

HOWe THINGS ARE...

March 2007

I got a haircut today. It's about the sixth haircut in which, I said to hair cutter person, "I am bored with my hair. I want something different" whereupon the hair cutter person (new person per haircut) describes some grand plan (long layers here, have it flip up there). I say "yes, great, let's do this new thing" and off she or he goes, cutting away. And they finish. And I'm expecting different. And it's the same. You can tell I got my hair cut, it's just not fundamentally different. I like it but I wanted something that didn't look the same as every other haircut I've had. All these hair cutter people are in fact NOT cutting my hair the same; it's my perception. I also tried flipping through those hair magazines and after a while of flipping, all those peoples' hair looks the same too.

I came home. I'm looking through my old newsletters and here's the thing... they're the same. I like them. They're (some of them) interesting (my opinion) but they're not fundamentally different from the previous one (I even repeat topics --- mostly a testament to how I keep not retaining whatever it is I should've learned the first time). This should in no way be interpreted as me being bored with my life (just my hair and my newsletters...).

"Really, all you need is some cardboard, some trigonometry, and a ruler..."

-My teammate Paul, on how to point a satellite dish at a satellite 22,000 miles above the earth in the event that the equipment used to point the dish is in your luggage which doesn't arrive with you to Bangui, Central African Republic (a one flight per week kind of place). Paul is brilliant and nobody really believes anyone else could've pointed the dish at the satellite and gotten it right on the first try (or any try for that matter) using said resources (cardboard, trigonometry, and a ruler --- and a wrench tied to a rope for a plum line).

"Here's a thing you'd think you could control precisely. I picked the paint color. They have nifty-spifty computer equipment that matches the color exactly. Complete and total control, except that light changes color. Granted I have a measure of control --- it is a shade of brown. It's not like I pick a brown color and get green. But precious little in comparison to the amount of control I thought I could have."

Genesis 24: Abraham sends his servant to find a wife for Isaac.

67 verses and not once does Isaac freak out.

We don't see Isaac anxious because he knew his father had it under control.

My newest work dilemmas revolve around what part does faith play in my work. Clearly we rely on God completely and also, clearly, we back-up data and we have battery backups and generators and disaster recovery plans. (please don't be annoyed how I said "what part does faith play" like God is a compartment of life - not what I meant at all).

"More than that, I felt a deep, heart-tearing longing for God to use me in a work like that. Oh, to bring a people group the Word of God in their own language! What a life purpose that would be!" --Jack Popjes A Poke in the Ribs

"I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking to me about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers" -- God (Is 65:24)

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