

A LOFTY GOAL

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As we inched along in line, there was lots of information on where we were, what we were to see, and where we stood in the world. We were in line to get to the top of the Sears Tower, in the spring of 1999. According to the signs on the walls, we were about to join others on the second tallest building in the world. Until 1998, the Sears Tower had ranked number one, but recently the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur had opened and now was taller. The walls listed and ranked other tall buildings and as we moved in line, we noticed that we had been on the Eiffel Tower and other smaller towers – at least when compared to the Sears Tower.

Since Dick had recently retired, and we had hopes of traveling the world, I mentioned that we should try to visit other tall towers in the world. It sounded good at the time – everyone needs to have a dream. When we were married I had said I wanted to travel and we each had made a list of places we wanted to visit – the term Bucket List was not known at that time. As we had money and time, we would pursue one of the trips on one of the lists. We always tried to hit the tallest structure in whatever country we were visiting, although many countries just had communications towers, and not always open to the public.

We were successful in visiting what at the time was the tallest building in the world when, in 2000, we visited Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the Petronas Twin Towers. Standing at 1483 ft, and 88 floors, we were only able to go to the observation deck, located on the bridge between the towers, at the 41st floor, as the building is mostly office space, but it was still impressive being up so high. [nowadays you can also go to an observation deck on the 86th floor, but that was not an option when we went]

Last fall, 2016, we visited the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, which stands at 2,717 ft., has 163 floors and currently is the tallest building in the world. The bottom photo is taken from the observation deck (inside) and shows the downtown area – full of tall buildings. The air is so humid that the sand hangs in the air and visibility is often limited even more.

Since our decision to go to all the highest buildings was made in 1999, MANY new buildings have been built, all becoming higher and higher, and we wonder where it will stop. At this time, there is another tower set to be the highest in the world: Jeddah Tower is due to be completed in 2020, in Jeddah Saudi Arabia, at a height of 3,300 ft. and having over 167 floors.

I think it goes without saying that we will no longer pursue the highest buildings. For one thing, most of them are now in China, and for another, my husband has never really like heights.



Petronas Twin Towers



From the Observation deck in the Burj Khalifa, Dubai, UAE.