



January/February 1998

So hey TORCH people, 1998 has arrived. Are we ready for all that God has for us this year? The Lord is speaking, His Spirit is moving, and change is in the air. I repeat, **are you ready?**

The most obvious change is that we will not have Sunday night Life groups for the next few months. This reflects part of the re-thinking and re-directing that involves the whole church right now. God is speaking and causing us to re-focus and re-direct our energies. (Are we ready?)

The changes affect us here in the Torch Group and like the rest of the church we need to be asking ourselves Pastor Frank's three big questions:

**What are we doing?
Why are we doing this?
Is it profitable?**

To these we could add some questions of our own:

What are the needs of the singles of our age group (over 35 give or take a few years)?

What is the best way to see those needs ministered to?, and possibly most important,

What group or groups of people can TORCH minister to most effectively?

The Winter Prayer Conference

coming up this week is a time when the entire Bible Temple Church takes time to seek God for answers specifically concerning ministry for the upcoming year. Let's remember to pray for TORCH and what we should be doing and also for your part in it. Ultimately there is no big organization that lumbers on regardless... There's you and me and a few more committed people who each try to do our part to make things happen. Are we ready?

We'll talk more about of these matters at our Life Group meeting on January 23. A word of wisdom- please don't come full of ideas of what 'the group' should be doing, but rather what you would be willing to spend time working at to make things happen. If there are needy areas please make us aware of them, but remember the rules of the kingdom- our needs are met as we reach out to meet the needs of others. TORCH is not a 'bless me' club.

But don't let that statement scare you. We're still the most *out to lunch* bunch in Bible Temple and proud of it. Also, another Friendship Party is planned for Valentine's Day at M-'s.

Prayer needs:

-God is bringing many new people to Bible Temple with many needs. How can we be a blessing to them? What is God calling us to do? Let's pray that that every new

person will be plugged in where they need to be and given the help that they must have to 'make it' as a disciple.

-That the TORCH leadership will get a good hold of the plan and purpose of God for this coming year. There is no 'them', it's all *us*, and we need to get it right. In many ways our situation right now is like a church planting team, but we get to do it all from the comfort of a great church like BT.

-A real Spirit of Unity within Torch. Transition seasons can be risky and fraught with offenses. May we be keen to discern the devil's devices, and quick to put a stop to his attack. Prayer works!

-Continued grace and financial prosperity on those associated with TORCH, and especially the leadership. God loves the opportunity to bless those who promote his kingdom. The enemy would like all of God's people to be working 25 hour days and starving. It's legitimate to ask for blessing and the release of both time and finance.

Special thanks to everyone who helped make 1997 a wonderful year for TORCH Singles.

GAH