

Are You Prepared? Article for 1-9-18

Another holiday season has come and gone. Christmas with all its excitement is over. Epiphany is past and in most cases the decorations are stored for another year. Many of you like me probably made a new year's resolution or two. Perhaps it is to lose a few pounds, eat more healthy foods, exercise more, or beef up the savings account. These are outcomes that many of us will strive toward and some of us will accomplish this coming year. In addition to any other resolutions I am asking you to set one more important goal for 2019.

Please commit to actively working toward making sure your family and your church are better prepared for emergencies this coming year. Not just thinking about being prepared, Not just talking about preparing. Not just encouraging others to take the lead in preparation. But actively taking steps that may mean the difference if someone suddenly becomes seriously ill or if someone is severely injured.

About once a month during 2019 this column will make suggestions and offer assistance in your church's preparations for emergencies and disasters. But here are five good places to start.

1. If your church has not already been in communication contact your Regional Disaster Coordinator. They are:

Andrew Miller, Regional Coordinator for Region I

andrewmiller1@gmail.com

(989) 954-3297

Tom Ryden Regional Coordinator for Region II

ryden.tom@gmail.com

(989) 941-2194

Georgia McCall Regional Coordinator for Region III

mgeotermc@aol.com

(810) 391-9772

Bob Wood Regional Coordinator for Region IV

rcwood@centurytel.net

(989) 551-7904

They are ready to help your church develop plans, locate resources or provide other assistance that you may need.

2. Contact your local police and fire departments. They are very willing to help you assess your current situation and provide helpful suggestions.
3. Make sure that your smoke detectors, Carbon Monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, AED's, and first aid kits are all accessible and ready should they be needed.
4. If you haven't done so recently make sure that your insurance coverage is adequate and up to date. Make sure that you have an inventory of important or valuable items for insurance purposes.
5. Make sure that your church's records such as session minutes, registers, historical documents and the like are protected in fire and water proof cabinets and preferably backed-up off site.

These five actions will be a great start to your church's preparation for emergencies or provide excellent comfort in knowing that your church has a good start on being ready.

Blessings

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