A. Several comments on quotations from the LIPT text within the “Disaster Preparedness” paper:

- The first two citations from pages 333 & 336 point to specific paragraphs readily identifiable by the words “Collaboration” (page 333) and “How to Learn Skills” (page 336). Wanting to know more of these subjects within the context of Vygotsky’s writings – it is appreciated that I could quickly find these terms on pages cited.

- I was unable; however, to determine the context of the third quote: “this activity involves the control of logical memory and thinking through symbol use” (page 341) as I was unable to find the quoted segment page 341.

- To learn more of Vygotsky has to say about “control of logical memory,” would appreciate an update to the page this quotation can be found.

B. Stacy brings up a valid point about the functions of the Heads of Household. Here is a bit more on the subject:

- In some situations, not all households are filled with a traditional nuclear family. When the need arise people often do rise up to the meet the demands of the occasion.

- Some households will not be able to provide a leader do to limitations caused by health and/or other contributing factors. It is clear that smaller groups of people will need to be classified into sub-units as mentioned above such as the family, neighborhood blocks, and the entire sub-division.

C. Vygotsky cites two essential elements that determine the nature and extent of a child’s cognitive development:

- “One is the historical developments inherited by the child… and the nature of the child’s social interactions with knowledgeable adults” (page 337). In the case of disaster preparedness preparation, training of children unskilled adults builds upon “historical developments inherited” (e.g. from past disasters and disaster preparedness training) and “social interactions with knowledgeable adults” (e.g. present day, ongoing training).

- “Essential in the development of higher mental functions [of children and unskilled adults] are interactions with knowledgeable adults to develop both the meanings of cultural symbols and the way of thinking of the culture” (page 341).

D. Some comments on the social organization as provided in the “Disaster Preparedness” paper:
- Recommend considering rearranging the logical ordering such that the structure goes from (a) mixed mode to (b) top down or to (c) bottom up to be more consistent with overall organizational hierarchy and information flow.

  a. (1) whole community model; (2) individual families; & (3) neighborhood block
  b. (1) whole community model; (2) neighborhood block; (3) individual families
  c. (1) individual families; (2) neighborhood block; (3) whole community model

E. Being proactive is responsible and necessary:

- After reading our papers; Earthquake Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Preparedness, and Remember the Boy Scout Motto: Be Prepared!

- Knowing what to expect, when and after a disaster occurs, is difficult to predict. However, we have learned some valuable lessons from past disasters; our mistakes and success stories.

- Families, neighborhood blocks, and the entire sub-division. The three tiered approach to unify, organize, and then follow the pre-established steps of preparedness training after a disaster occurs, is a well thought out plan. Educating, planning, and training to be self efficient.

- Knowing what we must do to be self reliant, to take care of our community is necessary because there will be occasions when we can not wait for first responders to help us.

- Language barriers: We must anticipate how to address challenges of not being able to communicate with neighbors and/or others within the gathering community.

- Physical and/or mental handicapped family members will pose additional challenges; for example some neighbors may be bed ridden while others may be in wheel chairs. Living conditions be it in tents, trailers, homes and/or homes may not have ramps.

- Transportation: while public transportation may operational when weather conditions are safe, alternative sources of transportations are likely necessary when challenges from a disaster arise. Of primary concern is how to transport ambulatory or otherwise injured and/or ill survivors to receive medical treatments.

I appreciate having the opportunity to reflect on ideas provided by all three approaches.

Dana