



BUILD YOUR INFRASTRUCTURE



The problems with the accommodations at the Sochi Olympics are apparently epic. So-called hotel rooms have no hot water, functioning toilets or beds. Rooms sport either no doorknobs or doors that lock you in without warning. Venturing beyond the room is no better as you must be on the lookout for open elevator shafts inside or open manholes outside. As one Olympian exclaimed, "Wowzers!"

The watching world is incredulous and horrified. The Twitter account @SochiProblems reportedly has around 100,000 more followers than the official Sochi Olympics Twitter account.

I find it telling that the public face of the Olympics seems much more polished. The gleaming arenas in the resort town and the technological wonders of the opening ceremonies (with one snowflake exception) are beautiful.

While the world's attention is focused on this dichotomy between public appearance and behind the scenes reality, this kind of contradiction is sadly universal within people of all locations and nationalities. The external facade of our public presentation too often lacks a sufficient infrastructure of human character and integrity.

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It's easy for me to attend to my projected persona and ignore the internal foundation of my heart. I can pay too much attention to the external trappings of my life and too little to the underpinnings of my spiritual and emotional health.

What about you? Do you concentrate on maintaining the infrastructure that supports transformation and wholeness? Are the basics firmly constructed in your life? That means attending to the foundation of your relationship with God, your community, and your own hidden heart.

Jesus described this strong infrastructure as a house built with a deep foundation laid upon a rock, so that "when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built," Luke 6:48 (English Standard Version).

By Marnie C. Ferree