

# COUNTING YOUR MARBLES

John C. Maxwell, author and expert on leadership development, tells the story of a ham radio operator who overheard an older gentleman giving advice to a younger man.

“It’s a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much,” he said. “Let me tell you something that has helped me keep a good perspective on my own priorities. You see, one day I sat down and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about 75 years. Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and came up with 3,900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in his lifetime.

“It took me until I was 55 years old to think about all this in any detail,” he continued, “and by that time, I had lived through over 2,800 Saturdays. I got to thinking that if I lived to be 75, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy.”

The gentleman went on to explain that he bought 1,000 marbles and put them in a clear plastic container in his favorite work area at home.

“Every Saturday since then,” he said, “I have taken one marble out and thrown it away. I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There’s nothing like watching your time here on earth run out to help get your priorities straight.”

Then the older gentleman finished: “Now let me tell you one last thought before I sign off and take my lovely wife out to breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure if I make it until next Saturday, then I have been given a little extra time.”

What a remarkable story about making the most of every day we have been given on this journey on earth!

It is my belief that the associates of Life Care and Century Park – by and large – made the decision, either consciously or subconsciously, to *focus more on the really important things in life* by the career choices they made. Loving and serving others is a clear command from our Lord.

We cannot choose whether we will get any more time, but we can choose what we do with it.

*So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom* (Psalm 90:12 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter