

One Basket at a Time

Years ago, when he was in the Orient, Bill Schiebler of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, had a unique experience.

He was in farming country where every inch of ground is important. A towering hill with a bamboo thicket on top was part of the terrain. The elders of the village decided that the hill needed to be removed for farming purposes.

The American mind could not conceive of the hill being moved without the aid of giant earth-moving equipment, but the Oriental mind and work ethic are different.

Thousands of people who lived in the immediate area participated in the venture, and even accepted it as a routine matter of their everyday life.

Baskets of dirt were handed down from top to bottom, and in some cases, the lines were two miles long. It appeared as if nothing was happening. The hill did not seem to be going away.

But over a period of time, because of incredible teamwork, the commitment of thousands of people, and a steady day-by-day involvement, the hill gradually diminished and the lower areas rose to a beautiful, flat farming area.

The Americans who witnessed the effort were astonished because the day came when no hill was left. They realized then that virtually any task can be accomplished when you get everybody on the same page, committed to a joint effort for the mutual benefit of all.

Bill Schiebler wisely makes the point that we should use this example for everyday living. When we are confronted with seemingly impossible tasks, if we break them down into small segments – or one basket at a time – we can literally accomplish the impossible and move those mountains.

It should be noted that the villagers took a liability for farming purposes – a mountain – and used that dirt to create a valuable asset (rich farmland).

Think about it. Examine your liabilities. Maybe you can convert them to assets – even if it's one basket at a time.

Maybe we should spell community as *come in unity!*

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity (Psalm 133:1 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter