

I WANT YOU TO PROSPER IN UNCERTAIN TIMES—HERE ARE SOME

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INFORMATION
 BOOKS, MANUALS, HOW-TO
 D.I.Y. REPAIR MANUAL
 ADVANCED FIRST AID
PERMACULTURE
 PASSIVE SOLAR DESIGN
 COUNTRY SKILLS

SEEDS AND TREES
 OPEN-POLLINATED, HEIRLOOM • USEFUL
 CORN BROCCOLI TOMATO BEANS
 NUTS FUEL FRUITS

ENERGY, RENEWABLE
 SOLAR, WIND, WOOD, HYDRO, GEOTHERMAL
 WOODSTOVE

INSULATION
 WORKS ALL YEAR, PAYS FOR ITSELF
 STAY COZY INSIDE
 CAULK

NEIGH-BORS
 NEED A HAND? SURE!
 FAMILY AND FRIENDS PEOPLE WHO YOU TRUST

VOCATION
 USEFUL SKILLS
 MECHANIC
 PERMACULTURE DESIGN
 SOLAR P.V. SYSTEMS
 APPLIANCE REPAIR
 ORGANIC FARMER
 WIND TURBINES
 WOODWORKER
 BLACKSMITH
 HERBALIST
 DISTILLER

A CRAFT, EXPERTISE
 MIDWIFE
 COBBLER
 ENGINEER

AN ESTATE
 A PIECE OF LAND, HOWEVER SMALL—THAT YOU OWN OUTRIGHT

STORES
 O' FOOD, DRY/CANNED
 SPICES HERBS
 COOKING OIL BEANS
 SOLAR GRAIN
 SUGAR SALT
 SOY MILK

TOOLS HAND-AND QUALITY
 TOOLS TO PERFORM YOUR CRAFT, ESPECIALLY NON-ELECTRIC VERSIONS
 DESIGN BY PJ CHMIEL, 2008

MEDI-CINES
 SUPPLIES, FIRST AID, HERBAL OR NATURAL REMEDIES
 VITAMINS
 ESSENTIAL OILS
 BAND-AIDS
 GLOVES
 SCISSORS
 SYRINGES
 MORTAR AND PESTLE

EFFICIENCY
 OF HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES: CFL/LED BULBS, COMPOST TOILETS, SOLAR HEATERS/COOKERS, ETC.
 TANK-LESS WATER HEATER
 COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULB

NATURAL BUILDING
 IS THE FUTURE.
 CLAY
 STRAWBALE
 COB
 TIMBER
 RECYCLED...

PASSIVE SOLAR—STRAWBALE, EARTHSHIP, COB, TIMBER, RECYCLED...

TRANSPORTATION
 THAT REQUIRES NO FOSSIL FUELS (OR LITTLE). ANY FORM OF MASS-TRANSIT, RIDESHARES, HOMEBREWED FUEL
 BICYCLE
 CAR
 TRAIN
 BUS

SUPPLIES
 MISC. SPARES, CONSUMABLES, EVERYDAY & IMPORTED GOODS
 BATTERY
 TOOTH
 DUCT
 TARP
 SACKETS

After the massive bank bailouts in 2008, “wise investments” would be appropriate. It appears that the U.S. dollar may soon collapse, thanks to the Wall Street sellout, the swindles of the housing bubble, a fiat currency, our financial overextension in costly foreign wars, and the fact that the U.S. economy, based mostly on “service, entertainment and ideas,” now produces almost nothing of any real value.

We were once the world’s wealthiest nation and leading industrial power, now we’re the largest deadbeat borrower of money, dependent on China and other lenders to prop up our economy. This won’t last forever, these lenders will ask for repayment, at which point our government will likely play the only card it has up its sleeve (besides pre-emptive nuclear war): print up a LOT more money to pay it off. This would cause hyperinflation and the USD will be worth just pennies on the current dollar.

The fat-cats taking bailouts now are on their lifeboats, while the rest of us are stuck on the Titanic. Our gutless politicians are their partners in crime, helping them to safety while leaving us to swim. There are grave and unprecedented problems facing our country in the near future, and considering the government’s incompetent, backwards (and iron-fisted) response with smaller-scale disasters like Katrina, Iraq, and 9/11, it would be naive to think that they “have everything under control” or that they even have our best interests in mind. Therefore, WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE AND EVERYTHING TO GAIN BY PREPARING ourselves and making wise investments for whatever may come. We won’t hear about a forthcoming collapse on the evening news; the government might face a revolution if people became alarmed, so they will uphold the “everything is fine” myth as long as they can get people to keep believing it.

In a collapse, everything would change, in ways few of us have imagined: the majority of us could lose our jobs, with millions more formerly “middle-class” people also losing their homes. Oil may stop flowing to refineries, and if shipping were disrupted there would be rampant food shortages (there’s only a few days’ supply of food at the grocery store). Municipal bankruptcies would cause problems with necessities like water, garbage, and sewer service, there’d probably be electrical blackouts, and everyday goods would stop showing up at stores. You can imagine the civil unrest that this might cause because so few people are prepared for this scenario...so please don’t get caught with your pants down, act now.

Life in years to come may not be the same life we enjoy today, at least in a material sense, but it can be a lot more rewarding than the work/shop/TV/sleep/die life that most of us now lead. The key to weathering the storm lies in joining together in closer-knit groups of family and community; the solutions will not be coming from the top-down, they will be happening from the ground-up...and that is empowering.

This is a friendly nudge imploring you to take stock of what you have, imagine the worst-case scenarios, and learn how you can come out with an advantage no matter what the future holds. All of the things I suggest are things that you can probably use anyway, and most make good common sense. Keep in mind that your money could become worthless, and ponder what a tragedy that would be. If you’re hungry and there’s no electricity, your priorities will change; you might gladly trade your iPhone or flatscreen for a few potatoes. I hope it never comes to that, but please don’t consider it an impossibility, either. Try to stay positive and find strength in your family and community.

All my love and best wishes, **PJ**

WHAT TO SPEND YOUR LAST THOUSAND DOLLARS ON?

I’d recommend: seeds, bulk staple foods (dried beans, grains, oil, etc), useful books, a crank or solar LED lantern, a serious water filter, basic hand tools, a used bicycle, and bulk everyday goods. Not guns, gold or freeze-dried foods; none of those will get you very far. Besides, in a crisis, wild animals would soon be hunted to near extinction by our fellow Americans.

THE HOW

Things like garden seeds, educational books and stores of food are absolutely essential, and being able to catch, store and filter water will be critical to the survival of many. Knowing a trade and having the necessary tools will be very helpful (unless you enjoy farm labor!) Owning an acre or two allows you to grow plenty of your own food, and better relationships with family and neighbors benefit everyone. Insulation and efficient appliances save you money now and allow you to live with much less energy later, while stockpiles of medicine and knowledge of natural remedies can keep many from suffering in the absence of our current healthcare system. A good bicycle or biofuel setup will help you get around without gasoline, and stocks of various everyday goods make great barter items in a cashless economy. “Natural” building is the way that many things will be built in the future, using local, natural and recycled materials instead of concrete, chipboard and drywall. A different world, but one more in tune with nature, and full of fulfilling (and forgotten) experiences.

for more information, recommended reading, and related web links, see: pjchmiel.com/preparedness