



Plumb Line



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PROGRESS SO FAR

God's Hand Covers Us

What's a construction crew's worst nightmare?

Well, there are several, actually. One of the worst, however, is the fear of a storm blowing through the area while the building is only partially built. Halfway through the construction process, a building is normally a pretty weak structure -- there are braces and props all over the place. It doesn't take a whole lot of strain to bring the whole thing crashing down, wiping out weeks of work and a fortune in building materials. In addition, there's the fear of injury -- if the structure starts to come apart, there's no telling what stuff will go flying in all directions.

Do you remember the winds that roared through the state on Monday night? All along the Front Range, winds up in the 70-100 MPH range blasted us for hours. I woke up more than once that night to the sound of my patio cover humming like a kazoo in the gale, and I wondered whether I'd find my solar water heater panels lying in the driveway the next morning. A condo in Fort Collins was wiped out completely, an elementary school had the roof ripped off it, and there were reports of damage from Fort Collins to Rocky Flats.

In the midst of the storm, our church building stood fast - - the tar paper looked a little ragged in spots, but all the framing was still standing tall the next morning. The really amazing thing is that there were sixteen roof trusses balanced atop the center section of the building, held in place by a tangle of temporary supports! By all rights, we should have seen a pile of trusses down on the ground the next morning -- on a night when fully finished buildings unraveled in the high winds, there's no way a half-finished structure should have survived.

Like He has so many times, God has provided for us! He kept the building together through the worst winds this area has seen for quite a while, and He is with us still. We are like that building sometimes -- we're not strong enough to survive on our own, but with God's hand on us we can weather the storm.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Up, Trusses!

This past Monday, Jerry Eitelbach brought a crane with a 50-foot boom out to the site and started setting roof trusses in place! The trusses are all different shapes and sizes, but some of the larger ones across the main span of the center section are 38 feet long. That's quite a job, believe me -- I helped my dad build a garage once that used twenty-foot trusses, and that was bad enough.

The trusses look almost delicate from a distance, rather like a section of wooden spiderweb. Up close, however, they are heavy and bulky; there's no way to wrestle the larger ones into place with just your bare hands. So, you wind up in a complicated ballet with cranes, long boards, ropes, and prayers going in all directions to get everything in its proper place. The first few trusses are the most difficult; after they're in place, at least you have some reference points and a framework that you can use to hold up the other trusses.

Working By Headlights?

The end of Daylight Savings Time caught the crews by surprise on Monday night! They checked their watches, checked the position of the sun, and worked faster and faster trying to beat the sunset. They didn't quite make it, and so they had to finish up by the light of car headlights pointed at the building.

This sounds funny now, but it was not very amusing to the folks trying to get some work done. From here on in, we're going to have to keep in mind that the days are getting shorter and shorter. We need to make a big effort to get the outside work done quickly in the daylight we've got left! Once we get the building weatherproofed and string lights inside, we can work in the dark, but we're really in a pinch between now and then.

If you can put in some time during the day, please do so! The change of seasons is really working against us now.

Christmas Balls Are Back!

Hurry, hurry!

Step right up, get your Christmas decorations here!

Do you remember the sharp-looking maroon Christmas balls we had last year? The ones with the picture of the new church building on them? Well, we've spared no expense to bring them back this year! They're selling for \$5 each, with the proceeds going to the building fund.

You, YES, YOU, can amaze your friends, confound your foes, and demonstrate your exquisite good taste by picking up a few of these top-notch Christmas ornaments. Hang them on the Christmas tree! Forget the fuzzy dice -- hang one from your rear-view mirror! Hang one on the cat! (Hmmm.... well, all right. Maybe not on the cat.)

Order before midnight tonight and get a free lifetime subscription to the Plumb Line! Eddie Ford is standing by.

(What is Eddie standing by, you ask? By himself, probably. Unless he's out standing in his field, of course.)

Plumb Line Top Ten List

As a public service, the Plumb Line is proud to present the top ten reasons for not getting involved in the building project. You may want to keep this handy reference list on your person at all times; that way, you will never have to stammer and fidget when someone asks you why you haven't helped with contributions of time, money, prayer, and encouragement. Just pick one of the items off this list, and you're off the hook:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

[Hmmm.... This seemed like a good idea at the time, but now I can't seem to come up with any decent excuses for not getting involved!]

*** 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:

Thanks, kudos, and a big Huzzah (look it up, kids) to **Jeff Sondrup of Sondrup Sheet Metal** for loaning us the crane we needed to put up trusses on Monday. We could not have done the job without it!

Question and Answer

Q. What is a tornado hanger?

A. Tornado hangers (sometimes called 'hurricane clips') are metal brackets between the bottom of a roof truss and the top of a wall. In really bad storms, the wind can sometimes try to pull the roof right off the building, and tornado hangers add a lot of strength to that part of the structure.

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! 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:

DeeDee Minne **637-9841**

Volunteer coordination (construction, child care, etc.)

Dorothy Sorenson **469-4905**

Coordination of meals and work breaks