

Dear People of Island Church,

August 6, 2020

What strange and perilous days we live in (2Tim.3:1), so much has changed since the beginning of 2020, our lives have been turned upside down. It is indeed a time to watch and pray.

"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. "So, you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Matt.24:32-33

"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. Matt.24:24

The first part of the storm has passed, and Grant and I believe the second part is about to hit and will probably be much more violent and dangerous than the first part. So, this is a pastoral note to ask you to prepare. In sailing terms, you need to baton down the hatches, take everything off the deck that could get thrown around or become a lethal weapon. Trim the sail, check the steerage lines and equipment, chart your course and set it. Have all hands at the ready and people in their right place. Having done all "stand" - then watch and pray! (Eph.6:12-18) Keep your eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, **He is our Rock** – Hebrews 12:1-2



How do you prepare spiritually?

- Choose to live by faith and not fear. Psalm 91 is a great Psalm with all its truth and promises, we are a people who choose to live by faith not fear! Yes, faith is a choice that we pre - make. It is faith that gives us a sound mind (2Tim.1:7) so that we have the ability to think and lean on the Lord during a time of crisis. My Dad told me when he was teaching me to drive that I had to pre-train myself to make the right response in an emergency because my reflex action was normally a wrong or dangerous response; I have found that to be true in many areas of my life. So, we train ourselves to faith not fear *Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Lk.12:32* We build faith by reading and applying the Word of God, memorise the

promises, write them out and put them where you can see them, say “yes and Amen” to them (2Cor.1:20) This war we are in is very much a mind game – apply the helmet of salvation, in that salvation are the promises of God. Stand on those promises

- The word of God is also our testimony! *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.* Rev 12:11 You can build faith and make powerful declarations to the enemy by saying the Scriptures out loud – again, hearing the spoken word of God builds faith (Rm.10:17)
- Stay in community – don’t isolate yourself. Isolation is a breeding ground for discouragement and fear and is exactly where the enemy wants you. The Bible tells us very clearly:
Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Heb.10:23-25
God built us for community, that is how we function as a body. How would your natural body function if your bodily members where scattered all over the place, isolated from one another? The devils aim is to break the connection, to isolate, to take us from faith to fear. God’s aim is to have us in physical community taking us from faith to faith.
- Get rid of the things in your life that feed fear and not faith. Our mainstream media has become a propaganda machine – purveyors of fear and lies. When you buy into their lies you are buying into deception. We are people that walk in truth, when you know the truth and seek it out you are free.

How do you prepare practically?

When we are prepared it takes the panic out of life and means that we have space to think rationally. Always carry a little extra for others that may be in need

Check that you have all you need as you head into fall and winter, as going to the store or buying online may not always be an option.

Here is a check list to see if you have things covered:



How Prepared Are You?

- I have an adequate First Aid kit?
- I know where to shut off the valve for main water supply to my house.
- I know where and how to turn off the propane/gas line
- I know how much water you need per family member per day? _____
- I have a designated out of area contact person
- I know where my flashlight/s is/are and have spare batteries.
- I keep an adequate supply of my medications to cover for emergencies
- I have my/our important documents all together in a safe place and in weather/fire proof container
- I have enough food in my home to feed my family for 2 weeks without having to go to the store
- I have a battery run radio and spare batteries
- I have an evacuation plan in case of fire
- I have a fire extinguisher in the house and know how to use it
- I know what type of fires my fire extinguisher is for
- I have made sure the contents of my house are earthquake proof
- I have a 72 hour grab and go kit
- In an emergency I have a preplanned designated assembling point
- I have an alternative cooking source if I can't use my stove
- I know what disasters may occur in my region



A final note of encouragement from Isaiah 40: 31
*But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.*

Storms don't terrify an eagle because they have the ability to fly above storms!

An eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks. The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above the storm. The eagle does not escape the storm, but simply uses the winds that bring the storm, to lift itself higher than the storm.



May the Lord cause you to soar like eagles in these coming months and may you know a richness and closeness in your walk with the Lord that you have never known before. Remember Phil.4:13 *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*