



November, 1997

Harvest Time continues. What a great time to be serving God! In ancient Israel harvest was payday, the culmination of the year's faith, planning, hard work, hopes and dreams. It was when one's daily routines changed drastically because life, for the moment had one priority- to get the harvest in.

It was also a time of great joy, fellowship, and unity because harvest was not a one man event. You did not, for example hire a harvester and then go down once a week to *watch him work* so to speak. Everyone was involved.

At such a time people didn't waste much time thinking about whether they were happy or fulfilled or whether they'd been treated badly recently or whether their full potential was being properly appreciated. It was harvest time and they needed to put a hand in wherever it was needed. Afterwards there would be time for such things but by that time many of those consuming issues wouldn't be important, swept away in the blessing, increase, and comradeship of the harvest.

The words of Jesus, *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all these other things shall be added unto you* have not changed. Neither has the principle that the man who 'finds' his life loses it, but the man who 'loses' his life in service to Jesus is the one who really finds it. We were meant to love and serve

God. Nothing else satisfies.

One of the blessings of being single is discretionary time. There still isn't very much of it, but for the single person there is more. How will we use that time? Will we use it selfishly or carelessly, faithlessly or will we lay it on God's altar each day and ask Him what He wants? Because that's the key to happiness and fulfillment and every other desirable quality of life. That time can be a blessing in our hands or a noose around our necks, just depending on who 'owns' it.

It's liberating too! That's because God's calling for us has limitations: we are only called to do what we are called to do. Condemnation knows no bounds, but the man who is taking orders *from the throne* knows that he is not called to meet every need of every man in every land. He can do what he's supposed to do and then know the reward of God's approving peace. *Well done, thou good and faithful servant.*

Have you been to the throne room, *reporting for duty* yet? A good time to do that would be the retreat coming up on the 14th and 15th. Dr. Jones is our guest minister, and most of you know what that means- renewal! But what is renewal? It is a special time of meeting with God where God's presence becomes very real to us and things happen suddenly within our spirit. Bondages break, hurts heal, strength is imparted, the ravages of sin are washed by the

fire of God- that's renewal.

For those planning to go we need to get our registration and deposit together as soon as possible, because the conference center needs to know. Call E- or C- ASAP. (Pardon my four letter word there, but the matter is urgent.) I also happen to know by absolute divine revelation that the Lord has a special blessing for those who register early, so come 'n get it. A deposit of \$25 is due by life group Sunday on October 26.

The progressive dinner has been postponed until December because everyone's calendars were filling up too fast. Come the holidays we'll certainly do our part to make them merry. Looks like the rest of the month will be busy, though.

Promise keepers is still going strong for the men. Most of the meetings are laid back affairs followed by a good meal, but there is something that happens at such times. If you are a man and can come, just be there.

Gary Hughes is having an open house on the 8th, starting at 6PM. Actually several things are being celebrated here. The first is the transition between the summertime *work on the house* mode and the winter time *enjoy it* mode. (We are dealing here with a compulsive remodeler.) The second is that the eighth marks Gary's 45th birthday, which in itself is no big deal but makes a good excuse for a party. The third is that he just likes to find excuses

to have people over.

Bring food, snacks, we should have a salad and some kind of curried rice dish made up, or just bring a couple bucks (Fred Meyer is a block away) but just come and we'll make an evening of it. If anyone is willing to help a little more, from about noon on there will be some healthy cleanup and redecorating going on to get ready. That's real fellowship!

On the 22nd a group is going by train from Vancouver to Seattle for a day's outing. We'll meet at the Vancouver train station at 8:30AM (8th Street will take you there) and we'll be back by the return train about 9PM. Train fare is \$27 round trip, and it wouldn't hurt to make your AMTRAK reservation a few days early *just in case*.

Two SNAC's are planned, the first for Giuseppe's Italian Restaraunt on the 9th, the second for Thien Hong's on the 30th. We've heard good reports about Giusseppe's, and our last visit to Thien Huong's just cried out for more. Both places are known for exceptional food at very reasonable prices.

In keeping with Bible Temple's holiday schedule there will be no life group meeting this month or next. We decided not to do anything formal for Thanksgiving this year too, for most of our group does have family to go to. If you are of this age and don't have any good options, here are two suggestions:

The first is to check out the younger age Impact Singles for this day, as they usually have a good turnout and are able to plan more. Last year you had to pre-register, so don't wait too long. The second option would be to call two of our best schedulers, E- or C-, (phone #s in retreat paragraph) to see if anyone is making any 'last minute' plans. No guarantee, but it never hurts to ask.

Having said all that, let's end this newsletter by looking at a few prayer requests.

Torch Retreat- That those whom God is calling to go will be able to get their schedule and finance together so that it will happen for everyone.

- That all who come will be touched and changed by the Holy Spirit. This is not just entertainment, God has a plan for everyone here.

Eternity Play- That God would touch those of our age group who either need to be saved or are bound up and need our kind of ministry.

That those whom God is calling to this group will be placed here and find a place both of blessing and service. (Anyone for invitations?)

General- That God will continue to direct and lead the group, protect B- and give him wisdom for what is needed here, and

continue to raise up other ministries to stand with him.

That other plans for ministry and outreach will continue to grow and come to pass, as well as new ways to love and serve others.

Have a great month!

GAH

© 1997 Gary A. Hughes