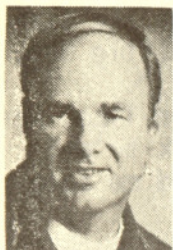


A NEW PERSPECTIVE. . .

jamie buckingham



One of the first questions I asked Kathryn Kuhlman when I first met her was: "Why are some people healed when they

come to your meetings, and others, who come just as sincerely, not healed?"

Her answer convinced me she was genuine. "I do not know," she confessed. "There are some questions that only God can answer."

In the Amazon jungles of Peru I met a ~~precious~~ old Indian evangelist. For 20 years he had been living among his primitive people preaching the Gospel. Many had been converted. ^{Others healed.} Now he was horribly sick with arthritis. His body was bent out of shape and he was never free from excruciating pain. Recently he had ~~also~~ contacted tuberculosis. Now all he could do was sit in front of his jungle hut and wait to die.

I visited with him briefly, squatting in the dirt in front of his thatched home. There was an aura of the Holy Spirit all around him as we talked.

"Many of my Indian friends ask, 'Why the sickness? You have served God all these years. You have renounced the witch

doctor. You have walked many miles through the jungle to take the message of Jesus. Now this. Why?'"

The bent little pastor smiled through his pain and said, "I tell them if I would go into the hut where Jesus is, and find him sitting on the floor in the corner near the fire, I would not start asking him 'why?'. No, I would put my face in the dirt and say, 'Jesus, I love you.' I no longer ask why. I just tell Jesus I love him and when I say that, the question 'why?' no longer seems important."

I learned something from that old Indian. Paul says we know Jesus through the fellowship of his sufferings and the power of his resurrection. (Phil. 3:10). I used to think that meant you tell me where you hurt and I tell you where I hurt and we have fellowship through our sufferings. Now I understand that because Jesus suffered, we can have fellowship with Him. When I hurt, I know he hurts infinitely more. When my friends hurt, I love them--not because they hurt--but because He suffered for us all. Our fellowship with Him, and with each other, is made possible through His suffering.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE. . .

jamie buckingham



When DeVern Fromke's wife called last week to say he was sick and could not make his scheduled meetings, it was not

only a disappointment, but a point of personal embarrassment. I had gone way out on a limb and personally invited all the area pastors to attend a meeting at Eastminster Presbyterian Church to hear him. Now, for the first time in his life, Fromke had cancelled a meeting because of sickness. And I was left holding the bag.

I met with our own elders who insisted we should go ahead. I was reluctant. Charismatics are generally known as irresponsible anyway, and we were about to confirm it. Yet the meeting seemed ordained of God. After all, if the shepherds couldn't come together, how would the sheep ever claim the promise of Jesus that His church was to be one body.

About 35 men showed up at Eastminster on Wednesday morning. Feeling like a fool, I stood before those solemn "men of the cloth" and confessed our speaker had cancelled out. Not knowing what to do next, I asked them to pray and sat down. We waited a long time and nobody said anything. I finally got back to my feet and, very

nervously, shared my burden about the need for unity among the shepherds. Sensing I had goofed completely, I sat down.

But something was stirring. One after another these men of God, most of them denominational pastors, rose to their feet to confess their need for fellowship--not just the Ministerial Association kind, but the kind that comes through knowing, loving and submitting to each other. One Presbyterian pastor, in tears, confessed he received more fellowship from the Rotary Club than he did from his fellow ministers. A Lutheran talked about a deep hunger to flow together with other men of God in the area. At the suggestion of one of the Baptist pastors, we closed the meeting--two and a half hours later--on our knees in prayer. But not until plans had been made to meet again the morning of March 14.

Had Fromke been present it probably would not have happened. But on their own, these men of God tuned in to the heartbeat of the Father.

Now the shepherds seek the prayers of the sheep as they lay claim on God's promise that we shall be one.

jamie buckingham



Many years ago, I understand, a poor church wanted to print a Christmas song book. The local drug store said they would pay

the bill if allowed to run a couple of ads in the book. The church had no idea the druggist would mix the ads with the songs, but on Christmas Eve they opened the books and sang:

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
Beachem's Pills are just the thing;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
Two for adults and one for child.*

Occasionally, when we promote one of my new books in the Trumpet we are accused of commercialization. Therefore I need to point out that God has called me to write, not hawk my wares. I have never felt comfortable in going out to speak and carrying a box of books along to sell during the intermission. In the Trumpet we recommend the books be purchased through the New Life Book House. This way all the profit goes back into the local Body through the Book House. That is substantially different from mixing angels' songs with Beachem's Pills.

I HAVE AGREED, on a temporary basis, to accept the position of Editorial Director for Logos

James W. Buckingham
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Eau Gallie, Florida

1935

Journal. This will mean some commuting back and forth to New Jersey but should not radically affect my life style or ministry. However, I do urgently request the prayers of the Body both for myself and the rest of the staff at Logos. Change, even among charismatics, is difficult.

BECAUSE OF MY NEW UNDERSTANDING of my place in the local Body, and because of the new pressures in the writing ministry, I am making one major change. I am saying "no" to invitations to speak away from home during 1976. I shall honor the remaining engagements for 1975. That schedule is as follows:

- July 18-20--Scottsdale, Ariz.
- July 21-26--Christian Book-sellers Assoc., Anaheim, Ca.
- Aug. 15-16--Methodist Lay Con. Lake Junaluska, N.C.
- Oct. 8-10 --Women's Aglow Fellowship, International Conv. Dayton, Ohio.
- Nov. 1-10 --World Conf. on Holy Spirit, Jerusalem.
- Nov. 20-22--CBU Teaching Conf. Montreat, N.C.
- Dec. 1-4 --American Baptist Pastors' Conf. Monroe, MI.
- Dec. 8-10--1st Presbyterian Church, Winston Salem, N.C.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE.

jamie buckingham

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Last year when I traveled to the Orient it was fear that almost incapacitated me. I had never been possessed by such a thing,

but as the time drew near to leave it almost overwhelmed me. I presented myself to the men in my small prayer group and they called it what it was--a spirit. They laid hands on me and prayed. By the time I boarded the 747 in New York I was free. Delivered.

This year, with much more at stake, the bug-a-boo has been confusion. The man I had asked to accompany me was forced to back off. There was confusion as to whom should go. Original plans called for Hong Kong to be the first stop, which suited me fine since it's a fun place to visit. Yet something wasn't right. As much as I love Hong Kong, I felt uncomfortable. The confusion mounted.

Then the Monday night before I left I met with the 50 committed men who gather at the old Tabernacle. Ray Baker, sensing my problem, pulled a chair in the middle of the floor and the men laid on hands. There was prayer. And prophecy that God would open just the right doors.

The following day I received

a letter from Manila. It was almost a Macedonian call. I knew at once we should cancel the Hong Kong stop and fly directly from the States to the Philippines, spending most of our time in the Subic Bay area. God had gone before us to open the doors. I cannot share it all now, but when I return will tell you some of the motivating reasons behind this leg of the trip.

Dave Hannon, pastor of the First Christian Assembly in Plainfield, N.J. and my old friend Jimmy Rainwater, Methodist layman from Florence, S.C. who accompanied me last year, will be along.

From Manila we go on to Bangkok for a joint meeting with the missionaries. Then to the tiny kingdom of Nepal high in the Himalayas with the Wycliffe Bible Translators. Then after a stop in India, on to Israel for the Holy Spirit Conference.

The men here are dividing the time so no less than three of them will be fasting and praying on any given day while I'm gone. It is a critical trip. Red China is knocking on the door of the Philippines, Thailand is fast closing and Nepal is already closed to missions. Keep us in your prayers.

A CALL TO SLIMNESS. . .

No nation in the world is as overweight as Americans. With millions starving to death, we are going to be held accountable for our gluttony. There are lean days ahead for America--and God's people need to get in shape to meet them, much as a soldier trains for battle or an athlete for a contest.



Estimates are there are more than 79 million fat people in America. Tragically, many of these are Christians. Not only is fat a poor witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, but it is a killer. The call of God is to slimness.

There is more involved in God's call to slimness than merely losing weight. The call is not just for fasting and proper eating habits (although that will certainly be the means to the end). The call is to discipline and self-control--in all areas. Merely losing weight could lead to pride--which is just as deadly as gluttony. (Pride causes us to fall down. Fat keeps us from getting up.) But self-control is one of the fruit of the Spirit. It will always have with it an element of thoughtfulness, humility, patience and love.

The call of God to the Body in Melbourne (and I believe to all Christians everywhere) is to slim down, abstain from all rich foods, develop correct eating habits, discipline your body so it takes orders from your spirit (not the other way around) and put away forever anything that would destroy the temple of the Holy Spirit.

In calling the Body to slimness we are not going to dictate how that goal is to be reached. Specific instructions would only put us back under the bondage of legalism. I believe the Holy Spirit will lead each one of us to find God's way and God's weight--and maintain it forever through prayer, discipline and exercise. However, as we begin this training period or shaping up, I want to point out a few basic facts.

1. Satan is afraid of disciplined men and women. Remember Caesar's words to Antony:

*"Let me have men about me that are fat. . .
Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look;
He thinks too much: such men are dangerous."*

2. Fat is an outer manifestation of an inner problem of lack of self-control, insecurity, or anger.
3. The greater the degree of obesity, the higher the death rate. Satan is a murderer and one of his subtle ways of killing God's people is to make them fat.
4. Human beings make sugar from natural starches. The normal person does not need table sugar. Its current shortage in America is one of God's blessings. Now is the time to learn to abstain.
5. Many fat people like to shift the blame to their heredity or their glands. But God's healing is available in these areas also. Even so, if a furnace is not supplied with sufficient fuel, it will go out. If the body is not supplied with enough calories it will start using body fat and a weight loss will follow.
6. Through prayer, fasting and perhaps consultation with a doctor, find God's perfect weight for your body. (Some people are underweight from poor eating habits). Get there and through discipline--stay there.
7. If your abnormal cravings for food are demonic--seek and receive deliverance.

8. A fat man waddling around with his stomach pushing aside his shirt buttons, or a woman who shakes like a bowl full of jelly, is a poor witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.
9. Self-control is a way of life--forever. If this means you must radically alter your eating habits, then so be it. You must be willing to nail your strawberries and whipped cream to the cross. Forever--if God so commands.

