The Millennium Bug: Missions Response

The whole Y2K situation is that everything about it is uncertain. However, if we keep firmly fixed on the Lord and on His Kingdom, we can be assured that He will accomplish His will in and through us. God is in control and will bring glory to Himself through this situation. Let's cooperate with Him and with each other concerning what is to come as He brings us ever closer to reaching the unreached and ultimately on being with Him forever!

by Grace Wiebe

By now, it is likely that many of you have heard of the now-becoming-famous Y2K Millennium Bug. The result of the "Y2K Bug" is one of the fast-approaching dilemmas/potential crisis of our century that is, in many ways, forcing us to make some kind of decision about how we will choose to respond to what we hear or read about this coming event which is expected to take place on January 1, 2000. Individuals, companies, churches, ministries and governments around the world are having to grapple with many serious questions surrounding this issue.

It is my desire to give you the opportunity to become more informed about what the Y2K Bug, especially how it is expected to potentially affect our lives, recommend some preparations that you can consider for your situation/s, tell you how you can access some helpful resources, and how missions, sending churches and their missionaries may want to prepare for what lies ahead. This could very well set the stage for missions and churches or local overseas fellowships to partner together to be a unified refuge and light in a potentially dark time.

Addressing the Issue

Since early this year there has been a dramatic increase on the part of the the media to address the Y2K problem. The internet is now loaded with thousands of articles and resources to help people think through the situation as it could relate to them and to draw their own conclusions.

Companies and some governments have been the first to address these issues, especially in western countries, and interested individuals have been doing their own research and beginning preparations. However, only recently, after over a year of my own internet research on the subject, have I seen increasing information on Y2K from a Christian perspective.

Even more recently I've begun to see that churches are beginning to see that this could potentially be leading us to our finest hour as the Church, and as a result, increasing numbers of churches are seeking ways to unite their efforts and preparations as congregations and city-wide churches in order to be a light and a refuge in a potentially dark time. Some of these resources are included in the internet resources noted below.

The Mission Community

The intent of this article is to further address the Y2K issue in the mission community. Although there is growing interest, there appears to be little evidence to date that missions are finding ways to respond to aspects of Y2K which can potentially greatly impact not only missions and missionaries, but also the ongoing ministry of the Gospel in various parts of the world.

Before I lay out some of the questions that need to be considered, and some potential responses, there are some things we need to be aware of.

(a) Controversy

No one knows to what extent the world will be affected by the "computer glitch" on January 1, 2000. There are perspectives ranging from one extreme to the other—some saying that it will be no big deal, others in denial saying that little, if anything, will happen. (I have found that most people that say this have not done much research on Y2K.) Others again are saying, "the world will end." Yet others say the potential panic caused by the "doomsayers" will cause more problems than the Y2K Bug. This may be possible as well. Personally, I tend to think the truth may lie closer to the middle and leaning more to the negative side.

(b) Potential Implications

You should know that the potential implications are far greater than the fact that your personal or company computer may not be Y2K compliant, and shut down or scramble the data so it doesn't function.

The scenario expected by many experts such as Ed Yourdon (one of America's senior mainframe computer programmers and author of two dozen books on programming; he and his daughter have written a book, Time Bomb 2000) and Gary North, Peter de Jager, Capers Jones and Michael Hyatt, etc., is quite severe. This is due to the fact that the infrastructures of civilized societies around the world are dependant on computers, many of which are still the old mainframe computers. Electricity, water, communication systems, transportation, etc., could very well be out of commission for some time after January 1, 2000. It doesn't take long to realize that our lifestyles could change quickly and dramatically and that survival could become a priority with potentially no electricity, water, food, most means of transportation, and much unemployment, etc.

(c) Potential Duration

You should know that no one knows how long these speculated effects might last. Some think it could range from a few days or weeks to a few months or many months. Most of the research I've done encourages confidence that the world will recover, but that it will likely take some time for that to happen.

(d) Can It Be Prevented?

You should know that governments and many companies have been spending millions and billions of dollars to have computer experts go through the millions of lines of computer code to correct the problem by making their computer systems "Y2K compliant." What is making it difficult to solve this problem is the fact that billions of microchips are embedded into computers as well as into many electrical appliances and systems around the world. These microchips are hard to locate, and if found, are very difficult, if not impossible, to correct.

Yet another problem is that if some computers are corrected to become "Y2K compliant," if a "Y2K non-compliant" computer communicates with the compliant computer; or if a non-compliant program is used with a compliant computer, the non-compliant computer or program will "infect" the compliant one and neither will remain compliant. Many companies and government ministries are now making sure that their suppliers and others that they will be communicating with are also compliant, and they are discontinuing their business with companies that are not.

Trying to correct these problems has been and continues to be a very costly and very time consuming endeavor. Many companies have started working on the problem too late and will not be finished on time. Many others have not begun to address the issue or begun to bring their computers up to compliance.

Because international society is completely integrated and companies are so dependant on each other, in order to continue to function smoothly, apparently most or all companies and utilities would need to be Y2K compliant—but that is not the case and will not be the case by January 1, 2000 according to many experts. Numerous countries are thought to be almost totally unprepared.

When to Begin to Prepare?

Many experts recommend that you begin NOW to:

* Inform yourself of the issue
* Consider your own response and plan of action
* Consider your personal situation, family, business, church, ministry, mission/missionaries in your planning
* Prepare for more than yourself in order to be a potential refuge and share with others in need

* Prepare spiritually, emotionally, physically, materially, relationally, financially, etc.

Many feel that because of the potential increase in panic in the coming months as the news increasingly gets out, especially those months immediately preceding January 1, 2000, many survival items in demand will no longer be available after mid '99 and that many of these items will have inflated prices due to the increasing demand. For example, many freeze-dried food and survival supply stores are apparently already having 6 month waiting lists because they're out of stock. Therefore, you will want to begin making preparations now. Also, apparently many banks may run out of cash for the same reasons even months before January 1 (or the governments may require that the banks take a long "holiday" to prevent bank runs), so you will want to take care of the bulk of your financial situations and investments around mid '99 as much as possible as well. It will be easier on your finances and also on the economy if people begin to prepare gradually rather than in a mad rush at the end.

A Biblical Perspective

As you read this and hear more about Y2K as January 1, 2000 quickly approaches, it is easy to become overwhelmed and fearful. My desire is not to stir up panic, yet I realize that anyone facing these issues realistically after seriously researching the situation will undoubtedly experience bouts of fear at certain points in the process. Personally, I think this is probably necessary and healthy. However, the key issue is that we move past the fear as soon as possible and become established in a biblical and God-centered response through which God can be glorified, realizing that He is with us

to the end, and that He and His promises remain trustworthy. He remains the same and in control no matter what happens on this planet and in our lives. We need to remind ourselves of some very important biblical principles and His promises so that we as believers will not become a part of the problem by adding to the growing panic. Instead, we need to be beacons of peace and light and hold up hope for those who are seeing the potential loss of all they have put their security in, and who are being overwhelmed by the magnitude of the possibilities which exist should the Bug bite hard.

As believers, we can be comforted, encouraged and strengthened as we meditate on and put our faith and hope in the promises of God as we seek God's direction for us as we prepare to respond as God would have us respond to the Y2K dilemma. I often think of Joseph and how God prepared him to be one to bring food to starving peoples in a time of national disaster, and how God did miracles to create food when it was needed. I think of God providing food and water to the Israelites in the desert, and God providing loaves and fishes to the multitudes as well as providing a continuous flow of oil for the widow who hosted Elisha. We can take comfort and courage from the fact that our all-powerful God is our Deliverer, Saviour, Refuge, our Immanuel who never leaves or forsakes us, our Hope, our Prince of Peace, our Wonderful Counsellor, our Rock that does not change, and that His Kingdom cannot be shaken even though everything else shakes. We can take courage from the fact that His promises remain true whether we are in times of plenty or disaster. He has never promised to spare us from difficulty, but He has promised to be with us through it and to fulfill His purposes for us as we trust in Him. God is in control and

His ways are higher than ours. He is not scratching His head wondering what to do because He didn't see this coming.

Many of you have probably noticed that God seems to have been urging us to increase our dependence

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God has been teaching us to walk by faith and not by sight; to listen to Him and to be led by the Spirit. Before long, our very lives may be dependant on this even more than they are now.

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on Him in the past few years. Perhaps, this is one of many reasons why He has been preparing us in these ways? He has been teaching us to walk by faith and not by sight; to listen to Him and to be led by the Spirit. Before long, our very lives may be dependant on this even more than they are now.

How Should we Respond?

(1) Do not fear or panic. Confess your fears to God and begin to meditate on the promises of God's Word and who He is—KNOW what the Word says about God's dealings with His people during times of disaster —and be encouraged.

(2) Be a steward of the time you have left to prepare and of all that God has given you. Simplify your lifestyle and be content with what you have.

(3) Be led by the Spirit as you seek His direction in how He wants you to prepare.

(4) Share what God has given you now and prepare to share with those in need later.

(5) Connect with other believers in your church and neighborhood now to begin to build a support network, and to think through an appropriate approach for your church/neighborhood, etc.

(6) Re-focus and re-prioritize your life according to biblical principles and realize Who your Source is.

(7) Make sure your relationship with God and others are current and reconciliation is made , "as much as is possible, be at peace with all men".

(8) Pray, research the issue, pray. Develop a plan of action and deadlines as to when you hope to have your plan of action ready and then a deadline when you hope to have your preparations ready

As Michael Hyatt says, Christians have a responsibility to TRUST, REPENT, PREPARE and SHARE for the sake of the Kingdom. See <http://www.michaelhyatt.com/christians.htm>

Undoubtedly, there are many questions that will come up in addition to the following, but hopefully these will help to provide some kind of framework to help your church/mission think through some of these issues to help you come up with a response and to help you to prepare.

The first step I would recommend is to have a meeting of your staff on the home front as soon as possible, to pray together and discuss how you will plan and respond to the Y2K dilemma, and how/when you will communicate your recommendations to your missionaries. Choose a team to work on the project and who will regularly update you on their progress. Set a deadline for when you would like to have a plan of action in place, and then set a deadline for when you would like to have most of your plans implemented.

What if it's a Major Disruption?

The following concerns are not necessarily in an order of priority.

(1) How will missions/churches get finances to their missionaries if the banks aren't functioning and if communication systems and transportation are down?

(2) What will your approach be? How should missions/churches let their home staff/missionaries know about Y2K, since many have likely not heard about it yet if they are in a less developed country. Also, how soon should they be told?

(3) Where can missions/missionaries get resources they need to help them (and the sending churches of the missionaries) to think through the issues and prepare?

(4) Should missionaries be encouraged to remain on the field or return home? Why or why not? How will these decisions affect the future ministry of the Gospel in that country?

(5) How will missions communicate with their people in this event (if they can)?

(6) What preparations should missions and churches encourage their missionaries to make?

(7) What preparations should the sending bases, administrative missions offices make?

(8) How might this affect the future of the mission?

(9) How might it affect the home office/administrative staff?

(10) How might this affect the financial decisions of the mission in the coming year?

(11) How might this affect the plans/program/focus of the coming year?

(12) Will the missionary, team, mission or sending church (or all of the above) decide how the missionary is to respond?

Responses of Mission Agencies

(i) YWAM. According to Bob Hall, "Loren Cunningham encourages the YWAM Global Leadership Team (a) to work through the implications for YWAM as an organization and prepare; but also (b) to start thinking about the evangelistic opportunities that this situation might present"

(ii) Urbana. Urbana has been postponed for another year partially due to the potential implications of the Y2K problem.

(iii) Neal Pirolo's (author of Serving as Senders) response says that their ministry is preparing for a major disruption to the world economy. He says he has one Scripture telling him what to do about mission mobilization: "OCCUPY UNTIL I COME!" They are listing their ACTS 29 Training Course dates for the year 2000. See <brigada-orgs-missionmobilizers>

(iv) According to the "700 Club," Drs. Mark & Betsy Neuenschwander of The AD2000 Movement's Crisis Relief Task Force are putting together a training package for pastors, etc., on how to prepare for Y2K.

Recommended Steps

* Pray and continue to pray throughout the process.

* Choose a deadline for your targeted date of having a contingency plan in place (the sooner the better).

* Research the Y2K issue and determine your approach.

* Find out what other missions are doing and take counsel from them.

* Choose a deadline for your targeted date of having a contingency plan implemented.

* Meet with your home staff and let them know your response, and then let your missionaries and supporting churches know.

Checklist of practical strategies taken from Grant Jeffrey's The Millennium Meltdown (229,230). (Regarding Frontier Research Publications.)

(1) Complete an inventory of the equipment you use in your office.

(2) In 1999 send a letter of inquiry to each manufacturer asking if they will guarantee (in writing—my addition) that the equipment in question will operate normally on January 1, 2000.

(3) Check with key suppliers to verify their products and operations are compliant.

(4) Check for Y2K compliance before purchasing any additional computers or equipment.

(5) Write to your bank and request a written response as to their Y2K compliance. If you remain in doubt about your bank's compliance, consider setting up a second business bank account with another bank in your community that is Y2K compliant. (My note: it might also be helpful to check the Y2K compliance of the banks that your missionaries are receiving their income from where they are overseas, and they might need to switch banks as well to find a Y2K compliant one.)

(6) Verify that all of your communications systems are compliant, especially your voice mail, fax, modems, email and phone system.

(7) Complete an inventory of all computers used in your operations and verify that they are Y2K compliant. If not, repair or replace non-compliant hardware. Be very careful of testing your computer's Y2K compliancy by setting the system clock to January 1, 2000. Some commercial software has a time limit of a certain number of years under your software license agreement. In some cases, resetting the computer's system clock to 2000 may cause the application to conclude that the license has expired (check with your network supervisor).

(8) Complete an inventory of all computer software applications including your computer's operating

system to verify that the essential programs are Y2K compliant. Replace or upgrade all non-compliant software.

(9) Carefully check for any customized software, such as spreadsheets, databases, etc., that may be non-compliant due to the nearly universal practice of recording dates using only two digits.

(10) Write to the utility companies that supply your electrical power, water, sewage, etc., and ask for a written response confirming their readiness to function reliably in the year 2000. Some utility consultants suggest it might be prudent to disconnect your equipment from the power outlets over the New Year's Eve weekend to avoid any possible dangers from power interruption or surges.

(11) Consider the purchase of a high-quality surge protector to protect your equipment from surges and spikes in the electrical power due to Y2K problems. Power-interruption equipment can protect your computers against damage to data from unexpected power shortages that are possible the year 2000.

(12) Check with the management of your office building as to their Y2K preparations to make certain that the building's computerized security system and other critical systems are Y2K compliant.
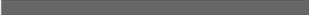
(13) Create a backup copy of every important computer record and program in your organization and keep it on removable media (such as a JAZ or ZIP drive cartridge). If your computer should crash or hopelessly corrupt your data files, a clean backup copy will be essential. (My note: you may also wish to keep hard copies of some of your most essential documents and records; i.e., mailing lists.)

(14) Avoid any unnecessary business travel by plane or train in the first few weeks of 2000.

(15) Advise your accounting staff to carefully scrutinize all invoices and statements in 1999 and 2000, especially if a date appears as "00." Look for gross errors, such as statements that claim you owe ninety-nine years of interest charges or penalties on a past-due bill.

(16) Be especially vigilant with your accountants regarding personal and corporate income tax filings and refunds in 2000.

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Should missionaries stay on the field? While many families and churches may be tempted to bring their missionaries home, we must consider the bigger picture and the longer term effects that this could have on the receptivity of the Gospel of peoples that are being reached. I would strongly recommend.that workers be encouraged to remain on the field.

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(17) Obtain hard-copy records of all important financial records, such as financial statements from your bank, insurance payments, pension records, tax payments, utility bills, etc.

(18) In late 1999 consider acquir-

ing a current copy of your personal and corporate credit reports from the major credit reporting agencies to make certain that Y2K accounting errors will not produce inaccurate negative credit reports. (For a sample Letter of Y2K Inquiry, see The Millennium Meltdown.)

Additional Recommendations

* It would also be wise to keep important documents in a safe in your office rather than in a safety deposit box at a bank since you may not be able to access a safe deposit box after January 1 for some time.

* You will also need to figure out how much additional money your mission should keep on hand, and when to take it out of the bank before the masses begin to remove their money from the banks—some estimate that mid-99 might be helpful to begin keeping out extra finances.

* Insure that in-house email systems (if applicable) and computer networks are Y2K compliant. I understand that a good solution is to have a BIOS Y2K compliance chip installed into your computer. You will want to do this sooner rather than later, because the longer you wait, the less computer consultants/programmers will have the time to work on your computer and their rates will undoubtedly go up.

* Find out whether your email server is Y2K compliant.

* Keep a hard copy inventory of your assets for insurance purposes should that become necessary.

* Take an inventory of your use of electricity and water, etc. Also consider which equipment, in addition to your computers, may have embedded microchips.

* Don't make computer or other big purchases before Y2K unless the make is Y2K compliant.

* Consider what supplies need to be stocked so you have enough until things are functioning normally again. For example, paper will likely be increasing in demand if computers are not functioning for a time.

* Consider how far your staff need to travel to get to/from work. Transportation will likely be affected, so this must be considered in your planning. Can they walk or bike to work?

* Encourage the sending churches to send their missionaries a copy of The Millennium Meltdown as soon as possible so they can begin to make their own preparations.

* Think about how Y2K might affect the future of your mission. You might want to re-think your priorities for 1999 and re-think some potential year 2000 scenarios: how will your ministry continue if there are several months, for example, of major disruptions? You might want to re-prioritize your 1999 spending. What will you do if the electricity and other utilities fail? Something to think about.

* You might want to utilize the internet, web sites and email as much as possible before January 1, 2000 to help extend the Kingdom through this means while we are able to access this.

Staff and Missionary Concerns

Q. 1. How will missions/churches get finances to their missionaries if the banks aren't functioning and if communication systems and transportation are down? Also, how much should they be sent beforehand, and when?

A. As you answer these questions in your situation, remember that for a period of time it may be difficult to transfer money through normal channels. Rather than try to make special provision to do this, it might be advisable to encourage workers to begin to lay aside cash and equivalents to tide

them over for some time. How much to lay aside would need to be assessed by them/their team, etc. It might also be helpful for your missionaries if you act as an advocate for them, with their permission, by writing a letter to their supporters to let them know of the coming Y2K scenario and the desire of the missionary to try to lay aside some extra for themselves and others so that they may continue their

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ministry where they are after January 1, 2000.

It may be helpful, before you do this, to also ask your missionaries whether they would like for you to also let their supporters (or at least sending churches) know of the Y2K situation and potential implications and some resources that they can access to prepare, and to help them think through issues and potential implications concerning their missionaries—for example, purchasing a copy of The Millennium Meltdown.

Q.2. What will your approach be? How should missions/churches let their home staff/missionaries know about Y2K, since many have likely not heard about it yet if they are in a less developed country. Also, how soon should they be told?

A. I would recommend that you would notify your people as soon as your mission has a plan of action in

place. You will need to decide on the approach, etc.

Q.3. Where can missions/missionaries get resources they need to help them (and the sending churches of the missionaries) to think through the issues and prepare?

A. Resources are listed at the end of this article.

Q.4. Should missionaries be encouraged to remain on the field or return home? Why or why not? How will these decisions affect the future ministry of the Gospel in that country?

A. While many families and churches may be tempted to bring their missionaries home before January 1, it is helpful to consider the bigger picture and the longer term effect that this could potentially have on the receptivity of the Gospel of peoples that are being reached. For one thing, it could have irreparable effects on the ongoing ministry hoped for in the regions where the missionaries are currently located. I would strongly recommend that while there may be reasonable exceptions to this, that workers be encouraged to remain on the field. One exception might be for people that have been on the field for less than a year, who are still struggling greatly with the language and culture shock, and who may not be able to manage too much additional stress at that time. It is also good to consider that in some cases, depending on the country they're in, workers may even have it better out there than they would at home if the country is not as dependant on electricity and computers as is their home country.

Q.5. How will missions communicate with their people in this event (if they can)?

A. This is of course a major issue, although it wasn't that many years ago that we were not used to the quick/efficient communications that we now have with faxes and email. Then, however, we could usually

make a phone call in an emergency. This may not be the case now. We could also use "snail mail" before; but that may not be functioning for awhile either. While communications may be interrupted for a time, it is possible that missionaries and support systems back home may not be able to communicate for even lengthy periods of time. Some country's postal systems may be working. Others may not be, so you might want to think of some other options to help to deal with this situation as best you can. For example, it would be good for your workers to make sure, before Y2K happens, that they know where the believers live that are within walking or biking distance from them so they have a support system where they are. Hopefully they can then work together in making preparations for themselves and their neighbors. Also, if your missionary hasn't been home for a furlough in awhile, you might want to consider bringing them home early enough in '99 so that they can spend time with their support systems, and then return to their assignment in enough time to prepare before Y2K and to be there when it happens.

Q.6. How might Y2K affect the home office/administrative staff?

A. With the potential implications of a coming Y2K scenario, the possibility exists that finances could become a problem for most people for an indefinite period of time. Missionaries that are already living on raised support will need to include this in their prayers and planning as well as into their discussions with their supportive network.

Personal Preparations

(For details see "Financial Strategies" and "Practical and Spiritual Strategies" in The Millennium Meltdown (189-226))

Main areas of personal readiness

to consider. (Keep in mind that, for many people, this will be happening in the dead of winter.)

* Spiritual Preparation. Priority— encourage them with what the Scripture says and what God's promises are; encourage them to depend more fully on their Source

* Location

* Personal Records: have them (or their power of attorney). Keep a hard copy of all of their personal records in

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a safe place—not in a safety deposit box in a bank, which they may not be able to access at that time.

* Educational Records: have them. Keep a hard copy of the transcripts of their academic records and degrees.

* Medical Records

* Medical Emergencies. If they or their family have serious medical ailments or require prescriptions, it would be wise to discuss this with their doctor and pharmacist and to begin to acquire additional prescriptions before January 1, 2000 so that

they don't run out (about a 4-month supply). If they wear glasses or have contacts, they may wish to keep another pair of glasses on hand. They might also wish to take a CPR course and keep a First Aid Kit handy. They might also wish to get dental attention now if big jobs are on the horizon.

* Food Supplies
* Water Supplies
* Emergency Tools
* Heating and Light
* Sanitation/Garbage Disposal
* Hygiene
* Electrical Power
* Communications
* Transportation
* Bartering
* Financial Matters

Additional Concerns

Encourage mission personnel to do the following:

* Make their own home offices/ overseas ministries Y2K compliant

* Make hard copies of important papers and keep them in a safe place, in a strong box, etc.

* Make backups of all their computer files/software

* Make hard copies of mailing lists and other important records (financial, etc.) from their computer, which may not be accessible later on

* Make sure passports and visas are updated and will get them through a longer period of time if necessary

* Gather Christian materials and Bibles to distribute later as needed

* Begin to collect things like scrub boards, etc., and other items which will help them to do things that need to be done that don't require electricity.

* Consider getting a solar powered cassette player (or other items from Galcom. See <http//www.galcomintl. com>, <Galcom@galcom.org> in order to play praise/worship tapes or play

messages, etc., if electricity fails. Usual forms of entertainment may not be functioning.

* Purchase acoustic instruments so they can continue to sing/make music and have some entertainment as well

* Develop personal relationships—they will become even more important in this type of scenario

* Help those that are important to them to understand the issue and where they can get the resources for their own preparations

* Stock extra to share with others

* Make sure relationships are good

* Consider options in case of potential temporary unemployment - how far are they from their ministry or tentmaking job, for example? Can they walk or drive bike to work? Will the office be functional after January 1? Are there some other gifts or skills that they have that they may be able to trade or use to barter with after January 1 in order to help with provisions?

* Plan spending

* Encourage them not to arrange flights for the last few weeks before January 1, 2000 or the first few weeks after January 1, 2000.

* Rethink priorities

* Keep out extra cash before January 1, 2000

* Have them get a hard copy of the most recent printout of their Frequent Flier Miles or keep a copy of their last plane tickets which haven't made it onto their newest statements

* Don't make computer or other big purchases before Y2K unless the make is Y2K compliant, etc.

In Summary

Y2K poses a potential major disruption in our lives after January 1, 2000. The result is that we as missions, as stewards of what God has entrusted to us, need to evaluate,

with prayer and godly counsel, the potential scenarios in accordance with the research that is available.

We need to prepare our missions and missionaries for what may lie ahead so that we can indeed continue to move forward, with faith and action, with God's Great Commission heart, toward what could potentially be the Church's finest hour! More importantly, it is a time where we as His children can re-focus and re-prioritize our lives in accordance with His will and purposes to find our greatest delight in Him!

One major thing to remember about the whole Y2K situation is that everything about it is uncertain. That's what makes it difficult and often frustrating to deal with in terms of coming up with a helpful response. However, if we keep firmly fixed on the Lord and on His Kingdom, and follow His biblical principles as we live out our daily lives, walking by faith and in step with His Spirit, we can be assured that He will accomplish His will in and through us, even if they may look very different from what we have thought it might.

God is in control and will bring glory to Himself through this situation. Let's cooperate with Him and with each other in eager expectation of the things to come as He brings us ever closer to being with Him forever!

Additional Resources

For more info and resources on all of the above, including preparation checklists, survival supply options, many articles from the secular and Christian perspective, and specific preparation outlines and Y2K compliance options, as well as some detailed info on how to develop a community approach as churches, etc., please check out web site: <http://www.webcross.com/y2k.>

I especially recommend Grant R. Jeffrey's well written and well-

informed book The Millennium Meltdown—Year 2000 Computer Crisis that includes basically everything you need to know about Y2K, and how to prepare personally and prepare family, your business and ministry. In my opinion it is a balanced Christian perspective and includes excellent resources and factual information from government and industry Y2K officials. This book can be purchased from any Christian bookstore or ordered from Frontier Research Publications, Inc., PO Box 129, Station "U", Toronto, ONT, M8Z 5M4 Canada. (Cost: $15.95 CDN) Copyright 1998 For FREE info kit re Y2K and preparedness tips, call 1-800-87READY

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