

Church News

It's More Than The Building

By Daris Howard

It is a tough time to be building. I should know; I've been trying to do just that since February 2021. I have added on to my current house twice. The first time I worked with a contractor. The second time I was the contractor. I learned how to line up materials so everything came at the right time and there was no break in the work. I did all the labor myself and learned a lot as I went.

This time, I am building a house from the ground up. Actually, I'm not yet building my house. We don't have money for that. We need to sell our current house first. But we can't sell it until we have a place to move everything, and we can't move everything until we have a place to put it, so we are building a shop.

When I was ready to start, I called all the material suppliers to see how far out they were on delivery. The ICF (insulated concrete forms) supplier told me that once I ordered, the blocks would be ready in four days. The trusses were six weeks out, so I ordered them first. I got everything lined up, then ordered the ICF blocks.

"They are now out four weeks," the block manufacturer said.

My heart sank. "Four weeks? You said it would be four days!"

"That was before we got deep into Covid," she answered.

I got them ordered, knowing everything was going to be thrown off schedule. It ended up being six weeks before they came, and they were the wrong ones. I sold them and turned around and reordered the right ones.

"It's now ten weeks," the lady told me.

I could see my whole summer flying away. The blocks weren't ten weeks in coming; they were seventeen weeks. I got them near the first of December. We bought some blocks left over from other jobs and were able to get the walls high enough to pour the floor just before Thanksgiving. Then the blocks came, and I worked through the winter in freezing, sub-zero weather, building and getting ready to pour the walls the first of March. On one frigid day, as the wind blew icy snow particles into my skin, I was feeling sorry for myself when I thought of a home I visited in Peru.

I was there with some university colleagues on an academic trip. When we took time off from discovery to visit the local markets, I would often leave my colleagues and spend time seeing how the normal Peruvians lived. On one such excursion in a rural town, I came across a man sitting in front of his house. There was a sign that said, "See beautiful most town home. One dollar or one sol."

Though the English wasn't clear, through my limited Spanish and his equally limited English, I learned the man felt he had the most beautiful home in the town. He claimed he was the richest man there.

I handed him a sol, and he proudly led me into his home. The walls were not thatched reeds like most of the houses, but were handmade mud brick. "Best mud available, made self," he said. It also had a tin roof, made with tin that looked like he had salvaged it from the town dump where I live. The floor was dirt, and there was no electricity. The lighting all came from windows and candles. There was only one room that served as the kitchen, living room, and bedroom for all seven people who lived there.

I met his family—his wife, three daughters, a son, and his mother. They were all happy to be together, and the love that emanated from them for each other was evident.

On that day that I felt sorry for myself freezing and building on our new property, I thought of this man. He really was the richest man, not for what he owned, but for the love and happiness of his family. It made me feel a little warmer just thinking that a home is much more than the building.

It is more about the people who live, love, and share their lives there.

(Daris Howard, award-winning, syndicated columnist, playwright, and author, can be contacted at darishoward.com; or visit his website at <http://www.darishoward.com>, to buy his books.)

Church Car Wash And Yard Sale

Iglesia De Dios Pentecostal MI, 11764 SE Hwy 301, Belleview will be holding a Car Wash and Yard Sale. Food will also be available on May 21 from 9- to 2 pm

Happenings At New Bethel

New Bethel Community Church has ongoing exercise classes on:

Tuesdays at 9:30 am and Thursdays at 10am

Clogging classes:

Fridays at 2pm for beginners and Fridays at 3pm for advanced

VBS June 20-24

At Community Harvest

Community Harvest Baptist Church is hosting Vacation Bible School Monday June 20th-Friday June 24th 6:30PM-9PM. We offer classes for nursery aged through grade school along with Middle and High School Youth Group as well as adults- ALL ARE WELCOME. This is also a FREE event.

Through our VBS we will discover how we all were amazingly created in the Image of GOD!

Community Harvest Baptist Church 14915 SW 36th AVE Summerfield FL 34491 PH 352-245-9850 communityharvestvbs@yahoo.com <http://www.communityharvestbaptist.com>

Deaths

CECELIA M. CHMIEL

Cecelia M. Chmiel, age 97, of Lackawanna, NY passed away on Tuesday, May 11, 2022, in the home of her daughter. She was the wife of the late Edward L. Chmiel who preceded her in 1995.

Born in Lackawanna, NY she was the daughter of the late August and Catherine Jarnot. She was a proud Veteran of the U.S. Army serving during World War II. She later owned and operated a Beautician Salon in Lackawanna, NY. Cecelia and Edward moved to the Ocala area in 1981. She was a member of St. Theresa Catholic Church, Belleview, FL.



She is survived by Marian (Gerald) Klubek, Leonard (Donna) Chmiel, Edward (Debbie) Chmiel, and was the loving mother of the late Paul Chmiel; cherished grandmother of 17 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren; predeceased by many brothers and sisters; also survived by many nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 10:00 AM at St. Theresa Catholic Church, Belleview, FL followed by inurnment in the Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hospice Foundation of WNY. Arrangements entrusted to Hiers-Baxley Funeral Services, 5946 SE Robinson Road, Belleview, FL 34420. Condolences may be left at Hiers-Baxley.com.

HIERS-BAXLEY Funeral Services

Celebrating Life Honoring Memories

Your Hometown Funeral Home
Serving Marion County for over 130 years



Burials, Cremations
Veterans Information
Pre-arrangements, Transfers
5946 SE Robinson Road, Belleview
352-245-2424

VFW Post 8083

(Next to Market of Marion)

Hall Rental

- Now Smoke Free
- Newly Renovated
- Reasonable Rates

(Reduced rates for VFW members)

Any Occasion or Celebration
(Capacity 100)

Call Post For Details
352-245-8083

Belleview United Methodist Church
Sanctuary Worship - 10:00am
Brown Rd at CR 484 • 352-245-2100
belleviewumc.net
*Live Out Faith, Serve With Love.
Change Our World.*

Saint George Anglican Church

Sunday
8:00 Holy Eucharist and Sermon
10:30 Holy Eucharist, Music and Sermon

Come and be part of our loving Catholic family worshipping God in the beauty of holiness. All are welcome at Saint George Anglican Church.

5646 S.E. 28th Street, Ocala, FL 34480 **352-624-0112**

St. Theresa's Thrift Shop
11528 SE Hwy. 301
Just South of Winn Dixie

OPEN Mon - Sat. 9 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
NEW SAVINGS "JUST 4 YOU"
CHECK OUT OUR DAILY SPECIALS
DON'T FORGET YOUR STAR CARDS!
Furniture • Clothes
Household Goods Linens and more
Drop off items welcome Mon-Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Call for Furniture Pick-up 352-245-0650

**Obituary Archives Online Edition
at www.thevosm.net**