



Improving the Home Fortress

Work Now to Better Prepare Your Residence For Trouble

- This Month: Windows -

By James L. Paris & Robert G. Yetman, Jr.

Windows are very problematic from the standpoint of security, for two reasons: first, they unquestionably represent the most vulnerable physical points of a residential structure because they are usually comprised of nothing more than thin sheets of highly-breakable glass, and second, because they are transparent, giving potential intruders a direct view of the people, things, and goings-on inside the structure. Accordingly, it is *imperative* that you take steps to shore up the security of these inherent weak points.

Impact-resistant film - While it is certainly possible to have windows made from specialized impact-resistant glass installed throughout your home, that will be cost-

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What to Do After You Shoot

Your Behavior in the Very Next Moments Are Crucial to Ensuring Your Freedom

By Robert G. Yetman, Jr.

Having to defend yourself or another with the use of deadly force is a frightening prospect for someone who is normally inclined to peaceful behavior. Having that fear does not mean you won't do what you must when the appropriate time comes, but it doesn't change the fact that you will likely find yourself beset with a highly-emotional state just after you pull the trigger; it is how you persist through that condition in the moments that follow that can have a great deal of influence on how you are perceived by the criminal justice system.

Your Call to 911

The first thing you will do when you have shot an intruder or assailant is dial 911. Your call will be recorded, which means that you will be speaking "on the record." While you will surely be "jacked up" on adrenaline when you make the call, guard against rambling or saying more than you should. All you should do on the call is state your name and address, report that you were the victim of a violent assault or intrusion, and that you shot the perpetrator(s) in self defense. If you can think to do it, make special mention that you were in fear for your life – it's very important to drive that point home. If you can get away with

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What to Do After You Shoot (Cont. from page 1)

saying nothing else, do so. The 911 operator may have some additional questions for you, but be very careful. My advice is to tell the operator at that point that you wish to focus on ensuring the safety of the scene until help arrives, and that you're hanging up.

When Police Arrive On the Scene

When the police arrive, they will have a bunch of questions for you. Say as little as possible until you have had a chance to speak with a lawyer. I used to be one who operated on the assumption that if a person asked for a lawyer right away, that means he has something to hide. No longer do I feel that way. Even the most righteous and innocent attempts at being helpful to investigators have the potential to go awry. Keep your mouth closed, as much as you realistically can, until your lawyer arrives.

Remember that not only is your lawyer your official advocate in the legal process, but he will also be someone who is more dispassionate about your situation. He will not be burdened with the emotions and other stresses with which you're dealing, so his responses to law enforcement on your behalf will be devoid of those influences.

Note that there is a way for you to handle the matter of keeping quiet until your lawyer arrives that does not portray you as uncooperative. First, tell law enforcement what you told the 911 operator - that you were attacked and that you were in fear for your life. If there are witnesses and/or any pieces of evi-

dence that support your version of events, be sure to identify them for police. Additionally, be sure to ask for medical assistance. Receiving medical attention is a good idea anyway, because even if your assailant did not make physical contact with you, you may have injured yourself somehow, or even be at risk of a heart attack or some other acute, stress-induced ailment in the moments following the shooting. Also, it helps to further validate your previously-stated claim that you were the victim of the attack. Lastly, inform law enforcement on scene that you will cooperate fully and be willing to address any other questions they may have when you have legal representation on hand. This lets them know that while you may be unwilling to say much right now, you intend to soon answer any questions they may have.

In the end, the most important thing you can do right after you shoot someone in self-defense is to be sure to say as little as possible. It may sound, at first blush, like the act of a person guilty of having done something wrong, but it's important for a person who has done everything right to keep quiet, as well. While there are many good people who work in the criminal justice system, careers depend on successful arrests and convictions, so you cannot dismiss the leverage exerted by those influences on police and prosecutors. We like to think that truth and justice will ultimately prevail, but that doesn't happen nearly as often as we like to think it does. You must always remain vigilant in protecting yourself...as much from the system as from the intruders themselves.

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Editor-in-Chief: James L. Paris **Managing Editor:** Robert G. Yetman, Jr.

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prohibitive for most people. One alternative is impact-resistant window film like 3m Scotchshield. Our advice is that you have your window film professionally applied by a qualified contractor to ensure it is done right.

Will impact-resistant film prevent an intruder from getting in? That depends. If we're talking about someone who is *not* in a position to continue to bash on a window until it finally gives way, then yes. However, if we are, then probably not. Still, these reinforced windows absolutely enhance protection when installed as a part of a comprehensive security plan that includes reinforced doors, good lighting, alarms, as well as a security-minded homeowner with training in the use of firearms for self-defense.

Security Bars & Shutters – The bottom line to home security bars is that in addition to providing an impressive level of physical protection to your home, they are also an excellent deterrent, and, in the end, what we really want is for intruders to pass us by altogether. With window film, the bad guy may not ultimately get in, but we don't enjoy the same deterrent effect that might well cause him to leave us alone entirely.

The overriding problem with security bars is cost. Even a modest-sized home can see the price tag for purchase and professional installation reach a few thousand dollars. Still, if you are dedicated to keeping your residence safe, and don't care what the neighbors think (many people don't like the image that's projected when a neighborhood home has security bars), this is a great option. If you're on a more limited budget, your first priority should be to secure those windows that are generally out of view. This is not for

aesthetic reasons, but because windows that have the least exposure to public view are going to be those windows that are more enticing to criminals. That said, if you're thinking in terms of survival preparation in a more bottom-line sense, you should be resolved to protecting all of your windows, ultimately, because large numbers of desperate intruders in environments where police mechanisms have broken down are not going to care whether anyone can see them trying to break in to your residence. Note: Be sure to stick with security bars that come with a quick-release mechanism which allows the window to be exited through by family members in the event of an emergency; these are mandated in most areas now, anyway.

If you prefer, you might be interested in security rollshutters as an alternative to bars. If you go this route, you will want those that are motorized and can be controlled by a switch inside of your home so that you have no need to step outside to operate them. The only thing of which you have to remain mindful if you go this route is maintaining the ability to see outside of your home and into the outdoor area around the residence structure. If your windows are entirely covered, it will be more challenging for you to gauge what is transpiring on and around your property.

Physical security measures work most effectively when they do so in concert with one another; if your doors are reinforced but your windows are not, the improved security that results is more limited. What you are seeking to achieve is a home that is without weak points *anywhere*.

Next month: Addressing security lighting needs

The Jim Paris Perspective

Notes and Thoughts on the Realization of Bible Prophecy in the Current Day

Near Field Communication (NFC) and the Mark of the Beast

Anyone truly interested in the variety of technologies leading us to the Mark of the Beast should start studying Near Field Communication (NFC). I first became aware of NFC a few years ago when a national gas station chain started promoting their new pay at the pump charge card that need only be waived in front of the pump to initiate a transaction. NFC utilizes Radio Frequency Identification, also known as RFID. The technology allows for wireless communication through a short distance radio signal. Unlike a bar code, there does not need to be a clear line of sight between the two points of communication. These are referred to as 'contactless' transactions and the technology is spreading like wildfire. Many smart phones already include an NFC function, and Barnes & Noble just announced that the next generation of the Nook eReading device will include NFC.

Most of us prophecy guys monitoring the rise of the Mark of the Beast believe that it will include not only a means of transactional functionality, but also the ability to track our physical location as well. To some extent, the tracking of our geographical whereabouts is already happening: for example, social media applications routinely access your location through your smart phone to employ functions involving local search, mapping, etc. On my iPhone, I get a pop-up message asking me if it is OK for the app I am working with to use my current location.

MasterCard just announced the expansion of their PayPass service into its own platform (NFC transactional service). American Airlines is one of several major corporations that announced a planned integration into the new platform. PayPal has already integrated an NFC function available within the Android operating system. There is little doubt that the cashless society is just around the corner and NFC and RFID appear to be a large part of that reality coming to fruition.

George Orwell, You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet

In the movie "Vanilla Sky," the character played by Tom Cruise experiences personalized advertising pitches as he walks through a mall. This is already happening in our current online experience. For example, I was shopping recently for some sparring equipment needed for a Tae Kwon Do class I am enrolled in. For several days afterward, ads appeared repeatedly for martial arts equipment as I was surfing the Internet. This was no coincidence. Google used my initial search as the basis for bombarding me with ads on similar products.

Disney World is in research and development on the use of RFID to create customized experiences for visitors to their theme parks. RFID and NFC technologies are already in your passport and many of the credit cards you have right now in your wallet. This is the next frontier for hackers as they are already attempting to employ methods to wirelessly steal your credit

The Jim Paris Perspective *(Cont. from page 4)*

card information and your identity. One countermeasure that is growing in popularity is the RFID blocking wallet. Unquestionably, this technology is moving ahead at the speed of light.

Coming to Grips with Austerity

The reason that a worldwide financial collapse appears unavoidable at this point is largely because of simple human nature. The idea of cutting back and getting by on less is just not something that any of us wants to go along with. My son graduated from high school with a 4.0. His GPA, along with a very good SAT score, landed him a 75% scholarship to any state university in Florida. When he began the enrollment process for his second year of college he was informed that due to statewide budget cuts his 75% scholarship was being reduced to the equivalent value of 40%. This came as a shock, and he is now working a 30 hours per week to make ends meet. My family is no different than any other; we work hard and plan for the future and believe that the promises made by the government will be there for us in the future.

The long-overdue reform of Social Security appears to have no chance of seeing the light of day. Even President Obama is unwilling to embrace the recommendations of the Bowles-Simpson commission which he established. A couple of weeks ago, the government announced that the trust funds that support Social Security will run dry by 2033. This is three years sooner than was projected. I marvel at how the government can continue to force participation in this doomed retirement program by those that have no chance of receiving any future benefit.

That said, anyone who dares to take on any reform of the status quo can count the days until they are run out of office. Consider the current state of affairs in Greece. The country narrowly avoided a total financial collapse last year by enacting modest financial reforms. The reforms were considered by most analysts to be too little too late, but they were enough for Greece to receive a lifeline of cash from the European Union and The International Monetary Fund.

This past week the Greek Parliament was dissolved as politicians behind these modest reforms have lost all public support. The reason why we are following the Greece situation so closely is that it literally provides a roadmap to where we are headed here in the U.S. Additionally, when Greece collapses, it may be the spark that ignites a worldwide financial meltdown that extends well beyond the boundaries of Europe. Rest assured that Spain and Italy are close behind Greece with their own financial challenges that are nearly as critical.

Austerity Coming to Our Own Shores

I have to admit that in my own busy life sometimes I find myself dismissing the obvious signs of the dark days ahead. I guess it is human nature to be optimistic and hopeful about the future. Governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin knows first-hand what happens when you attempt to make financial reforms. Walker is now facing a recall election that seems to be a proxy for the entire country on the question of embracing reforms or continuing over the edge of a financial cliff.

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The Jim Paris Perspective

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This past week, voters in Grant Pass, Oregon voted down a tax measure that would have filled in a \$12 million financial gap, so major cuts in law enforcement and the prosecutor's office have been enacted. The county is making it clear that it will have only the resources to combat the most serious crimes. Minor thefts, DUI's, domestic violence, and a variety of drug offenses are just a few of the crimes that will simply go unprosecuted due to a lack of financial resources. There is also a planned release of 90 inmates from the county jail. Imagine the level of lawlessness we'll see in places like this when criminals realize there are no resources to deal with them. Individuals in places like Grant Pass need to be prepared to provide for the protection of their family unit, as well as to the communities in which they live.

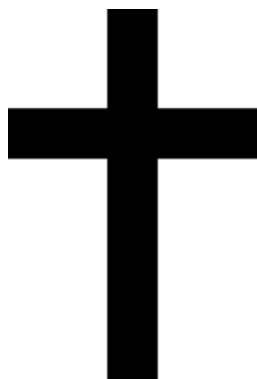
California remains in dire straits, and I'm surprised it has avoided going broke altogether. Governor Jerry Brown has resorted to begging in hopes that California's latest proposed tax hike will be approved by voters so that the state's \$16 billion dollar budget gap can be closed. This, along with a wide variety of cuts, including reducing state workers to a four-day work week, are all on the table. Jerry Brown, much like politicians in Greece, is really only attempting to institute a series of very minor reforms within the context of California's mammoth financial crisis, but there is, at best, only a 50/50 chance that he can get the public to go along with his proposal.

The Middle East – Still a Tinder Box

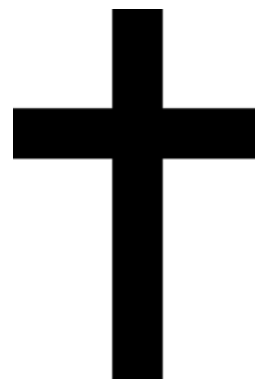
We continue to monitor a number of developments in the Middle East. First, Damascus is now the front line in the ongoing civil war in Syria. I have mentioned in past issues the importance of what is happening in Damascus and the fulfillment of the Isaiah 17 prophecy.

Iran, in asserting its latest ploy, is saying that all sanctions should be lifted before they agree to participate in further negotiations regarding their nuclear ambitions. Time continues to tick on as Iran shows no signs of abandoning its nuclear program. An Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear infrastructure could come at any time, but most believe it will happen within just a matter of months. Of course, this one event could unleash the final chapter in Bible prophecy as the foes of Israel make their adversarial stand in the battle of all battles.

Exciting days continue to unfold before our eyes; what an amazing time to be alive!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Paris', located in the center of the page between two crosses.



*James L. Paris
Editor-In-Chief*

Will This Election Year Bring Trouble?

By Robert G. Yetman, Jr.

While we have seen examples of civil breakdown in modern America at times, those instances remain rare. That said, when we *do* see distressed circumstances visited upon an area, it becomes very apparent at just how quickly those living in the affected location are put at peril when desperation ensues and police are overrun.

While we have no wish to be alarmists, we think it is appropriate to raise some concerns about the possibility that many Americans may see distressed circumstances befall them as a result of how things progress during this election year.

To understand why this is, one must first be in tune to what a unique climate this election year represents. In 2008, America saw the election of the first black president in its history. Because of the polarizing nature of racial dynamics that still characterize race relations in this country, we have seen race baiters on both sides of the color line ramp up the rhetoric as America prepares to make a big decision: Should the sitting president be re-elected? To many race-based thinkers, the coming election is viewed as a decision to either validate or repudiate the very notion of a black president; that is, was the election of Barack Obama in 2008 simply a novelty, or should he be regarded as a serious, legitimate representative of the Office of President?

Beyond that unfortunate distillation of the coming election, there is the matter of the new entitlement class and how they might handle a president who is not as friendly to

the hand-out policies. The entitlement mentality has now taken hold in America to such a degree that a dangerously high number of our fellow citizens expect us to take care of one another in some form or fashion; protests like those of the so-called Occupy Wall Street movement have become prevalent, and perhaps even more telling is data that tells us that in the first quarter of 2012, roughly half of us live in a household where someone is receiving a benefits check from the government. What might be the reaction if a new administration takes over, one that implements measures designed at rolling back the availability of the overall social welfare “safety net?” Could it be violent? That’s certainly something we have to consider, especially when you evaluate such possibilities against the overall backdrop of an America that has seen a much greater inclination among its citizens to treat one another with much less regard than they once did.

So what do you do? Remain watchful, and smartly look to it as another reason to make preparations *now*. The summer months may help us to gauge how crazy things might get on election day, so pay close attention, but, ultimately, we won’t know anything for sure until November 2 has come and gone. Even if we escape this election day (and days that immediately follow) without much social chaos, until broad, sweeping changes take place on a national level that see us pushing back from the brink of social anarchy, we will all have to keep an eye on the national temperature for some time to come as it remains in striking range of the boiling point.

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This Month in Financial Roundup: A Look at Silver

By Robert G. Yetman, Jr.

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This month, let's take a peek at silver and talk about why it has a justifiable presence in both the utility portfolio and investment portfolio of the person concerned about the possibility of widespread distressed conditions.

(FYI, *utility portfolio* is my term for the on-hand monies that a survival-minded person will keep for day-to-day use during distressed conditions. It may be composed of some combination of cash and transactional-sized quantities of precious metals, or precious metals entirely, or some other form of currency altogether that is deemed useful during more unusual circumstances.)

The first thing to know, from the standpoint of your utility portfolio, is that silver is going to be the preferred metal of ownership. The reason is simple – the value of gold is such that it is very difficult to practically use it for the smaller, everyday transactions that generally characterize one's ongoing shopping existence. While you may certainly keep stores of gold on-hand as a depository of your wealth, you will more rarely rely on that gold to facilitate transactions.

So what sort of silver should you own? Again, from the standpoint of your utility portfolio, you're looking for pure bullion... not numismatics, like graded coins; as I've talked about before with regard to gold, graded coins and the like will see you paying too high a premium to own, and they are tougher to liquidate in the secondary market.

So am I saying that you should not put money into silver for investment purposes,

and stick with gold instead? Not at all. Actually, it is a good investment for the same, broad reasons that it will be a good resource in your utility portfolio. Just be careful as to *how* you invest in it. If you purchase silver that is of a *collectible* nature, make sure you're doing so precisely because you want to own the pieces as a collector, and *not* as an investor. If you do want to invest in silver, there is the aforementioned pure metal bullion that you can keep in storage above and beyond what you want to set aside for transactional purposes; there is also the option of investing in silver via negotiable securities. Not only is there an array of silver mining stocks which can be an excellent, alternative way to have a hand in the silver markets without having physical possession of the metal, but there is also the iShares Silver Trust (Symbol: SLV), an exchange-traded fund that is backed by physical silver.

The amount of silver you should own, directly or through securities, as a component of your overall portfolio will vary based on personal preferences, beliefs, etc., but I would limit it to about 15%. This does not mean it should *be* 15%, but, rather, no more *than* that figure, roughly. Your asset base should always be well-diversified, and remember that when you are putting together a portfolio, you have to account not only for the worst-case scenarios but also for the likelier periods of time when other assets will be quite viable, as well. A variety of other, traditional assets are still high-functioning right now, like dividend stocks and emerging markets stocks, so remain mindful of that as you assemble your holdings.