepare for that which is to come." Elder Lee recounted, how, in 1937 individuals were told to go beyond welfare production and establish their own system of supply and plant gardens. Lastly, Elder Lee repeated counsel from 1942 for Saints to produce essential foodstuffs, or produce something in kind to exchange for food or teach gardening to others who could rent land to plant gardens.

With war raging in Ukraine and the lingering long-term impacts of the worldwide health crisis, it is essential that we revisit the wise counsel and admonitions of church leaders, who have warned us for over 100 years, to be prepared.



Harold B. Lee

~Lacy



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### **Spiritual Insights**

- Preparation, both spiritual and temporal, can dispel fear
- "...if ye are prepared ye shall not fear" (Doctrine and Covenants 38:30).
- "The need for preparation is abundantly clear. The great blessing of being prepared gives us freedom from fear" (Elder L. Tom Perry)

## Are You Getting the Newsletters?

*This newsletter contains great information, ensure you don't miss out as it is sent via email. Ensure your mail is allowing email from:*

[noreply@churchofjesuschrist.org](mailto:noreply@churchofjesuschrist.org)

*This is the church email address when email is sent from the stake or your ward leaders! Also ensure your contact information is up to date in the church website under your name in the directory of your ward. If you don't know how, probably ask a youth in the ward to help*



## Prepared in the Technological Age

By Van Celaya

In a recent interview with former Secretary of Defense and CIA Director Leon Panetta, journalist Ted Koppel asked the following: “When you hear Vladimir Putin warning about consequences the likes of which the world has never seen before, everyone immediately assumes that he’s talking about nuclear warfare. Could he be talking about cyber warfare?”

In his response, Leon Panetta stated, “I don’t think there’s any question he could be talking about cyber warfare. You know cyber, as a weapon, means that you don’t have to deploy your air force or ‘boots on the ground’. You can simply sit at a computer and deploy a very sophisticated virus that can take down our electric grid system, take down our financial systems, our government systems, our banking systems.”

As Brother Lacy so eloquently stated in his spiritual thought, we are indeed in the midst of a global crisis. Not only are we more technologically advanced than ever before, but (in my opinion) we are also more vulnerable. As the Department of Homeland Security notes, “Increased connectivity of people and devices to the Internet and to each other has created an ever-expanding attack surface that extends throughout the world and into almost every American home. As a result, cyberspace has become the most active threat domain in the world and the most dynamic threat to the Homeland.”

Much of our personal data is shared or tracked over the internet and is at risk of being stolen by individuals with nefarious intentions. Unlike the burglar who comes to the house and steals money from the mattress, we can be “robbed” blind of our finances, our credit, even our identities – and be oblivious to the fact that it occurred. When someone walks up and takes your belongings, you are (somewhat) attune to the damage that could entail: they stole my money, they stole my license, they have my credit cards, etc. But when a cyberattack occurs, we are – in most cases – totally blind to the extent of what has occurred and what can possibly occur in the future.



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*(Continued on the next page...)*



- ◇ Apple is not going to send you an email telling you your purchase of something needs you to login
- ◇ **\*All of these are scams to get your credentials so they can steal your identity and buy things on your dime, take out loans or open credit cards under your name**

## Be Prepared

As always, self-reliance and emergency preparedness teach us to be prepared for adversity. In the overview to Emergency Preparedness on the churchofjesuschrist.org website, it states:

*Members of the Church have been counseled for many years to be prepared for adversity. Preparation, both spiritual and temporal, can dispel fear (see Doctrine and Covenants 38:30).*

*Elder L. Tom Perry taught, "The need for preparation is abundantly clear. The great blessing of being prepared gives us freedom from fear" ("If Ye Are Prepared Ye Shall Not Fear," Ensign, Nov. 1995, 36).*

*With the guidance of Church leaders, individuals and families should prepare to be self-reliant in times of personal and widespread tragedy.*

We have the ability to protect our personal information and online identities, but we (as individuals) cannot

stop a possible cyberattack on government institutions or systems of infrastructure. In an article written in the Harvard Business Review, Stuart Madnick (professor at MIT) stated, "What do we do if the power grid is breached making electric-start backup generators unusable? What's the backup plan for the backup plan? What happens to our food supply? Our water supply? Our sewer systems? Our financial systems? Our economy? Answering these questions requires systems-level thinking about how everything is connected and consideration of the interdependencies. For example, hospitals might have backup generators. But, what about the supply line for refueling? If the refueling stations need electricity to operate pumps, what is the plan?"



*"The need for preparation is abundantly clear. The great blessing of being prepared gives us freedom from fear."*

-Elder L. Tom Perry, "If Ye Are Prepared Ye Shall Not Fear," Ensign, Nov. 1995, 36

As terrifying as all that may sound, remember the words of Elder Perry who counseled, "...being prepared gives us freedom from fear"; but, it is essential to prepare for whatever challenges may come our way. President Spencer W. Kimball taught that we must be "anxiously engaged in a positive program of preparation." It is not enough to hope for the best; we must prepare for it.

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Make sure that you have some cash on hand in the event your banking system suffers a problem, or the local ATM is inoperable. Keep a reserve of food and other supplies that can carry you through a crisis such as clothing and bedding, drinking water, important documents, longer-term supplies of basic food items, medications, first aid supplies, and ways to communicate with family following a disaster. And, as we have seen in the recent past with the COVID-19

pandemic, our healthcare systems can become overwhelmed when situational issues arise. Obtain first aid training, learn CPR, and/or educate yourself on other life-saving measures that can hopefully sustain an injured or ill person until definitive care can be procured.

In the opening monologue of the manual *Prepare Every Needful Thing: Family Home Storage*, a message from the First Presidency states:

*Our Heavenly Father created this beautiful earth, with all its abundance, for our benefit and use. His purpose is to provide for our*

*needs as we walk in faith and obedience. He has lovingly commanded us to “prepare every needful thing” (see D&C 109:8) so that, should adversity come, we may care for ourselves and our neighbors and support bishops as they care for others.*

As Elder L. Tom Perry ironically but eloquently stated in his address almost 30-years ago in the October, 1995, General Conference:



*On a daily basis we witness widely fluctuating inflation; wars; interpersonal conflicts; national disasters; variances in weather conditions; innumerable forces of*

*immorality, crime, and violence; attacks and pressures on the family and individuals; technological advances that make occupations obsolete; and so on. The need for preparation is abundantly clear. The great blessing of being prepared gives us freedom from fear, as guaranteed to us by the Lord in the Doctrine and Covenants: “If ye are prepared ye shall not fear” (D&C 38:30).*

~Celaya



### Self-Reliance Services

#### What is Self-Reliance?

“Self-reliance is the ability, commitment, and effort to provide the spiritual and temporal necessities of life for self and family” (Handbook 2: Administering the Church[2010], 6.1.1).

President Thomas S. Monson has counseled, “[Self-reliance] is an essential element in our spiritual as well as our temporal well-being.” (“Guiding Principles of Personal and Family Welfare,” Ensign, Sept. 1986, 3)

## 12 Principles of Self-Reliance

The Lord has declared, “It is my purpose to provide for my saints” (D&C 104:15). This revelation is a promise that the Lord will provide temporal blessings and open the door of self-reliance. He has also declared that “it must needs be done in [His] way” (D&C 104:16). To receive the blessings of self-reliance, we must accept and live the principles of self-reliance, which include the following:

Exercise Faith in Jesus Christ (D&C 104:15)

Use Time Wisely (Alma 34:32)

Be Obedient (D&C 130:20–21)

Manage Money (D&C 104:78)

Work: Take Responsibility (D&C 42:42; 2 Nephi 2:16, 26)

Solve Problems (Ether 2:18–19, 23; 3:1, 4)

Become One, Work Together (Moses 7:18; D&C 104:15–17)

Communicate: Petition and Listen (D&C 8:2)

Persevere (Hebrews 12:1; D&C 58:4)

Show Integrity (Mosiah 4:28; Job 27:5; Articles of Faith 1:13)

Seek Learning and Education (D&C 88:118–119)

Stay On Task, Receive Ordinances (D&C 84:20; D&C 136:4; 1 Nephi 18:2–3)

## Kansas City Stake Self-Reliance Committee Members

### President Daryl Ward

**Brother Bryant Staples**

**Brother Jason Bowne**

**Sister Karen O’Riley**

**Brother Arlen Tanner**

**Sister Patty Tanner**

**Brother Van Celaya**



**Sister Michelle Truman**

**Sister Rhonda Bonner**

**Brother Brent Ellibee**

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