

Good morning,

I hold before you the Proverbial Glass-half-empty or glass-half-full

I think most of you, including our most dogmatic pessimists, can see that it's more than half full. In fact, it's 70% full. That's because, we're 70% finished. We've spent about 70% of our money, and we've been working for about 70% of our anticipated timeframe.

And it's been a great 70% - the makings of a beautiful building, increased sense of community, stucco fun, enthusiasm, anticipation, etc. etc.

However, the very astute among you have probably noticed that the glass isn't completely full. And that's what I want to talk about today – how to fill the glass, so that we may begin to enjoy the product of our labor, not just the process.

As I will discuss in a minute, we are now at a stage where we have some significant financial challenges. To help meet these challenges, and finish the building, we have come up with the following plan.

With the exception of our working supervisors, and specialized subcontractors, we will need to complete the building with 100% volunteer labor. A lot of volunteer labor. 6-8 of you per day, every day (5 days a week), through the end of the year, to enable us to finish in January.

8 energetic, highly motivated QUUF workers on a Monday morning is a beautiful thing ... unless you're the site supervisor responsible for channeling that energy into useful endeavors. So, to make sure we don't drown poor John Edwards, we'll have two – count 'em two – full-time supervisors on site. Beginning tomorrow, John will be joined by Irv Mortensen, who is joining the Wallyworks team. Together Irv and John will make sure that you have the tools you need, the training you need, the encouragement you need, to finish the job.

We need all kinds of skills – including the ones you currently have, or the ones you'll easily learn. If you can only work on weekends, and thus have missed all of the fun except stuccoing, we'll have some Saturday work days coming up. As a group, there's no reason we can't do what we need to do to finish the job by early-mid January.

Back to the financial challenges -

When we voted to go forward with the project in May 2008, we had a budget of about \$1.4 million, based on the money we expected to have – from donations, grants and loans. Our current estimate is that, if you rise to the volunteer challenge, we will spend about \$30K less than that amount. Normally, this would be cause for celebration, and we would be talking about what UFOs to fund with the leftover money – kitchen appliances, new sound equipment, office furnishings, additional plantings, etc)

However, as you may remember, the financial crisis that engulfed the country last fall caused our pledge payments to drop by an estimated \$60,000. As a result, instead of having an extra \$30K, we are short \$30K.

You may also remember that we anticipated this possibility when we discussed our building options in the spring of 2008. At that time, we said that, if we did not have enough money, we could defer the finish flooring and/or the acoustic wall treatment. We've come to realize that it is essential to have good acoustics when we open, so we don't feel that we can defer the acoustic treatment.

Which means: having the finish flooring in some, or all of the building on 'opening day' is in jeopardy, unless

- we find ways to reduce other costs – which we're continually trying to do –
- or find more money. Various committees and the board are considering options including
 - accepting the deferral of the flooring
 - fundraising either within the QUUF community or beyond
 - asking the congregation to increase our indebtedness.
- You will hear more about these possibilities in the next few weeks.

BTW, if you've been thinking about increasing your pledge, or making one, don't feel that you need to wait.

A couple of more things. Once the glass is full (i.e. once we have our C.O., and have finish flooring, and have money set aside for the renovation of the rear of the existing sanctuary – all things we committed to in May 2008), we'll be able to begin considering the list of UFOs – unfunded objects of our desires) that will do the equivalent of turn our house into our home. Many of us have already begun to turn our attention to our favorite UFOs. I/we are asking you to, as hard as it is, to gently shelve those thoughts and instead focus on what you can do to help fill the glass.

We're confident that we'll rise to the challenge and that early next year we'll be occupying our new space. We're so confident, in fact, that we've scheduled an open meeting, for Saturday, Nov 14, to discuss HOW we're going to use and configure the space, especially the foyer and new fellowship hall aka existing sanctuary. You'll hear more about this meeting next week.

Thanks