



YOU ARE A HOUSE BUILDER ~ ANONYMOUS

submitted by Jim Simon

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer/contractor of his plans to leave the house-building business and enjoy retirement with his wife and extended family.

The contractor, sorry to see his good worker go, asked him to build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes; but it soon became evident that his heart wasn't in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house, my gift to you," he said.

What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, the carpenter would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in a poorly-built home.

So it might be with us, if we build our lives in a distracted way, reacting rather than acting, willing to put out less than the best. If we do not give the job our best effort, we may, with shock at some point, look at the situation we have created and find that we are now living in the house we have built. We should have done it differently.

Think of yourself as a carpenter. Think about your house. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall; build wisely. It is the only life you will ever build. Even if you live it for only one day more, that day deserves to be lived graciously and with dignity.

There is a saying, "*Life is a do-it-yourself project.*" Your life tomorrow will be a result of your attitudes and the choices you make today. What kind of a house are you building?

Each Month a Different Simonson Employee is Featured

Spotlight on Lynn Geyen



Lynn Geyen

Lynn Geyen is the new Administrative Assistant at Simonson's corporate office. She is responsible for Ken & Dennis' schedules and the home warranty program. The youngest of 4, she has 2 brothers - 10 years older and a sister - only 11 months older than she is. 3 nieces, 3 nephews and her parents complete the family. Although Lynn has worked only a short time at Simonsons, she appreciates the friendly- family feeling of her work environment. Favorite leisure activities include camping, reading non-fiction, spending time in the summer with her family, and playing softball. A pet peeve is when the arm of a paper cutter is left up. Another one is when things (especially Lynn's things) are borrowed and not put back properly.

We asked Lynn if she had ever done anything she wished she hadn't. She said that she attempted to test for a Series 7 license to sell stock and mutual funds for a previous employer and would never consider trying THAT again. To her credit, she is a Registered Emergency Medical Technician. A little known fact: while a member of her high school cheerleading squad, she and her team took 3rd place in their division at the National Cheer Dance Competition in Anaheim California.

A favorite childhood memory is Christmas Eve when her family would spend the evening visiting grandparents, aunts and uncles. She says that as they left home for church that night, her mother would always have to return to the house pretending she had "forgotten her gloves" and a brother had to use the bathroom. She thinks this is when "Santa" came to the house. Once they returned home Santa had left presents, so Lynn and her sister would sit on the steps and stare at what was under the tree. The best advice Lynn ever received was, "Never say Never." Her mother used to say it to her when Lynn was a child, her mother still says it, and now Lynn catches herself saying it.

Important Reminder: Have you submitted all of your 2004 FSA Claims? If you didn't claim all of your funds, you still have time to submit expenses that were incurred during the year 2004. Don't wait as time is running out & unclaimed funds are forfeited. Questions? Call Cherie at 320-252-9385

Happy New Year!

“Friendly Football” Standings
Week 12's winner was Tom Wendorff, Brainerd won the “Victory” Party for November, and Ken Fuchs was the winner for that month. Congratulations to all the November winners. For December, Week 13's winner was “Lucky” Chet

CELEBRATING SIMONSON ANNIVERSARIES

John Dressen 1 yr,
 Mark Buchite 3 yrs, Pete Hintze 3 yrs,
 Jim Simon 3 yrs, Sarah Goodrow 6yrs,
 Jim Tower 7yrs, Jody Hess 7yrs,
 Dave Schreder 20 yrs,
 & Bob Rogers 43 yrs.

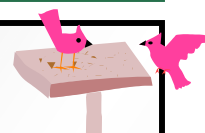
The Holidays can be stressful. However, we have a resource that is available to us 24 hrs a day – 7 days a week – 365 days a year. This service is offered at no cost to you. Call MEDICA Optum at 1-800-626-7944 for help with family, legal, personal or work related concerns, and financial or dependency issues. Or call 1-800-450-1327 for the Principal Life Insurance Employee Assistance Program. Your call will be answered by a professional advisor who will help you find a solution to your problem or refer you to an affordable local counselor who can. Talking things over with the right person can be a breath of fresh air.



(All calls are kept strictly confidential.)

Election Results: They pick a president, and then for 4 years they pick on him. ~ Adlai Stevenson

News from the Yards



Roxanne reports from Hutchinson that Roger Kaufmann has been promoted to Assistant Manager of the yard there. She also mentioned that all the employees are looking pretty “sharp” in their new green & blue “Simonson Lumber” wind shirts.

Everyone from Crosslake is waiting for the ice to thicken enough for ice fishing and some more snow to fall for snowmobiling. On a pleasant note, Mark Buchite's cow delivered a healthy calf. And Mark wonders how Richard's South Devonshire cattle are doing?

Crosslake challenged Brainerd to match their \$160 contribution to the Child Abuse Prevention telethon and Brainerd met the challenge. Crosslake wants to thank Brainerd for their contribution to such a worthy cause.

Hutchinson had their Christmas Potluck 12/17 and said they had enough delicious dishes left for the next day's lunch also.



All the employees send their “Thanks” To Richard, Michael & Stephen Hobbs for the kind & generous Christmas gift. Simonsons is a great place to work.

We wish these folks a Happy Birthday!

Carol Niezgocki 1/02,
 Cory Broich 1/06, Cory Guck 1/06,
 Wayne Hartwig 1/06,
 Edward Thorson Jr 1/06,
 Richard Zika 1/06,

Leighton Brown 1/09, Lynn Geyen 1/09,
 Craig Anderson 1/11, Joyce Kriesel 1/11,
 Derrick Heinert 1/12,
 Anthony Lambutis 1/13,
 Chet Disselbrett 1/14,
 Dirk Hagedon 1/16, Chris Hesch 1/16,

Mark Ohman 1/18,
 Kenny Scheiller 1/20,
 Mark Buchite 1/24,
 Keith Anderson 1/25,
 Dan Hemminger 1/26,
 Jesus Muchacho 1/26,
 & Alan Christenson 1/21.



A shortcut is often the quickest way to some place you weren't intending to go.

