



Plumb Line



Volume 1 Issue 14

October 27, 1996

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.

