



Plumb Line



Volume 1 Issue 10

September 29, 1996

PROGRESS SO FAR

Good Neighbors

Our neighbors are really impressed with the church project; Pastor Archer has heard a lot of positive comments from them about how quickly the construction is moving along. We've had excellent cooperation from everybody around the project, and everyone involved is quite pleased with the way things are going. It's always nice to maintain good relationships with the people around us, and we all thank God that things are going so well in the neighborhood.

Right On The Dot!

Fred had to check a couple of measurements on the building the other day, and he was quite pleased with the results! After all the measurement, careful calculation, and tricky erection of the beams, the top of the sanctuary is exactly where it should be!

That may sound a little silly, but it really is a big deal. It is quite difficult to get a building as large as ours to line up exactly to the plans, and construction crews more or less expect the finished product to be a little 'off.' Periodically, the building is measured and compared to the plans so that corrections can be made to the drawings and future efforts can be sized to fit the actual building instead of the engineering drawings. In our case, however, we can just continue on with the drawings we've got because the building matches the measurements just like it's supposed to!

Where's The Bathroom?

If you keep an eye on the basement ceiling, you'll soon start to see interior walls take shape. The plumbers are ready to start running the water and sewer lines for the nursery and the bathrooms, but we need to put up the interior walls before they can start work. It's always neat to watch rooms and hallways spring up out of the floor on a new building; you can see everything take shape day by day as the work progresses.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Saturday At The Site

Twelve to fifteen workers showed up on Saturday (the 21st) to work on the building, and quite a bit of work was done to get tarpaper on the roof and build exterior walls. Pastor Archer cooked biscuits and gravy for breakfast, and then the teams broke up and put in a full morning's work. Dorothy cooked up a fantastic lunch, and afterwards we returned to the site, working until 4 or 5 in the afternoon.

It's really amazing how much work gets done when a group of people shows up and puts in a good effort! The weather was nice, we had experts available to direct our efforts and keep everything running smoothly, and everybody had a good time pounding nails and sawing boards. We need to take advantage of all the decent weather that comes our way, though -- it won't be too much longer before the snow flies and the temperature drops. Pounding nails in your shirtsleeves with a nice breeze blowing is one thing, but trying to work in the cold is another matter altogether.

Raising The Great Wall

If you look at the south end of the building, you'll see a new wall in place! It's not your everyday wall, either -- it stands 21 feet 4 inches tall! Raising that wall was quite an undertaking; the construction team used ropes, ladders, and even the pastor's truck (as an anchor) to get that thing in place. They raised the top board on a pair of 'legs' at first, then braced everything up with boards and started adding the vertical boards inside the wall. This wall is a key structural element of the center section of the building, and everyone is glad it's taking shape according to plan.

The trusses that will hold up the center section of the roof have been ordered and should come in this week; when the walls are done, we'll be using a crane and a scissor lift to set the trusses in place. Then, we can finish the roof!

Cleaning Up for Round-Up

Next Sunday (October 6) is Round-Up Sunday! Since we're going to be meeting in the new building ("Under The Big Tent," as Pastor Archer puts it), we need to do some cleanup work over there. We've been scattering boards, tools, and all sorts of construction paraphernalia all over the place for weeks, and now it's time to collect the odds and ends and stack up the lumber so we won't be tripping over it on Round-Up Sunday.

If you can spare some time, we can certainly put you to work out at the site -- let's clean the place up and show off our new facility-in-progress to all our friends next Sunday!

Behold, A Door!

Stop the presses!

Alert the media!

Strike up the band!

Yes, it's true -- we now have a door! A real door, with a knob and a lock and everything! (People tell me I get way too excited about this stuff, but, hey -- if I don't get wound up over it, who will?) The addition of a door that we can lock gives us a spot to store tools and materials without worrying about whether someone will rip us off while we're not looking, and it's one more step towards a finished building. Go ahead, get excited about it -- I promise not to tell anyone!

Oxygen, Anyone?

If you've got a good head for heights, we've got a job for you. All the beams in the sanctuary roof need to be sealed, and all the steel brackets and connectors need to be painted. We'll provide scaffolding or something to get you up there and a bucket and a brush -- just bring nerves of steel and strong arms, and you'll be all set.

Think of it this way -- Michelangelo did some of his best work lying on his back on a scaffold in the Sistine Chapel. Sealing beams and painting metal fixtures may not sound very exciting, but you'll be in good company; afterwards, you can tell everyone that you were specially commissioned to do the roof of the Mountain View sanctuary!

(Just go easy on the cherubims and seraphims... we want people to listen to the sermon, not marvel at the artwork on the ceiling!)

*** 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:

Michelle Ford bravely hammered away at the tarpaper on the roof last Saturday, despite the bees flying all over the place. Even after getting stung in the leg, she continued to pound nails and help us get all the tarpaper nailed down.

Question and Answer

Q. What on Earth is a 'scissor lift?'

A. A scissor lift is a metal platform mounted on top of a set of interlocking legs attached at their centers like pairs of scissors. When you want to raise the platform, a motor pulls the bottom legs toward each other and the platform goes up in the air.

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? Get it in the paper!

Contact Information

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

DeeDee Minne **637-9841**

Volunteer coordination (construction, child care, etc.)

Dorothy Sorenson **469-4905**

Coordination of meals and work breaks