



March 1999

Revival progresses! By the time this gets mailed out we should be through our intercessor's conference and ready to start gearing up for the Eternity Production. Just from the preliminary things I'm hearing we should have a lot to think about and pray about in the month of March.

The words God is speaking to us are more specific and detailed all the time. One thing to keep in mind, *It's not just business as usual*. The stakes are higher, our enemy is ever more desperate, and the blessings keep getting better. *The Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force*. Never more true than right now.

It's easy to become a casualty. A little ease, a little carelessness, an offense or two and a bit of unbelief, and suddenly we're lying on our back somewhere, hurting all over and wondering what happened. Fortunately this is a season of healing and restoration too, but it's so much better if we can stay on the plus side of the ledger.

Are you hurting right now? The very first thing we need to do is to be honest and say, *I'm hurting*. So often we hide behind our facade and try to pretend that we're someone and something we aren't. But one cannot expect help unless the problem is named. Sometimes it's enough just to speak it to God. There's release in just saying, *Oh God, this hurts!*

Honesty doesn't mean dumping, however. Talk which attacks the nature and character of God or feeds an atmosphere of unbelief is a problem all by itself. We can express a portion of what we feel without

being negative but there's a limit to what we should expect others to have to listen to from us.

If someone has confided in you, respect that. Give them a bit of whatever comfort you can offer. Point them to God as their helper for if they try to look to you too strongly you both will have problems. Pray for them, both as you visit and later on as you seek God for other things. At some later time, ask them how they're doing, and pray again if it's appropriate.

Something we never wish to lose sight of is that the church is a caring community. We wish to merit that label in TORCH too. Many of our people are going through some very deep waters right now. Let me just say that your pain is our pain and your blessing will be our blessing too. Please make the needs known so that we can pray and maybe do a little more too.

Something happens to us when we suffer. There is an old saying that the fire will either make us bitter or better. I've known both. Better is better. God has healed up so many areas of my life I can't help but have faith for a lot more. The world has yet to see what one man, totally sold out to God could accomplish. I intend to have my try at it. How about you?

## Events-

Looks like another month that will be busy elsewhere in the church so we scheduled it a bit on the light side. T- and M- are still hosting the Promise Keeper group for the men, and it still continues to be a blessing. By all means come on out, guys!

For the ladies, E- wants to do a get together on the 13th for a group lunch

and then either a bit of shopping or a movie or something. As of this writing she had not decided totally between Trufflehunter or Evangeline's, so if you're interested give her a call and get the final details. Sounds like fun although definitely a 'gal' thing.

On the 19th Gary is planning dinner and a movie at his house. Since the season is St. Patrick's day there should be some sales on corned beef to work with, which opens up some interesting possibilities. For more information, or if you would like to bring food too, just give Gary a call.

We try to do a few things like this a year so those who may be in tight financial circumstances can just come and receive a special blessing. A friend or two or a child or two is also welcome.

Although it's not specifically a TORCH thing, let me remind you that cell groups will go to twice a month here in March. One of our vision purposes for TORCH is to assist our people to plug in and get fully involved in the program and life of City Bible Church.

So many singles tend to hold back and isolate themselves and then wonder why they don't feel like they 'really belong'. Pastor Frank has the cure—it's called cell groups and we all need to be involved.

On the last Friday of every month we hold our own TORCH meeting, featuring worship, a brief Bible study, a bit of food, and lots of fellowship. This month C- will be hosting it. If any of you ladies have a bit of time earlier in the day she could use a bit of help getting ready as she's been having trouble with her arm lately. But by all means come join us that evening and we'll let God touch us in many ways.

Speaking of touching, let's keep prayer going. We all have needs, and we all need to help others too. The prayer center has been a real blessing to all of us- let's be faithful to it too. Here are some needs to keep before the Lord:

-Jobs for E- and C-. There seems to be attacks coming from so many directions these days. C- needs to see healing in her arm or wrist that she's been having trouble with.

-Health and healing for everyone in the group. B- was down about six weeks with a case of 'flu. No more, guys!

-A- has been having a bout with depression and physical weakness. He says part of this is because he let himself get separated from the group and the rest of the church. Let's pray for restoration in all of these areas.

-Thanks to all who came out to help S- on her demolition day. We did have some nice down 'n dirty fellowship and S- says that it saved her about \$500 on her remodel. Pray for continued grace on the project, as there's a good measure of faith involved in the entire operation. God is good...

-J- is still making slow progress in recovering from his back ordeal. We need to keep the grace flowing down that pipeline too.

-B- has been diagnosed as having cancer. This is a battle this church wants to start winning. May God give our sister grace in every area.

In addition, let's continue to pray for guidance and direction for the group as a whole. TORCH has a calling and a purpose in this church, and we've

only realized a small part of it. These doors are opened by prayer.

Looks like that's about it. Let's remember to keep one another lifted up in prayer.

Have a great month!

GAH

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