

Money and Happiness

A few years ago, a ragged peddler who told a friend he didn't have \$5 to pay a debt was found dead the next morning in his apartment in Hutchinson, Kan., amongst littered filth – and \$61,000 in bonds and currency.

The man, Ramond Mishler, 48, died of malnutrition. Police and executors confirmed a report that the money had been found in a cluttered old store building that had been converted into two dwelling units.

Detective Ed May, who went to investigate when Mishler's body was discovered, noticed a piece of paper sticking in a door sill. It was a \$1,000 government bond.



May and Patrolman Bob Adams then found \$40,000 in bonds in a dresser drawer, and \$3,000 in currency, nearly all of it old, large-size bills, in tobacco cans and a trunk. Also found were passbooks from three banks showing deposits of \$8,890 and papers indicating he had several thousand dollars in postal savings and in saving-and-loan deposits.

What a sad commentary on a person whose miserly habits deprived himself – and others – of food and other necessities that would have brought health and comfort to living.

Like Mishler, do we accumulate money for money's sake, or for what we can do with it?

Money doesn't really make us very happy. Not only do we want what we don't have, we really don't know what we want, and we think the things that we want will make us happy, which they tend not to do.

The pursuit of happiness emanates from the most important question human beings can ask themselves: What really makes us happy?

The Bible has much to say about money and how we regard it.

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness (1 Timothy 6:10-11 NKJV).”

The apostle Paul also tells Timothy “we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out (verse 7).”

Exercising the qualities listed here in service to others brings true happiness. It is a foundational truth the associates of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home have discovered.