**Preparedness**

**In August 1954, a comedy writer named Johnny Carson filled in at the last minute for his boss, Red Skelton, who’d been injured during rehearsals for his TV show. Carson composed his monologue while driving to the studio. Jack Benny later warned Skelton, “You’d better watch that Carson kid.” (Audrey Cunningham, in Tidbits)**

**Charlie Brown walks up to Lucy’s “Psychiatry Help” booth and says to her: “Sometimes I actually feel that I’m solving some of my childhood problems.” Lucy: “That’s good, Charlie Brown, because then you’ll be ready for teenage problems, young adult problems, marriage problems, middle-age problems, declining-years and old-age problems.” Charlie Brown: “Let’s get back to those childhood problems.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm. (Henrik Ibsen, Norwegian dramatist)**

**Dig a well before you are thirsty. (Chinese proverb)**

**Don’t wait for a crisis to discover what is important in your life. *(Land Title Insurance Company calendar)***

**To satisfy the exploding worldwide electricity demand caused by flat-screen TVs, game consoles, personal computers, and other gadgets, nations will have to build the equivalent of 560 coal-fired power plants, or 230 nuclear plants, over the next two decades. The average American now owns 25 electronic products. (The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 2, 2009)**

**Grandma: “Why are your clothes so baggy, Earl?” Grandpa: “These are my fat clothes.” Grandma: “I don’t remember your ever being that fat.” Grandpa: “I wasn’t. But this seems to be where you headed so I’m getting prepared.” (Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)**

**By the end of this year, half of the fish consumed in the world will have been farm-raised rather than caught in the wild. (The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 2, 2009)**

**By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail. (Benjamin Franklin)**

**Eight local TV stations in Los Angeles keep helicopter crews on the payroll so they can lift off at a moment’s notice to provide aerial coverage of police car chases. (The New Yorker, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 27, 2006)**

**A new Florida building code may have reduced windstorm losses from Hurricane Irma by up to 72 percent, according to an expert analysis. The code, which took effect statewide in 2002, required hurricane impact-resistant windows and doors in new buildings, and a standing seam metal roof, connected by strong fasteners to keep it from being ripped off. (The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 29, 2017)**

**Deaths by lightning strike have fallen precipitously since 1968 – by 79 for men and 71 percent for women. The main reason, researchers believe, is that weather forecasting has become far more accurate, so people get inside before thunderstorms strike. (Slate.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 6, 2013)**

**It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark. *(Howard Ruff)***

**It is better to be prepared for an opportunity and not have one than to have an opportunity and not be prepared. *(Whitney Brown)***

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**Are we prepared for a major pandemic? Not at ll. A report released last October by the Global Health Security Index found glaring gaps in readiness; out of 195 countries surveyed, not one was judged fully prepared to handle a major event. In the U.S. under President Trump, the federal budgets for both research and response preparation have been cut, the National Security Council's global health security unit has been disbanded, and the White House official in charge of pandemic response left his job in 2018 and has not been replaced. We're caught in the "cycle of panic and neglect," World Health organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. "We throw money at an outbreak, and when it's over, we forget about it and do nothing to prevent the next one." *(The Week magazine, March 6, 2020)***

**What needs to be done? Experts say the U.S. and other countries need to spend vastly more money on pandemic preparedness. We need to develop better diagnostic tools, stockpile drugs and vaccines, and fund research into new treatments and vaccine technologies. Above all, there needs to be an international effort to improve sanitation, medical care, and response capability in poorer countries where new diseases are most likely to arise and spread. All of this requires a major change of mindset, says experts. "The world needs to prepare for pandemics the same way it prepares for war," said Microsoft founder Bill Gates, who 's invested tens of millions in viral disease research. Humanity's biggest threat, he says, is "not missiles, but microbes." *(The Week magazine, March 6, 2020)***

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**The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital. *(Joe Paterno)***

**Like all parents, my husband and I just do the best we can, and hold our breathe and hope we’ve set aside enough money for our kids’ therapy. *(Michelle Pfeiffer)***

**In Sweden’s mountains are man-made underground caves. In these are great supplies of pickled herring. In case of war. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Plan ahead – it wasn’t raining when Noah built the Ark. *(General Features Corporation)***

**President Barack Obama's White House left the Trump administration an intricate, 69-page playbook for fighting pandemics. The plan includes a recommendation that the federal government take the lead in coordinating the response and rely on a single spokesperson to provide consistent messaging to the public, with decision charts about when to shore up strategic stockpiles of personal protective equipment. *(CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 29, 2020)***

**What a lot of people are saving for a rainy day is somebody else’s umbrella. *(Caroline Clark, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**TYPHOON TERROR: There was no warning on September 18, 1906, when a 77-mph typhoon blew into Hong Kong’s busy harbor. Two hours later, 10,000 people were dead, ocean liners were perched in the city’s streets, and 600 junks – the entire fishing fleet – laid on the harbor bottom. Today a radioed number system warns of typhoons within 500 miles of the city. (Chai Woodham, in Smithsonian magazine)**

**In a vast storehouse in Fort Collins, Colorado, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has 700,000 vials of sperm from 18 different species of domestic animals, including cows, sheep, turkeys, goats, and chickens. In the event of some apocalypse, said Dr. Harvey Blackburn of the USDA, “we have the ability to repopulate entire breeds.” *(The Week magazine, August 30, 3013)***

**An Irish boxer named Jack West built a miniature theater in the basement of his Brooklyn home for his daughter. Who was the daughter? Mae West. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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