



July 1997

Well hey, here we are in July already. This month is known for hot days and things that go off with a bang. Spiritually that couldn't be more appropriate. Our calendar is a little light on July activities, but that is because there is so much happening in the church that we all need to be part of.

The **BIG ONE** is the Summer Renewal conference. Every indication we have tells us that this will be something **extraordinary**. Because of the heavy expected turnout from outside the church, some from all over the world, ~~pre-registration is required~~. There is no charge for this for BT people, but there will be a charge for outside people attending. This is only to help sort out the throngs of people we expect this week. So register and plan to be there.

What's in it for me? There are many reasons singles our age need *their portion* of what's coming down here this week. In the first place, many of us have been deeply hurt over different issues of life, and there are tremendous levels of healing happening within short periods of time in these settings. We need that.

Another issue is that we are being anointed for service. The church needs those of our age and maturity level to *report for duty*,

spend some time in the armory, and come out fighting! The only requirement for hearing God say *Who shall I send?* is to be in His presence with a willing heart. There is a common element between Matthew 25 and Revelation 3. The five virgins went to buy oil. Christ counseled a church to buy of him gold. Right now Bible Temple is in the anointing business. Will you be a customer?

A little more specialized is the Prayer Evangelism Conference on the 10th through the 12th. Not only will this be an exciting and challenging time, but it marks a first joint venture with East Hill Church in Gresham. There's a charge for the daily sessions but Friday and Saturday evenings are free. God is opening new levels of prayer to us these days and giving us many keys for fulfilling the great commission in our day. We need this.

Another church activity will be the Fourth of July picnic on Sunday the Sixth. (How's that for a poetic mouthful?) Torch plans on nabbing a table or two (easier said than done, believe me) so that we can sit together. See you there...

Our monthly outing will be up the Columbia Gorge a short ways for some of the sights and treats. If anyone wishes to do this after the seminar at East Hill Church, it should be possible to join them, probably around noon-ish at Char-Burger in Cascade Locks. However, don't take my word for it, if you

would like to work it that way, call C-. Everyone else, just meet at the BT parking lot at 11AM and we'll car-pool. This looks about a ten dollar day, although you could probably slip by for seven if you're in a tight spot.

The food at Tacho's was so good last month we decided to come back when the entertainment is hot. They will be very crowded on a Friday night, so we need to make a reservation. Please call E- by at least the first of the week so that she can get a head count. And please, if you reserve a spot, be there as it affects our testimony with the restaurant people.

Oh, here we go eating again. SNAC on the 20th will be at 'Beaches' just off Highway 14 in Vancouver, close to the I-5 bridge. 2PM.

Life group this month will be at R-'s place. Our thanks especially to R- for opening his home in this manner to us.

On our first month's Bible Study we talked a lot about what we wanted to cover and accomplish. Most of the main interest seems to be in relational areas, especially friendship. The Bible has a lot to say about such things, and indeed, the relational element is the difference between what God really wants, and the religion that He hates more than we do. So come ready to share and receive and Barry will help lead us through some of the paths of truth.

Prayer needs for the month:

-For a married couple or two who can really give themselves to the ministry of TORCH and help 'pastor' the group.

-That every member of TORCH will take full advantage of the grace poured out in the renewal conference. This is life changing!

-That God will continue to give us ways to serve and reach out in ministry. Both spiritual and practical areas are important.

It was great to see the turnout for moving help both for the Halsey House guys and for D- and D- last month. Isn't it special to have people to be involved with, who can bless us and be blessed by us? Possibly in the works for August, replacing bad hang-ups with good ones. What does that mean? Stay tuned.

Let me share just a few thoughts on prayer as we close here. God is a good God, and His hands are full of good things for all of mankind. Nothing pleases Him more than when His children reach up and begin to take freely of what he has for them. We also have an enemy. His purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. The dynamic that makes this work for or against us is prayer.

Through prayer we can not only take full advantage of what God has for us, but rebuke the power

and influence of the devil, who doesn't want us to have anything good, he doesn't want us to be anything good and he doesn't want us to do anything good. (He's Mr, Steal, Kill and Destroy). If we take the battle seriously and fight to win, we will. God has all the high ground. If we just get ourselves out of the muck and mire of self and our well worn paths and thoughts and allow the mind of Christ to really become what we do our thinking with, our life will transform. It's for real and can happen fast. See 'ya in the prayer room...

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