

# THE STORMRIDER ISSUE 16

## PREPPING



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Hello Stormrider friends. There is something about the name Stormrider that makes me think of prepping. It is the idea of riding out the storm with ample preparations made. That is the essence of prepping. I hope that you will reflect on what I have written here and that it will be useful information for making your own preparations for the days ahead. GOD BLESS YOU! Shawn Stevens



I want to express in the clearest language possible that all statements made in this magazine are meant to be taken not in malice towards any identifiable people group but rather as discussion on issues of public interest, for public benefit, in good faith. I believe that my views on the issues contained here are also consistent with our faith beliefs which are contained in our statement of faith which can be viewed on our websites. Whether you agree or disagree with what I have stated here, we bless you. My articles are meant to be read with an open mind. By reading these articles you may find material that you find objectionable. By viewing the material, or any part of the material, printed in this magazine, and any part of the magazine and its pages, you agree to waive any legal or equitable rights or remedies you have or may have against Shawn Stevens or Ramona Stevens in respect to material that you find offensive or objectionable contained in this magazine. I and we at [freedomandsocialorder.com](http://freedomandsocialorder.com) accept no responsibility or liability for any harms or losses that may occur as result of following any information found on this site. Do not consider information found here to be legal advice from ourselves to yourself. Do not use information found here if you don't agree to these terms. I am not a legal authority and do not propose to be viewed as such. By reading the material of this magazine or any part of this magazine, you agree to indemnify and hold harmless Shawn Stevens and Ramona Stevens and you specifically acknowledge and agree that Shawn Stevens and Ramona Stevens will not be liable for comments deemed defamatory, offensive or damaging and agree to dismiss any legal claims that you may have against Shawn Stevens or Ramona Stevens relating to the contents of this magazine.

Shawn Stevens

# PREPPING

## OBSERVE THE ANT

*Go to the ant, O sluggard,  
Observe her ways and be wise,  
Proverbs 6.6*

What do you think of when you hear the word “prepping?” Maybe you think of preparatory exercises at a sporting event or starting preparatory school. However, there is another kind of prepping that is becoming harder to ignore or be ignorant of. That is emergency prepping. It is hard to ignore because in recent years prepping has gone from being a hobby to a world-wide movement. Prepping is simply common men and women organizing their resources in such a way that they have extra staple food, water and living supplies that can carry them through tough times, natural disasters and even end-time tribulation. It is concerned individuals and families striving for independence, self-sustainability and mobility.

Why should someone prep? We live in a world that is falling apart. Economic crisis, natural disasters, threats of terrorism, cyber attacks, etc, are all realities of our fragile twenty-first century world. Prepping is facing this reality proactively and doing what you can to prepare yourself and your family.

Is it more comfortable to sit back and not prepare?

Yes, it is for the time being. However, while you are sitting back the world is moving on its course and the world is changing at a ferocious pace.

For advice on whether or not to prep, observe the ant. “Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise,” (Proverbs 6.6). Ants are workers. They are constantly digging holes in the ground and making tunnels. Then there is a highway of them gathering and carrying food and stashing it away in their underground chambers. There is seemingly no end to their activity. They are busy. They are collecting and they are storing. When trouble comes, they are ready. Observe the ant.

The world of prepping is an interesting one. What are some things that you and I can do as preppers? For starters we could:

- have a supply of non-perishable food (maybe even freeze-dried foods)
- have a supply of clean water
- have a plan in place for re-supplying yourself with water if the city water supplies are shut down (perhaps even having a water filtration system).
- store items like batteries, matches or candles which may be useful if there is no power
- store medical supplies
- store fuel in a safe place
- store a tent and/or shelter items

Have a plan to “bug in.” Bugging in is when, because of an emergency, you convert your home into an emergency shelter for yourself, for family and, perhaps, for friends. Your bug-in shelter should be self-sufficient and not dependent on the city electrical or water supply. The idea behind bugging in is being able to hold out in your own home, in an emergency, for as long as possible.

Have a plan to “bug out.” Bugging out is when, because of a prolonged emergency, you leave your home for another emergency location. This is needed when it is no longer safe to remain in your home. Bugging out is expensive and should

be carefully planned out over time. Bugging out may involve having a trailer or even a small piece of land in a remote location.

Preparing is always the wise thing to do. Take some time to observe the ant. Take some time to start building a plan for you and your family.

God bless you.

Shawn Stevens

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Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission." ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))

Skousen, Joel M. and Andrew Skousen. *Strategic Relocation : North American Guide to Safe Places, 3rd Edition*. Lindon: Printing Resource, 2010.

## **PREPARING FOR NATURAL DISASTERS**

What if the wind outside of your home started moving at three hundred miles an hour? You would be experiencing a tornado. You had better have done something in advance to prepare or you may be swept out that window. Tornados, fires, floods, hurricanes, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanos are all natural disasters which occur in our world and which displace people around the world. Many preppers are preparing for natural disasters.

Many have thought, “Oh, but that sort of thing only happens to other people.” That's what the other people thought. Just because something hasn't happened to yourself or your family yet, or hasn't happened in your life-time yet, does not mean that it can't happen. Every year our news is filled with multiple instances of catastrophic natural disasters around the world. Most people in the disaster areas did not prepare. They had a rude awakening and that is because natural disasters strike quickly.

Many preppers are preparing for natural disasters. One good place to start preparing in is getting an emergency kit put together. Your emergency kit may include first-aid supplies,

short-term food and water supplies and communication equipment. Have a pet carrier for your pet. Purchase extra insurance to cover your home and belongings. Pack a “go bag”. Your go bag may, again, include food and water but also duct tape, blankets and extra clothing. You may need an extra supply of prescription medicine. Most governments provide an “emergency preparedness” guide which you can read. The Canadian government supplies one on their web-site which you can download. For the long term, you may even invest in making your home stronger by implementing seismic design upgrades, flood proofing and wind design upgrades. Have a “bug in” and “bug out” plan.

Hopefully, they won't be needed but, if natural disaster comes knocking at your home, take the steps ahead of time so that you are ready for it.

God bless you.

Shawn Stevens

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Skousen, Joel M. and Andrew Skousen. *Strategic Relocation : North American Guide to Safe Places, 3rd Edition*. Lindon: Printing Resource, 2010.

## **PREPARING FOR CYBER ATTACK**

Cyber warfare is computer hacking conducted for the purpose of espionage or sabotage. We live in an electronic age. The average person is strongly dependent on, both, computers and power grids. The problem with this kind of dependency is that computers, satellites and even power grids contain vulnerable electric components which can be tampered with by hackers on the other side of the world. Transportation, communication, fuel supply, energy supply and even food and water supply are all vulnerable to disruption when they are targeted by hackers. Many preppers have seen the need to prepare for cyber warfare.

Cyber warfare is a reality in our world today. It goes on every day. The extent of it is hard to gauge because the perpetrators work hard at keeping their identities hidden. In 2009, numerous reports surfaced indicating that the United States' electrical grid system had been infiltrated by hackers. The U.S. Government has admitted that their electric power transmission is susceptible to cyber attack. The perpetrators of cyber warfare may be individuals, terrorist organizations or

even governments. The government of Iran has boasted of having the world's second-largest cyber army.

How can you prepare for cyber attacks? Concerned individuals can prepare for cyber war the same way as preparing for other emergency crisis. Have an extra food and water supply. Prepare a “go bag.” Have a “bug in” and “bug out” plan. Because cyber warfare threatens computer systems and the power grid, try to organize your life so that you can live independently of these things. Consider alternative sources of energy such as solar panels. Do not have all of your financial assets in the form of electronic saving. Own hard assets such as property, gold and silver. Also, guard your personal information closely. Do not put personal information on the internet unless you feel it is necessary to do so. A little preparation can go a long way in prepping for cyber war. God bless you.

Shawn Stevens

REFERENCES :

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyberwarfare>

The purpose of this article is to help people protect themselves from the difficulties that they might experience in the hypothetical event of a cyber attack upon their community.

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## **PREPARE FOR NUCLEAR WAR**

It is the most devastating weapon known to man – nuclear missiles. Could we ever see one used in war in our modern times? Actually, nuclear weapons have been used in war in the not-too-distant past. World War II ended with the United States' nuclear bombs landing on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945 and on Nagasaki, Japan on August 9, 1945. Both utterly destroyed these cities and brought about a quick surrender by the nation of Japan.

At the time of the bombing of Japan, the United States was the only nation that had the nuclear bomb. However, in 1949 the Soviet Union developed their own nuclear weapons. They were followed by the United Kingdom in 1952, by France in 1960 and by China in 1964. India and Pakistan have also developed nuclear weapons. As of the 1960s, it is believed that Israel has them. In 2006, North Korea was added to this list. There is a great deal of suspicion that Iran is developing

such weapons and this has been discussed at length at the United Nations and elsewhere.

Even though there has been a proliferation of nuclear weapons, most people do not expect nuclear war. This is not because the risk has been taken away but it is because Western society, by and large, is apathetic to this concern. The average Westerner is consumed with the personal issues of his own life and family and does not show much interest in international threats. It is because he has never seen nuclear weapons used (Other than on video) and, therefore, it is too foreign a thought for him to see them realistically be used now. They believe that the Cold War is over.

The Cold War is a term given to a period of time beginning from the USSR's development of nuclear weapons in 1949 until an unidentified period of time. Some would give an end date for the Cold War as the date that the Berlin wall came down or the date that the USSR rejected communism for a

more democratic form of government. But has the Cold War really ended?

United States President, Barak Obama, declared in his election debate with Mitt Romney that the Cold War was over. This opinion endorsed by such a high official has become the majority view. It is what we all want to believe. However, has the Cold War ended?

Westerners do not understand the communist mind. We imagine that they are much like us – peace-loving. However, that is an assumption not well-supported by history.

Communism came into the world by the revolutionary, forceful taking of Russia by Lenin and his Bolsheviks.

Communism spread throughout the world by violent military advances. While this has been forgotten by most Westerners, many are beginning to consider this reality again as Russia has taken Crimea and is involved in the conflict in the Ukraine. The conflict in the Ukraine is a shock to most people. Countries don't just move across sovereign country borders to take territory for themselves. Or do they?

Communist leader, Mao Zedong, in 1957, said:

*Let us imagine how many people would die if war breaks out. There are 2.7 billion people in the world and a third could be lost. If it is a little higher it could be half ... I say that if the worst came to the worst and one-half dies, there will still be one-half left, but imperialism would be razed to the ground and the whole world would become socialist. After a few years there would be 2.7 billion people again. 1*

I disagree with Mao Zedong because to him socialism is more important than over a billion innocent lives. This shows the mindset of communists such as Mao. Life is cheap under this worldview. This is better understood by the generation that lived through the early years of the Cold War.

What did the generation that lived in the early years of the Cold War believe and how did they prepare? They believed that nuclear war with the USSR was highly possible, if not probable. In the 1950s, preparations were made for the United States people. Civil defense programs were set up where

some schools and other buildings were stocked with non-perishable food supplies and other supplies. They were also equipped with Geiger counter radiation-measuring equipment. Some of these locations had signage labeling them “Fallout Shelter.” In the 1960s, the world saw the Cuban missile crisis. The USSR began setting up ballistic missiles in Cuba, only ninety miles from the United States. After intense negotiations, the Russians removed these missiles. Both the U.S. and the USSR increased their stockpile of nuclear weapons. The public took the threat that this nuclear arms race posed very seriously. It was not considered excessive to build your own bunker for you and your family.

In the early years of the Cold War the threat was intercontinental ballistic missiles. However, as of the 1980s, an even greater threat faces us. Submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) are nuclear missiles that can be launched from submarines. Both the United States and Russia have these weapons and the submarines to launch them. The Russians most modern submarine for firing these missiles is

the Borei-class submarines. These are now replacing the Delta 3, Delta 4 and Typhoon class. The Borei cost 890 million U.S. dollars and can carry at least sixteen missiles. This high-technology submarine is virtually undetectable and if it was parked below the water on the North American shore, it is estimated that it would take three minutes to strike a North American target.

A lot has been said about the U.S. missile defense system. These are rockets that can be deployed to intercept in-coming ballistic missiles. While such a system may be effective in taking out intercontinental missiles, fired from another continent, it is debatable whether or not they would be of much use against submarine-launched missiles, fired at short range. Three minutes is a very small window of time to react to a nuclear attack.

The United States supply of nuclear weapons has been a deterrent to Russia launching a nuclear attack. The threat of mutual assured destruction has likely kept such an attack from

occurring up until now. However, the United States' arsenal of nuclear weapons are not set up to fire automatically. They require authorization from the President of the United States. If Russian SLBMs were fired at North America from short-range, would the President of the United States make the decision to launch U.S. nuclear missiles in less than three minutes time. That is quite a decision to have to make. There just isn't enough time to react to a submarine-launched nuclear missile. That is why in a nuclear war the country that makes the first strike has an enormous advantage over responding nations. Because of the utter destruction that these weapons carry out, a first strike is of enormous advantage. Because of the decisiveness of a first strike, there is little that a responding nation can do to protect itself from SLBMs. Even though there is little that responding nations can do to stop SLBMs, there are things that individuals can do to potentially protect themselves from the threat of nuclear war. Should individuals try to protect themselves from the threat of nuclear war? Some people believe that any nuclear war will result in the mutual destruction of both warring countries and

of the world as nuclear fallout will drastically effect the environment. They believe that life cannot exist after nuclear war. Many others, however, believe that this is not necessarily true. It is possible that Russia, China and/or North Korea could wage a limited nuclear war against the West. This would be a tactical war to blow up military infrastructure and certain population centres. A limited nuclear war could be followed by a land invasion to plunder our territory and resources. In a scenario such as this, many will live through nuclear war and much can be done ahead of time to prepare for life after such an event.

How can one prepare for nuclear war? An important thing to consider is whether or not you live close to where a nuclear missile would land. A limited nuclear war is meant to take out military infrastructure and certain population centres. You may be wise to consider moving away from densely populated urban surroundings to a more rural community. You may especially consider relocation if you live close to a military base or a military target.

Before making a step this large the first thing that you should do is pray. Ask God where is it that you should live. He might tell you to stay right where you are. The best place will always be the place that is in the center of His will. That is where you want to be.

For the person wanting to know what are the most strategically dangerous target zones in North America, the best book that I know of that contains this information is Joel M. Skousen's "Strategic Relocation." If you are situated away from a target area, then you do not need to prepare for the direct effect of the nuclear blast itself. Instead, you can concentrate on preparing for the collapse of infrastructure and society that would follow nuclear war. This kind of preparing would involve things like:

- having a supply of non-perishable food (maybe even freeze-dried foods)

- having a supply of clean water
- having a plan in place for re-supplying yourself with water if the city water supplies are shut down (perhaps even having a water filtration system).
- storing items like batteries, matches or candles which may be useful if there is no power
- storing medical supplies
- storing fuel in a safe place
- storing a tent and/or shelter items

By saying what I have here I am not predicting nuclear war. I am however applauding the efforts of those who prepare for these possibilities. The most physically catastrophic kind of war is nuclear war. Don't think it couldn't happen. We live in a fragile world and the Cold War between different ideological worldviews and the nations that hold them is not necessarily over. It may never happen, it may happen imminently or it may happen many years from now. It could be many years away but preparations may also take years. You might not be able to defend yourself against a nuclear submarine but you may be able to slip below the surface and go off the radar yourself by becoming self-sufficient and living more

remotely. Look to God for direction and trust His leading. He will never mislead or fail His children. God bless you.

Shawn Stevens

**ENDNOTE :**

All the best to you in whatever you decide to do.

**ENDNOTE :**

1. Mao Zedong, quoted in Dikötter, Frank. *Mao's Great Famine: The History of China's Most Devastating Catastrophe, 1958–62*. Walker & Company, 2010. p.13. ISBN 0-8027-7768-6

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