

Building Foundations

by Doug Rice

One of my least favorite courses in architecture school was called “structures.” Specifically, it was about the engineering of structures. I guess since architects design buildings it is logical that they should know something about how building structures are engineered. My structures professor was often frustrated that his students did not fully grasp the importance of engineering in building design. Perhaps it was because architecture majors were much more proficient at geometry than calculus. We preferred designing a building to that of ensuring its structural integrity – that was the mundane work of the engineer.

When I hung out my shingle five years after graduation, I decided that sound structural design was valuable after all. No matter how beautiful my design, shoddy engineering would likely result in failure with adverse financial consequences. As someone said, “Let the architect do his part ever so well, if the foundation be rotten, the building will not stand.”

I found myself going back and researching the engineering design principals my structures professor tried to teach me. Structural engineering was more interesting than I remembered, starting with foundation design. Clearly there was an important connection between a building’s design and the foundation under it. The superstructure resting upon the foundation was essential in supporting the architectural elements that adorned the building’s “bones.”

Construction terms are used in the Bible as metaphors for the Church, both in its universal and local aspects. The first mention of the Church in the New Testament is in Matthew 16:18 where our Lord says to his disciples, “I

will build my Church upon this rock.” Not upon Peter, a singular movable rock, but upon a massive, unmovable Rock – none other than the Lord Jesus Christ himself, the only sure foundation. The Universal Church is that great spiritual edifice which includes all that are in Christ, irrespective of denominational divisions or location. Peter expands upon the metaphor in writing that this spiritual house is built up of “living stones,” these stones being built upon the “Chief Cornerstone” *1 Peter 2:5-6*.



Foundations in the ancient world were stone construction. The temple foundation was constructed of massive limestone blocks quarried from the mountains around Jerusalem. The beginning point and most important element in a stone foundation was the cornerstone. Typically, it was the largest stone in the foundation, chosen and quarried with great care as it was the benchmark for the entire structure. The cornerstone was the point of reference to ensure that the entire structure was true and plumb.

Paul states that this immense spiritual building is being “fitly framed together” or “closely joined together” *Eph 2:21*. The phrase is passive, meaning Another is doing the work of masterfully joining together each member of the Church. No wonder – the Lord Jesus is both the Architect and Master Builder; it is His work!

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I CORINTHIANS 4:2, "IT IS REQUIRED"

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Graciously, the Lord uses men in the work of building local churches – representations of the Universal Church. Paul told the Corinthians that he laid the foundation, Jesus Christ, in Corinth for others, like Apollos to build thereon. But he admonished everyone that might undertake the work of spiritual building to take heed how they built upon the Foundation *1 Cor 3:10*. Paul's warning is still relevant in our day. As a homebuilder once said to his client, "If you start right, you can keep right, but if you start wrong it is almost impossible to get right."

*"I will build my Church
upon this rock"
Matthew 16:18*

Since 1945, Stewards Foundation has been a part of building foundations. Our loans have gone into building physical foundations for thousands of assembly facilities. But more than temporal foundations, our work has been used of the Lord to build spiritual foundations. Fundamental spiritual truths concerning the Person and work of Christ have been taught in assembly facilities across the U.S. As George Keith so eloquently wrote, "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!"

We trust that these spiritual foundations will stand sure upon the one Foundation, our Lord Jesus Christ. The credit for building either type of foundation is not ours. As the Psalmist said, "except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." *Psa 127:1* The glory is His alone!

MEET THE STAFF

One of the best things about my tenure at Stewards Foundation has been working with two fine Christian women. Nancy Carroll and Cynthia Looney are both intelligent, well-educated ladies with skills well suited to our work. More than this, they are dedicated to the work of Stewards Foundation. Any boss worth his salt knows that he is no better than the staff that stands behind him. I am blessed to have the best standing behind me.

You may have spoken with one of us in the office by phone, but as the saying goes it helps to put a face with a name. I trust that our photos and brief bios will help personalize your interaction with the Stewards Foundation team.

Doug Rice



Doug began his tenure with Stewards Foundation August 12, 2010, as Interim Executive Director. The Board of Trustees promoted him to the position of Executive Director March 11, 2011.

After high school graduation, Doug attended the University of Texas, Arlington (UTA) graduating in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture. Following graduation, Doug worked nine months for a general contractor to gain practical experience in his field. He began graduate school at UTA in 1978, graduating with a Master of Architecture in 1981.

Upon graduation, Doug accepted a position with a medium sized firm that specialized in custom and multi-family residential, retirement and assisted living facilities. In 1984, he received his license to practice architecture in Texas and was promoted to Project Architect. Doug rose to the position of vice president in 1985 before leaving the firm for a new opportunity.

Early in 1986, Doug began work with a small firm that focused on commercial development, retail projects and interior architecture. This firm closed in late 1986 due to the economic downturn in Texas.

In January 1987, Doug opened his own architectural practice that he maintained until accepting his current position at Stewards Foundation. He attained National Council of Architectural Boards Certification, and subsequently obtained architectural licenses in Oklahoma, Missouri and New Mexico. Doug's work included residential, educational, retirement, assisted living, Alzheimer care and medical office projects. Among his projects were the design of assembly facilities in Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

In 1992, Doug married Denise Sabolski of Duncanville, Texas. The Lord blessed Doug and Denise with two daughters, Sarah and Rebecca. Denise is a loving wife and mother, and devoted homemaker. Sarah has a Bachelors degree in Sociology and is currently finishing her Masters degree in Social Work (MSW). Rebecca is in the last semester of her Bachelors degree in Elementary and Special Education.

Nancy Carroll



Nancy recently celebrated her 8th year with Stewards Foundation. Nancy graduated with honors from Texas Christian University in 1986 with a bachelors in English and History and a minor in Business. Nancy and her new husband Russ were planning to move to Austin where she had been accepted into law school at The University of Texas, but the Lord had

IN STEWARDS THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL”

other plans! Nancy and Russ were blessed with their first child Sarah instead. The next 20+ years would joyously be devoted to raising a family as a homemaker.

Having been raised in a family owned Real Estate business; Nancy continued this involvement with Russ and their industrial and commercial projects. Nancy was involved with the financial details of the transactions and day to day management. Nancy also jumped head first into the activities that supported her children's interests. Chairing and organizing events became a full time job.

Upon entering the work force part time, Nancy worked for Dahlgren Duck, a custom goods provider. She was the acquisitions manager for the Gulfstream G5 projects. This provided a good foundation in producing accurate and detailed work product.

Nancy and Russ have enjoyed the blessing of marriage for over 30 years. They have raised 3 wonderful children. Sarah (Trinity University '09 and '11) and husband Rich (Trinity University '09) welcomed identical twin boys in December, Sarah worked in the wealth management field before motherhood, Rich works in financial planning for JC Penny. Alex (Georgetown '11) and wife Kelsey (Georgetown '10) live in Dallas, Alex works with a private equity start up and Kelsey with HPE. Abby (Texas A&M '14) is a Special Education teacher at a charter school in Houston, TX.

Cynthia Looney

Cynthia joined Stewards Foundation in October of 2010.

Cynthia graduated in 1984 with a bachelors degree in business administration from Baylor university; a double major in marketing and computer science.

Prior to having children, Cynthia held financial analyst and senior leadership roles with:

Electronic Data Systems (EDS now Hewlett-Packard) a fortune 100 and global technology leader. While at EDS/HP, Cynthia provided in depth analysis of financial systems, organizing key data elements into meaningful information that could be utilized by banking customers to make informed decisions;

Bright Bank, a regional Texas bank. Cynthia served as vice president in charge of customer service and support. She was responsible for ensuring that the bank was providing timely and accurate responses to the needs of the customers; and

Melson and Associates, a Dallas based firm serving customers across the nation. Cynthia consulted with numerous financial institutions, but focused primarily on Savings and Loan organizations. She provided analysis, design and implementation of computer systems that met the rigorous financial reporting requirements of federal banking regulators.



Cynthia recently celebrated her 30th wedding anniversary with her husband Jay and has two children; Laurel 24, a registered nurse in the Neonatal intensive care unit at Medical City Dallas and Layne 20, a sophomore student and baseball player at the University of Richmond in Virginia. Though she did not work outside the home while raising her children, Cynthia was involved in numerous philanthropic activities. Her leadership efforts have generated funding and energized volunteerism that has served those in need, furthered worthy causes in education and supported the arts .

DOING THE WORK OF GOD Is Every True Believer's Responsibility

Haggai 1:3-8, "Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your paneled houses, and this house *lie* waste? Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages *to put it* into a bag with holes. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD."

The prophet Haggai had to remind the people that they had misplaced their priorities. The work on the temple had ceased, the people were more concerned about upgrading and improving their own houses that the temple of God.

It is also possible today that we misplace our priorities. The Church is not complete. The disciples had been given a mandate. Matthew 28:19-20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the age."

The work of God is the responsibility of every true believer. Haggai pleads with the people to "consider your ways." The Church is not completed. Let us consider our ways. Let us consider our responsiveness to God in building up and gathering in of those who will believe and be saved.

For many years now we have had the happy privilege of serving those who have a desire to reach out with the gospel. Buildings have been built and upgraded. Properties have been bought that could accommodate the body of believers desiring to set up a testimony for the Lord. Those of you who have stood with us in the ministry have made it



Psalms 126:3, "The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad"

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all possible. You are part of the new and growing work that is going on. There is still much to do.

Excerpt from Stewards Foundation's 1981 Annual Report

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Stewards Foundation has been actively involved in assisting the Lord's servants with the cost of health care for more than 60 years. From 1989 – 2016, \$23,000,000 was given to assist commended workers with the cost of health care expenses. In January, checks totaling \$232,125 were sent to 176 commending assemblies for 302 families, couples and singles in the Health Care Assistance Program (HCAP).



Our commitment to commended workers has lead the Board of Trustees to look for more cost-effective ways to assist with medical expenses. Over the last several years, Assembly Care Ministries (ACM) has been working on a project to help commended workers manage medical expenses. The **Assembly Care Ministries Health Line** is the result of those efforts.

Stewards Foundation has agreed to partner with ACM in advancing this new service that provides medical advice at no cost to commended workers in the U.S. and abroad. **This service is not limited to those in HCAP**, but we want workers in HCAP to be aware of it. We also want to encourage elders to investigate this new service and make their commended workers aware of it. Detailed information can be found at: www.acmhealthline.org.



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