



Embrace the Future with Faith

In Oct.2020 general conference, President Nelson spoke of preparedness. Here is what he said, “How are we to deal with both the somber prophecies and the glorious pronouncements about our day? The Lord told us how with simple, but stunning, reassurance: ‘If ye are prepared ye shall not fear.’ Then he said, ‘If preparation is our key to embracing this dispensation and our future with faith, how can we best prepare?’”

“For decades, the Lord’s prophets have urged us to store food, water, and financial reserves for a time of need. The current pandemic has reinforced the wisdom of that counsel. I urge you to take steps to be temporally prepared. But I am even more concerned about your spiritual and emotional preparation.”

Then President Nelson went on to talk about Captain Moroni and the three things he did to prepare as he likened them to us. Here are the three things.

1. Create places of security;
2. Prepare your minds to be faithful to God;
3. Never stop preparing.

This advice is good for everyone no matter what stage of preparation you are in. There is no better counsel than that of a living prophet of God. To read more go here.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2020/10/37nelson?lang=eng>

Water

Last month we didn’t send out a paper in order to give people a chance to get a handle on possible flooding. Double check your

storm drains in your neighborhood to make sure they are free of debris. After that, it is time to check to see if you have these three things for water preparedness:

1. An updated supply of water (at least 2½ gallons per person per day for 3–7 days);
2. Something in which to carry water in the event you have to haul it from a distance;
3. At least one means of purifying water. (Having a backup is also advised.)

If you don’t have all three of these things, this is the time to address it and make sure you do.

An Updated Supply of Water

Whether you are storing water in plastic PETE1 bottles (like pop bottles), 55-gallon barrels, or a large tank, water should be changed and refreshed yearly if you choose to use tap water. *The exception is if you have added special chemicals that allow you to store it longer. Plan a day this month to change your water if it has been a year or more since you stored it. You can use the water you remove to water plants or to clean, but swap it for fresh purified water.

If you don’t have enough water yet, here are some things to keep in mind.

- Water can be stored in containers of all sizes. Use that to your advantage as you look for proper places to put your water. You can store water outside—just leave room inside the container for expansion when it freezes in the winter.
- Smaller containers are easier to “grab and go” or to dump and refill. You may also be able to find better storage places for small containers. *Placing containers with liquid inside a shallow plastic tray or bin for safe storage is recommended in case of leakage.

Something in Which to Carry Water

If your supply runs out before you have running water again, do you have something to carry water from a stream, a water truck, or some other distant source? This includes containers such as 5 gallon plastic water totes, buckets, or other manageable items, as well as something like a wagon, wheelbarrow, cart or shoulder yoke.

Means of Purifying Water

As part of your supply you should have ways to purify water. Chlorine such as Clorox has a very short shelf-life (about 3 months), so unless you are rotating your supply every two or three months you need to have a second source. There is a granular form of chlorine chemical that will store longer, but it can be very corrosive to things stored near it even if it is in glass. Therefore it is a good idea to have another way to purify water so you are not solely dependent on these. Here are some ideas:

- Water bottles with filters such as foreign missionaries carry;
- Large counter-top filter for the whole family;
- Filtering straw or pump (Emergency supply stores carry these.);
- Supplies to filter and boil water;
- Supplies to filter and proper chemicals to purify water.

A quick web search can help you locate these things.

What if the Water Is Icky?

People often say, "If they are hungry enough they will eat it, and if they are thirsty enough they will drink it."

This isn't always true. Sometimes unappealing water or food can make you physically sick or unable to eat or drink. It is a good idea to have some kind of option such as drink powder in your storage just in case this happens. The Church used to make a drink powder, but they discontinued it because people didn't understand the wisdom of having it. While sugar isn't good, dehydration is worse. Find a solution you and your family can live with in a pinch and keep it rotated.

Water for Washing

Personal hygiene and cleanliness are vitally important whether there is a crisis/incident or not. Not only does it help you feel better, but it helps to avoid the occurrence of skin infections, and health problems like dysentery. Accounts of World War II can validate this.

In the event that our wonderful running water and/or sewage system are broken or unavailable, it is also a good idea to have containers that can hold water and be used for washing.

Got Soap?

Soap just goes with water. While many people store food and water, a lot forget soap. Bar soap stores the longest. While it will get hard over time, it still works. It can also be a good barter item.

Notes from Red Hen

Dear Red,

I wish the animals on our farm were as organized as the ones on your farm. We are having problems with flooding this spring, and it seems to be every beast for himself. The pigs have used old straw bedding to dam up the bottom of their pen so that they have a fine mud puddle from the run-off. The cow and horse just suffer. We chickens are good diggers. We have dug a trench around our coop so that it feels like a castle with a mote. I am hoping that it will dry out soon so that we can get our garden ready, but Gerty says we should just build rice paddies.

The other day I heard our farmer muttering something about "Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink." I hope he isn't going nuts.

How are you faring with all this water run-off?

*My fondest regards,
Cousin Speckles*

