



## PERSUADERS & MASSAGERS

When Mr. O' first made a grunt (construction laborer) out of me, I had no idea that "grunt" was the first of many unique words these

rugged fellas used when conversing with each other.

It only took a few days for me to pick up the new lingo. *Plumb* meant something was level. "*Headache!*" meant duck and run because someone had just dropped a hammer or screw gun off the roof and it was heading south fast. A *chalk box* was a rounded metal case with a spool of string inside where it's coated in red or blue powdered chalk. Of course sometimes the color turns purple if the new grunt doesn't pay attention to which spool she is refilling! And who would have thought a speed square is really shaped like a triangle? That little revelation certainly took this simple roofing grunt by surprise.

I think my favorite term, though, is the one Mr. O' uses for a hammer when he needs to bend or shape the metal to make it fit better in a tight spot.

"Ms. Robyn," he'll holler after trying to work a length of purlin around a stubborn rod of rebar. "I need the persuader. This baby needs some massaging."

"Just like us," I say, bringing the monster hammer to him. "There are lots of times I feel like the Lord has to massage my spirit to clue me in on something."

"The trick is learning the language," he nods. "If I don't talk to my Father all day long, then I'm not ready to hear Him, either."

"Is that when He brings out the persuader and does the massaging?" I grin.

"Right. And we look better for it, just like this wall will stand straighter, but staying fluent in the language of the Holy Spirit keeps that process to a minimum."

I like that statement: *staying fluent in the language of the Holy Spirit*. Wow, if only I could learn that technique as fast as I picked up "Headache!" Maybe my prayer life would be a lot more productive and my daily walk a lot more plumb.

*Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

—Ephesians 5:19-20