

Your To-Do List: One Thousand Saturdays

Do you have a list of things that you want to do in your lifetime? I'm not talking about everyday, normal things, but great things.

Adventuresome things like climbing mountains, swimming in all the world's seas or discovering life on another planet. Have you compiled a list of the most important things you'd like to do in your life so that you can look it over daily and remember exactly what those dreams *are*? Start on that list today!

"Oh, I stopped dreaming long ago," you may say. *Exactly the problem!* You stopped dreaming! You should *never* stop dreaming! You should never stop learning! Never stop believing that life is a great adventure!

My good friend Betty Wilson sent me a Christmas card this past year telling me all about how she had gone back to college to get another degree and start a new career. When she showed up for her first class, everyone seemed to know her name. The professor announced to the students that there was a celebrity in their midst. When Betty looked around to see who this famous person could possibly be, she discovered that everybody was looking directly at her! The professor said that everybody should be honored to have her there because she was the oldest person *ever enrolled in the college*. Betty is seventy, starting a new career and she made the highest grades of any student in her class!

When I called my best friend the other day, he was on his way to his violin lesson. There is nothing so unusual about that...*except* that he's fifty years old and has never played any musical instrument! So I asked him what in the world he was doing, and he said, "Living the life I've always dreamed about!"

What dreams did you have as a child or young adult that you have forgotten or abandoned along the bumpy road of life? You are never too old to dream.

I stopped by Uncle Adrian's office one day to complain about my all-work, no-adventure life, and he said, "It sounds as if you're too busy working to have any fun. I am sure they pay you well, but it is a shame that you have to be away from your home and family so much. It's just really hard to believe that someone would *need* to work sixty or seventy hours a week. Too bad you're missing out on the great adventure of life, but I guess you are just trying to make enough money to enjoy yourself!" Then he said, "Let me tell you about something that's helped me find balance in *my* life.

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. So I multiplied seventy five times fifty two weeks per year and came up with three thousand nine hundred. This is the number of Saturdays in an average person's lifetime.

"Now, stick with me because I'm getting to the important part. It took me until I was fifty years old to think about all of this in any detail," he went on, "and by that time I had lived through more than twenty-six-hundred Saturdays. I got to thinking that, if I lived to be seventy-five, I had only about a thousand Saturdays left to enjoy.

"So I went to a toy store and bought a thousand marbles -- every single marble they had. Then I took them home and placed them inside a clear plastic container. Every Saturday since then, I have taken out one marble and thrown it away. I have found that, by watching the marbles diminish, I have become more focused on the really *important* things in life. Knowing that there is a limited time for your life is a great inspiration because there is nothing like a deadline to help you get your priorities straight."

"I hope you will begin spending more time with your loved ones, and find the adventure in every Saturday you have left!" After I walked out of Uncle Adrian's office, I realized that he was right. Every day is a new adventure to look forward to.

So what are you planning for this coming Saturday? Will you share it with the really important people in your life? Are you going to start on one of your great adventures? Maybe you could have a picnic in the

park or spend the evening catching fireflies with your children. Just do *something that matters to you*.

To help you get started, I want you to make a list of all the things you'd like to accomplish during your lifetime. Think of the six areas of mastery: physical, spiritual and educational, relationships, fun, business, and financial. Ask yourself what you would like to *be*. Ask yourself what you would like to *do*. And ask yourself what things you would like to *have*.

Once you have your list in hand, do not waste another moment of another day! Set about *right then* living the life you've always dreamed about. And while you're out on your adventures, you can stop at a toy store and buy some marbles!