Plumb Line

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PROGRESS SO FAR **WHAT'S NEXT?**

Money, Money

How much do we have?

How much do we need?

How fast do we need it?

All right, all right -- pull up a chair and I'll try to explain. These figures are from Wednesday, September 11, from an *EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW* with Frieda Soto, the financial whiz behind the building project.

First, we have **$181,635** in the bank in the building fund. This is an important figure to watch; if this balance drops below zero, it means that we have to activate the $200,000 loan that we arranged a while back to keep paying the bills for the project. If we can keep this balance above zero throughout the life of the project, we'll avoid activating the loan at all. That would be really nice, since it would mean that we'd have paid for the project without saddling ourselves with a debt.

Second, we forecast that we'll need **$493,716** to get to our first major milestone for the project -- the Certificate of Occupancy (CO). The CO allows us to move in and occupy the building. All the final bells and whistles don't have to be finished to get a CO, but at that point the project switches from being "our construction project" to "our new facility." This figure will decrease steadily across the life of the project, and if our forecasts are correct this figure will hit zero right about the time we get the Certificate of Occupancy.

Astute readers who are also quick at arithmetic will soon realize that if we added the $181,635 to the $200,000 loan that we have available we only come up to $381,635. This is $112,081 short of our current estimate of what it will take to get the Certificate of Occupancy.

This little exercise illustrates why it is so important to keep up the commitments and pledges we've all made to the building program. It will be a while before we're to the point of having enough money to get to the CO milestone even with the loan, much less avoid the loan altogether.

Roof Fund

As you may recall, we decided to have a crew of professionals put up the roof, rather than have our volunteers scoot around up there in the clouds. This decision has paid off handsomely, but the $5500 cost of putting the roof up was not in the budget for the building. An anonymous benefactor has come to our rescue and pledged to match all the money we can raise toward the cost of the roof, and so we've been trying to raise $2250 to keep the extra strain off the building budget.

After collecting $1060 on September 1 and $1110 on September 8 (plus another $150 we know of that will go in on September 15), we've collected $2320 so far. That, added to $2320 in matching funds, brings us to $4640, only $860 short of paying for the roof. Looking at it another way, we only need $430 more to bring our total collections for this special effort to $2250 and pay the balance with matching funds. With your help, we can reach this goal easily and keep the unanticipated cost of putting up the roof from dipping into the building fund at all.

Praise God for our benefactor and matching funds, as well as for the sacrifices made by all our members to help raise this money on such short notice! This exercise of stewardship and support for our building project has inspired everyone in the congregation, and we know that God will richly bless every contribution.

The Last Straw

Several of us are starting to get used to bizarre happenings out at the construction site, but this one takes the cake. Jim Foster was out there last week, working along, when a truckload of hay pulled up beside him and stopped. Jim has seen a lot of delivery trucks pull in out there, but this was a bit weird -- when the driver asked him if he had ordered a truckload of hay, Jim just smiled and said, "No, our horse died. We don't need any hay." As it turned out, the hay was for a highway project across the street!

Igor! Throw The Switch!

Do you remember all those old Frankenstein movies that featured Igor the lab assistant throwing huge electrical switches? I love watching those films -- the crazy scientist screams out, "Igor! THROW THE FIRST SWITCH!" Then, Igor runs across the room and slams down a gigantic switch, dimming the lights and throwing sparks all over the room while the Doctor's machinery starts running.

Well, we don't have Igor here to switch them on, but we've certainly got some huge switches to throw! They're on the outside of the west wall of the building, and they're the main fuse boxes for the building. One box contains three 200-amp fuses, and another box holds three 150-amp fuses -- certainly enough current capacity to make Igor's hair stand on end. Throwing these switches shouldn't be quite as dramatic as it is in the movies, though -- we don't expect sparks flying around in the laboratory.

(Just you wait -- when we get ready to Throw The First Switch, don't be too surprised if Old Weird Philippe pops up out of nowhere to scream out, "Igor!" before collapsing in hysterical laughter. You Have Been Warned.)

Neat Moles

When I saw some fresh holes in the basement wall, I was concerned. What sort of thing bores round holes through the wall six feet below ground level? If we've got moles that chew through concrete, we'll have to post a guard in the basement armed with a bazooka to wipe them out!

All was revealed in time, however. The small hole is for the electrical line, and the two big holes are for water and sewer connections. The holes were cut by a 'core saw,' a huge electric motor that turns a tubelike drill bit against the wall. The drilling process is fascinating; after bolting the drill to the wall, one guy fires it up and advances the spinning bit through the concrete while another guy pumps like mad on a water tank to force water out into the hole. The water cools the drill bit and flushes the concrete dust back out of the hole, keeping the dust down and clearing the way for the bit to move forward.

Raise The Trusses!

That sounds like something you'd hear on a sailing ship, doesn't it? Well, maybe not. Anyway, that's one of our next big projects -- we need to get the walls around the center section of the church up so that we can get trusses on top of them and build that part of the roof. If you can possibly come and help, please do -- we need to get the walls done and the roof put on as soon as we can.

❋❋ 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:

Lenore Foster has been faithfully bringing jugs of icewater to the crews at the construction site, and everyone appreciates the efforts of **Frieda Soto**, **Cherie Holden**, **Lori Baker**, **Lenore Foster**, and **Jennie Hillin** to bring food for the workers' lunches this past week.

Question and Answer

Q. What on Earth is a 'roof truss'?

A. A roof truss is a specially designed framework of boards that rests on the walls of a building and holds up the roof.

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 Archer 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