

Proving the Parable

When the Riviera United Methodist Church in Redondo Beach, Calif., needed more money than the Sunday collections were bringing in, the Rev. Orlie White remembered the biblical parable of the talents.

Putting that parable into action, the Rev. White filled a collection plate with \$10 bills. Rather than asking attendees to place money in the plate, he invited each of his 200 parishioners to take out a bill. He asked them to use the money to make more money, then return the original \$10 and the amount it had earned to the church. Among the results:

- One woman bought needles and yarn and crocheted covers for clothes hangers, which she sold for a profit of \$38.
- Another used the money to enter a bowling tournament and won a \$75 prize for the church.
- A man and his wife pooled their stake and bought a share of stock for \$20. Three months later, they sold it for more than \$50.

By the end of the year, the original \$2,000 had grown into \$8,000.



The principle – and Christ's teaching – extends beyond money. The talents (or skills) God has given each of us are never intended to be hidden away, undeveloped. Instead, they are to be enhanced through education and practice, all to the benefit of improving the quality of life for those we meet and serve.

The associates of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home are proving it everyday.

– Beecher Hunter