



Plumb Line



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PROGRESS SO FAR

Trapeze Artist?

Picture, if you will, what it takes to install the first row of sheathing on a roof. Normally, you've got some sheathing to stand on when you're putting up fresh sheets, and you're working 'uphill' facing the roof. The first row, however, has to be put in without the benefit of a place to stand -- you're hanging off the edge of the building!

Pastor Archer watched in amazement as Jerry Eitelbach performed this daring maneuver on the highest part of the roof the other day. He and Jerry positioned each sheet along the edge of the roof, then tacked it into position at the upper corners. Next, they scooted the rafters in the middle into place and nailed the sheet along its top edge. For the finale, Jerry laid down on the sheet, hooked his feet over the top edge, and went to work on the bottom edge of the sheet. I'm sure the twenty-five foot drop staring him in the face worked wonders to improve his concentration!

Anyway, we can all breathe a sigh of relief at this point for two reasons. First, the bottom row of sheathing is in place and there's a place to stand while putting up the rest of the sheets. Second, WE don't have to gather our courage and tackle that terrifying job!

Force 10

If you have any nautical experience, you know that a Force 10 gale is serious business. When the wind gets up to Force 10, sane people call it a day and head for home.

Well, it may not have been Force 10 up on the roof the other day when the sheathing crews were working, but they certainly had their hands full. On this past Monday, the temperature was 30° F and the winds were gusting in the 40-50 MPH range. Full-sized pieces of sheathing start to act like huge kites in that wind, and the biggest challenge for the carpenters was staying on the roof! If the wind catches a sheet of plywood, the guy holding it could wind up in Omaha in less time than it takes to say, 'Whoops!'

WHAT'S NEXT?

We've Been Framed!

Yes, we've been framed, all right, and we're tickled pink about it! In fact, we've been looking forward to it for quite a while now!

After what seems like an eternity of measuring, sawing, and pounding countless nails, the framing work in the roof is finished. You'll never believe how many boards are up in that roof! Don't ask me; I'm not about to go up there and spend a week counting them. In layman's terms, there A Bunch Of Boards in place. Now, we can hustle along with the sheathing and make progress at a fantastic rate.

This has been a long, tedious process for everyone involved. Each board and support structure has to be placed with great precision and care, and I'll bet there are no two boards cut the same way in the whole thing. It's slow work, and it's even more frustrating when onlookers can't tell that any progress is being made. To add insult to injury, our next priority is to cover up all that complicated framing with a roof!

Atten-HUT! Inspection!

While the framing crews have been climbing through the rafters, Jim Brunemeyer has been making great strides with the electrical work. The restrooms and the nursery are wired for lights and electrical outlets, and Jim's arranging for an electrical inspector to come out and see the work.

After the inspector has made his rounds and satisfied himself that the wiring is up to snuff, Jim will be able to power up that part of the building! I'm excited -- I'm looking forward to walking into a room and flipping on a light switch. Yes, I'm a man of simple pleasures, I suppose.

Seriously, though, it will be nice to have some lights and power inside the building. As we cover up the roof with sheathing, it's going to be dark inside without the lights.

Sojourner Jim

Throughout the construction project, Jim Foster has been putting in a fantastic amount of time and effort on various parts of the building. He's headed out to South Carolina for a month or so, and all of us want to give him a pat on the back and warm holiday wishes. He's done an outstanding job of finish carpentry, and we only hope we can keep our work up to his standard while he's away.

Beware The Mudhole!

When the snow covers up the construction site, it really makes the building look nice. The Mountain View Mud Flats are transformed into a gleaming blanket of white, and you can't even see the ruts and potholes any more.

The next day, however, melting snow turns the Mud Flats into axle-deep quagmires in several spots. If you're not paying attention, your short-cut across the building site could turn into a messy mistake! Attempting that same crossing on foot is not a good idea either -- if you make it across without falling down (yuck!) you'll find that your shoes have picked up ten pounds of unusually sticky mud.

So, PLEASE wait a few days after each snowfall melts before trying to drive or walk across the site. We haven't lost anyone on the project yet, and we'd hate to have church members (and their vehicles!) vanish into the mud.

Get Involved

Now that a lot of the technical framing work is done on the roof, we need a lot of willing hands to help nail on the sheathing. Work is progressing in other areas, too -- if you can spare the time, we can come up with something for you to do.

Even if you can't make it out to the site, you can help out by praying for the project! We're really starting to feel the impact of winter on the project now; we have to dodge the storms and work like mad whenever the weather breaks.

As the year draws to a close and you start to make plans for your 1997 tithes and offerings, remember to include the building program. The proposed church budget for 1997 shows an increase in funding for the project (from \$1000 per month to \$1600 per month), but we're still going to have to give sacrificially to keep from going into debt on the new building. Have you made plans for your tax refund check yet? I can't think of a better investment than a contribution to God's work in Lafayette and the surrounding area.

*** 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 Mountain View Acrobatic Team (**Jerry Eitelbach** and **Pastor Archer**) deserve Gold Stars for defying the laws of gravity and basic physics while working on the roof!

Working Hours

The work schedule varies with the weather, occasional hold-ups experienced while waiting for material, and other reasons. In general, there's something going on all the time weekdays and Saturdays unless the weather turns really bad.

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