

# NELSON'S NOTES

April 18, 2021

So the St. Pete Grand Prix is this week. And the Super Trucks are coming back! The front of the Dali Museum is now a racetrack, the airport is a pit area, and the highest structures around the airport are grandstands.

Out to lunch with some friends last Monday, we saw the unloading of a section of stairway. Just one section of stairway required a semi and a dedicated trailer just for it or maybe two. But still, what will take some grandstand ticket holder three seconds of mindless climb, took workers a forklift to get the thing onto the truck from wherever they store them, a truck ride to Whitted Airport, a forklift off the truck, then some kind of crane to get it into place, several workers to bolt it in... And how many of those are there?!

Much of the grandstands have been stored in place there at the airport. After all, Covid has provided as much uncertainty to the Grand Prix as it has to the rest of us. From cancellations to delays to it happening this week, hopefully, just kind of leaving things up makes sense.

But much of it has to be moved. And that's what we saw the other day – the setting up of a big boy's Erector Set. (If you are a younger reader, Erector Sets were these metal strips with holes in them, sold with a whole bunch of nuts and bolts, that you could assemble into anything your imagination allowed. Invented in the late 1800s, they peaked in the 1920s to 50s. I didn't have one; Legos took their place for me.)

The project required a lot of equipment, a lot of workers. The final product will be a safe place, hopefully, for thousands to sit and watch cars whiz by. Watching those workers reminded me of the church. We cannot be the church without a bunch of people doing their part to make a difference in the world. We may not have a bunch of metal pieces that need to be bolted together, but the Apostle Paul envisioned us as a myriad of parts in a body, moving in a synchronized way to accomplish the project that God lays out before us.

If you think about all the people that do their piece for St. Pete First, it's pretty amazing. What we see on Sunday morning is the assembled product. What hundreds and hundreds of school children see in a little snack bag on Friday is the assembled product of many people's work at St. Pete First during the week. What children see as a Sunday School hour has meant adults cleaning the facility, doing logistics, preparing lessons, etc. Every week we have more people assembling God's work in St. Pete than assembling the Grand Prix.

We don't get the banners and the mayoral commendations and the TV coverage. But no matter. We do it not for the cameras but for the glory of God. May He be praised in everything we say, everything we do, even what we think.

Working on the Lord's Erector Set,

*Craig*

“God has arranged the members of the body, every one of them, according to His design. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body,” (1 Corinthians 12:18-20).