

LESSON IN LIVING

MONEY MATTERS

Elma Allen Milano

Are you concerned that the cost of some items in today's world is soaring and others are staying about the same? It seems unbalanced to me. Real estate is especially inflated. For example, we paid \$850 for our first lot in Fraser Fields. A year later, we paid twice as much for the lot behind us. Today, the same property sells for many thousands of dollars! This same thing happened in Los Angeles where I grew up; houses that originally sold for \$15,000 inflated to hundreds of thousands of dollars; it was unbelievable!

Living as long as I have and seeing property grow in value, I have noted that my friends who made the easiest money did so by dealing in real estate. However, they did not buy at top dollar; they bought when prices were low and waited for it to appreciate. They found empty land that was worth but little, bought it at a bargain, waited patiently for it to increase in value, and ended up making small fortunes.

My heart goes out to newlyweds. In today's world, I fear some of our young couples might be caught in a trap as prices soar; it bothers me that they are burdened with high mortgage payments. What goes up can come down. They could lose all they have worked for and dreamed of should a recession or catastrophe occur. Authorities advise us to set aside enough funds and goods to last a year.

It is so important to save \$! It is so peaceful to save \$! It doesn't have to be much, but it should be set aside consistently. By not owning a car and by using either my folk's vehicle or public transportation, I was able to save \$100 by the time I married in 1938. That would be equal to several thousand dollars these days. It wasn't much, but we were surely glad we had it. Here are some ways we conserved: we rode our bicycles, rarely drove our car or ate out, ate no meat, drank no sodas nor liquor, nor did we gamble. Our wardrobe was not expanded unnecessarily. By using tennis as our sport, we spent very little money on athletics. Our lifestyle was simple; our time was used wisely; our lives were orderly and in control. However, as I look back, I realize that we did go to the movies too often.

Being frugal does not mean being stingy; we can still be generous contributors. Certainly, we will want to tithe our income so God can open the windows of heaven and pour out His blessings! We would be wise to keep a written record of our income and outgo. We can not expect to "play it by ear" regarding money matters and be as successful as we would be if we kept careful records.

It will pay us to be humble and wise in all of our MONEY MATTERS.