



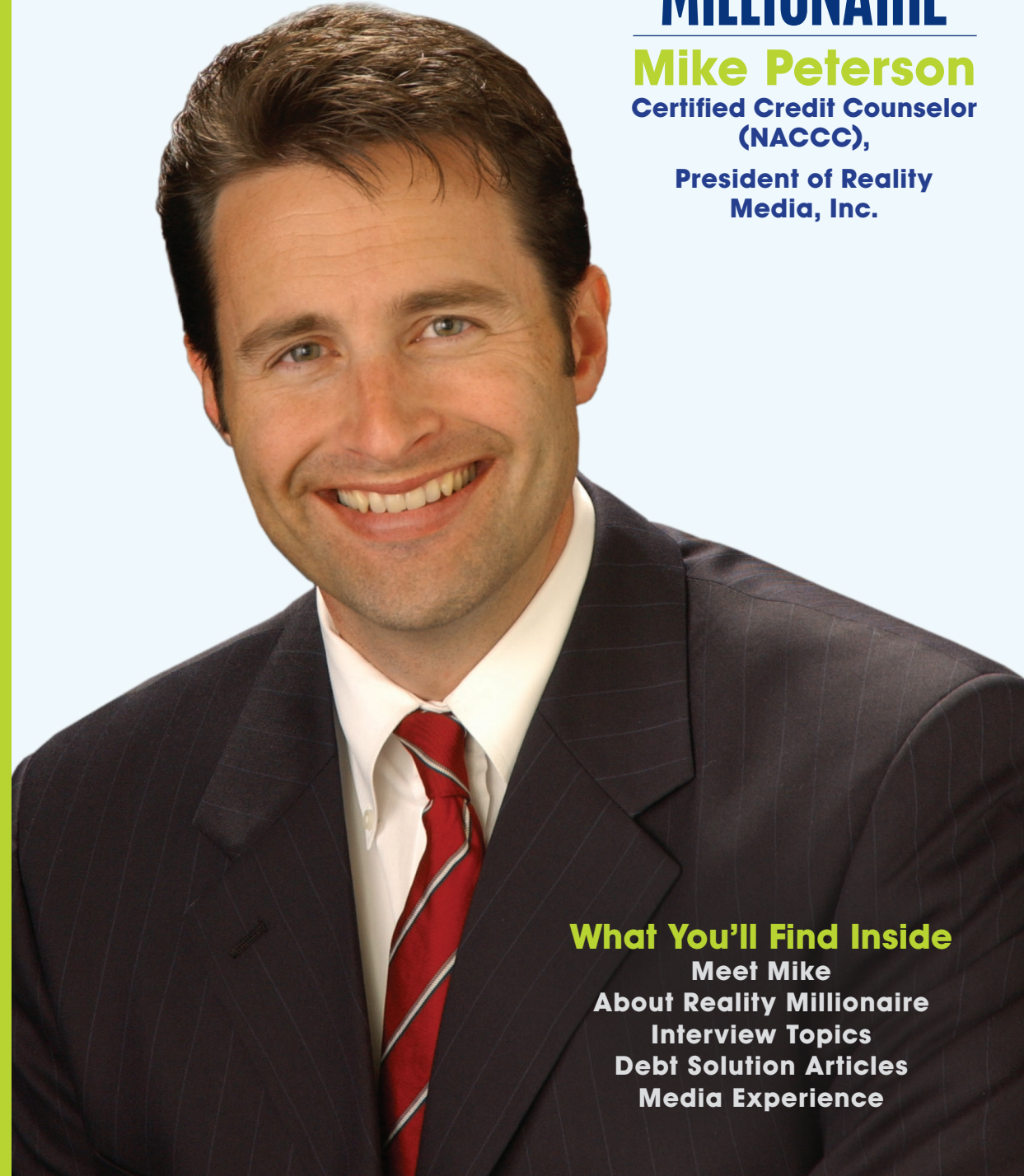
Mike Peterson

**Certified Credit Counselor
(NACCC),**

**President of Reality
Media, Inc.**

Mike Peterson

Personal Finance
Eliminating Debt
Retirement Savings
Mastering the Money Mindset
Asset Allocation
Finance Education
Financial Freedom



What You'll Find Inside

**Meet Mike
About Reality Millionaire
Interview Topics
Debt Solution Articles
Media Experience**

REALITY MILLIONAIRE™

— PROVEN TIPS TO RETIRE RICH —

The New York Times

"Whether you want to get out of debt or learn how to build wealth for the retirement of your dreams, this book is for you. Mike Peterson provides user-friendly, accessible strategies that will work for nearly everyone"

— As seen in **The New York Times Book Review**



MIKE PETERSON

Mike Peterson author of *Reality Millionaire*, has been hailed in the *New York Times* as the perfect expert for building wealth and creating a prosperous retirement. *Reality Millionaire* shares practical everyday strategies that free up income, eliminate debt, build wealth, and achieve retirement with financial freedom. Each round teaches the basic and easy steps to becoming financially independent. The concept that you have to make a fortune to become a millionaire is outdated, Mike shows us that financial freedom is a choice we all can make everyday regardless of our income.

Mike Peterson is a regular finance contributor on KUTV News as well as a frequent guest on KSL News Radio. He has been featured in the *Deseret Morning News*, *Physicians Money Digest*, and much more. As a personal finance expert, Mike's professional articles focus on budgeting, reducing debt and becoming financially free. These articles have been published in online newsletters and magazines, including, *LDS Living*, thriftyfun.com, indebtrelief.com and womentodaymagazine.com.



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Mike Peterson, Debt Management Expert, Certified Credit Counselor (NACCC) and author of Reality Millionaire, is dedicated to helping individuals, communities, and corporations not only get out of debt, but start building wealth. As president of Reality Media, Inc. Mike is a frequent presenter and speaker at financial seminars. His most popular seminar, Debt Free in Record Time, has been presented to the Air National Guard and the Richard Paul Evans Wealth Building Festival.

Mike has a gift for helping others. His dynamic personality and passion allows him to develop and tailor programs necessary to counsel individuals on all of their financial needs.

Mike co-founded the American Credit Foundation, Inc., a non-profit credit counseling organization that teaches people not only how to get out of debt, but how to live a rich life and save for the future. He has created the powerful strategies and money management systems that the Foundation uses today. The American Credit Foundation has quickly made a difference for a wide variety of people, from individuals and families, to entire companies and religious organizations.

Mike earned a BS in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. He spent five years as director of manufacturing for Megahertz Corporation, followed by five years as senior product manager at US Robotics/3Com. His website www.realitymillionaire.com offers resources and coaching for people looking for ways to better their finances. Mike Peterson is a Certified Senior Credit Counselor, National Association of Certified Credit Counselors (NACCC).





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Only 41% of Americans save regularly
Federal Reserve Bank

Three-Quarters of households carry debt.
Federal Reserve Bank

37 million people, or 12.6% of the population,
live below the federal poverty line
Census Bureau as reported by MSN.com

Debt Solution Segments

- **9 Money Saving Idea's For Dining Out**
Going out to dinner is a fun, relaxing, even exciting experience. It's a shame that it can be such a hardship on your pocket-book. But you can still enjoy all the perks and treats of being waited on at a nice restaurant while still being money savvy. You don't have splurge to eat out if you know how to cut the right corners.
- **Live Simply, Be Wealthy**
Who is wealthier: The man who drives a fast car, eats at expensive restaurants, has all the latest gadgets, and lives paycheck-to-paycheck? Or the man who drives an older model, reserves dining out for special occasions, doesn't bother with expensive toys, and has enough money accumulated in the bank and in investments to live happily for the rest of his life?
- **How To Handle Debt Collectors**
If you have credits cards, chances are you may run into some debt at some point. And if you have ever been late, or missed a payment, an official debt collector may contact you. Do not be afraid. Debt collectors are not evil, and there are rules that they have to follow. Being aware of those rules can take away some of the uncertainty and tension when it comes to debt collection.
- **10 Secrets To Frugal Family Fun**
Today, four tickets to a professional ball game, four hot dogs, and four sodas can run you over \$100. The same goes for a trip to a theme park, and the food there may cost even more. Fortunately, family fun can be found for a lot cheaper than you might think, and your kids won't know the difference. What matters most is the memories you make together, and here are a few great ideas for having some very special times as a family.

Article & Interview Topics

- **11 Simple Ways to Organize Your Finances**
Whether you are married or single, taking control of the household finances can feel like a part-time job.
- **Eight Great Ways to Save Money**
If you are constantly on a shoestring budget and are always out of cash, take a good look at your spending and lifestyle habits.
- **Family Financial Planning**
Money Doesn't Grow On Trees, But You Can Still Cultivate A Fortune
- **Free-Up 10% to 15% of Your Income**
Would you be interested in freeing up 10% to 15% of your current income?
- **Say "Bah, Humbug!" To Holiday Debt**
Avoid the "Holiday Hangover"
- **How To Become Debt Free In 1/2 The Time (Or Less)**
With consumer debt at an all time high it's time we take control of our finances and get out of the "debt trap".
- **How To Retire a Millionaire**
9 Habits of the Wealthy
- **Newlywed Finances**
We Can't All Be as Rich as Nick and Jessica
- **Send Your Child To College On Pennies A Day**
Your grandmother used to say: "A penny saved is a penny earned,"...
- **Teaching Children the Importance of Money**
Children seem to be born with an insatiable desire to spend.
- **What Does My Credit Score Mean?**
Do you know what your credit score means? Really, do you?

A photograph of a man and a young child with their arms raised in the air, smiling and looking upwards. The man is in the foreground, and the child is behind him. The background is a bright, clear blue sky.

Only 31 percent of workers age 21 and over, are enrolled in 401(k) plans.

msn.com

On average, high school seniors answered correctly only 52.4 percent of questions about personal finance and economics.

msn.com

The average college student is now more than \$20,000 in debt at graduation. The average salary for a newly minted graduate, meanwhile, is \$30,000.

msn.com



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The average 21-year-old in the U.S. will spend more than 2.2 million in their lifetime.

www.ShareSaveSpend.com

In 2005, savings rates dipped to minus 0.5 percent, something that hasn't happened since the Great Depression in 1932 and 1933.

U.S. Commerce Department

In 2002, more people filed for bankruptcy than graduated from college.

U.S. Department of Treasury

The credit card industry took in \$43 billion in fee income from late payment, over-limit and balance transfer fees in 2004, up from \$39 billion in 2003.

www.creditcards.com

Q&A

- **What is the number 1 misconception or myth that people have about their personal credit card debt?**
That they will actually pay the account off by paying the minimum monthly payments. The truth is on some accounts they may be making payments for 20-30 years and still have a balance.
- **How To Know If You May be in Money Trouble:**
Ask yourself the following questions: Have you ever been late on a payment? Do you only pay the minimum monthly payments on your credit cards? Do you often say "yes" at the check out counter to sign up for a credit card and receive a percentage off your bill?
- **How can people use credit cards responsibly?**
By using them only for purchases that you can afford to pay off in full when the bill comes, and then actually paying them in full each month.
- **When is a good time to start building credit?**
Opening a savings or checking account as a minor is a good way to start building credit at an early age. I recommend helping your children set these up as soon as they can understand the concept of the accounts.
- **How can college students start building good credit?**
Establish a credit card account or a small loan, and then pay on time every month. If using a credit card, pay it off every month.
- **How much will I need in investments to retire?**
You will need approximately 25 times the annual income you wish to have in retirement. If you wish to retire with \$50,000 per year, you will need to save approximately \$1,250,000.
- **Can I make \$1,000,000 dollars if can only save \$1 per day?**
Yes, if invested in an account that returns 10% annually it would take you approximately 56 years to save \$1,000,000 on a dollar per day. Makes you think twice about that Diet Coke...

Media Experience

TV & RADIO:

- **KUTV News Utah**
Golden Rules for Tax Refunds. April 13, 2005 Local TV
http://kutv.com/freshidea/local_story_110165125.html
- **Bankrate.com**
Credit Card Minimum Payments Rising. April 18, 2005
Interviewed with Melody Warnick.
<http://www.bankrate.com/brm/news/debt/20050503a1.asp>
- **FOX Local TV News**
Free Up 10% - 15% of Your Income. July 25, 2005 (in studio live)
- **Salt Lake Tribune Newspaper**
Credit card payments to rise. September 14, 2005
Interviewed with Lesley Mitchell
- **KSL 5 TV News**
Minimum Monthly Payments on Credit Cards increasing.
November 30th, 2005 Interviewed with Tonya Papanikolas
<http://www.ksl.com/index.php?sid=134046&nid=148> (print & video)
- **AM 820 Radio**
Steps To Save Money January 4, 2006. Interviewed with Enid Greene
- **KSL AM Radio Utah**
Should I pay taxes on a credit card. February 15, 2006
Interview with Lance Bandley
- **KSL News radio Utah**
Children and Money. November 16, 2006.
Interviewed with Michael Castner

PRINT NEWS:

- **Deseret Morning News**
Take advantage of options for getting out of debt. June 11, 2006
Interview with Greg Kratz
<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/O,1249,635214O23,OO.html>
- **Deseret Morning News**
Plan Ahead to Avoid Holiday Debt. November 12, 2006
Interviewed with Greg Kratz
<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/O,1249,650206OO8,OO.html>
- **LDS Church News**
Defeating debt. Patience, discipline are essential to emerge from credit card mire. December 16, 2006 Interview with Jason Swenson
- **Deseret Morning News**
Once Debt is Gone How do You Save? February 4, 2007
Interviewed with Greg Kratz
<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/O,1249,6601919O4,OO.html>

PRINT MAGAZINE:

- **Physicians Money Digest**
Conquer Debt by Curbing the Temptation of Credit. March 15, 2005
Interview with Ed Rabinowitz
<http://www.pmdlive.com/Article.cfm?ID=3334>
- **LDS Living Magazine**
Taming Debt: 10 Simple Steps To A Debt-Free Life. August 2005 issue.
Article written by Mike Peterson
<http://www.ldslivingmagazine.com/articles/show/18>



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11 Simple Ways to Organize Your Finances

By Mike Peterson

Whether you are married or single, taking control of the household finances can feel like a part-time job. Some simple tips can help you streamline your time, organize your finances, and reduce the stress of household money matters.

1. Keep Your Bills in One Place

When the mail comes, make sure it goes in one place. Misplaced bills can be the cause of unwanted late fees and can damage your credit rating. Whether it's a drawer, a box, or a file, be consistent and make sure others in the household do the same. Size is also important. If you get a lot of mail, use an area that won't get filled up too quickly.

2. Pay Your Bills on Schedule

Bill paying can be simplified if it's done at scheduled times during the month. Depending on how many bills you receive, you can establish set times each month when none of your bills will be late. If you're paying bills as you receive them, chances are you're spending too much time in front of the checkbook. Although bills may state "Payable Upon Receipt", there's always a grace period. Call the creditor to find out when they need to receive payment before the bill is considered late.

3. Read Your Credit Card Statements

Most people take advantage of low interest credit card offers but never read their statements when paying the bill. Credit cards are notorious for using low interest as bait for new customers then switching to higher rates after a few months. Make a habit of looking at your statement carefully to see what interest rate you are paying each month and if any transaction fees have been applied. If the rate increases or a transaction fee appears on your statement, a simple call to the credit card company can oftentimes be beneficial in resolving the matter. If not, try to switch your money to a more favorable rate.

4. Take Advantage of Automatic Payments

Most banks offer a way to automatically deduct money from your account to pay creditors. In addition, the creditors usually offer a lower interest rate when you sign up for this payment option because they get their money faster and on-time. Consider it as one fewer check to write, envelope to lick and stamp to buy. Just make sure you record the deduction when the automatic payment is scheduled or you run the risk of bouncing other checks.

5. Computerize Your Checkbook

Using a software program is a handy way to organize your finances. Whether it's Quicken®, Microsoft Money® or another package, these easy-to-use programs make bill paying and bank reconciliation a cinch. Computer checks can be ordered almost anywhere and fit right into most printers. Once the checks are printed, all of the information is automatically recorded in your electronic checkbook. Furthermore, many banks have direct downloads into these software packages so when money is deposited or withdrawn, the transaction is entered immediately onto your computer. And, when it comes time to do taxes, it couldn't be easier.

11 Simple Ways to Organize Your Finances (Continued)

6. Sign up for Direct Deposit

Most employers have direct deposit or are getting it. Even Unemployment Compensation offers direct deposit as an option to receive benefit checks. On payday, the amount of your paycheck arrives in your account and is readily available. To set up, you only need a voided original check or photocopy so the bank can see the numbers at the bottom. It usually takes a few weeks to establish and is well worth the wait. However, you still should receive a payment stub from your employer, listing the itemized deductions for that period.

7. Get Overdraft Protection

Most banks have a service where, if you run the risk of bouncing a check, the money will come from another source. For a nominal fee, the bank will link your checking account to either a savings, money market, or credit card so the embarrassment of bouncing a check will be avoided. Call or visit your bank to learn about this convenient feature.

8. Cancel Unused Accounts

Whether it's a credit card or bank account, write a letter requesting that the account is formally closed. Not only will this improve your credit score, it is a useful way to avoid money from being scattered all over the place. Don't let department stores and credit card companies lure you into opening new accounts by offering favorable interest rates and purchase discounts. It's easy for credit to get out of hand by taking advantage of every credit offer that comes your way.

9. Consolidate Your Accounts

If you have several credit card accounts with outstanding balances, try to consolidate them into one. Be careful and check the balance transfer interest rates and one-time fees. Also, make a list of all your open Money Markets, Savings, CDs, IRAs, Mutual Funds, and other accounts to see if any consolidation can be done. Keeping your money in fewer places eliminates all of the guesswork involved and reduces errors.

10. Establish Automatic Savings

Create a link from your checking account into a savings account that will not be touched. This can usually be done through the banks and automatic amounts will be transferred over each month. Most people will not put money into a savings account on a regular basis. They may wait until a large tax refund check arrives or some other event to actually deposit money into savings, retirement, vacation, college, or other accounts. If you establish an automatic savings deposit every month, your accounts will begin accumulating faster than you think.

11. Clean up Your Files

Make sure your paid bills are organized in a filing cabinet away from the rest of the house. Keep individual files for paid bills. Go through your files at the end of each year and throw out bills and receipts no longer needed for auditing purposes. Contact your local IRS office to see how long records need to be kept for audits. Usually federal tax return audits can be done three years back but cancelled checks may need to be kept for seven. Consult the Internet for auditing and records-keeping procedures for your state or region.

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