

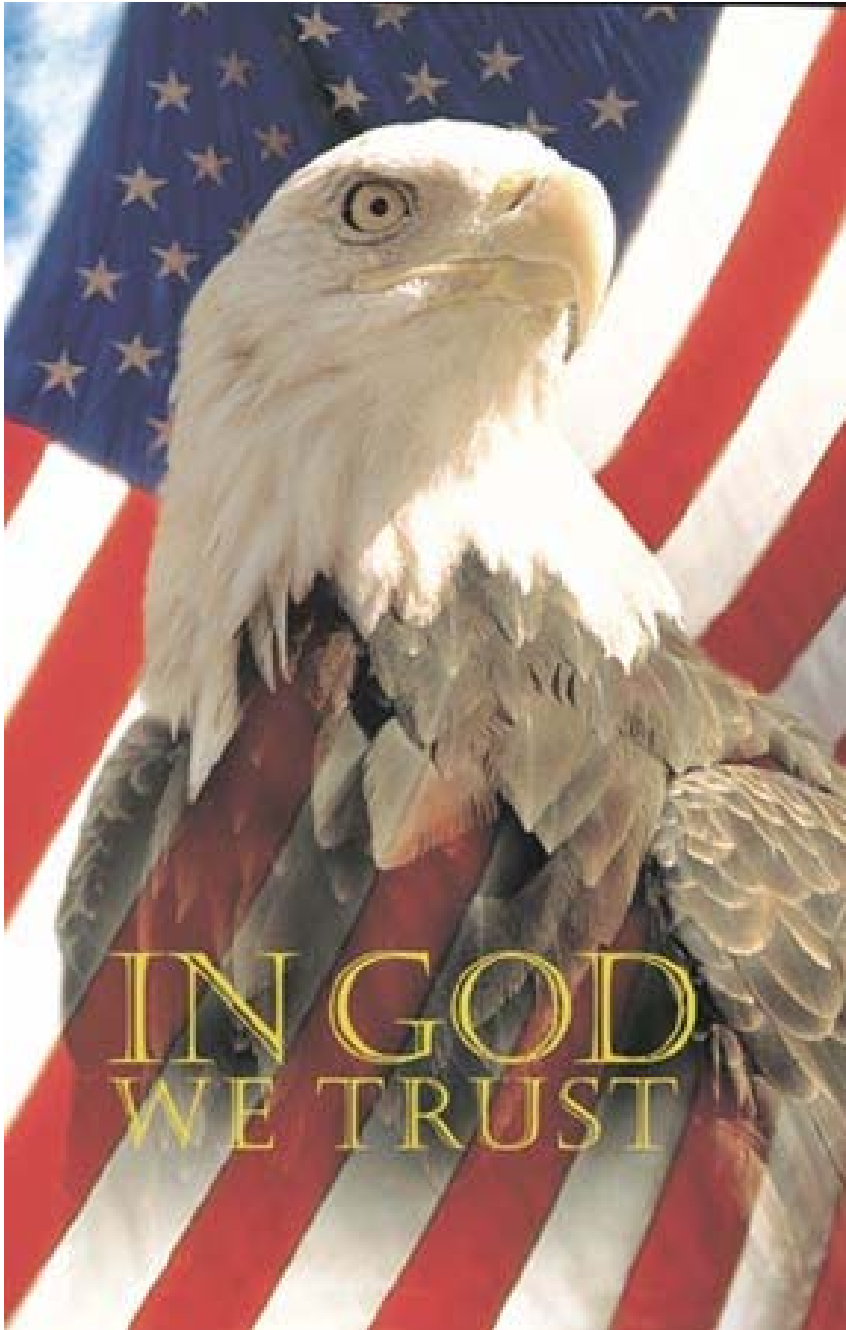


HardHat Herald

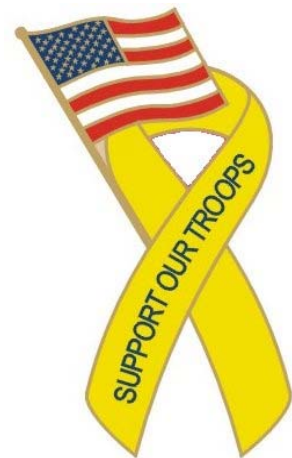
The Voice of WACO

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 06

JUNE, 2005



PLEASE CONTINUE
TO PRAY FOR
OUR MILITARY,
THEIR FAMILIES,
AND OUR
LEADERS



Features:

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- Birthdays
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From the Boardroom...

June 4, 2005

Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

Proverbs 15:9 (KJV) ***A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.***

Things just don't always work out exactly the way we've planned, do they? Try as we will and plan as we might, the plans we've devised and the goals we've set for ourselves are frequently preempted by outside events completely beyond our power to control. At times those preemptions bring sadness and disappointment, even at times heartache and pain. And yet, sometimes rare opportunities and even unique blessings are to be found in life's not infrequent interruptions. We just need to know where, and how, to look for them. And, how to recognize them when they appear.

It's approximately 6:00pm on Saturday evening here in Canada, and I must say today has been a good day. Mrs. Trisha and I have just returned from supper and she is now bustling busily around the room, gathering our belongings and packing our bags for an early departure in the morning. The beginning of our long trip toward home. I am, wisely I think, taking the opportunity to stay out of her way and using the time to collect my thoughts for this month's newsletter column.

This has been a very busy week. But then, it seems all our weeks are busy weeks. We've been planning this week for some time now. We had it all figured out. We knew where we intended to be on each day of our trip, which we intended to visit, and where we intended to stay. But, it just didn't work out exactly the way we had planned.

Mrs. Trisha and I have, for the past week, been on a rather extended business trip across the Midwest and Northeastern United States. We've been calling on business associates, clients, and prospective clients at every opportunity.

It's been a full week, and while I think we've accomplished most of our goals for the trip, we've discovered once again that flexibility is a required element. Especially in the industry in which we

work. One phone call can dramatically alter your itinerary. The key is to try and not let it detrimentally alter your outlook.

The need for flexibility was certainly the case with our planning for this week's trip. Early last week, we had all of our stops scheduled and all of our visits arranged to the best of our ability. Our trip was intended to take us to Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, and then to stop off in Paducah, Kentucky to get the plane serviced on our way back home.

Then, late last week, Karl received a phone call from a new client in New York State who had indicated an immediate need for assistance with issues at their mill. They requested that we schedule a visit to their mill site as soon as possible. Of course, we readily agreed to do so, especially since we had already planned to be "in the area."

My friend, Mike Flynn with Midwest Hardwood says that only someone from the South could possibly consider a jog all the way to Upstate New York as being "in the area." In my mind, the USA may be divided into four quadrants, Southeast; Southwest; Northwest; and Northeast. I don't have in my mind clear boundaries of those four locales and I don't really think the residents of those locales do either, but you get the picture. And so, New York should pose no problem. New York is still in the Northeast quadrant. To me, it's in the area. After all, how much farther could it be anyway?

Working through Memorial Day on Monday in order to be ready, on Tuesday we flew from Grenada to Chicago for a 10:00am appointment with the owner of Nimlok Chicago. Nimlok is an advertising and marketing firm whom we've employed to design and fabricate new booth space for our trade-show presentations for this year. The flight was uneventful, the meeting went well and we accomplished our goals.

After a very pleasant lunch, later that same day we flew from Chicago to Baraboo, Wisconsin where we rented a car and drove to Reedsburg, Wisconsin to visit our good friends at Midwest Hardwood's Meister Log & Lumber. We remained overnight in Baraboo, and continued our meetings there on Wednesday morning.

At the successful conclusion of our meetings in Reedsburg, we drove back to Baraboo, checked out of the motel, and then drove to the airport in Baraboo where we readied the plane for our departure. This was to be a quick trip from Baraboo, straight across the center of Lake Michigan to visit friends and prospective clients in Michigan on Wednesday afternoon. Our plan, our adjusted plan, was working out.

If you haven't taken such a trip across the Great lakes, let me tell you, Lake Michigan, the only one of the Five (5) Great lakes not shared with Canada, is a really big spot of water. All those lakes are big spots of water. I recently read an interesting statistic that 95% of the United States surface fresh water supply, and fully 20%, or 1/5th of the world's surface fresh water supply, is impounded within the confines of the Great Lakes system.

That's a pretty significant amount of water in my book. Now, I can't confirm those percentages. What I can say is, when you are flying across the center of Lake Michigan, or when you are flying lengthwise, right up the center, of Lake Ontario or Lake Erie as was the case later in the week, the lakeshore looks pretty far away. And, in some directions, the lakeshore was so distant you couldn't see it at all!

Landing in Michigan as planned; we grabbed a sandwich at a burger place near the airport and then drove to the mill site. Again, our meeting was positive and we accomplished our goals. Everything seemed to be going as planned. Once our meetings in Michigan had concluded on Wednesday afternoon, we resumed our trip once more.

This time, our destination was upstate New York near the Canadian border. The inserted, not originally planned leg of our trip. We discovered it was to be a rather long trip and the finale to a rather long day. We arrived just before 9:00pm. As we made our turn to align the plane for our final approach to the west runway, the sun appeared to be dipping down right into the waters of Lake Ontario, which we could see shimmering in the distance.

We had used up pretty much all of the day. And, it had been a good day. A successful day. Our plans had worked and our goals had been largely achieved. But, we were tired and my personal goals at this point

extended no farther than supper and sleep. Tomorrow would have to take care of tomorrow.

Early the next morning we began what was to become two days of investigation, and fairly intense meetings. This is a remote site for the owner of the mill, but he had rearranged his schedule, modified his plans, and had driven up to meet with us personally. Also accompanying the owner were several key individuals of his top staff who had modified their plans as well to accommodate our visit.

We shared with them the results of our investigation and the impressions we had formulated during our tour. By the time we left the mill, again, our goals were, I think, accomplished. Our adjusted plan was holding up.

This was not to remain the case, however, as we discovered our planned visit to Minnesota wasn't going to happen as we had hoped. Our friends near Minneapolis, whom we had intended to visit on Saturday, found themselves unable to reschedule events to which they had been previously committed and were thus unable to meet with us.

While we were certainly disappointed and our itinerary had abruptly changed, we decided not to let it modify our outlook. We had the opportunity to go immediately home from New York. But we still had our appointment in Kentucky on Monday to consider. Not wishing to have to backtrack on Monday, we started looking for something to do for the weekend.

On the way to New York we happened to fly very close to Niagara Falls. Since neither Mrs. Trisha nor I had ever seen the falls before, we decided to stop off there for the weekend, or what was to be left of it. Mrs. Trisha got reservations for us on the Canadian side of the border and we flew in and landed at Niagara Falls International Airport just north of Buffalo, New York.

As I write this column I am comfortably positioned in a very comfortable room on the 41st floor of the Embassy Suites Motel in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. Outside our window, and just across the river, I can see the lights beginning to flicker on across the city of Niagara Falls, New York. Beacons atop the area's communication towers, on both sides of the river, are flashing brightly. In the distance to the south

I can just make out the lights of Buffalo, New York.

Immediately below our window we have an amazing view of both the Canadian and the American falls. Prior to our previously unplanned visit this weekend I never knew there are actually multiple falls. We have a perfect view of all of them from our window. A truly amazing and awe-inspiring sight, with the mist rising from the surface of the northward flowing Niagara river as the waters from Lake Erie cascade over the falls on their way into Lake Ontario just south of the city of Toronto, Canada. A beautiful sight. Saturday's plan didn't work out as we had originally hoped. We were disappointed, but this adjusted plan is good too.

While writing this I took a few moments to make a phone call. I've just gotten off the phone with my Pastor who, we've recently discovered, is still in the hospital as a result of recently planned medical testing run amuck. The original plan was that his medical testing be completed early in the week and that by now he and the mission group from our church would be almost to Matamoras, Mexico. It just didn't work out that way though.

As I indicated earlier, the testing went awry. This resulted in the need for immediate, emergency surgery for intestinal repairs. A Mexico mission trip was replaced with surgery and an extended hospital stay. Thankfully, our dear friend and brother, Reverend Bob Self, is mending nicely and his personal outlook remains characteristically positive and upbeat.

Brother Bob had been planning this annual mission trip for a full year. For him, the trip just didn't work out. But he didn't allow the alteration of his plans to alter his demeanor. His planned physical location, and his physical condition, certainly varied, but he refused to allow his outlook to do so.

Brother Bob, I think, has this life thing figured out. He says we humans don't need to spend too much time "majoring on the minors." While we should hope for the best as we plan for the worst, we should also remain flexible enough to, not

merely accept, but to take full advantage of the ever evolving realities of life and make the most of the opportunities we are given. Sometimes the blessings are where you find them. Sometimes the blessings unexpectedly find us.

As I finish this column it is now Monday morning. Mrs. Trisha and I are in Paducah, Kentucky. We are working by phone and e-mail from our motel room while the plane is being serviced over at the airport.

Even while concluding this article, this morning my private thoughts are with another friend who is, like my pastor, in the hospital today. My friend, whom we all call "Big Archie", is having a heart procedure in Memphis, Tennessee today.

This wasn't something he had necessarily planned for today. You see, last week he experienced a couple of black-out events while at home in Grenada. He was taken to the emergency room and later admitted to the hospital.

Testing revealed that he has one artery that is 95% blocked. The black-outs were the events that triggered the testing. The testing is what revealed his condition. Today's surgery is what is intended to relieve the clogged artery and restore proper blood flow. Restored blood flow is intended to alleviate the black-outs.

Not the original plan, but a nice pattern to it don't you think. Lots of plans were modified this week. But opportunities and blessings are quite often, and quite literally, found in connection with changed plans. Sometimes, we just have to look for them.

Today, my thoughts and prayers are with Pastor Bob Self, with Big Archie, and especially this Memorial Day Week, with our men and women serving in the military. Each currently experiencing something of life's interruptions. May God bless!

C. Wayne Roberts

FAMILY APPEAL

CONGRATULATIONS !!



Breann Roberts Bridges, wife of Joel and daughter of Wayne and Trisha, received her BSFCS in Dietetics and Nutrition from The University of Mississippi on May 14, 2005.

Breann will be entering the Coordinated Program in Dietetics at Delta State University this fall.



2005 HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

Jayla Anthony
Jeremy Ballard
Emily Bush
Karlyn Grubb
Kyle Grubb

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Hire Date Anniversaries

William R. Davis	2 Years
Rusbel Garcia	1 Year
Amber Howell	2 Years
H.V. Shaw	2 Years



WACO Birthdays

Mac Costilow	June 02
Amber Howell	June 17
Randy Carlile	July 06
H.V. Shaw	July 07

EXTENSION CORD SAFETY

The color for the month of
June is
GRAY

Safety Scorecard

All extension cords are to be inspected each month. Each month has a different color tape. Be sure your extension cords are inspected.

Your **Safety** is very important to us. Keep up the good work!!!



WACO Employees Worked

2,637 Days

864,933 Hours

Without a Lost Time Accident

Since our last lost time accident on
October 5, 2004

WACO Employees have safely worked

236 Days

62,706 Hours

2005 Recordables = 1

Remember.....Safety First!!

MAKE NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH A FAMILY EVENT

Valentine's Day isn't the only day you show your love to your family, but it's a day when you give them a little extra attention. The same is true of National Safety Month – it's not the only month you focus on safety, but it is a good time to pay particular attention to safety and health. June is National Safety Month. It's an ideal opportunity to share safety with your family and loved ones.

Everyone hopes to instill positive family values in their children. Start by letting your children see that, for you, safety isn't just a priority but one of your values. Priorities change depending on the circumstances you encounter; values, however, remain the same. Dedicate this month to talking to your family about safety around the home. Teach your children to recognize and avoid hazards and discuss how to prevent injuries. Involve the family in creating or reviewing your emergency phone numbers. Restock your first aid kit. Make safety a part of your family's value system.

You should also take the time to ensure your home is free from hazards. Inspect the electrical wiring throughout the house. Check for worn or damaged electric cords. Remove extension cords that run under carpet or through doorways. Look for defective appliances and overloaded circuits. Be sure bulbs in your lamps are the proper wattage. Check your power tools and perform any maintenance that is necessary. Look at your fire extinguisher; it may need to be recharged. Replace batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Remember to take safety along on your vacation. Prepare by making sure your vehicle is ready to make the trip. Be sure your tires are properly inflated, the spare tire and jack are in good working order, a first aid kit is packed, maps and directions are handy, the windshield is clean and that everyone has a working seat belt. Don't forget to get a good night's sleep before taking off on your trip. Your family's life is in your hands.

Focus on safety at work for your sake and your family's sake. During National Safety Month, brush up on your employer's safety procedures and rules. Actively participate in safety and health training. Share your safety experience with new way to do things. Help them build safety into each task.

SAFETY REMINDER..... Your co-workers are your partners in safety.

After all, you share the same values:

family. health. and injury-free workdays.

Success is speaking words of
praise,
In cheering other people's
ways.
In doing just the best you
can,
With every task and every
plan.

It's silence when your speech
It's courage when disaster falls.
It's gentleness when you
are polite to those who find
silence in their prayer. In happy
life and nothing less, We find the thing we call success.



SAFE TODAY, HERE TOMORROW!



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