

## From the Desk of Jeff Healy ~

I have typically written about stormwater and drainage issues over the past several editions of these articles. I'm venturing beyond stormwater for a "change of pace".

This past week, I spent some time with one of our clients that I have known for a relatively short time but who I have come to like and respect. We were talking casually about our week and weekend activities with family, social commitments, service opportunities, etc. I think I may have asked, "so why do we involve ourselves in so many activities and commitments?" The answer I received was, "...because of the people I meet, have the opportunity to talk with and get to know."



That response made me think about the question "What do I value about what I do?" Do I like solving problems and challenges? Yes. Do I like mentoring, teaching and discussing the lessons I have learned over more than forty years in the industry and more than sixty-three in the world? Yes. Do I like working with clients who rely on us and value our contributions to their organizations? Yes. But, if I were going to order a list of the things I value the most it would look something like: 🙌

1. Faith
2. Spouse
3. Family
4. Professional integrity
5. Solving difficult engineering challenges
6. Old men eating out (OMEEO)

It should perhaps dawn on you, as it did me, that those "top six" are all about relationships. Relationship with God, loved ones, and people we know and serve.

Many of you might disagree and say something like, "I am at my best and can get the most accomplished when I am by myself, working, or being alone, with time to think and concentrate without interruption." I would have agreed with you years ago. But I also realized that I can get into my worst mental condition when alone for extended periods of time. Tired and alone, that is a bad place for me to be.

*Psalm 1:1 says "Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers..."*

Some have used the above reference to isolate themselves, away from the maddening crowd and bad influences. As I stated, that isn't where I thrive, not where I feel loved, not where I feel fulfilled, not where God wants me to be. So... it is about relationships. I hope that is why you do what you do, where you feel loved, where you understand grace and mercy.

Next time I promise to write about stormwater and drainage... maybe. Have a blessed life!

~ Jeff Healy