



June 1997

Welcome to summer! Yes, it's getting here and the trees and the flowers aren't the only things responding to the blessing of God! The singles of our age group have been crying out for their part in the blessings poured out on this church these days and God has been hearing us! There's a new Spirit of hope and joy welling up that's transforming the group. We too have an inheritance in God, we too have borders to press out, we too are people of destiny!

During May the planning committee met for a weekend retreat and began to allow the Lord to transform them into a leadership team. What does this mean for the rest of TORCH? It means that you belong to a dynamic group that is preparing itself to take new ground for the Kingdom of God. Prayer is a big key to this. Some of the prayer needs this month:

- Wisdom** as we define our purpose and goals for the group. We don't just want good ideas, we desire God's perfect plan for us!
- That God would free up **Time** for those in leadership in this group. This is an area where the enemy has hurt us in time past. No More!

-Mike B--- has a desire to work with those specifically struggling with **Divorce Recovery**. Pray that God will birth exactly what he wants here.

-That we will all begin to develop a greater sense of **Ministry**, and reach out to the needs around us with the grace and wisdom of God.

-That a **Host Home** will be found where the group can grow and be nurtured. Since we have the potential to be over 25 people this has to be just the right place.

-That **TORCH** will take its place as never before as a ministry and outreach of Bible Temple church, flowing in the same river, ministering the same grace and anointing, marked by the same distinctives that we love so much in the church. This will take prayer.

This last month has been a great one, marked by a level of closeness that even first time visitors commented on. Life group had a special feel to it. The next day (Memorial Day) many of us met to get the folks from Halsey House moved into their new place. Yes it was a sacrifice, but there was also blessing. May God bless A- in his new house, and W- and V- who live there too! For those

who would like to stop in, they are at -----, just down the street from the domes...

For those who would have loved to help but missed connections for one reason or another, God has heard your cry! D- and D- are getting an apartment together and will be moving Saturday the 21st. Call xxx-xxxx for more details if you can help.

As is our usual custom there will be two SNAC events for the month. Incidentally, SNAC originally stood for Singles Night After Church, but with the present renewal few restaurants are open that late! Sunday afternoon works. The schedule says 2PM, but that is actually as soon after the 11AM service as is practical. On the First we are going to try out the new Applebee's at Gateway (100th & Halsey), while we are going to Tacho's on the 22nd. Tacho's is in Gresham where Stark and SE Burnside cross each other.

June sees two meetings of the Promise-Keepers at T-'s. That is because the first Friday of July will fall on the Fourth, so we moved it. Come on by and chip in a few bucks for one of the best home cooked meals in town.

Also for the men but on a more casual note, Gary Hughes is putting out on open invitation for any of the men to come for breakfast on most of the Saturdays of the month. You are welcome to

bring food, chip in on some of what's there, help cook, or just have a bit of coffee. Left to himself Gary usually just has fruit and juice in the morning, so a lot depends on who shows up. He says that if you have an hour and could use a bit of fellowship, this is the place. Bring your prayer needs too.

Rumor has it that with all the men's activities, the ladies will be having some special times too in months to come. All part of that great new day that's breaking...

We're going to try to have a fellowship time at McMenam's Edgefield Theatre, 2126 SW Halsey, in Troutdale. They have good meals in the \$5-\$7 range. The possibility exists that we will stay for a movie too, but at this time we cannot find out what will be playing. They do assure us, however, that this is the most family oriented of the McMenam theatres, and they avoid 'R' movies, but still, one never knows. So we may stay, or we may head over to someone's house with a video... Looks like about a ten dollar evening. Dinner at 7:30, Movie at 9:00. Edgefield is a good size complex (very beautiful) and we will be going to a building labeled the 'Power Station'.

Golf-A-Rama in Hazel Dell sounds a little more predictable. Meet at 2PM in the BT parking lot and we'll car pool up there. If you miss that, take I-5 through Vancouver and

get off at the 78th street exit. You can see the Golf-A-Rama on the left just before you exit, but it takes a couple of right turns to get over to it. I'm sure that all makes sense when you get there. After that we will stop off at Izzy's at Gateway for a bite to eat. Bring \$3.50 for golf and about ten to eat on.

Another fledgling is a Bible Study starting at the B's on the 19th. No details firm yet, but this will be relevant and need oriented, so ideas are still being considered. Let's just show up and let God bless us. No charge on this one, but feel free to bring a snack or two to share.

Looks like we have a great month planned, so let's seek The Lord and rejoice in His goodness. I've tried to list costs as much as we can know them so that we can plan our fun and be ready when opportunity arises. Maybe our group motto should be Ecc.2:25 for this season. The leadership team will be meeting on the 20th to plan July activities, so if you have ideas, let us know. Naturally, simple ideas like a good restaurant are easier to implement than an all day or overnighter. Also, if we can get important details like addresses, directions, phone numbers, cost, and hours of operation, it speeds up a planning decision greatly.

One of the greatest needs, however, is not for our entertainment, but edification.

What needs are you really struggling with right now? What is God speaking to you, and how can we help you respond to His voice? What is it you really want, maybe so badly you cry about it in secret sometimes? Yes, we have meetings, and activities, and Bible Studies, and fellowship times, and these are necessary because without them there is no opportunity for that touch, that time when real ministry occurs. The tragedy of church is that so often the activity is all in place, but the touch doesn't happen.

The words of Jesus speak to us in such a situation. *It is more blessed to give than to receive*, should challenge our whole strategy for life. *He who finds his life shall lose it, but he who loses his life for my sake shall find it.* From Proverbs, *The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he who waters others shall be watered himself.* Scripture is very consistent with this theme, that God blesses those who bless others. TORCH will be a blessed house when it becomes a house of blessing.

On a personal note, there should be a blessing for coming, but the real blessing will be given by God Himself over those He sees pouring out their lives to others. It starts with little things, like a word of encouragement or appreciation, or even a prayer spoken in secret. It should be seen in natural areas, like helping when the need arises or even seeing that the waitress at

a restaurant receives a good tip. It should reveal itself as a meekness, or humility as we pause in our conversation and make sure the other person has fully expressed himself. *By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another.* (Jn 13:35)

None of this will work without prayer either, prayer and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This is the time, we are the people, let's go for it!....

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