



# Plumb Line



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## PROGRESS SO FAR

### Texas Mission Team

We've been blessed this past week by a large mission team from the Field Street Baptist Church in Cleburne, Texas. Over 25 people made the trek from Cleburne to help out on the construction project and work with several Backyard Bible Clubs for local children. Before they left home for Colorado, the Field Street Baptist Church took up a love offering for the new church building, and on July 28 they presented Pastor Bill with a check for over \$3000. Many churches these days focus on their own issues and leave the rest of the world to fend for themselves, but Field Street Baptist Church has a strong commitment to missions outreach whether it be in their local area or clear across the country. It may seem strange to think of Lafayette as a mission field, but anyone from the South can tell you that Colorado is not an easy place to do church work. We all praise God for His providence in the form of the Team from Texas -- be sure and express your thanks to them as well!

### Basement Floor

Early in the week, a team of professional concrete finishers came in to pour the basement floor in the new church building. This was a tricky bit of work since the walls and columns are already in place -- the concrete finishers had to pour around the columns, starting at the south end and smoothing the concrete as they went along. They worked backwards, adjusting the 'hog-wire' reinforcing steel and putting in two sump pumps, finally leaving the basement through the stairwell on the west side. As if all that weren't enough, there are expansion joints all around the edges. It takes a real expert to keep track of all this stuff at once; remember, the wet cement is busily turning itself into concrete all the while you're scrambling to get all the detail work done in the right order.

I think I'll stick to my day job.....

## WHAT'S NEXT?



### Peak Performance

If you've been baffled by all the digging and concrete work, waiting for us to start 'building the church,' just hang on a bit -- we're getting ready to put up the main support beams for the sanctuary! Rolls of blueprints have been shuttling back and forth, steel brackets and hardware are being built, and plans are underway to get cranes out to the building site. We've got to get that huge steel octagon over 25 feet up in the air, pick up eight wooden beams, and assemble all the pieces like the ribs of an umbrella. You should see the bolts that will hold that stuff together -- they're as thick as your thumb and as long as your forearm! When the beams go up, the whole city will take notice -- instead of wondering why we're digging holes in the ground, they'll know we're building a church!

### Step By Step...

All right, here's a puzzle for you.

How do you build a concrete form for a staircase?

That's right -- we want you to make a wooden framework shaped like a set of stairs! You only get one chance, too -- it needs to be right the first time. There's not a huge volume of concrete in the basement staircase, but it has to be done right and done quickly. Are you up to it?

Wait -- never mind. It's already under control. What a relief, eh?

## Playing In The Dirt?

Have you been wondering about the huge piles of dirt all over the place? No, we aren't planning to build the Great Pyramid in Lafayette! A lot of the dirt has gone into the hole around the basement, and a lot more went inside and outside the foundation walls. The dirt was moved in and packed down hard to support the sanctuary; later on, we'll dig trenches for the ducts and pipes and then pour the slab for the building. For now, however, we're going to leave the dirt as it sits; we wouldn't want to pour the pad and then risk damaging it when the cranes arrive to put up the big beams for the roof.

## Put A Lid On It!

As soon as the basement floor was hard enough to work on, work crews began building a complicated set of braces and forms for the basement ceiling. Yes, that's right -- we're going to pour a huge concrete slab **NINE FEET OFF THE FLOOR!** As you can imagine, the supports and forms have to be extremely strong -- when the pour is done, there will be 36 tons of wet cement balanced on a forest of boards and plywood. The forms are complicated, too -- in addition to the ceiling itself, we need three huge support beams under the ceiling that connect the support columns. This is an exciting, challenging piece of work, and many hours of sweat and labor will bear fruit when we top off the basement with a sturdy concrete 'lid.'

## Feeding the 5,000

Well, all right -- we don't actually have 5,000 people working on the construction site. Construction is hungry work, though! If you can help Dorothy Sorenson organize meals for the work crews, please do! In addition to lunch, it sure feels good to take a break every now and then -- now's your chance to make a bunch of construction workers very happy!

## \*\*\* Gold Stars \*\*\*

The following people have earned the prestigious (and hitherto unknown) Plumb Line "Gold Star Award" for service above and beyond the Call of Duty:

**Tina Skiles**, for putting in 2½ days on the site.

**Jim Foster** and **John Lewis**, for working every day with **Fred Sorenson**, the hardest-working man on the project.

**Lori Baker**, **Michelle Ford**, and **Dorothy Sorenson**, for volunteering to bring lunch to the work crews.

Who else needs a Gold Star? Let me know! This whole project is filled with hard-working people; the least we

can do is give them a Gold Star. Who knows -- a Plumb Line "Gold Star Award" may be worth a fortune someday!

## Question and Answer

**Q. What's the difference between concrete and cement?**

**A. Cement is a fine powder made mostly of limestone. When you mix cement with water and sand, the gooey mixture you get hardens into concrete. Concrete is very strong and lasts a long time, making it an ideal building material.**

## Working Hours

The work schedule varies with the weather, occasional hold-ups experienced while waiting for material, and other reasons, but here are some general guidelines:

\* Work is normally done from about 8 A.M. to about 2 P.M. on weekdays, and most Saturdays.

\* Work continues on most weekday evenings, starting in the mid to late afternoon after things cool off.

For specific dates and times, ask around -- DeeDee Minne is helping Pastor Bill coordinate the volunteer effort, and you can also grab someone on the construction team to find out about day-to-day operations on the site. Once we get out of this phase of construction, the work will get easier to forecast and schedule, and we hope to provide more detailed information here in **Plumb Line** to help you find dates and times to help out.

## Back Talk!

Got a question? Want to make an announcement? Want to recognize someone for a job well done? Get it in the paper! The **Plumb Line** is here for construction news, announcements, and project updates. Help us make this paper better and more useful; get in touch with me.

## Contact Information

Here are some names and numbers you may need for project information and coordination:

**DeeDee Minne** 665-0382

Volunteer coordination (construction, child care, etc.)

**Dorothy Sorenson** 469-4905

Coordination of meals and work breaks