

One Saturday night in early October of 2015, while at a Stake meeting, I received a text from a friend asking if all was well in front of my house. I replied that I wasn't home, but that I'd check with Christa and see. Upon doing so, I found out that a reckless driver had been running 50 or 60 MPH down our bumpy dirt road and had plowed into a pine tree across from our house.

Immediately upon entering the house, Christa softly said, "We need to move." I ignored her statement and walked into our bedroom to change my clothes. She repeated her statement again. "We need to move." She went on to tell me that after the events of the evening she felt there was more in store for our family and that the time had come to start a new chapter. Our home was paid for and we didn't suffer for anything. I didn't like the prospect of this new adventure, however the spirit whispered to me that she was right. We then began looking at houses.

Around every turn we felt a push to keep going. Through what I now see as an inspired conversation between myself and a mortgage broker, I found out about the property we eventually built a home and started a small homestead on. (That's when things got rough.)

As mentioned previously, I still felt a push. This time it was to become more self-reliant. At our old house we raised hogs and carried them to a processor. Once settled, we started this again. Due to the larger property, we decided to get cattle. (I've always wanted to be a cowboy.) We began feeding out a steer and raising a calf that was born to our cow shortly after we got her.

In time, we began selling steers by the quarter and hogs by the half and whole. Still I felt a push to do more. I looked at purchasing businesses, but nothing came through. Then one day while at the processor, I found out that the company was for sale. I spent about a week there working with the crews on the slaughter floor, in the cut room and curing hams. I liked this. I could see myself here. Then Covid hit. Covid put the purchase plans on the slow track and then derailed the sale all together.

I decided to begin this work for myself. I built cold storage, bought equipment and then began processing animals for my own use.

I determined that the path I needed to take was not to make a larger income, but to become more self-reliant by learning new skills.

On our "homestead" we raise cattle, hogs, chickens and sheep. We also have a garden and are learning to can and preserve. We've recently planted apple, pear, and fig trees along with grape vines and blueberries. Recently I started 737 plants from seeds in the kitchen! I then built a greenhouse entirely from repurposed lumber. I've also built a wood fired smoke house for cold smoking hams, bacon and jerky. (That's why I call myself Smokehouse in the chat.) I don't know everything about this stuff, but I'm learning! To me, this is the key. The more we learn, the more we become like our Father in Heaven.

This journey to becoming more self-reliant has brought much peace and happiness to myself and my family as we work together and serve each other. There's no better meal than one made with food raised entirely at home!

Temporal Preparedness

4/18/2021

I. What have you found that works?

A. Pay off Debt!

1. This will give you resources to do more with your dollar.

B. Food

1. Raising our own Cattle (Milk and Meat). Hogs, Chickens (Eggs).
 - a) Process equipment including refrigeration (Coolbot coolers), knives, saws, grinder, smokehouse, books/recipes etc.
 - b) Family garden
 - a) Pressure canner/supplies
2. Big box stores
 - a) Buy large quantities of sugar, flour, salt, oils, potato flakes, yeast, baking powder & soda, spices, vitamins etc.
 - a) Store in food grade five-gallon buckets with paint style or screw top lids.

C. Water

1. Buy extra at big box stores.
2. Pickle barrel rainwater harvesting from rain gutter downspouts.
3. Large agricultural style tanks.
4. Spare pump for water well.
5. Spare irrigation pump for pond use.
6. Drill pumps to fill containers with from tank storage or pond.
7. Old style hand pump that feeds from the pond.
8. Extra hoses and plumbing fittings for waterlines.
9. Livestock watering fed from rain gutters with drinkers installed.
10. Refill 2-liter drink bottles.
 - a) Treat all water for storage.
 - b) Keep extra bleach for sanitizing containers.

D. Fuel

1. We cook with propane. I installed a 500 gallon in-ground tank. This is about three times larger than we typically use in a six-month period.
2. Propane fireplace provides an alternative heating source.
3. 100# propane cylinders from Lowes/Home Depot etc.
4. 25# propane cylinders from Lowes, garage sales, old grills etc.
5. Propane bottle adapters are available on Amazon to fill 1# lantern style bottles.
6. Farm tank with 12-volt pump. Filled with on-road diesel fuel for diesel vehicles.
 - a) You can use an old heating fuel oil tank.
 - b) Hand pumps or drain valve petcocks can be used without power.)
7. RV- Keep the fuel levels up. (Propane and engine fuel.)
8. Gas cans filled with non-ethanol fuel (I suggest adding a fuel stabilizer like Stabil.) When I use a gas from a can, I refill it the next time I go out.
9. Generators- Keep full of fuel. This decreases the chances of condensation.
10. Wood- Store off the ground and covered. Replenish as needed and be sure to keep it refreshed. (Old wood can be smoky and not as efficient.)
 - a) Use for heating and cooking.
 - b) My smokehouse is wood fired.

II. What Have you found to be less effective?

What have you found to be setbacks or hinderances and how have you overcome them these obstacles?

A. Less effective experiences

1. I underestimated the rain I would harvest in my barrels.
I should have set my barrels up with an overflow that would allow additional barrels to be filled.
I should have installed the drain valve before putting them into use. (I was too excited to catch some water!)
I had the rain gutter installer put all my downspouts into barrels. This was too many to keep up with. I should have picked one or two downspouts to work with and created a system that would have filled additional barrels.
2. Buy a fuel syphon hose if you think you may need one in the future. A mouth full of diesel fuel tastes terrible for several hours!
3. Don't salt your bacon for longer than the recipe calls for.
4. Paint, cover, or store translucent water containers inside to keep algae from growing.
5. Cheap 5-gallon bucket lids don't seal. Get good equipment.
6. Sharpie marker will rub off a 5-gallon bucket. Use labels?

7. Small water barrel drains are slow. 1" or larger drains work better. (You don't want to use it if its inconvenient.
8. Filter pond/rainwater before running through pumps and sprinklers.

B. Knowledge

1. Study and learn. Research different topics and determine how I'd like to accomplish them in a way that works with my needs, time, and within my budget.
2. Practice the skills I'm acquiring. Don't expect to get everything right the first time. (eat the over-salted bacon.)
3. Make time to get comfortable with using storage items and try new methods to find what works when using them.

III. How do we go about raising awareness of this (Temporal Preparedness)?

A. Share the importance of being self-reliant with others.

1. Share the "concert of clarity from church leaders.
2. Encourage others to become more self-reliant.
3. Invite others over to see what you're working on.
4. Ask others for advice if they have a certain skill set your in need of.
5. Share your projects and accomplishments with friends and family.
6. Post your projects on social media.
7. Find a friend who is getting started and encourage them along the path to self-reliance.
8. Find a friend who is further down the path than you are. Tag along with them. Ask them to share their experiences of what's worked and what hasn't.

Testimony

We have been counseled for years to become as self-reliant as we have means and abilities to become. Hard times have always followed the righteous. Famines, droughts, natural disasters, job loss etc. can all be means of bringing us to our knees in humility. It is my prayer that I will be humble enough to listen to the "concerts of clarity" provided by prophets in our day. They have counseled us to be prepared, to be ready and to stand in holy places. These men hear from God and guide us according to His word. It is my duty to follow the Prophet and become temporally prepared so that I may be a strength and a support to His work and to those within my stewardship. I know the Lord will come again. He is the great Redeemer and Savior of all mankind. He is my elder brother whom I love. In the name of Jesus Christ Amen.