



TWO BUCKETS

Dudley Donaldson

It is the time of year to think about making changes. New Year's resolutions. Notice I said, "think" about making changes. Most of us never really succeed at keeping the promises we make for change.

Making *bucket lists* has become a bit of a fad over the past several years. In response to the theme of a popular film, many people have made a list of all the important things they would like to do before they die. They want to fill their *life bucket* with meaningful experiences and fulfilling accomplishments. These range anywhere from *seeing the Grand Canyon* to *seeing my granddaughter become president*.

I remember doing this once long before bucket lists became popular. Someone on a Chicago radio station was talking about making a list of ten things he would like to do before he died. He encouraged listeners to email their lists to him so he could read them on the air. I sent in a list and he used part of it. It was kind of a fun exercise.

But you know what? Things change. People change. I've changed.

Today I cannot tell you one thing I wrote on that list. I have no idea. When I wrote that list, I never imagined I would ever be a missionary in Africa. Not in a million years. But from the moment I said *yes* to God's call to go to Swaziland, my bucket list began to shrink. Today, it does not exist. There is absolutely no life experience that I need to make my life more fulfilled than it is right now. I am in the center of God's will for me. I could die today with a smile on my face, knowing that my life bucket is filled to the top with God's blessings.

A few weeks ago we traveled to South Africa for another appointment with my ENT physician. We brought Ayanda—the little orphan girl he has been treating at no charge—along with us. Ayanda had written a note to the doctor, thanking him for all he has done for her. As he read the note, I watched as tears welled up in his eyes. After Ayanda left the room, I was alone with the doctor and I also thanked him for what he has done for her. He looked down and in a soft voice he said, "I am happy I could help her. You know, it really wasn't that much. It really was just a drop in the bucket." He paused a long while, and then he looked up at me and said, "But at least I hit the bucket." Wow, isn't that the truth?

There are two very different kinds of buckets. There is the bucket of exciting life experiences so many of us



Teaching God's Word and dealing with the overwhelming needs we see every day was never on my bucket list. But it was on God's list for me.

are wanting to fill. And there is the other bucket filled with lost, hurting people. The first bucket is empty and we are trying to fill it with adventure, excitement, and conquests that will give our life some sort of meaning or purpose. We do not want to die before our bucket is full.

The second bucket *is* full. It is filled with millions and millions of people in far-flung countries of the world who are hurting and starving and suffering in unimaginable ways. Many people don't even want to think about this bucket, because it is too big and too full and, frankly, it is just too uncomfortable to consider. This bucket seems overwhelming. Anything one person does to help is just a drop in the bucket, so why even bother?

That is how it is with the orphan situation in Swaziland. And with the HIV situation. And the medical situation. And the poverty, the ancestor worship, the witchdoctors...it is overwhelming. What impact can one person have?

Two buckets. One represents the pursuit of an exciting life in the present. The other represents the opportunity to make a difference for eternity. Which bucket is holding your interest?

My days are now filled with opportunities to care for widows and orphans, to encourage those who are discouraged, and to present the light of salvation to those who are in darkness. I know, it is just a drop in the bucket. But at least I am hitting the bucket.

And God has made my life full.

Looking Back and Looking Forward

Inge Donaldson

As we look back at 2011, we are thankful to God for:

- Providing full support for our new term during our short home assignment in January.
- Protecting us when our car was totaled after hitting a cow and for providing a new vehicle for us to continue our ministry.
- Providing continued support for our Orphan Project, which has allowed us to continue to provide food and God's blessings to the orphans around us.
- Giving us strength to teach and travel to our eleven class locations as Zion Bible College continues to grow—and for our 90 graduates!!
- Blessing us with so many prayer and financial supporters who make it possible for us to be here.

Now as we begin this new year, we face many new challenges. Please pray for:

- Bruce and Carol Britten as they prepare to retire and return to the U.S. in mid-year; and for Dudley as he is now Principal of Zion Bible College.
- For Mel and Judy Jenson who will leave the cold weather in Wisconsin to join us for a hot summer of teaching during our February/March teaching cycle.
- For continued strength as we add new class locations to our already busy schedule.
- For new missionaries to come and join us in this work that God is doing in Swaziland.

*To God be the glory! Great things He has done...
and is doing!*



PRAYER REQUESTS

- We will be away from home in South Africa from January 4—13 attending the TEAM and ZEMA annual conferences. Pray for safe travel and good times of reconnecting with our co-workers in southern Africa.
- We hope to get the new amaZioni radio program on the air in Swaziland in February. Please pray for the time and ability to accomplish this.
- Pray for the MacLellan family from Mississippi as they travel with all seven children to Swaziland this month. They will stay with us January 14-19 as they seek fulltime ministry opportunities here.
- Seriously, pray for God to raise up people to serve Him in Swaziland long-term.

Ministry Update—Happy New Year!

When Zion Bible College begins its ninth year on the 28th of this month, we will have at least one *new* class location. Our twelfth school is at Lawuba, in the southern part of the kingdom. This class will meet one Tuesday each month, February through November, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

As with all our classes, most students are amaZioni pastors and church leaders. These are men and women with varying levels of education—some with none—and with generally very little understanding of the Bible. Many of them are also witchdoctors. And many hold to traditional and cultural beliefs and practices, such as ancestor worship, polygamy, and bewitching. Many amaZioni also travel to the ocean or to specific rivers or water pools to be baptized each year, expecting to receive special power from the spirits or creatures they believe live in those waters. Almost all of these men and women will tell you confidently that they are Christians. They believe in God; they believe in Jesus; they believe in the Holy Spirit. They come to ZBC to learn more of the Bible, so they can be better pastors and church leaders. And we are happy to teach them—from Genesis to Revelation—the truth of God's Word.

As we begin this new year of ministry to the amaZioni, we need your help. We need you to pray earnestly for this work God has called us to. We need you to pray for our students. As they learn the truth, it is extremely difficult to put away the cultural beliefs

they have practiced all their lives. We need you to pray about financial support directly to ZBC. As we continue to expand to new areas of Swaziland, the costs go up. And we need you to pray that God will call more couples to come and help with the work here. Ask God to provide long-term workers to help bring in the harvest that is all around us. Thanks so much!



- To Send Support -

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