

# CHAPTER 14

## PREPARATIONS FOR OUTSIDE THE QUAKE ZONES

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For those of you reading this book that are not in the quake zones, you still have some very important preparations to make. Here are the most important:

1. Don't make plans to travel to one of these imperiled areas from the middle of October until after the middle of November. That includes business trips or vacations. Postpone your business trips, even if you must claim illness. For vacations, choose the East Coast, Florida, Europe, and so on. Why take a chance with your lives? You'll be literally gambling with your own life and those of your family. Imagine sitting at a gaming table in a casino and rolling dice or playing a hand of cards and all the losers on the table are taken out and shot. That's how serious this is.
2. Encourage your friends and family to visit you during the time period that is most dangerous for where they live—the last week of October for the Mississippi danger zone and the first 10 days of November for the West Coast zone. If you feel they would reject coming if they knew why you were inviting them, then tell them after they arrive. Invite them to bring their pets with them. For many people the grief of losing their pets will be as bad as losing a member of their family.
3. Contribute to the Red Cross Disaster Fund and/or The Salvation Army the first week of October. They're going to need enormous funds after the quakes.
4. Volunteer for the Red Cross. See the chapter for all the reasons. If nothing else, take their First Aid and CPR course.
5. Does your community have plans in place to accept and care for refugees? Use the excuse of taking care of hurricane refugees or tornado and storm victims. It's something that your community needs, even if these events were never to occur. The local Red Cross may have some buildings identified, but I can assure you these will not be nearly enough. With this in mind here are some other suggestions that you can suggest to your community leaders, organizations, churches, groups and so on. Some you will not be able to implement until the earthquakes happen, but try anyway so that they know who you are when you contact them again:
  - A. Have an EARTHQUAKE or DISASTER AWARENESS week designated prior to the middle of October;
  - B. Have an area designated for campers in an emergency and arrange for toilet facilities, bathing, and electricity;
  - C. Encourage people to donate heaters for that first winter;
  - D. Work with a disaster agency to find housing for masses of people;

- E. Volunteer to be a liaison to radio and TV stations to advise the refugees where to go when they approach your city or town. Even service stations can be given photocopied instructions to give to the refugees by either fax, email, or in person;**
- F. Does your city have a website? Suggest creating a section to be used in case of a disaster to give people information;**
- G. If you work in a hospital, check to see if they have disaster plans. Public hospitals normally do, but many private hospitals may not;**

**Are there abandoned buildings that could warehouse refugees for a period of time? I happened to arrive in Jackson, Mississippi just as there was a hurricane hitting the Gulf Coast. All the motels and hotels were filled, but they opened an old hotel downtown that had been closed for ten years, and they gave us prison mattresses to sleep on and a towel, washcloth, and small bar of soap. We were happy to have some place to stay. Or perhaps there are apartment complexes that have seen better days and are waiting for the wrecking ball. If the destruction is scheduled just before the predicted quakes, perhaps you could raise various objections that would delay the destruction into December. We want as few people as possible living in tents through the winter.**

- 6. If you own a service station on a route out of one of these zones, be sure that your tanks are full before the last week of October for the Mississippi Valley zone or the first of November for the West Coast zone. Depending upon how close you are to these zones, you may quickly sell out of fuel. If you don't think your company can supply you on a moment's notice, investigate where you could quickly buy fuel. You'll only need this backup if there is a max exodus.**
- 7. It's the same situation for grocery stores and department stores along these routes. Be sure you are fully stocked on the week just before the predicted events, especially if you stock camping supplies and clothes of all types, including coats.**
- 8. If you do live in an area where coats are needed in the winter, perhaps you could organize groups such as Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, your church, and other types of civic organizations to collect used coats and other clothes for the needy. My son and I did this one year for our Boy Scout Troop and virtually every house in a two or three block area gave us one or two coats.**
- 9. After the refugees start arriving, both the adults and their children will need things to keep them busy—games, magazines, clowns, entertainers. Can you provide any of these diversions?**
- 10. Do you have a garage apartment or even an extra room in your house that could house a couple or family? Perhaps it's being used for storage and filled to the brim. Do some 'Spring Cleaning', even if it's summer or early fall, and get rid of that junk. Have a garage sale, and instead of spending the money from the sale, save it for disaster relief or donate it to the Red Cross**

- and/or the Salvation Army. Even a portion of your garage may be better than nothing for a family left homeless.
11. Perhaps you have an RV or trailer home that could be used by a refugee family until they can find housing. Or maybe you're planning on buying a new one. Why not hold off selling the old one until after November. When the earthquakes happen, you can donate it for a family, and even have a nice tax write-off.
  12. Drag out those cots and sleeping bags and clean them up. The Red Cross will quickly run out of cots and will need additional bedding. What about an air mattress that you have? It will at least keep one or more people off the floor.
  13. Here are more items for you to consider donating: Blankets and sheets (Clean); Luggage—many of the refugees will only have a plastic bag for their meager possessions; Toiletry items such as new toothbrushes and toothpaste—Dentists are always giving away free toothbrushes and toothpaste when you have your teeth cleaned. Take all that they will give you; Soap and Shampoo—On your business trips and vacations this summer ask the maids for extra bars of soap and shampoo—really load up; Sunscreen and insect spray depending upon where you live; Deodorants (new of course); TV's; Bicycles—I saw this on YouTube.com. Many refugees will have to abandon their cars and trucks and walk out, so they'll need transportation; Cars and trucks—even better if you have an old vehicle that still runs. Don't sell it—wait and donate it to a refugee family; Motorcycles, motor scooters, and even golf carts—shelter workers in large convention centers and tent cities can use the latter to get around in. Free bus tickets— or perhaps you can talk your local bus company into giving the refugees free bus transportation so that they can look for work; Knapsacks—especially children's; Teddy bears—I was told in my Red Cross class that they work best in shelters.
  14. Donate airline miles to the Red Cross or the Salvation Army now!
  15. If you work for an airline in management or as a union representative, suggest that your airline offer space available seats to rescue workers heading for the disasters (Priority 1), and to refugees being sent away from the disaster zones. Perhaps American Airlines and Southwest Airlines could redeem themselves by being the first airlines to offer these seats. Make it easy for the rescue workers by giving them standby tickets on presentation of their Red Cross or Salvation Army ID's.
  16. Be pro-active. Don't just sit there frozen hour after hour watching the scenes of the catastrophes on TV. DO SOMETHING! Look at the above suggestions and then do what you can.

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