



Plumb Line



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PROGRESS SO FAR

Long, Strange Trip

Yes, here we are again! The entire editorial staff of the Plumb Line has returned from an extended road trip to Arkansas only a little the worse for wear.

I thought that our vacation would carry me far from our building project, but I learned that God has a sense of humor while we were driving out of state. On March 20, we were rolling down I-70 west of Burlington when I spotted a familiar school bus broken down on the side of the highway! It was our busload of BSU students from Oklahoma, trying to get back home after skiing and working on our new church building. Their bus had eaten an alternator, and a mechanic from Burlington was there installing a new one. I asked them if there was anything they needed, and then cheered them on when they pull-started the bus and hit the road again.

Later on that day, after a long lunch, Vicki and I loaded up the girls and started driving again, only to find the BSU bus dead in a rest area outside Colby, Kansas! We pulled in alongside and let the girls run around while we all tried to diagnose a problem with their new alternator. After debating a number of strategies, we decided that they would fire up the bus and run flat-out for Colby while the Nave tribe followed in the truck. We saw them safely to the auto parts store in Colby, then said our good-byes again and roared off. Our route paralleled theirs all the way to the Tonkawa exit in northern Oklahoma, and I half expected to encounter them again before the day was out.

Just about the time we think we've got everything figured out, God comes along to show us that He's got everything under control. I'm sure the last thing the BSU crew expected was a grinning lunatic in a purple truck from Broomfield when their bus broke down, not once but twice on a highway 500 miles from home! I've had some strange experiences on road trips, but this one just about takes the cake.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Walls, Walls, Walls!

Once the floor and platform decking was done, work crews went right up the walls! They have framed in walls for offices, hallways, classrooms, dressing rooms, and bathrooms in the auditorium. The most challenging interior wall is the one in front of the baptistry, and it's taking shape nicely. Now, you can really get a sense of how the auditorium will look when it's done.

It's funny how the auditorium has gone through a number of 'transformations' throughout the project. When there was nothing in there but concrete floor, the space looked enormous! Then, when the platform was built, it seemed to totally dominate the whole space, since there were no walls to break it up between the rooms in the back and the main stage area in front. Now, the walls are going up and we can see our plans and drawings come to life. I'm looking forward to the finished result!

Please Come Forward...

The framing work on the platform itself is moving along nicely, too! The kneeling rail that runs all the way around the forward edge of the platform is 90% done, and the inset steps up to the platform itself have been completed.

The baptistry is framed in place and hooked up to the drains, too! The hot water hookup will come a little later, but the complicated carpentry work is done. That was no simple task, either -- if you've seen the odd shapes and measurements on the baptistry, you can appreciate how much work went into its support framework.

We're all set now, I guess -- we'll have to watch Pastor Archer closely at the construction site. He may issue an altar call at any time, now that the kneeling rail is ready and he could fill up the baptistry in a pinch!

Pipe Maze

The plumbers have been working away in the basement, putting in all sorts of water lines and drains to every part of the building. I haven't been down there to see it yet, but I expect that the basement is starting to look like the inside of a submarine with all the pipes and ducts running everywhere.

This Little Light Of Mine?

Now that most (if not all) of the lights have trickled in, we're getting ready to call in the electricians and install light fixtures all over the place. This will make an enormous difference for the crews working in the building; none of us realizes how important simple things like room lights are until we have to try to work without them.

I can see it coming already! When the lights are all hooked up and installed, the crew will probably race up and down flipping switches until every single light in the building is turned on! I get cross with my kids when they do that at home, but I can't blame the work crews for enjoying lights after working so long without them.

You know what this means, though -- once we get set up with electric lights inside the building, we'll be able to work in the evenings! I expect we'll have a few after-dinner church-social-and-construction parties before all this is done...

I Stand At The Door

It's hard to tell what's going on sometimes, isn't it? I mean, we built nice smooth walls all around the auditorium and then came back later to cut doorways in them! What's the deal?

The steel doors in the outer walls of the auditorium were in the plans all along, but we've just now gotten around to putting them in place. While we were building and sheathing the Creeping Wall around the auditorium, it was just easier to bang along with full sheets of plywood and get the building covered. Now, we've gone back and put the doors in place to provide multiple fire exits from the auditorium.

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 pnavel@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