**Planning Ahead**

**What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,**

**nor the human heart conceived,**

**what God has prepared for those who love him.**

**(1 Corinthians 2:9)**

**For we are what he has made us,**

**created in Christ Jesus for good works,**

**which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.**

**(Ephesians 2:10)**

**There are two things in this life for which we are never fully prepared: twins. *(Josh Billings)***

**In August 1954, a comedy writer named Johnny Carson filled in at the last minute for his boss, Red Skelton, who’d been injured during rehearsals for his TV show. Carson composed his monologue while driving to the studio. Jack Benny later warned Skelton, “You’d better watch that Carson kid.” (Audrey Cunningham, in Tidbits)**

**Charlie Brown walks up to Lucy’s “Psychiatry Help” booth and says to her: “Sometimes I actually feel that I’m solving some of my childhood problems.” Lucy: “That’s good, Charlie Brown, because then you’ll be ready for teenage problems, young adult problems, marriage problems, middle-age problems, declining-years and old-age problems.” Charlie Brown: “Let’s get back to those childhood problems.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm. (Henrik Ibsen, Norwegian dramatist)**

**Long commutes don't make all of us miserable. Harvard researchers have found that lengthy commutes were less likely to lead to job burnout for people who used the time to plan ahead for the workday. These people reported less burnout after six weeks than workers who didn't plan. (The Boston Globe, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 19, 2016)**

**Don’t wait for a crisis to discover what is important in your life. *(Land Title Insurance Company calendar)***

**Dig a well before you are thirsty. (Chinese proverb)**

**Good week for: Planning ahead, after Dallas-based investor Shannon Burchett purchased the domain name TrumpPence2016.com for $10 in April. "I made some guesses and I guess I was right," said Burchett, who is anticipating a "six-figure valuation." (The Week magazine, July 29, 2016)**

**Don’t wait for a crisis to discover what is important in your life. *(Land Title Insurance Company calendar)***

**Plans are worthless, but planning is everything. *(Dwight D. Eisenhower)***

**To satisfy the exploding worldwide electricity demand caused by flat-screen TVs, game consoles, personal computers, and other gadgets, nations will have to build the equivalent of 560 coal-fired power plants, or 230 nuclear plants, over the next two decades. The average American now owns 25 electronic products. (The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 2, 2009)**

**Grandma: “Why are your clothes so baggy, Earl?” Grandpa: “These are my fat clothes.” Grandma: “I don’t remember your ever being that fat.” Grandpa: “I wasn’t. But this seems to be where you headed so I’m getting prepared.” (Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)**

**By the end of this year, half of the fish consumed in the world will have been farm-raised rather than caught in the wild. (The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 2, 2009)**

**By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail. (Benjamin Franklin)**

**There are many causes that I am prepared to die for but no cause that I am prepared to kill for. (Mahatma Gandhi)**

**Eight local TV stations in Los Angeles keep helicopter crews on the payroll so they can lift off at a moment’s notice to provide aerial coverage of police car chases. (The New Yorker, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 27, 2006)**

**As I was entering the elevator in my apartment building, the door started to close. A woman on board quickly pressed the Hold button, and I complimented her on her fast reflexes. "It's nothing," she said. "That was my microwave finger." (Betty A. Barnes, in Reader's Digest)**

**A new Florida building code may have reduced windstorm losses from Hurricane Irma by up to 72 percent, according to an expert analysis. The code, which took effect statewide in 2002, required hurricane impact-resistant windows and doors in new buildings, and a standing seam metal roof, connected by strong fasteners to keep it from being ripped off. (The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 29, 2017)**

**The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers defended the quality of the materials being used to rebuild the levees around New Orleans and said they would be ready for the next hurricane season -- as long as there are no hurricanes. (Amy Poehler, in Time magazine, March 27, 2006)**

**Deaths by lightning strike have fallen precipitously since 1968 – by 79 for men and 71 percent for women. The main reason, researchers believe, is that weather forecasting has become far more accurate, so people get inside before thunderstorms strike. (Slate.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 6, 2013)**

**It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark. *(Howard Ruff)***

**It is better to be prepared for an opportunity and not have one than to have an opportunity and not be prepared. *(Whitney Brown)***

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**Are we prepared for a major pandemic? Not at ll. A report released last October by the Global Health Security Index found glaring gaps in readiness; out of 195 countries surveyed, not one was judged fully prepared to handle a major event. In the U.S. under President Trump, the federal budgets for both research and response preparation have been cut, the National Security Council's global health security unit has been disbanded, and the White House official in charge of pandemic response left his job in 2018 and has not been replaced. We're caught in the "cycle of panic and neglect," World Health organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. "We throw money at an outbreak, and when it's over, we forget about it and do nothing to prevent the next one." *(The Week magazine, March 6, 2020)***

**What needs to be done? Experts say the U.S. and other countries need to spend vastly more money on pandemic preparedness. We need to develop better diagnostic tools, stockpile drugs and vaccines, and fund research into new treatments and vaccine technologies. Above all, there needs to be an international effort to improve sanitation, medical care, and response capability in poorer countries where new diseases are most likely to arise and spread. All of this requires a major change of mindset, says experts. "The world needs to prepare for pandemics the same way it prepares for war," said Microsoft founder Bill Gates, who 's invested tens of millions in viral disease research. Humanity's biggest threat, he says, is "not missiles, but microbes." *(The Week magazine, March 6, 2020)***

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**The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital. *(Joe Paterno)***

**Like all parents, my husband and I just do the best we can, and hold our breath and hope we’ve set aside enough money for our kids’ therapy. *(Michelle Pfeiffer)***

**In Sweden’s mountains are man-made underground caves. In these are great supplies of pickled herring. In case of war. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Plan ahead – it wasn’t raining when Noah built the Ark. *(General Features Corporation)***

**President Barack Obama's White House left the Trump administration an intricate, 69-page playbook for fighting pandemics. The plan includes a recommendation that the federal government take the lead in coordinating the response and rely on a single spokesperson to provide consistent messaging to the public, with decision charts about when to shore up strategic stockpiles of personal protective equipment. (CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 29, 2020)**

**In Kansas City, Missouri, a large baby picture appeared on a billboard, accompanied by the following message: "Kevin O'Dower for President in the Year of 2005. Paid for by the Plan Ahead Committee. Grandpa, Chairman." *(St. Louis Post-Dispatch, as it appeared in Reader's Digest, October, 1977 issue, on page 87)***

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**The one thing we have never been able to save for a rainy day is an umbrella. *(Herbert V. Prochnow and Herbert V. Prochnow, Jr., in A Treasury of Humorous Quotations)***

**What a lot of people are saving for a rainy day is somebody else’s umbrella. *(Caroline Clark, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

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**An Alabama middle-school principal has asked students to bring in cans of food they could use as projectiles against school shooters. "We realize at first this may seem odd," Priscilla Holley wrote in a letter to parents. But "it is best to be prepared." She said students could hurl cans of food to "stun the intruder" until police arrive. (*The Week magazine, January 23, 2015)***

**A story around campus has it that a student once sent a telegram to his parents reading: "Mom -- flunked all courses. Kicked out of school. Prepare Pop." Two days later he received a response: "Pop prepared. Prepare yourself." *(Monique Sharpe, in Reader's Digest)***

**An Irish boxer named Jack West built a miniature theater in the basement of his Brooklyn home for his daughter. Who was the daughter? Mae West. *(L. M. Boyd)***

# TYPHOON TERROR: There was no warning on September 18, 1906, when a 77-mph typhoon blew into Hong Kong’s busy harbor. Two hours later, 10,000 people were dead, ocean liners were perched in the city’s streets, and 600 junks – the entire fishing fleet – laid on the harbor bottom. Today a radioed number system warns of typhoons within 500 miles of the city. (Chai Woodham, in Smithsonian magazine)

**In a vast storehouse in Fort Collins, Colorado, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has 700,000 vials of sperm from 18 different species of domestic animals, including cows, sheep, turkeys, goats, and chickens. In the event of some apocalypse, said Dr. Harvey Blackburn of the USDA, “we have the ability to repopulate entire breeds.” *(The Week magazine, August 30, 3013)***

**An Irish boxer named Jack West built a miniature theater in the basement of his Brooklyn home for his daughter. Who was the daughter? *Mae West. (L. M. Boyd)***

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