

Amassing Treasures

Is money important to you? It is to all of us, to one degree or another, because it allows us to purchase the necessities of life, like food on the table. To some, it is an all-compelling obsession to make as much of it as they possibly can, no matter what it takes.

In a *Reader's Digest* article entitled *You Can Make a Million*, Randy Fitzgerald told the story of how one immigrant couple amassed a fortune.

Humberto and Georgina came to America from Cuba as penniless refugees in 1960. Humberto learned English in a Long Island, N.Y., high school; Georgina spent her early years in Los Angeles. They met when Georgina was a student at the University of Miami, and married in 1972.



Both eventually landed jobs as reporters for a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., newspaper, a profession that rarely leads to great wealth. But a math teacher had taught Humberto the importance of compound interest, and early in the couple's marriage, they decided to save every possible dollar for investment.

Their formula was simple, though challenging. They bought only compact cars and paid their credit-card bills in full every month. They shopped at discount stores, clipped "cents-off" coupons, and took sack lunches to work. Some years, the couple saved up to 66 percent of their income.

In 1987, they began investing \$1,250 a month in five diversified-stock mutual funds. And that strategy over eight years produced the bonanza that gave them millionaire status.

Storing up treasures like this sounds wonderful, doesn't it? But if this seems good, imagine how great a treasure stored up in heaven will be. Jesus said the value of heavenly treasure far surpasses any treasure on earth.

We should make the same effort and have the same focus as this couple did when we consider our actions on earth. Associates in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home understand this principle very well. As believers in Christ, what is done for our residents every day is making deposits in our heavenly bank account.

– Beecher Hunter