



April 1998

A story comes to mind about a young man attempting to propose to the woman of his dreams. Unfortunately, the feeling was not mutual and she flatly informed him she didn't love him. *Do you think you might learn to love me?* he questioned her. *No*, was her reply, at which he was heard to mutter as he skulked away, *I was afraid of that, she's just too old to learn!*

For my mind the dividing line between aging gracefully and 'getting old' lies in the ability to respond to the changes and challenges of life. That's why being part of Bible Temple, soon to be City Bible Church is such an exciting, challenging experience. If we follow our pastor's lead and allow ourselves to be postured and pruned for growth we'll be able to boast like the Psalmist, *my youth is renewed like the eagle's*. Ps 103:5

What does that mean for us? It means that like those great birds we can meet our world with fresh plumage and relate to our society as models of what life should be like. Rather than the young man who blamed everyone else, especially his not so intended bride for his own bad attitude, we can make others hungry for the good things they see God doing in us.

There's a reason however, why people don't just automatically fall and flow into success. It takes work. It takes an effort to turn from the familiar, the status quo, and the comfortable and venture into uncharted waters. It takes some real decisions to make a commitment beyond the level of *if I feel like it when the time comes I MIGHT...*

"No man, having drunk the old wine straightway desires new, for he says, The old is better." Dick Iverson used to paraphrase that as *The old ways are better*. But the cry of renewal has been more. That means that what we have now is not enough. God's heart cry for evangelism and increase has become very plain to us these days too: more. What we have now is not enough.

Are we willing to step on to miracle ground these days? That's where we'll find Jesus.

Sure we're too busy to cover all our present bases, stretched beyond capacity, reeling and drained from out last battle... but if we can - just - touch - Jesus...

The whole cell group program looks like something that needs to happen if the church is to respond and fulfill the prophetic vision over this place. Numerically there's no way to grow and not do it. We'd be like the man planning to pull down his barns and build bigger and yet in the face of all that prosperity God called him a fool, not properly grasping God's plan and timing for his life.

The heart cry within TORCH has been to jump into the city cells and yet keep the group alive as a rallying point and ministry to and by singles, for there are some unique needs among singles that will not necessarily be addressed in the cell groups. Being single can be a tool or opportunity, for it frees one to fill needs that are often crowded out of a family man or woman's schedule.

On the other hand a single often does have some needy areas, especially those widowed or divorced, and there needs to be a season of healing. So there is need and desire for TORCH to remain functioning, although we will shift and adjust to accommodate what is happening within our local church. That's only fair, because the church itself is shifting and adjusting according to what God is doing and speaking these days. Or are we too old to learn?

APRIL

There's a lot happening at the church in April, so we really didn't plan too many big things. First of all there's the Eternity Play and we would like to see TORCH well represented in altar workers, intercessor's, people who bring their friends, or any of the other possible areas of activity. God's been showing up to this in a big way, so let's be there too.

The Promise Keepers men's group is still having an impact as relationships continue to deepen. This kind of thing takes time to build so just come and let it happen. The food is always excellent and it's also

interesting to see what T- and M- have done during the month on their classic bungalow house.

As we've been doing, SNAC's have been scheduled for every week except Easter. Tebo's will be a new experience, although the other two restaurants are old favorites. Tebo's is a high class burger place, and a little bit less expensive than some of the cafe's we have been frequenting (@ \$5).

People have remarked about our propensity for frequenting restaurants. Although costs money, which has been a limiting factor for some, it provides a good setting to relax and get to know real people. We're trying to watch the costs although some will be more than others. Come if and when you can. If you'd be interested in hosting a Sunday afternoon meal in your home for approximately 15 people let us know. A terrifying thought for some would be a fun challenge for others.

Prayer meetings continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month. This month will be at Gary's place. Another bungalow in the process too, although less sensibly done than M-'s. We would like to see this area build a little as prayer is what allows spiritual things to happen, and without that all we have is structure, organization, activity, and all the other things that may be necessary but that may be camouflage to hide the fact nothing's happening on the inside.

The group meeting will again be at A-'s, last Friday of the month. This is our best time to get together and worship, be encouraged in the Lord, and fellowship with the whole group, and we plan on keeping this going after the cells begin to function too.

Prayer needs:

-We still have lots of people new to the church who would like to be involved with TORCH, but have not been able to make connections. Some of this involves available people and scheduling, but some also looks like spiritual warfare and harassment. By all means pray for liberty here, and if you are one of those people, come when you can, we love you.

-That the TORCH members will all get themselves established and active in their cell groups both to be blessed and to be a blessing.

-Eternity converts, especially those in our age group, that they might make solid decisions and get themselves established in fellowship.

-That God will continue to guide and guard our eldership, especially Pastor Frank, as they lead us down this path of destiny.

-That we can all receive fresh vision and leading during the waiting on God conference. Let us become more of an army.

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