Plumb Line

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PROGRESS SO FAR The Trusses Are Here!

If you want to look at a real construction puzzle, go out to the site and check out the huge pile of roof trusses lying on the ground. Each truss is a puzzle in itself, with boards going every which way and meeting each other at odd angles. Beyond that, there are about 47 different kinds of trusses, each designed to go in a particular spot on the roof. They are labeled and numbered so we can get them all positioned correctly, but even so their installation will be a tricky process. We'll be picking them up with a crane and setting them in place any time now, since the roof walls are in place and ready to receive them. Once they're up, we can start sheathing the center section of the roof and 'weathering-in' the whole structure.

Some folks may wonder why we bought prefabricated trusses instead of building them ourselves, but one look at that stack of lumber should convince the skeptics that it's a lot smarter to get them built by experts. Building trusses for a storage shed with a simple roof is one thing, but the church roof is a nasty tangle of intersecting surfaces and weird angles. Now, if we can just manage to get all the trusses in the right spots...

Preparing For Light!

As we get closer to the time when the building will be weathertight, our attention turns to the interior of the structure. We're soliciting bids for lighting fixtures right now, getting ready to place a massive order for all the fixtures in the whole building. As we begin this process, we have to balance our desire for the very best furnishings with our responsibility to be good stewards of the resources God has provided.

It's really tough sometimes to make these decisions; on one hand, we all want to build Solomon's Temple as a tribute to the God that is so good to us. On the other hand, we have images of Christ sitting on a hillside with a crowd of thousands, sharing the wonders of God with the people in the open air. Somewhere in the middle, I suspect, is God's plan for our new building.

WHAT'S NEXT? Hard Labor

If you didn't make it out to the new building for the big workday on October 19, you missed out on a lot of exercise. We had crews scurrying around all over the place, working on everything from electrical wiring to framing to concrete work.

Everyone was quite relieved when Jerry Eitelbach showed up to climb up on the big steel beam on the east side of the building -- I don't think any of us was looking forward to THAT job. He got all his safety gear in order, zipped up the ladder, and stayed there for quite a while, securing wooden boards to the top of the beam with bolts. Those of us on the ground shouted encouragement and advice, but none of us would have traded places with him.

Meanwhile, a large team attacked the church floor with pickaxes and shovels to prepare for the arrival of a truckload of cement. We got the big trenches cleaned out and prepared for the pour, dug some smaller secondary trenches, and put together an intricate maze of bridges over the trenches so that we could roll wheelbarrows to every part of the trench network. At 11:00, the race was on -- we had a load of wet cement on site and three wheelbarrows to haul it in. A hot, dusty relay race followed as we carried wheelbarrow loads of cement all over the building to pour a layer of cement in the bottom of each main trench. The effort was well coordinated; we had folks running the wheelbarrows, other people spreading the cement into an even layer, and still others embedding tie-down wires in the wet cement that will be used later to secure the ductwork. If someone had been peeping down through the hole in the roof, I imagine we'd have looked like hyperactive ants, scrambling all over the place and shouting directions at each other.

The electrical crew was hard at work, too. At one point, I saw Felix Soto wrestling with the main power cable from the transformer, trying to get it cut to the right length and attached inside our switch box.

Dive! Dive!

The heating contractors were hard at work this week, piecing together the big heating ducts that will run under the floor of the building. When I stood at one end of a long trench to watch, it looked as if a fleet of silver submarines was cruising up a channel in the dirt! I examined each one closely, but I never found any periscopes. I guess they were relying on sonar to guide them on their way.

(I can see you grinning, you know -- don't try to deny it!)

After all the ducts are joined together and all the fittings are in place, we'll tie everything down to its bed of concrete and then pour cement into the trenches. When we're done, we'll have a maze of little sidewalks where the trenches were, and the ductwork will be encased in concrete. Later still, we'll cover the ducts yet again when we pour the floor -- then, no one else will know that we've got silver submarines cruising around underfoot.

Creeping Fascia

Sounds like some sort of tropical disease, doesn't it?

Before anyone starts passing out vaccinations, let me explain. Fascia is a fancy term for the vertical boards that finish off the edge of the roof at the eaves. Crews have been at work putting these boards in place around the edge of the sanctuary roof, and they really look nice. The fascia crew is in a sort of race with the framing crew to finish up before the metal roof can go on, and things are progressing well on both fronts.

Once the fascia is done, crews will make another trip around the building to put in the soffit. (Then we'll have Crawling Soffit, I guess -- another candidate for the Disease Of The Month Club!) The soffit is made up of boards that cover the underside of the eaves, making a nice smooth surface from the bottom edge of the fascia inward to the building wall. There's also a little air vent that goes between the soffit and the outer wall, so you can imagine how much work we're looking at.

We all cheer when huge beams are lifted into place and big sections of wall go up, but we shouldn't overlook the effort that goes into the careful detail work. You can spend half a day on some of these projects and then get frustrated because there's not a lot of visible progress, but the work has to be done just the same. Even though nobody may strike up the band when you make a really nice fascia piece, God appreciates the effort and the zeal that you put into the job.

※ ★ 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: Alan Jansen brought lunch for the workday on October 19, much to the delight of everyone present. Gerald Wessels, pastor of Front Range Community Southern Baptist Church, came out that day to help us and we all appreciate his efforts.

Question and Answer

Q. Why are the roof trusses so complicated?

A. Trusses are carefully engineered to spread out the stress of holding up the roof evenly across the boards so that all of them help bear the load and none of them is stressed to the breaking point.

Working Hours

The work schedule varies with the weather, occasional holdups 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! Contact **Philippe Nave** at **469-8327** (home) or **538-3150** (work) (send e-mail to pnave@lucent.com)

Contact Information

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

469-4905

DeeDee Minne 637-9841

Volunteer coordination (construction, child care, etc.)

Dorothy Sorenson

Coordination of meals and work breaks