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Lots of Worldwide Shaking Going On

BY RITA BENNETT, WORSHIP COLUMNIST

Wow, we had three more earthquakes since my earthquake report in "The Edmonds Beacon" last week.



It was interesting to me that all three are reported occurring at different times but on the same day!

- 2-27 Concepcion, Chili 8.8 magnitude,
- 2-27 Okinawa, Japan 6.9 magnitude, and
- 2-27 Lincoln County, Oklahoma 4.4 magnitude.

THE NEW DISASTER

Unfortunately, Saturday February 27, the Nation of Chili had an earthquake 8.8 on the Richter scale at a depth of 22 miles. CBS news reported by Sunday "700 dead and numbers growing." This is the big one with a megathrust type that occurred along the fault zone.

This kind of quake can cause a one, two, tsunami punch. Fortunately it did not this time.

"The Nazca tectonic plate, the section of the earth's crust that lies under much of the Eastern Pacific Ocean south of the equator, is sliding beneath another section, the South American plate. The two are converging at a rate of about 3 ½ inches a year" (*The Seattle Times*, Sunday, February 28, 2010).

Saturday, February 27, Okinawa, Japan had a quake of 6.9 magnitude. "Japan's Meteorological Agency said it was a depth of 10 Kilometers." No injuries were reported.

Saturday, February 27, "Sparks, OK – A magnitude 4.4 earthquake hit Lincoln County, Oklahoma according to the US. Geological Survey."

One person reported online: "Felt like big gust of wind then the whole house shook." Another observer said, "There's a whole lot of shakin' goin' on!"

BIBLE CONFIRMS TECTONIC PLATES

"Today there is mounting evidence that our continents were at one time joined together. It is said that the continents could be fitted together like a jigsaw puzzle. The east coast-line of South America matches the west coast of Africa with the rounded corner of Brazil fitting into the gulf of Guinea. Facing coasts of the United States and Europe can be fitted together etc.

"At last scientists are awaking to the fact that the Bible recorded as truth 4,000 years ago (Gen.10:25). It was in the days of Peleg that God divided the earth, after the confusion of tongues and scattering of the people abroad upon the face of the earth" (Dake's Bible)."

"Peleg" (Heb.) was a son of "Ever." Interesting that Peleg prophetically means canal, channel, or division! (I Chronicles 1:19).

WHAT WE CAN DO TO BE SAFE

I learned quite a lot while watching the news, reading the paper, and online news this week.

First of all, I learned that during an earthquake, if possible, it is important to move fast to get out of the building you are in. It is normally the building that may kill you, not the earthquake. (Unless a fault line is at your front door!)

Earthquakes usually last at least two minutes, so you do not have a lot of time. It is good to have your keys or purse close at hand to grab and run out of your house. I now think it's best to get in a car since it has a steel frame. Back out of your garage. Stay in your car until the shaking stops.

If your electricity is out, of course the car won't help much unless you can open your garage door by hand. Leave your house the quickest way.

The old idea was to get under your bed or under a table or doorway, but in a serious quake, you may have to be dug out.

Lying flat on the floor between two tables may be recommended, however, only do that if you cannot move out of the building.

If a tsunami is expected, you need to evacuate to the highest point of a building or a hillside.

WRAPPING IT UP

Text messaging, iPods, emergency radio, small Bible, funds, need to be by your bedside. My purse has everything "to go." The trunk of my car has a backpack with warm clothing, blanket, snacks, and bottled water.

Pray, give, learn safety rules, have updated fire extinguishers, educate your children, have a rendezvous plan.

When you've done your best, rest in God's peace.

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