



October, 1997

Greetings to all those older singles who love God's presence and seek to do His will. As I type this I find several things working within my heart, most of them really good and I'm sure relate to what many of the singles are feeling. The Lord is putting great opportunities before us to serve Him this day. Serving God is not hard, just **get involved!**

Right now God's Spirit is upon Bible Temple in a major way. Look at the hundreds of people who were touched by the drama last week. How can one be a part of eternal things? Just **get involved!**

Fall is traditionally months of harvest. The *Eternity* play shows us how serious the Lord is on that subject right now. What opportunities for service were there? There was set building, dramatic parts, prayer and intercession, altar work, ticket distribution, inviting or bringing friends, discipling, financial contributions, and probably many more that I haven't named at all.

The Lord is talking much to us today about net fishing-cooperative efforts that multiply our personal effectiveness. Although hundreds of people are involved in such an effort, the fruit is also in the hundreds- potentially thousands. Do we really want to do something significant for God? Well here it is, or was. For the production is over now, but there

will be others.

The last time the play was put on I had very little to do with it. At the time that seemed OK to me, for I was very busy and couldn't have done much justice any way. But in the aftermath, as testimonies and statistics were given in church I began to realize something. God was moving, and I had virtually missed it!

The statistics that shocked me were these. First, passing out ten tickets brought a person to the play. That was the percentage, 10%. Of those who came, unsaved, one in ten would respond to the altar call. Thus, for every 100 tickets distributed, one could reasonably expect someone to be saved.

As I pondered this, I began to see myself going through my neighborhood passing out invitations, and also adding to the tickets a note giving my address and phone number and offering them a ride if they wanted one. And although it was too late to do it then, I knew that I had something for *next time*. So last week I did that, and got that chance just to walk around my neighborhood and ring doorbells. I want to see my 'own' harvest too.

I mentioned feelings. I'm very tired right now, also rather frustrated from having to prioritize time so drastically. But I don't mind that. I do mind being bored, and I really mind getting older with nothing to show for it. But neither of those is a factor with me

right now- because I've been **getting involved**.

I realize that this is a lot of talk about an event that is past, and it's personal talk as well. But I do want to set out a few things for our TORCH group to think about this month. The first is that the TORCH group is not here to do *everything* for you. The group is an extension of the *church*, which is an expression, but not the fullness, of Christ. One of the greatest desires I've heard expressed by TORCH people is that they would like to feel more a part of Bible Temple. Well, **get involved**.

A second thing singles struggle with is personal worth and significance. In our minds that becomes heavily associated with marriage and family issues. In other words, an unmarried person often lacks the frame of reference to evaluate him or herself as successful, because all definitions of success are in their mind linked to marriage. But that is not God's viewpoint. God's favorite people always have two characteristics. They have the faith to freely receive whatever God wants to give them, and the heart to freely give. They **get involved**.

So if you look at any of this and find yourself saying *I missed something God had for me*, don't fret over it. Just start planning to jump in on the next opportunities that come up, for there are many. After all, this *is* Bible Temple.

Okay, October. Looks like our

monthly **Promise Keepers** meeting will be followed by the Washington DC event. For those who can't go, a video linked gathering will be held in the BT Sanctuary, 9-4 on Saturday. They tell us women are welcome too, there will be a \$3 charge to help cover the cost of PK's national expenses that day, and people for the most part will be fasting.

Later that same day... If you wish to slip out early, have a bite to eat and more casual fellowship, there is a group going to the **Greek Festival** put on by the Greek Orthodox Church, 32nd and NE Glisan. Meet at E-'s by 3PM and we'll take the bus on down. She has a 1PM committment she will try to be back from, but remember, the main thing is the bus. (Don't even think of driving!)

On the 10th we'll be dropping in at the **Main Street** facility to be part of their Friday night. An evening begins at 8PM with a time of prayer and flows into an extended time of worship and spiritual activity. Right now the emphasis is on seeking God for breakthroughs in the spiritual realm associated with the downtown area and the two schools nearby.

One activity is prayer walks, just walking through the neighborhood, praying, and blessing it. Have your snacking done ahead of time and plan to get serious for God down here. It can get late too but everything is so open ended that you can leave when you need to. There's an expectancy in this place

right now, God is preparing something big!

On the 18th, looks like a group will be going to the **Apple Festival** at the Portland Nursery, 5050 SE Stark again this year. Meet at Flying Pie Pizzeria at 12 Noon, 7804 SE Stark, and we'll figure it out from there.

C- is planning a **Movie Night** on the 25th. Be there at 6:30 and bring some goodies.

Two SNAC events are planned. On the fifth we will go to Thien Hong's, 6749 NE Sandy Blvd. This has been a very well received spot both for the good food and reasonable price. Food is served 'family style', meaning that dishes are passed around the table, and everyone gets a taste of everything ordered. Last year the dinner, including the tip, ran \$7.50 each for a good meal. Our second SNAC will be at Gustave's off of I-205, for some German cookin'.

Life Group will be at A-'s new house. This is actually just a few houses South of Fremont, and so quite close to the church. 6PM on the 26th.

Looking Ahead

A **Progressive Dinner** is being planned for November 1st. We should be able to have the details ready for Life Group Sunday, and have the November calendar out by that time. But if organization breaks down, get on the phone and we'll sort it out.

Fall Retreat will be held November 14-16 at Canby Grove. Our ministry guest will be Dr. Mark Jones and we expect a healthy time of renewal and refreshing. The cost will be around \$65, or about forty-five for those who choose not to stay Saturday night. We figure that we can have a leisurely breakfast on Sunday and still be to 10:45 church. Start budgeting now, and there will be a \$25 deposit required by Life Group Sunday on the 26th.

Have a great month!

GAH

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