



October 1998

The leaves are turning, harvest is happening, and it's a great time to be serving God. That doesn't mean it's easy, only that it's great. One of the greatest things we're discovering right now is that-

Prayer Works!

It seems strange to have to say that to a church group, for belief in prayer has been a given for believer's of all time. Yet, our besetting sin is unbelief. Fortunately the Lord is working hard these days to heal us of what Hebrews describes as an *evil* heart of unbelief.

Evil? That's what The Book says. In chapters three and four it talks about the dealings in the wilderness. And in all that happened during that time, the thing that really got God riled up was the people's failure to take Him at His word and trust in His promises and His power and His knowledge and His love for them. May God heal us of every bit of that!

That's why it's so important when we hear words we know are from God that we wrap them up in faith and hide them in our heart and let them change our life. Because what we allow to fill our heart does set the course of our life.

Can words really do that? Well, what is on a tax refund check but words and numbers? Let me tell you, when that thing arrived in the mail, it impacted your lifestyle, didn't it? But what would have happened if you'd thrown it away with the rest of the junk? Doesn't it look just about like those phony checks some advertisers stoop to?

Spiritual warfare is discovering which check is genuine and cashing it. God's love does us little to no good if we fail to respond to it. The enemy walks all over us if we let him. Let me get back to my original theme here,

Prayer Works!

It's in this day that we're finally learning how to pray, what to pray for, what to expect, when to fight, when to run, what to do by ourselves and what to get help with—immediately! We're beginning to take all the high ground back from

the enemy. Naturally he doesn't like it, but that rather falls into the realm of a personal attitude problem, doesn't it? Turn about is fair play.

More than anything else the role of the intercessor seems to be keeping the heavens clear above ourselves and those whom we would reach out to. When the clouds of oppression gather, bad stuff happens. Provision doesn't arrive, resources fail, disease strikes and offenses multiply. Spiritual eyes become blinded and our minds cloud over because we're oppressed. Temptations grip us and we lose the ability to think clearly and make good decisions.

When the oppression breaks it's like stepping into the sunshine. The air is fresh and invigorating, and the challenges of life become fun again. Suddenly those devouring problems don't seem so terrible, and we find we not only have our need met but there's enough extra in our hand to bless someone else. Our emotions behave and our bodies begin to heal—just like God created them to do.

Through prayer we can not only experience such a turnaround, but we can give one to another person who's in need! Lately we've been seeing clouds lift off of the entire TORCH group as we've sought God and let Him do His good work in us. We're seeing a new spirit of co-operation and enthusiasm, as well as a new sense of identity begin to take shape. All this through prayer! It works!

Events

This month we've planned two Saturday events. The first will be a 'moving' day for C-. Actually she's not *moving* moving but D- is even now moving out, and so C- has some re-arranging to do within the apartment. Sounds like a real good excuse to come help and have a bit of a potluck too, doesn't it?

On the 24th D- will be celebrating her birthday at Stanford's on the Waterfront. We'll meet at 6PM and have a great time. Isn't it amazing how these ladies keep having birthdays but never get any older?

For SNAC's we're getting adventurous. Three out of the four things planned are places new to

us. Can't go letting ourselves get into any ruts, now can we? (Trivia fanciers, here's one- which restaurant is the repeat and when were we there?)

The biggest thing we need to get started doing this month is to begin planning for our retreat next month. This will be an R&R weekend without a special speaker and we plan on renting a house at Sun River for the time. Looks like the best date will be early November 6-8 so mark your calendar and start saving.

J- and W- would like to host a movie night on the 9th. They plan on supplying snacks and soft drinks and assure us they have about two weeks to clean up their house extra good. As of this writing they still haven't settled on a movie choice, but they should know as the time gets closer.

We are still meeting for prayer at the prayer center each month. Let me encourage each of you to come, Our first emphasis is for TORCH as a group, for its place and calling within the church. We lift up our planning, direction, and activities, as well as the leaders within the group. Then we pray for individual members, for general blessing as well as any needs we are aware of. If you have a specific area of need come with that too, and we'll pray for that specially.

Prayer Needs-

-That God's calling and purpose will continue to unfold over TORCH as a group. We need to develop especially in service oriented outreach/ evangelism. If you know of any needs where a few willing helpers could make a difference, let us know. This is especially true if there is some hardship or disabling factor involved.

-For B-. The enemy seems to be throwing all the harassment he can at B- right now on his real estate job. Every sale has been plagued by weird, strange problems. B- has been working through them, to the amazement of some of his colleagues but it's taking far more time and effort to earn the money than it should. That's a curse and God would like to break it!

-For S-. S- has had one contractor do a last minute backout on her house repair and is having

trouble finding another. She'd like to get her roof rebuilt before the monsoon season returns. Let's ask God for His best for S-.

-For J-. The big hospitals and fancy specialists have failed to even address J-'s back problem, let alone help him. The greatest help he seems to be receiving right now is coming from 1) prayer, and 2) a Christian chiropractor. Since J- appears meant to be in God's hands right now, let's press in for total victory for him.

-For Gary Hughes. Gary is facing a situation in his workplace similar to B-'s, where despite his best efforts productivity is just not there. He would appreciate your prayers, for though it hasn't affected his income yet, it's still an attack and he wants to bless his employer, who needs it.

-For the retreat next month. Even though it's planned as a low key type of event, we still want to see God's will done. Pray for the planning, for the people who need to be there, and that the purpose of God will be met that weekend.

-For relationships. While TORCH wants to avoid the 'date mill' aspect of some singles groups, there is a ditch on the other side of the road too. We're all here to grow and develop before the Lord. When individuals lose hope in God's program in this area of their lives, they begin to fall for stuff they shouldn't with people they shouldn't. Let's pray for growth and challenge without any pressure or coercion.

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

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