



PERSONAL VILLAGE



NEWSLETTER

October 2008

Volume 4

© by Marvin Thomas

Dear Friends,

Given the extraordinary events of recent days and weeks, I felt it important to speak to the concerns we are all experiencing. This month's newsletter is a reprint of the May 2008 edition, "Preparing For Changing Times", which addresses the importance of community during uncertainty. I will continue with the series on listening next month.

Preparing for Changing Times

Are you worried about our changing world? Global Warming, sudden storms, chaotic housing prices, economic collapse—many of us are facing difficult times. But we are not alone.

History has taught us that after great periods of prosperity, there is always upheaval from war, plagues and ill-advised leadership. Life is always changing. Looking at today's condition, you may wonder where we are in that cycle.

Can we maintain our good educations and fine homes and comfortable life styles?

And we ask ourselves, how do we prepare for the unknowable? Planning does help, but we can not predict every part of the future. However there is one constant we can always rely on in times of difficulty. That is the support of friends, family and the folks next door.

As we have seen with recent floods and storms, neighbors help each other survive in the face of change and turmoil. With the support of those in our personal villages we can pitch in and help each other through anything. Our immediate community is our refuge in times of crisis.

So in preparing for the unknown, work toward making the world a better place today. At the same time, nourish the relationships of the people right next door, down the street, in the local community; and maintain your network of family and friends. They will be your greatest comfort. When we have nurtured a strong circle of close neighbors we have more fun and life is better even if nothing does go wrong. And if the unexpected happens each of us will have already established relationships to back us up.

Mutual community support is the universal way that we have managed in the face of whatever life brings us. Always keep building your greatest treasure—your personal village.

✓ **Note:** One valuable way to take an active part in community is to vote. Voting is one of the most important responsibilities we have to ourselves and each other.

Visit us Online at personalvillage.com