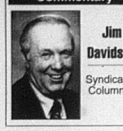
Commentary



Jim Davidson

Syndicated Columnist

The willing servant

The English clergyman and author Thomas Fuller (1608-1661) once said, "Money is the best bait to fish for man with." If you should spend the next one hundred years searching for a room large enough to hold all the books that have been written about money and its related topics, you could not find it. In our modern society, money is something we all desire and something we must have to function in our day-to-day lives. The amount of money each of us needs, however, is determined by a wide variety of factors: the lifestyle we choose, where and how we live, government policy, inflation and individual responsibility, just to mention a few. The Bible says that "The love of money is the root of all evil." The Bible is true, but we must take note that it doesn't say that money is the root of all evil, rather it is the love of money.

Herein lies the problem that millions of people face, day-after-day in their personal lives. If you have a problem with money, either personally or in your home, I believe what Im going to share will be of interest to you. It's my belief that many problems caused by money are due, by in large, by the way money is perceived. First, what is money? Well, money is a form of wealth, but in actuality money is simply a medium of exchange. It's what we use to exchange for goods and services we need and want. In addition to our physical needs, it's a new home, a vacation, a college degree and financial security for our retirement years. We earn money by providing a product or service to other people. When we satisfy their needs and wants, they in turn pay us or reward us with their money.

Here's what I meant when I said that most money problems are caused by the way money is perceived. Money, whether currency or coin, is a tangible object. You can see it and touch it. Money is really a "willing servant." It's what we use to serve us and that's really all it is. When we permit it to become more than that, it then becomes an emotional issue and emotion is not tangible. We can't see and touch our emotions. It's like the wind. The money that

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Commentary

Author's musical roots run deep

Head of the Holler

Garry Barker

Guest Columnist

Sort of by mistake I ordered a cassette tape of Jimmy Buffett's greatest hits, but since the tape was free and already here, I opened it and added it to the traveling music in the truck.

The very next day I had to drive up I-64 to Lexington, so the old pirate joined the old redneck for about an hour of lively music. Buffett's eclectic blend of rock, calypso, country, rumba, Texas swing, and what I reckon is called "island music" is enough to keep the toes tapping, so I wisely switched the truck over to cruise control and cranked up the volume. The bawdy classic "Let's All Get Drunk..." reminded me of a rowdy party I went to many years ago where the band alternated between Buffett's ballad, Tom T. Hall's "I Like Beer," and country gospel songs. They tell me I sung with the band that New Year's Eve. This day I sang along with Jimmy Buffett, whose songs actually have lyrics, something you cannot say about many of today's young rockers and rappers. Buffett is likely to also toss in some harmonica, a little Hawaiian guitar, driving drums, and what sounds mighty like a steel guitar every now and then, and he's as attached to his ocean as Tom T. is to his Kentucky hills. Lest you may have been thinking that my musical taste doesn't reach beyond bluegrass, the truck door traveling collection also includes The Doors, The Band, Bob Seger, The Eagles, and Cat Stevens, (or whatever name he goes by these days). Of course, the age is showing in those selections, so Buffett fits right in. His songs are about life, and living, and no young songwriter or singer could do them nearly so well. In another life I may try being a songwriter. After all, Tom T. Hall told us he got up one morning and in five minutes made a list of stuff he likes, and if he did the same thing again, one entry on the list would be all the money he made and still makes from his song "I Love." You know it. Little baby ducks, old pickup trucks, bourbon in a glass, and grass. Tom also wrote "Harper Valley PTA," "Watermelon Wine," "Morning Dew," and a host of other hits that he and others have recorded over the past 40 years or so. Maybe the old storyteller and the old pirate should collaborate. My children and grandchildren are musically gifted, but they didn't get it from me. The only times I've ever performed publicly I was well lubricated, as was most of the audience, so nobody really can remember just how awful it was. But I might try writing something to the effect of "An Old Redneck Looks Back At 40." Or at 50, or in a few years, 60. Or maybe I'll just make mine a long narrative poem, sort of a Robert Service historical epic, and leave the tune-making to somebody who knows how. Jimmy Buffett, maybe.

Contact the author at garrybarker@netscape.net or visit www.angelfire.com/ky/barker

Letters to the Editor

United Nations membership is bad idea, reader says

The editor:

More and more Americans are coming to the chilling realization that U.S. membership in the United Nations poses a very real threat to our survival as a free and independent Nation. Here are several good reasons to be concerned"

1. The UN's basic philosophy is both anti-American and pro-totalitarian. Our Declaration of Independence proclaims the "self evident" truth that "men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." But, in its Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN ignores God's existence, implies that it grants rights, and then repeatedly claims power "as provided by law" to cancel them out of existence. If any government can place restrictions on such fundamental rights as freedom of speech, the right to keep and bear arms, freedoms of the press, association, movement, and religion, soon there will be no such freedoms.

2. The UN was founded by Communists and CFR members whose common goal was a socialist world government. Sixteen key U.S. officials who shaped the policies leading to the creation of the UN were later exposed in sworn testimony as secret Communists. These included Alger Hiss, chief planner of the 1945 founding conference, and the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Harry Dexter White. The Soviet Union under Stalin and the entire Communist Party USA apparatus worked tirelessly to launch the UN.

Since its beginning in 1921, the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) has always worked for world government. The key founder, Edward Mandell House, in his book. Philip Dru: Administrator, called for "Socialism as dreamed of by Karl Marx ..." The CFR was an early promoter of the UN, and 43 members of the U.S. delegation at the UN founding conference were or would become CFR members.

3. The UN has always chosen socialist one-worlders for leaders. the Secretary-General at the UN founding conference was Soviet spy Alger Hiss. He was followed as Secretary-General by Norwegian socialist Trygve Lie, Swedish socialist Dag Hammarskjold, Burmese Marxist U Thant, Cuellar, and Egyptian socialist Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Each has consistently used the full resources of the UN to promote Communist and socialist causes around the world.

The Socialist International (which proudly traces its origins to the First International headed by Karl Marx) today claims tens of millions of members in 54 countries. At its 1962 Congress, it declared: "The ultimate objective of the parties of the Socialist International is nothing less than world government...Membership of the United Nations must be made universal..." Almost all of the UN's "independent" commissions for the last thirty years have been headed by

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LETTERS FROM 4

members of the Socialist International.

Our Senators and Representatives have sworn to uphold our Constitution so why do they sit by and do nothing while our free Nation is being pushed into a One World UN Dictatorship?

Carole A. Brenner
Louisville

Ranch director says children will benefit from donation

The editor:

For the past few years, Attorney General Ben Chandler has made it possible for the underprivileged children attending the Kentucky Sheriffs' Boys and Girls Ranch to each take home free designer clothing. On June 8 in Georgetown, Kentucky, Chandler gave 575 items of clothing to the Kentucky Sherriffs' Boys and Girls Ranch, to distribute to each child attending camp this year.

The items were seized by the Attorney General's Office of Financial Integrity and Sheriff Bobby Hammons of Scott County as a result of the conviction of three Georgetown flea market vendors. The Scott County District Court issued an order for the confiscated contraband to be released to the Attorney General Office, who then gave it to the Kentucky Sheriffs' Boys and Girls Ranch.

Attorney General Chandler knows us and what we do for children and felt their office could help out by supplying the campers with these free clothing items - Tommy Hilfiger, Polo, Adidas, Calvin Klein, Abercrombie and Fitch, Nike, Nautica, Fila and Disney.

I was a close friend of Former Governor Happy Chandler. We have 20 golf tournaments a year for the Ranch and two of them are dedicated in the Former Governor's memory! Former Sheriff Loren "Squirrel" Carl of Woodford County, now working for the Attorney General, play in these (and a few more) tournaments. The monies raised from these tournaments help maintain and keep the camp solvent.

We are very grateful to Attorney General Ben Chandler, Sheriff Hammons and all involved in the distribution of these items to the Boys and Girls Ranch - the children love them and can't wait to wear them!

Ray H. Stoess
Executive Director

SERVANT FROM 4

comes to us from one source or another is what we call income. The money we spend is called expenses and discretionary spending. Do your best to never fall into this trap: money is tangible and you can see it and touch it, you can receive it and you can spend it, but when your money begins to become an emotional issue is when real problems begin.

As you may know, the reason most marriages fail is because of money problems, namely debt. If a husband and wife would handle money as a tangible object and know they could not spend more than they jointly earn and would keep money from becoming an emotional issue, then most of their problems could be averted. On a related note, credit cards and quicksand have a lot in common. They will both swallow us alive. Over the years I have been guilty of trying to motivate people to earn more money, and certainly that's important in today's times, but if we would spend more time keeping money in perspective, we would all be happier and a lot of marriages wouldn't wind up in divorce.

As someone has said, "It's nice to have money and the things that money can buy, but it's also good to check up once in a while to make sure we haven't lost the things that money can't buy." I'd like to leave you with these words from the Wall Street Journal: "Money is an article which may be used as a universal passport to everywhere except heaven, and as a universal provider of everything except happiness."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Davidson is a motivational speaker and syndicated columnist. You may contact him at 2 Bentley Drive, Conway, AR 72032.)

Tracks Amy Bowles, mailing address 5422 Concrete Road, Carlisle, KY 40311 hereby declares intention(s) to apply for a Beer license(s) no later than July 1, 2001. The business to be licensed will be located at 5422 Concrete Road, Carlisle, KY 40311, doing business as Tracks.

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