



June, 1998

In June our Summer officially begins. Spiritually it's Summer now in Portland too. The days are warm with the blessing of God and there's much to do because growth is everywhere.

By the time most of you have gotten this, cell groups will have started. Are you involved? It's hard to stress this too much because the path to God's blessing is laid out very clearly in this church—God speaks here. To those who have been hearing and doing, a banquet table has been spread before us each week. Have we really heard?

What does all this have to do with being single? We're one of the most *at risk* groups for not getting with the program, that's what. It takes extra effort for a single to take hold of God's Word and run with it. If we will take that extra effort there's a blessing just for us.

To tell the truth, attendance is down in TORCH right now. There are a variety of reasons but for the most part they're positive. Many have plugged in to other areas of the church and are active and involved and blessed in doing that. That is by far the best reason, for it shows us that the grace of God has touched them, and if TORCH had a small part in that we'll rejoice.

Growth shouldn't be an end in itself. Medically, that condition is cancer. TORCH is available to assist those who need a bit of grace, understanding, fellowship, and a few friends. If that season of need passes, we'll certainly rejoice with you, and we're still here if you need a friend.

Attendance is also down is because several people who've been regulars are now working more hours and more difficult shifts. Again this tends to be positive but it does make fellowship harder. If you're one of those, just remember that your friends are still here and when you are able, come.

Another reason is the church keeps getting busier. What can we say but Amen, Hallelujah, and More! As a ministry there is nothing we

could do for wounded singles that could compare to seeing them plugged into a vital spot in the church and knowing both the approval of God and the fellowship of those also involved. If you are not ready for that, then, yes plug in to TORCH and let God minister to you here. But unless God calls you specifically, you probably will not be here for a lifetime. Here for life, but not a lifetime. God is calling soldiers to the battle, and that's you too!

Another opportunity we should keep in mind is the Summer Revival Conference coming up July 13-18. I mention it here because it's big enough to consider taking a vacation week to do right. Something happens during these times of meeting with God that changes a person's whole life forever. Suddenly the little bondages that were holding us back are gone. When we see an opportunity we realize we no longer have to hang our head and let it pass but if we reach out and take it, it's ours. How could we as a singles group plan anything like that? But it's coming here, to the whole church—don't miss it!

There are cell group activities planned for the rest of the year. They will be relatively easy because the leadership team is working overtime to make them work right. They will be evangelistic, and we will see harvest and increase right in **our** neighborhoods. And they'll be fun.

One of the tragedies of Jesus' day was how many people just let the time slip by. *Nothing special.... everything's just like It's always been....* "Well, what did that man have to say?" "Oh, he must have been raised on a farm: fish and wind and weeds and seeds... he really didn't have anything to say at all." *He that hath ears to hear, let him hear...* Are we really hearing?

How is our life right now? Are we free? Are we plugged into the church and productive? Is God speaking to us? Is this a great time to be doing something in the kingdom of God? Or is it just another day? You really have the power to make the choice. It could be either.

## Events

Probably the most visible function of TORCH these days has been the SNAC get togethers. They provide us with a weekly chance to touch

base and keep in contact. Yes, we're spending a lot of time in restaurants. Well, what else is a single going to do with a few quick hours on Sunday afternoon? What better environment for a new face just to drop by and get acquainted? We are conscious of the cost and do try to keep it reasonable, but even if you only come once in a great while you're certainly welcome.

Just a reminder- although they are usually scheduled for 2 PM that time can vary according to when the 10:45 service gets out and how long it takes us all to get there. Our apologies to whoever we missed at Calamity Jane's last month, for when we got there at 2:30 we were told that someone had just left. If this writer is thinking when these schedules are being written down times will be adjusted for things like long travel, but sometimes.... Occasionally we'll forget to tell the restaurant staff who we are if people ask for us, but you can ask to have us paged.

For prayer this month we are changing location and going to the prayer center up on BTCC. We'll be in the 'soaking room'. As you enter the Prayer Center take a left, cross the good sized room and go through the doorway. As you do this you will be walking through the middle of another group who meets from 7PM on. That is the healing emphasis meeting led by R- and V-. I've talked with them specifically about whether we would disturb them with our coming and going, and they don't see a problem. I could point to an example in the Bible where a prayer meeting got so hot and heavy that when the man they were praying for knocked at the door he barely got anyone to answer it. Of course, if any of us has a healing need we can certainly take advantage of the other group while we are there too, and if TORCH has a light turnout, we can always join them. Should be a good move.

Another advantage of the Prayer Center is that the church intercessors are being encouraged to join the prayer meetings for the other departments of the church, and it seems to be making a difference. With such a set time and location, TORCH can get on those lists too, so don't be surprised if we get some non-TORCH people in to help carry the prayer load from time to time.

Bowling. Saturday the 14th at 4:30 in the afternoon at Sandy Lanes, 5241 NE Sandy Blvd.

After we decide we've rolled enough balls down the alley we'll go to Poor Richard's and catch a meal. See ya there!

Men, don't forget Promise Keepers at Terry and Marcy's on the 5th. Always a good time and a great meal.

Our monthly group meeting will again be at R-'s. Bring a finger food type of snack and plan for a good evening.

Pray for a lot of wisdom and grace on us this month. The start of cell groups means that TORCH will have to do some adjusting in order to be a blessing and meet needs within the church. God has a plan, but we do have to ask Him for it.

Have a great one....

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