



Plumb Line



Volume 1 Issue 11

October 6, 1996

PROGRESS SO FAR

Transformers!

More Power! (Ho, ho, ho...)

I have a certain weakness for large-scale electrical equipment, I admit -- I probably watched too many Frankenstein movies as a child. Even if you nod and wink at my enthusiasm, though, you've got to be impressed by the pair of HUGE transformers that were delivered last week! Each one of them weighs as much as a small car, and one glance will tell you they are designed for heavy-duty work. They will be placed on individual concrete pads and hooked up to Public Service later on, and they should provide us with all the electrical power we can use. When they were delivered, the truck driver used a crane to pick them up off the truck and set them down to the east of the building -- I don't know about you, but I don't plan to stroll out there and try to move them. I'm looking forward to the day they'll be hooked up and humming along, powering our new building.

Now, if Fred will just let me install some experimental apparatus in the basement, we can freak out the whole neighborhood! On second thought, they might come after me with torches and pitchforks. (Hey -- it happened in the movies, didn't it?)

Giant Hopscotch?

Some people have expressed curiosity about the pattern of lines that has recently appeared on top of the basement. It's time to set the record straight -- Fred is not laying out a giant-sized hopscotch game, he's not secretly planning out a maze to confuse all the members, and he's not trying to communicate with space aliens by drawing patterns that only make sense from the air. Sorry to disappoint you, but the Plumb Line has a certain responsibility to stamp out these nasty rumors.

In fact, he's puzzling over the plans and laying out the nursery and the restrooms! Once the rooms are laid out and double-checked against the plans, you'll start to see interior walls spring up atop the basement.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Creeping Wall

Jerusalem has its Wailing Wall, and now Lafayette has a Creeping Wall! The crews are making progress on the outer wall of the sanctuary, but a shortage of volunteers has slowed down the effort quite a bit. Consequently, the wall is creeping around the building; the people working on it are going as fast as they can, but there just aren't enough folks on the site to transform the Creeping Wall into a Flying Wall. We'd really like to get that outer wall in place as soon as possible; please consider coming out to help. When the weather takes a turn for the worse, it sure would be nice to have a complete outer wall between the construction crews and the snow flurries.

Just imagine what would have happened if Nehemiah had been short of workers! He might still be toiling away at the Jerusalem walls, laying stones one at a time and muttering to himself about his own Creeping Wall!

Walls In The Roof?

No, we haven't lost our minds. (Not yet, anyway.) If you overhear the construction crew talking about roof walls and drawing complicated drawings, relax -- they really do know what they're doing. In order to provide support for the roof over the center section, we need to build several load-bearing walls, and some of those walls are ten feet up in the air. At least one of the critical walls extends all the way to ground level, but there's still a lot of tricky midair framing work to be done before we can position the trusses and start putting on the roof.

This sort of work is really confusing at times; the crews find themselves trying to attach boards at various places so that they'll all meet up at a specific point up in the air. Once you've got the first few boards in position, it's easier to visualize where the next ones go, but those first two or three can take quite a while to line up. It's a lot easier to build walls at ground level, believe me -- there, you can line things up and check things more easily.

Incoming Trusses

The trusses for the center section of the roof should be delivered this week! As you may recall, these trusses are specially made wooden frameworks that sit atop the walls in the center section and hold up the roof.

Once we've got the walls in place, the trusses should go up pretty quickly; the challenge now is to finish those walls in a hurry so that we don't delay the project and have the trusses lying in the mud waiting on support walls.

Burning Daylight?

We're coming up on an important deadline, folks.

We've set aside the last two weeks of October for the process of getting the metal roof on the church, and things are not looking too good. It doesn't make sense to start that project until the roof over the center section is done, and we're falling behind in that effort.

(If you get the impression from reading this issue of the Plumb Line that we need more workers, that's good. We do! If I sound like a broken record, so be it -- the bottom line is that we NEED MORE HELP.)

Please come out and help us over this hurdle if you possibly can -- if we have to push out the roofing project because we're not ready in time, we'll have to work out an alternate time that may be weeks and weeks away. Meanwhile, the weather's getting worse and the tar paper on the sanctuary is looking more and more ragged; it wasn't designed to stave off the weather for weeks on end, and we're already pushing the limits. The blisters I got pounding nails into the roof are just about gone, and I really don't relish the thought of getting up there again to re-do the tarpaper if we let this drag on too long.

Round Building Round-Up

So, how does it feel to be having Round-Up Sunday in your new church building? Granted, the floor is dirt and gravel and there's a bit of a draft, but it's still an exciting thing to gather in the neighbors and friends and show off a new sanctuary.

Think back to last year's Round-Up Sunday; remember how we met under tents out on the future site of the new building? Remember looking around at all the smiling faces and thinking, "Boy, won't it be great when there's a building standing on this spot?"

Welcome to the future. We're not done yet, but we're getting there, praise God! Look forward to next year's Round-Up Sunday; what do you see?

*** 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:

The Hmong Congregation has put in many hours of work on the building, and we appreciate their efforts very much. Our worship schedules don't give us much time to socialize with them, but we are deeply grateful for their hard work.

Question and Answer

Q. What do 'transformers' do?

A. It's more efficient to deliver electricity at high voltage. When a building connects to the high-voltage lines, a transformer sits in between and 'transforms' the high voltage power into lower voltage that can be used inside the building.

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