

This Woman's Short but Significant Bucket List Will Surprise (and Bless) You

Do you have a "bucket list"?

I wasn't familiar with the phrase until the release of the movie by the same name in 2007, starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman. IMDb describes *The Bucket List* as "Two terminally ill men escape from a cancer ward and head off on a road trip with a wish list of to-dos before they die."

For the past 10 years, I've joked about a bucket list. *Wouldn't it be fun to... Someday before I die I'd like to...* It became a fun mental distraction to continue adding items.

Until last year. Until my husband was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. All of a sudden, bucket lists were no longer limited to a mental exercise.

But as we discussed an extremely limited future, we realized something unexpected.

He did not have a bucket list. No wish list of adventures. No desire to travel to exotic locales. Not even a list of local activities.

He didn't have a list because he is content with the life we have together. Satisfied to enjoy the small, normal pleasures of each new day.

His one desire that might qualify to be called a bucket list item has been a desire to share his faith in the face of a terminal prognosis. And he's done that, multiple times.

All of this made me wonder about my own life. I now realize I don't have a bucket list either, at least not in the

traditional sense of the word.

Instead, I've come to appreciate that my list is comprised of one item.

Russ is my bucket list.

It's been a 40-year journey. A 40-year joining of two lives. The one thing I want to do—and do well—is to be there for my husband. To care for him the best I can, however I can. To hold his hand as he walks to his finish line, and hear him say, like the apostle Paul, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, and I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7).

My bucket list is short, but deep. When Russ finishes his journey, my list will be fulfilled. It's a bittersweet time, but as a friend once advised me, it's a holy time, too. And I intend to cherish each holy moment.

*What's on **your** bucket list? {eo}*

Ava Pennington is a writer, speaker and Bible teacher. She writes for nationally circulated magazines and is published in 32 anthologies, including 25 Chicken Soup for the Soul books. She also authored Daily Reflections on the Names of God: A Devotional, endorsed by Kay Arthur. Learn more at .

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