



Editor's Message

Learning Faith, Perseverance from Noah

by Ben Hershey

**"Consider it pure joy, my brothers,
whenever you face trials of many
kinds, because you know that
the testing of your faith
develops perseverance."**

James 1: 2-3 NIV

The other day one of my peers at another company told me it has taken a lot of faith to get through the past year. I agreed. But it made me think, it has been more than faith; it has been the perseverance of our employees and others around us that has brought us through this.

Imagine the scene: Noah from the Old Testament, walking through a forest of trees; he's dreaming of a small, start-up truss plant that he will use to revolutionize the buildings of his time. As is the case in many instances in our lives, God smiles. He has other plans for those trees. He says to Noah, "I want you to build an ark 450' long, 75' wide and 45' tall." You can practically hear Noah's reaction. "You want me to do *what* with these trees that should be sawn and made into structural components for homes?" I am sure Noah's neighbors were none too happy about this large ship sitting in front of their homes; most likely he was ridiculed and ostracized from the community. This is a man who had incredible faith and perseverance to complete the project at a time when he had only his family around him to believe in him.

Many people in our industry have faced trials this year testing their dreams and their faith in what our industry has provided them in the past, wondering if the proverbial ride is over. And yet, they have worked hard, made fundamental changes to their businesses, made staffing changes, and changed financing within their business. *They persevered.* And there have also been many in our industry who have faced tough personal challenges that have tested their faith and resolve. But, for every dark cloud there is a silver lining. The economic dark cloud appears to be changing, and I think each of us are seeing some light, some measure of what our industry will look like in the near future and maybe a glimpse of what it can be in the next few years.

Our association's faith and perseverance has also been tested. We have had to adjust the service level of some of our programs, changed how we market our programs and react to varying economic challenges. ***But SBCA remains strong.*** One fundamental change we have made over the past few years is to encourage component manufacturers to market to professionals outside of the manufacturing process. We have introduced programs to help you market to architects, engineers and building inspectors so they can better understand what we do as component manufacturers. SBCA will continue to grow and evolve in the years to come; it will continue to address many of the issues and concerns of our members. I am most proud to be a part of the development of TTWs, *Tech Notes*, BCSI documents and others, for the specifier and code/inspector communities. Even when times are tough, we cannot afford to miss the opportunity to teach others.

For those whose faith has been tested and persevered, you've learned that you have to act. If you are going to be better in the future, you have to make changes to your business through retooling or re-engineering your process from bid to delivery. This often means training within. Here is just a short selection of what you have to choose from: ORisk, TTT, In-Plant WTCA QC, Operation Safety, Basic Training, Driver Training (TRUCK), SCORE...need I name more? Did you ever wonder how God selected Noah? Was he a carpenter, a mason, a farmer, the local baker? The

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at a glance

- ☐ Our faith has been tested, but perseverance will get us through hard times.
- ☐ SBCA is and will continue to be a strong, viable organization.
- ☐ I encourage members to continue reaching out to professionals outside the manufacturing process: architects, engineers and building inspectors.

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Bible doesn't say and it is clear that Noah did not have an ark building association (with a very capable staff) to call and get assistance. And how did he build an ark that big without a component saw or a laser jiggling system? Good thing we have so much more today, and SBCA is right there with you to provide the additional tools you need every day to help you grow and prosper as a business.

This year's BCMC Show in Phoenix has the theme of "Soar to New Heights." How appropriate for the current time we're in as an industry it has been this year. But the theme is very appropriate because it is what is required of each of us. We need to reach down deep in ourselves and find that inner strength to "Soar to New Heights." If you come to Phoenix, you will find the educational tools, information and technology that will help you to reach the next plateau our industry is headed to. Thank you for making the choice to evaluate your business by attending BCMC.

This is my last article as President of SBCA. If you recall, I said last October that I hoped to make a difference by "leaving a little more wood on the pile." I am not sure I expected the challenges that I faced both in the association and my business. But through faith and perseverance, I am here today looking toward a future filled with new challenges that both my business and the association will tackle. In my first article I talked about playing the piano. How my mom got through those first few years trying to get me to practice I will never know. But here I am some 38 years later still playing the piano. She had a lot of perseverance to not let me give up, *and I am sure I tested it*. My best wishes to incoming President Steven Spradlin of Capital Structures. I hope you will continue to contribute your time and efforts to assist him.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and our SBCA staff for their hard work this past year. Our **SBC Magazine** advertisers and BCMC exhibitors who worked with us through a very difficult year deserve not only your thanks, but your business. Thank you advertisers and exhibitors! Finally, my thanks to all of you for putting your trust in me to serve as your President. It has been an incredible honor and I hope that I met your expectations. Thank you!

May God's blessings be on everyone. I hope this coming year will be prosperous for you! Turn to page 23 for the 2009 BCMC Show Guide, including information about the exhibitors and a schedule of events.

Get your bag packed; we'll see you in Phoenix at the BCMC Show! SBC

SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

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THE FUTURE OF FRAMING

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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Adds In-Plant WTCA QC to Specification

On June 9 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) revised its project specification to include In-Plant WTCA QC certification. The new specification accepts a plant's certification in the program in lieu of providing quarterly inspection reports.

Before updating its specifications, the LDS Church required component manufacturers supplying projects to submit quarterly 3rd party paperwork during the bidding process as proof of their products' quality. The requirement even applied to component manufacturing plants that are currently In-Plant WTCA QC-certified.

At least one SBCA member found providing reports on top of being QC-certified to be onerous, and asked SBCA staff to contact the LDS Church. SBCA and the LDS Church staff then worked together to alter the specification as follows: "Copies of previous four quarterly inspection reports verifying compliance with TPI regulations unless the Truss Fabricator provides proof that they are certified and in good standing with the In-Plant WTCA QC program certification."

In other words, any component plant may bid on LDS Church projects, but if a plant is not In-Plant WTCA QC certified, it must submit quarterly inspection reports. The LDS Church also used the new language to update its Truss Plant Certification Requirements Form, which is a checklist general contractors use to verify a truss plant's certification.

"The updated spec recognizes plants that are voluntarily choosing to be certified in In-Plant WTCA QC, going above and beyond what is required by the building code," said Tony Piek, program manager. "They've attached a positive value to our program."

"The specification is much better due to your input. Thank you for your help in helping to 'evolve' our specifications to better match what our ultimate goals are," said Wm. Chris Barker of the LDS Church Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Division.

For more information about In-Plant WTCA QC, contact Tony Piek (tpiek@qualtim.com). **SBC**



www.sbcindustry.com/wtcaqc.php

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