



# Plumb Line



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## PROGRESS SO FAR

### Ultimate "Erector Set"

Did you ever have an Erector Set when you were a kid? I remember spending many hours playing with friends, bolting metal plates and beams together and creating all sorts of bizarre machines and buildings. It's often said that the only difference between men and boys is the price of their toys, and we certainly proved that true on the morning of August 14. Boulder Steel delivered the columns and the compression ring for the sanctuary, and the pile of steel looked just exactly like a grown-up Erector set! Soon, columns were sprouting up all around the edge of the sanctuary, and men were scurrying all over the place with sledgehammers, wrenches, and welding equipment. It was truly exciting to watch; now, the building is starting to grow up out of the ground.

Some of us were tempted to start playing right away, but the steel workers insisted on following the blueprints. There's no telling what sort of creation we could have built from all those pieces... Oh, well -- you have to grow up sometime, I guess.

### Out In Left Field?

On Wednesday at noon, everyone was busy dealing with the cement mixer and working on a handful of fresh 'pours' all over the project. I wandered around the site, lending a hand here and there while gathering material for the Plumb Line, and everything made sense to me except the work Jim was doing on a couple of wooden boxes off to the side. When I got closer, I saw that he was making a couple of forms that looked like they would support columns, but the forms were at least a dozen feet to the west of the building! I finally asked him what they were for, and he told me they were supports for the columns that would hold up the drive-through overhang. I had completely forgotten about that! He (and everyone else out there) knew exactly what he was doing, and I was the one 'out in left field.' Nothing unusual about that, I suppose.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

### Smooth Moves

After putting down roughly eighteen zillion pieces of reinforcing rod and using all the wire ties in the Free West to tie them together, the cement trucks showed up on August 13 to pour the basement ceiling. It was a time of mixed emotions, I'm sure -- all that detail work on the steel vanished under the wet cement, never to be seen again. On the other hand, that slab of concrete sure does look nice!

The forms held up over thirty tons of wet cement, the steel was in place, and the finish job was exceptionally well done. Once the forms have been disassembled and hauled up out of the basement, we'll have a nice big basement instead of an odd-shaped swimming pool. We certainly appreciate the efforts of the team from Field Street Baptist Church -- their hard work paid off in spades this week.

### Step This Way...

It's always fascinating to watch how the various parts of the construction project fit together. There are thousands of individual tasks spread out over the course of the effort, and they are all related to one another -- you can't just launch off into a job without knowing how it fits into the master plan. I had been worrying about how hard it would be to get all the lumber out of the basement when the forms were disassembled, but the very day after the big pour for the basement ceiling I saw a professional concrete finisher put the final touches on the basement staircase! By the time the forms started coming down in the basement, the stairs were finished, just in time to make trips in and out of the basement easier. I shouldn't have worried; everything is proceeding according to plan, working toward the goal of building the church.

How many times do we worry ourselves into a frenzy over future problems, ignoring our Father as He says, "Settle down! By the time you face that problem, I'll have the solution worked out for you!"

## Exact Science

The erection crew wanted to know how high to build the scaffold that would hold up the center hub of the church roof while the beams were bolted in, so they called Pastor Bill. He told them he would double-check with the engineers. The engineers checked their calculations and told Bill that the bottom of the hub would be precisely **twenty-four feet, two and eleven sixteenths inches** up in the air. Impressed by their precision, Bill wrote it all down and called the erection crew back. When he gave them the measurement, they burst out laughing; all they needed was a rough estimate for a temporary scaffold! Oh, well.

## Jacob's Pillow

When Pastor Bill dug out the hole for the section of sidewalk between our sidewalk and the city's, he found that the big concrete blocks holding up the flower bed didn't extend all the way around the side. After puzzling over the problem for a few minutes, he found a big rock and used it to fill in the gap! Later on, we'll fill in around the top of it with dirt and make it part of the flower bed. We've taken a stone that the builders rejected and made it the head of the corner (of the flower bed, at least...). Either that, or we've raised our Ebenezer -- it's hard to tell.

## Trench Warfare?

They've been digging holes, filling in holes, building little walls, covering up the little walls, and now they're digging around in the dirt they packed into the foundation only the week before! What on Earth is going on out there?

Relax -- everything's going according to plan. The trenches winding their way around inside the sanctuary are for air ducts, pipes, and wiring that will be under the floor. All that stuff has to be worked out in advance, lined up, and carefully buried again before we pour the gigantic slab for the sanctuary. Scores of measurements and careful checks against the plans are needed to get everything in the right places; some days, it looks as if a giant spider has spun a web of nylon string back and forth across the whole project. When all the underground work is complete, we'll start spreading out those big piles of gravel in the sanctuary and prepare for the next pour.

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

Yes, it's time once again to present the spectacular Plumb Line "Gold Star Award" for service above and beyond the Call of Duty:

**Rick Waneka** dug down into the center of the sanctuary to expose the center concrete pad and brought a Bobcat loader to do some dirt work. He found out just how well the dirt has been packed in place for the sanctuary!

### Question and Answer

**Q. How do you "float" concrete? It's too heavy to float, isn't it?**

**A. Yes, it's true, concrete doesn't float. When people talk about "floating" concrete, they're talking about the process of smoothing out the top of a freshly poured slab of concrete, using a flat metal tool called a "float." In the right hands, a float can be used to make a beautifully smooth surface for floors and sidewalks.**

## 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.

## 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