

Several items often overlooked in the food pantry

By Joseph Parish

Out of the mouths of children often spring words of wisdom. A few years ago, my granddaughter was at our home, and during the course of her visit my wife, and I was replacing some depleted food supplies in the pantry room. As she watched us with an inquiring eye, she remarked, “why don’t you keep a can opener in the food pantry, and let it stay there all the time.”

I thought closely on what she had said, and realized that in an emergency where our food room is located, is likely where we would be during an emergency condition, thus her idea made perfect sense. Whether your emergency room is in your basement, or a separate room in your home, at least you would be able to eat.

In the days which passed, my mind kept returning to her thoughts on the can opener. It always amazes me how people often overlook the simplest of items. Sometimes it takes a child’s mind to open our thoughts to ideas outside the box. Much can be said for the simple things in life, however, when an emergency takes place it could save your life.

In our adult life, my wife, and I have had several electric can openers, and have since replaced them with the manual versions. In the end, we gifted these electric openers to more appreciative people. We even went as far as to purchase a battery operated one, all towards our ultimate disappointment. In my opinion, a top-quality manual can opener is much better than any electric ones, along with being so easy to use that even someone who has arthritic hands can use it.

Many of my acquaintances have multiple electric operated can openers, but my thoughts are how they plan to open those cans when the SHTF, and the grid is no longer operational? These people will end up starving to death simply because they cannot open any of the many cans of food they have stored up. One person had shelves full of number 10 dehydrated food cans, but failed to have at their disposal a means of opening them.

A second item which we now keep in the food storage room is a permanent marker. This simple item allows us to date each can, or package placed in the room. By doing this we can be sure to use the oldest products first. With a marker on the shelf it is a simple task to remember to use it, as well as eliminating the need to search for it.

Since our enlightening conversation with my granddaughter, we now have several manual operated can openers around our home. We have the general use one which is in the kitchen. One in the food storage room, and one in our bug out kit. Both my wife and I also have a military P-38 can opener attached to our key chain.

I hope this brief article has enlightened you on the value of having some manual can openers available for emergencies.