

WHEN THE COMMON BECOMES UNCOMMON ~ALABAMA'S PLASTIC BUCKETS~



An intriguing study of Scripture pays attention to how God utilizes the menial, insignificant elements of earthly living to highlight critical spiritual principles. Solomon exhorts us to "cast our bread upon the surface of the water and you will find it after many days" (Ecclesiastes 11:1). Such sounds impossible as bread thrown into water dissolves and vanishes. Philip's response to the two fish and five loaves was a verbally dejected shrug, "but what are these for so many?" (John 6:9)

The constant lesson throughout Scripture is that God is able to make the insignificant very significant! Regardless of the hopelessness or insignificance or intimidation that we face, the three in Daniel 3 assures us that "our God is ABLE!"

How comforting for Christians is the confidence that nothing is too severe and no one is too powerful to thwart God's workings.

And this brings our focus to a picayune plastic 5-gallon bucket...to be more specific, 495 plastic picayune buckets!

At the beginning of July we launched a "bucket challenge." The Dalraida congregation wanted to ship a container of benevolence to brethren in western Ukraine. This congregation has been engaged in helping those who fled from Russia's aggression and occupation of portions of the east. Millions have been displaced. The casualty numbers are approaching the million mark and most are civilians. These insignificant plastic buckets will be a great asset in the Lord's efforts in Ukraine.

We wanted to offer those displaced a reminder that they are loved and valued. A 5-gallon bucket stuffed with basic household items is a cherished treasure.

We issued a plea for help. Throughout the State of Alabama various congregations and individuals joined with us. Those partnering were the Lord's Church in Gurley, Florence (Woodlawn), Maysville, Meridianville, Montgomery (University & Dalraida), Prattville, West Huntsville, Wetumpka as well as some individuals partnered together.

It was a simple project. It did not involve anything engineered with precision or decorated with culture. It was a simple plastic bucket.

In the course of the project buckets were taken, filled and returned. During one work session three diligent Christians put a label on 700+ buckets. This label simply read, "The family where each is loved—churches of Christ."

The loading was on 20 August and an AMAZING 44+ was present to load the shipping container. It was a 2-hour slice of the day that was filled with joy in being a part of the Dalraida congregation! The driver who brought the cargo container from Mobile intently watched the entire loading and remarked on the obvious delight that each present had in the event. He sent me a text as he left the church's parking lot: "Mr. John it was a pleasure seeing GOD'S people work for the greater good. Thank you, Wil Butler BR Williams Trucking."

Later in commenting on the television report, he posted: "I was never so blessed to be a piece of this operation. The team of volunteers were so nice. They had the trailer loaded in no time. It was a great honor to transport their efforts to the Alabama port of Mobile, and then to Ukraine."

How wonderful it is for others to observe the Lord's People at work and then say "It was a great honor" to have been a part of that project!

The container was loaded in two hours and its totals were:

Total Pieces Loaded: 1,484

Total Weight Loaded: 18,926 lbs

Total Value Loaded: \$135,664.00

