



*Synergism
for a
Lifestyle
of Change*

*"...one's life
does not
consist in the
abundance
of one's
possessions."
Luke 15: Vb*



STEWARDS FOR **NEW** LIFE

STORED-UP TREASURES

by Sam Brink

I couldn't believe it! There I was sitting behind the card table collecting money for our garage sale. We took in over \$600! It must be true when they say, "one person's junk is another person's treasure." At least I know we got rid of a lot of junk.

Garage sales are a mainstay of American life. But have you ever stopped to wonder why it is that we have so much "junk" in our basements, attics, or garages? Did we really need that second bun warmer? Did we really think we would lose weight, and fit into that pair of jeans? Why do we buy all that we do? Could it be that we have the wrong view of "treasure?"

The culture we live in tries to teach us "the one with the most toys wins" and "more is better." Consumerism is built on the premise that a "progressively greater consumption of goods is beneficial." But Jesus reminds us that "...one's life does not consist in the abundance of one's possessions."

Our garage sale and the gospel remind me that I am the treasure, not what I have.



FACTS OF LIFE

- Over 60 million people go to garage sales each year.
 - One of the fastest growing businesses in the United States is the "self-storage center." It is a \$12 billion dollar industry.
 - Our nation has 27,000 self-storage centers with 1 billion rentable sq. ft.
 - A 10'x10' storage unit will store the furniture from a two bedroom house or a car or truck.
 - Americans spend \$2 trillion on shopping—20 times more than we spend on education.
 - "We're kind of a nation of packrats."
- Bill Marks, publishing director, MiniCo.
- National Motto: Born to Shop

FOR MORE

INFORMATION

For help turning your "trash into cash" check out these websites:

- www.stretcher.com/menu/topic-g.htm has great links to helpful information.
- www.cahe.nmsu.edu/pubs/_g/g-106.html includes the article "Cash not trash," a very helpful primer on garage sales.
- www.onlineselfstorage.com or www.sus.com can help you find a self-storage unit near you or help you enter into one of the fastest growing businesses, if you'd rather store your "trash" than sell it.



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

As a way to cut down on "junk," consider enlisting people in the congregation to take the "Enoughness Pledge:"

I pledge to discover how much is enough for me to be truly fulfilled, and to consume only that.

I pledge to be part of the discovery of how much would be enough for everyone—not only to survive but to thrive—and to find ways for them to have access to that.

I pledge to act and live in a way that honors and preserves the natural world.

For more information on the "Enoughness Pledge," or to read a "Declaration of Independence from Overconsumption," go to: www.newroadmap.org/money-articles02.asp. This article is a great discussion starter.



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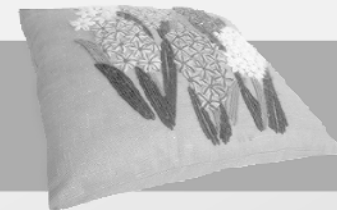
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