

A NEW PERSPECTIVE. .

jamie buckingham

JAMES W BUCKINGHAM
P O BOX 1406
MELBOURNE, FL 32935



A graduate student at a northern seminary recently sent me a survey he was taking of the "General Attitude of the Charismatic Movement Regarding Social Involvement." The survey contained scales on which I could rate the attitude of charismatics (and my own attitude) toward such things as world hunger, human rights, racism, ecology, social welfare, governmental integrity, etc. I ran down the list and checked every issue as "very important." Then I penned a note on the bottom.

"Unfortunately, you have missed the basic concept of the Spirit-filled life, therefore your questions tend to be meaningless to thoughtful charismatics. The filling of the Holy Spirit is designed to conform us to the image of God's son, who refused to be compartmentalized into "social action vs. evangelism." Social action makes evangelism possible. Evangelism brings men and women to the place where they want to change the world. The baptism of the Holy Spirit gives them the power to do both."

Just as evangelism is tedious and impossible without the

pentecostal experience to provide the power, so is social action. Therefore, social involvement is not a "necessary" part of Christian discipleship--it is a natural part.

The Spirit-filled person, by his very new nature, will come at social issues exactly as Jesus did. The difference between the charismatic and the social activist, however, is the charismatic will let God provide the means rather than striving to set up bulky structures with miles of red tape.

Before he builds a children's home, for instance, he will first take children into his own home.

Social involvement, like covenant relationships, is based on a vertical relationship with God. It cannot be legislated, and must not be policed. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives the power, and the one who convicts when the power is wrongly used. Our place is to love and accept all--both those who are homeless and those who don't seem to care. How else, except through forgiveness, can the love of God be shed abroad through the Holy Spirit.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



As the size of the Body in Melbourne has grown from hundreds to thousands, the elders have had to re-evaluate their own capabilities as leaders.

Self-inventory is absolutely necessary for every Christian, especially those in leadership.

Two weeks ago the elders decided it was time to "let it all hang out." After a week of thought and prayer we came back together and spent most of a day going around the room. Each man had jotted down who he really thought he was. As each of the men spoke they brushed aside "Who do others want me to be?" and "What am I doing now?" They focused in on "What do I really want to do? What is the best contribution I can make to the Body of Christ? What are the real desires of my heart? What is God telling me to do with my life?"

It was an interesting and revealing session. Each man got extremely honest. "You guys see me in this role, but this is what I would do if I were free from all restraints."

It's a good exercise. In fact,

until you begin to ask these questions you'll never find the highest will of God for your life--and will never find your rightful place in the Body of Christ.

A lot of interesting things came to the surface. We found we had asked each other to do certain things in order to fill a need, rather than because that was God's highest will for the individual. We discovered all of us had assumed responsibilities greater than our capabilities. One of the men finally put his finger on the problem. "The question," he said, "is what are we willing to quit in order to do the things God is asking us to do."

The next day we had friends drop by from out of town. I found they were struggling with the same problem--how to differentiate between what I can do and what I am supposed to do. All of us can do certain things--but are we supposed to?

When each of us fills the role God has for us--living by positive action rather than reaction to need--the Body will be complete.

jamie buckingham



Learning I had been invited to speak in Greenwood, South Carolina, where I once pastored a Baptist church--before I was asked to leave--a good friend passed along some advice. "Try not to run down the Baptists," she said. "They are on God's side, too, you know."

It had been 13 years since we left that little town, heart-broken and confused. But a lot of good things had taken place and I was eager to return and share what God had done in my life. But as I reflected on what my friend said, I realized that despite the healing, there was still some ugly scar tissue showing. How many times I had used the words "thrown out" of the Baptist church. The very use of the words indicated the presence of a tiny root of bitterness.

Jackie and I spent some serious time preparing for that reunion two weeks ago. That included fasting and praying. But I don't think we've ever walked into a room that was more filled with love--except at the Tabernacle in Melbourne.

The entire situation has helped me to see things from a new

perspective. (The essence of wisdom, you know, is seeing as God sees.) It has also enabled me to hear something I've been telling others. "When you give your life to Jesus Christ you voluntarily surrender the right to choose, or the power to vary the consequences of that decision."

In other words, when Jesus is Lord, he takes control--not only of my destiny, but my daily walk as well. Nothing happens beyond his control.

No man, or circumstance, controls my life. The Holy Spirit may use men as instruments--to force me to do God's will--but it is God, not men, who determines the outcome of my life. The wise man understands that, and cooperates. The fool grows bitter.

Just as no man took Jesus' life (he voluntarily surrendered it), so men have not taken anything from me. No one has thrown me out of anything; they have only been used by God to thrust me into that where I would not go willingly.

As understanding increases, healing continues. More and more I see that all who call Jesus Lord are on God's side.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



RANDY OSTRANDER
RT 4 BOX 82 HIELD RD
MELBOURNE, FL 32901

Enlarging the Council of Elders from five to nine has brought new depth and vision

to the leadership. However, we all realize we have not yet moved into God's best plan for utilizing the tremendous spiritual leadership available in this tremendous body. We request your prayers as we seek to recognize the full scope of spiritual leadership.

The new elders include these:

JIM UNDERWOOD is a native of southern California. From a charismatic American Baptist church in New England, he has a background in banking management and Bible. For ten years he has been active in financial planning--the last seven as founder and president of the National Institute of Christian Financial Planning (NICFP). He and Joyce have two children.

JIM BAUMAN is a native of Oregon. A graduate of MIT in Civil Engineering, he holds a Masters from Stanford in construction management. After managing his own construction firm in the Bahamas six years ago, he linked arms with Jim Underwood as Executive VP for NICFP. Jim comes out of a fundamentalist background and

was active in a charismatic church in Maine before moving to Melbourne. He and Charlene have three children.

DR. BRUCE MORGAN is one of America's most noted Bible teachers. Formerly active in the Independent Fundamentalist Churches of America, he served as president of the Bible Institute of New England before moving his home base to Melbourne. A modern day prophet, his ministry continues across the nation in teaching, but his prime calling is to this local body. He and Trudy have two grown sons.

HERMAN RIFFEL, an American Baptist minister for 25 years, is a graduate of Wheaton College and the Carl Jung Institute for Analytical Psychology in Switzerland. He and his wife, Lillie, have lived on six continents, working extensively with groups such as the Wycliffe Bible Translators and Catholic Pentecostals. For a term he was chaplain to radio HCJB in Quito, Ecuador. His teaching majors in areas of inner healing and wholeness. The Riffels have three grown children.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham

JAMES W BUCKINGHAM
P O BOX 1406
MELBOURNE, FL 32935



Because spiritual "giants" have big feet they often, inadvertently, stomp all over those closest to them. Giants, as you may know, are notoriously clumsy--and sometimes quite ponderous. Therefore, even though a man may have an *enormous* prayer life, have an *immense* missionary vision, be a *colossal* teacher, demand an *enormous* honorarium, or even be a *prodigious* writer, he may be best known by those near him as a lumbering, insensitive hulk. Such men need constant help so they won't walk all over the feelings of those nearby.

A true spiritual giant is one whose sphere of influence may be relatively small geographically, but is deeply respected among the few he touches. I think of this often when someone asks me who are the spiritual giants in the land--and I seldom list the well known men, limiting myself to those who are sensitive to the little things at home.

This all came to mind several weeks ago as I was on the plane returning from our son's graduation at ORU. Someone in Tulsa had called me a "spiritual giant," and I was still

basking in the praise. I chatted briefly with the woman next to me on the plane and then buried myself in a book. After we were airborne she tapped my arm and handed me a note.

"Dear Pastor: I need your advice. I know a lady whose husband has been gone from home 5 days and when he came back he wouldn't even talk to her. He just sat and read books. At night he reads. He goes in the bathroom and reads. What advice should I give my friend? It is a real problem. Can you help? A Friend Nearby."

I hastily penned an answer. "Dear Friend Nearby: Tell her she has three choices: (1) Find a handsome man and talk to him. (2) Go to sleep and hope he'll be finished with his reading when she wakes up. (3) Kick the big dope in the leg and make him talk. Your Friendly Spiritual Giant."

Whereupon my wife reared back and kicked me sharply in the shin.

"If a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself." Remember that, spiritual giants!

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham

JAMES W BUCKINGHAM
P O BOX 1406
MELBOURNE, FL 32935



Much of what we call "faith" is merely irreverent brashness. Healing, like joy,

does not come from God's promises, but from his presence. It does not depend upon our faith, but upon his mercy. His command to us is not "have faith," but rather to come before him with clean hands and a pure heart.

In the original Tabernacle when the smoke from the sin offering went up from the altar, there was joy through out the camp. However, after the people settled in Canaan, they compromised their obedience and God said the smoke of sacrifice had become a stench in his nostrils. Obedience, Samuel told Saul, was better than sacrifice.

As the elders have questioned why cancer and other maladies have struck the local body, they have come back with the principle in James 5, where healing is linked with repentance, confession, and forgiveness. It isn't enough to lay on hands unless there's repentance

Thus we called the covenant body together last Wednesday night. Herman Riffel taught the principles of corporate repentance. Jim Byrd talked of

genuine commitment. Then each of the almost 400 present took slips of paper and separated across the room, writing down the sins of which they were repenting. As they came forward for the Lord's Supper, they deposited the wadded papers in a large barrel at the front of the room.

"Let a man examine himself, for anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. This is why many are weak and ill, and some have died" (I Cor. 11:28-30).

Roger Wilson led in a corporate prayer of repentance for the body. Herman proclaimed absolution and a match was set to the barrel. As our sins went up as a burnt sacrifice before God, and the smoke filled the room, there was unspeakable joy in the camp. Then followed singing, dancing, prophecy, and exhortation as we entered into his presence. As we worshiped, rain fell outside--the first good rain our community has had in 9 weeks.

Even as the rain symbolizes God's blessing, healing the land, so I believe our corporate repentance opens the way for His healing power to flow through those who are sick.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



We still get a little moist-eyed when we remember the night Jon Moore asked our oldest daughter, Robin,

to marry him. It was a year ago. Jon was a senior at ORU and Robin a junior. They had been "going together" for a year, but there had been no talk of marriage. Then Jon came to visit us here in Florida last summer. And brought his question with him.

The night before he proposed, he cornered me in the kitchen. "Even though I love her deeply" he said nervously, "I won't ask her unless you give permission. She was yours long before I put in my claim."

Someone asked if Jon learned that from Bill Gothard. I doubt it. I think he learned it from the Bible--and from his Spirit-filled parents in North Olmstead, Ohio. The Moores have built a lot of solid principles into their six boys (five of whom have gone through ORU, by the way.)

Jon had learned a valuable principle. Submission to authority is never grievous. Instead, it opens the door for blessings--just as Jackie and I have blessed Jon and Robin.

Not only that, but we are grateful they realize that, from a Biblical perspective, the betrothal vows are of equal importance to the marriage vows. It is at this time of proposal and acceptance that young people "plight thee my troth"--rather than at the wedding altar.

So, everything is moving on schedule. The final vows will be exchanged in public on July 29 at 2:30 p.m. in the Tabernacle. Jon's Spirit-filled Lutheran pastor, Ward Potts, is coming down from Ohio to help in the ceremony. A reception will follow immediately in the parish hall of St. John's Episcopal Church Jackie joins me--as do Wade and Patty Moore--inviting you to the ceremony.



A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



JAMES W BUCKINGHAM
P O BOX 1406
MELBOURNE, FL 32935

Every spiritual leader must eventually face the question of authority and responsibility.

Like many churches seeking to be led by the Spirit we've made some bad mistakes during our 11-year history. One of those was listening to incomplete teaching declaring not only the plurality of elders in a local church but the plurality of authority. Since we were a group which dared color outside the lines of tradition, we moved ahead proclaiming that our elders had equal authority. As a result, at one time this church had 5 spiritual heads --which by any standard is the definition of a monster.

It sounded good, but it didn't work. The reason it didn't work was it wasn't scriptural. God does not lay the mantle of apostolic authority on a council nor a congregation--but on a man. Yet in order to function that man must be responsible to those under him.

Looking back, I realize one of the reasons we fell into error was our reaction against abuse. Not only had we seen bishops, with a flick of their ecclesiastical pen, quench the Spirit in an entire diocese, but we had seen men of God voted out

of their God-appointed charges by angry congregations who accused the pastor's wife of wearing shorts to the supermarket.

Gradually we have swung back on course. Authority does not rest in an extra-local bishop, nor in the sheep--but in the apostle in the local flock. However, if that man of authority is not submitted, then his authority is only legal--not spiritual.

Over these last months of intense soul-searching, our 9 elders have concluded there can be but one spiritual head. However, I realize one of my reasons for backing away from that authority was my firm belief in submission. Now I understand the spiritual leader has authority only when he submits. The fact I am submitted to them gives the elders freedom to recognize apostolic authority.

"You are captain of this ship," they have said. "Either hold us accountable or get off." So, fellow saints and sailors, we've started swabbing the decks. We'll be sharing with you shortly some of the big administrative changes we're making. The Good Ship Zion needs to be a tight ship. Thank God for able crewmen.

jamie buckingham



Last week I spent precious hours with my mother and dad. Mother is 80 and vibrant.

Daddy was 87, and even though his mind was clear, his body was going the way of all flesh. His world seemed to have narrowed to his bed and his wheelchair.

My younger brother, John, who teaches medicine at the Univ. of Alabama, was present as we sat in their living room discussing financial matters that would arise at Daddy's death.

An astute businessman and financier, Daddy sat quietly in his wheelchair and listened as his two sons discussed business matters. Respecting his wisdom, we finally turned to him.

He raised one hand, slightly. Even so, it was a great physical effort. There was just a shadow of a smile playing on his face. His eyes twinkled.

"I have but one thing to say of all these material things. After I am gone, it will be up to your mother and you boys to figure things out."

He gently lowered his hand, and nodding to the nurse hovering nearby, he added, "Now, I think I would like to lie down for a while."

I watched, silently, as she wheeled him back to the bedroom. I thought his world had narrowed to the immediate, much as a tiny child is interested only in food, warmth, and a dry diaper. Not so. I realized that afternoon his world had grown ever so much larger than before. His cares no longer centered on the price of oranges, taxes, rust spots on the car, and cobwebs under the eaves.

Waiting on the edge of eternity, he had already transcended the terrestrial for the celestial. His world had expanded--the dimension of the eternal.

Jesus said: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust doth corrupt and thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

Four days later--last Sunday noon--Daddy made that transition. I arrived in time to perform the sacred duty of straightening his body on the bed and kissing the hands that received me when I was born. As always, he was fully dressed. His pockets, though, were empty. His treasures elsewhere.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE. . .

jamie buckingham



Very few Christians know who they really are. Even less have defined their mission in life.

Perhaps the best way to start is by asking yourself some basic questions. Then write down the answers.

Why am I here? What is my purpose for living in Melbourne (or wherever)? Why did God put me on earth?

After you've written down your answers come back with another set of questions. What is my greatest ambition? What is the one thing I want to accomplish in the next ten years? What is the one thing I want to accomplish in my life time?

If your answer to the second set of questions is not identical to the answer of the first set, you are a very mixed person.

For instance, if you say God put you here to have fellowship with him, but your greatest ambition is to be president of the company--then eventually your life is going to fall apart.

Fortunate is the man who says his purpose and his desire is

to make money. He'll go to hell, but at least he'll go in style. After all, there is nothing that compares to being buried in a bronze casket. It's really impressive.

But frustrated is the man who says his purpose on earth is to glorify God, but his number one goal is to buy a condominium on the beach.

Condos and making money are not evil--but if they are your greatest desire, you better make sure that is why God put you here on earth. Otherwise you're going to be a very miserable person.

The happiest of all people are those who know who they are, where they are going, and what their basic mission is on earth. Every person should, at least once a year, sit down with paper and pen and write out the answers to these basic questions. If a pilot does not continually check his direction and alter his course to line up with the compass, he's in trouble. And if he's carrying passengers, they're in trouble too. The same is true with God's people.

Define your life's goals and purposes. Put aside all that detracts. Strive for the goal.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

10/6/78

jamie buckingham



At the gathering of the family for the memorial service for my dad, the levels

of relationship were once again obvious.

Because of the unique relationship my brothers, my sister, and I held with our parents, our tie is unique and unbreakable. We are family, centered around common parentage.

But there were others there also. The grandchildren. Each of the five Buckingham families are separate entities. These small families are all connected to the grandparents, but their relationship with each other is more casual. While the heads of each family are closely related, the cousins, who see each other only occasionally, have a less intense relationship.

I cannot help but compare these relationships with the family of God connected with the Tabernacle. There are emerging a number of small groups--separate families--who are intensely related. And while all these groups (we call them home churches) are related to the

Tabernacle unit, their relationship with each other is more like cousins.

This is not wrong. We can only have intense relations with a few. But we love the many. For we are all one family.

In times of stress we need to lean on one another. In times of joy we need to share with one another.

We are family! We are one!

SPECIAL EVENTS...

LIVING SOUND will be at the Tabernacle in concert on Friday and Saturday nights, OCTOBER 13 & 14, at 7:30 p.m. They will also be singing for the Sunday a.m. service on the 15th.

DR. BERNARD HARNIK, a Christian psychiatrist, will open his series on the home Sunday at 6:30 p.m., OCTOBER 15, which will climax with the wedding of CAROLYN JOYCE ABERNETHY and PAUL FERNAND AUCLAIR. Their families invite you to participate in this celebration of God's love.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



The Bible teaches the tithe--10% of your income--belongs to God in a particular way.

The tithe should be given on a regular basis (each time you receive income you should tithe) to the LOCAL BODY where you are submitted--where you receive your spiritual food. (As another has said, you do not eat at Howard Johnson's and pay the bill at Holiday Inn.) The tithe should be given freely, without designation, to be used as the spiritual authorities of that body determine.

Offerings (any money given over and above the tithe) can be given as the Holy Spirit directs. Offerings do not have to be designated, but often God will direct his people how to give. Offerings may be made through the church and designated to specific ministries in the church (or to needy families as God directs). Offerings also may be made to specific ministries around the world: missionary organizations or missionaries, Christian television, Christian schools, individual ministers, etc. These offerings may be given through the church or sent directly.

Your elders care about you. They are eager to help you give generously, wisely, and judiciously. They also want to protect you from wolves masquerading as sheep whose basic purpose is to fleece the flock rather than feed it.

A number of solicitations are coming to members of the flock. Many of these ministries are legitimate and deserve generous support from your offerings. (Remember, the tithe goes to the local body.) Some are legitimate, but extreme caution is needed in giving. A small number are fraudulent.

If you have some "leading" to give money to some ministry apart from the Tabernacle, I urge you to consult with an elder. A simple phone call, note, or conversation at church will do. The elders may have prior knowledge of the situation you are considering. They may want to encourage you to give even more, or may know of some specific area of need where you can help. Or, they may need to warn you of problems in the considered ministry. Or, they may just pray with you for wisdom. God wants you to give but to give wisely, that you and the Kingdom may be blessed.



The issue of prayer in public schools is still active--and emotional. Recently,

Sen. Jesse Helms, running for re-election in N.C., sponsored another bill trying to get prayer re-instated. The Senate, however, rather than face the issue in an election year, aborted the entire bill.

So the fight continues. Now, though, it is basically political, rather than spiritual. Politicians, most of whom do not pray themselves, seek the votes of those who do by keeping the issue alive.

The fact is, there is NO RULE which bans prayer from public schools. In 1962 the Supreme Court handed down a landmark case ruling that a government written prayer, requiring children to recite it, is unconstitutional.

Then in 1963 Madalyn O'Hair was party to an auxiliary case when the court ruled that governmentally-required religious devotions also violated the Constitution.

Church people got frantic. But they did not stop to realize that the government had protected them from all kinds of false religions. The high

court had correctly interpreted the First Amendment, banning only prayers prescribed by state authorities--and state-sponsored teachings.

In writing the majority opinion for the 1962 case, Justice Hugo Black stated: "Students have the right to practice prayer and read the Bible. But they do not have the right to the aid of the state in that exercise."

It was one of the court's finest decisions. Just a year ago a federal judge in New Jersey used that ruling to deny supporters of TM from teaching their doctrine in the public schools.

Christian kids and teachers need to see the public school as a mission field--not a church. And because we live in a free country they are free to witness as much as they like. Compulsory religion should be banned. Let it be a matter of the heart--and let the teaching come from the homes, churches, or in small Bible clubs at school. But not directed by the state.

Mrs. O'Hair did us all a favor. The very God she says does not exist is still working all things for His good.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

jamie buckingham



I am grateful for the growing number of counselors in the Body. Many have attended the Sam Cloyd and Dr. Ben Harnik seminars. Others are simply exercising the "word of wisdom" as it comes from the Holy Spirit.

I am especially grateful for Herman and Lillie Riffel who have brought to our eldership a superb gift of wisdom backed by a lifetime of training and experience as professional counselors.

With so many giving counsel, however, there is a danger of crossing wires (which produces a short circuit). Off-the-cuff counsel may run contrary to that given by an elder or a pastor who has had much more contact with the problem.

There may be a time, for instance, when an elder suggests a temporary separation for a husband and wife, that their marriage might become whole. Such radical advice would never be given unless both parties are under competent counsel. But well-meaning friends, not knowing the circumstances, may immediately speak out and say, "Oh, no, I can't agree with that," thus making it difficult for both the counselor and

FOR BAPTISTS AND OTHERS...

The last book I wrote for Kathryn Kuhlman before she died was the story of Dr. Clifton Harris, former Southern Baptist missionary to China, and his healing miracle. The story had special meaning for me because Clif Harris was the brother of James Harris, the wonderful Baptist preacher who ordained me to the ministry in 1957. Practicing medicine from a wheelchair, Dr. Harris was healed in a Kathryn Kuhlman service. It is a great story and I was disappointed it was never published. Now it has been released by Dimension Books (Bethany) under the title FROM MEDICINE TO MIRACLES. As with the other 9 books I wrote for Miss Kuhlman, my name does not appear, and all royalties go to the Kuhlman Foundation. Yet I want to recommend it as an excellent book for Baptists and others who have trouble believing in divine healing. It is available in small paperback from your local Christian bookstore.

those being counseled. Be very careful what you speak. Find out if the troubled are already receiving pastoral help. Do a lot of listening--to the problem and to God--before voicing an opinion. And before you give counter advice, check with the counselor.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

jamie buckingham



I tell my children one of the reasons Christ came to earth was to teach them the importance of making up their beds, straightening their closets and returning the screw-driver after they use it. If Jesus went to the trouble of neatly folding the linen napkin before he left the tomb

on Easter Morn (John 20:7) then it seems we Spirit-baptized Christians need to start paying attention to the little things. Ray Baker passed out these "practical applications of the golden rule" at an elders' meeting. I recommend them for all elders, for you, and for your children. Paste them on the refrigerator, and in the front of your Bibles.

RULES FOR COMMUNITY (FAMILY) LIVING

1. If you open it, close it.
2. If you turn it on, turn it off.
3. If you unlock it, lock it back.
4. If you break it, repair it.
5. If you can't fix it, call someone who can.
6. If you borrow it, return it.
7. If you use it, take care of it.
8. If you make a mess, clean it up.
9. If you move it, put it back.
10. If it belongs to somebody else and you want to use it, get permission first.
11. If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.
12. If it doesn't concern you, don't mess with it.

LAURA'S LINES...

laura watson

Third in our series of elders' wives, this is
JACKIE BUCKINGHAM...



Jackie brushed a stray lock of blond hair out of her eyes and turned the heat off under the steaming tea kettle. Her glance fell on the red and white sticker on her refrigerator door: "Saved to Serve." "That motto kept me going for a long time. It seems our family life has always been busy, busy, busy. Jamie and I started going together while we were students at Vero Beach High. We went to college together. Then seminary. Five children. It was all pretty busy. But deep inside I've always wanted some kind of ministry of my own."

Then Jamie began traveling, meeting interesting people all over the world. Many of them later showed up in Melbourne. The first six months in their new house in the country, she entertained houseguests almost every night. That's when Jackie stuck the "Saved to Serve" reminder on the refrigerator. "Soon after that I came across this Bible verse, Matthew 10:41: 'If you welcome a prophet because he is a man of God, you will be given the same reward a prophet gets.'"

When God spoke to her out of

His Word, Jackie realized she had "her ministry." "We aren't entertainers--we just accept people as family and treat them as such. After all, we're one in the Spirit in the family of God. It's been good for our children, too, to have a sense of sharing what God has blessed us with. We even named our new home 'Hebron' after one of the Old Testament cities of refuge."

As she blesses others through hospitality, they bless her. Jackie remembers Costa Deir's visit, when they sat at the dinner table listening to his stories, some hilarious, some deeply poignant. From moments like these she finds her own horizons broadening. "Like wives everywhere, who say, 'You never told me about that!' I love to sit and listen to them focusing on happenings in the Kingdom of God that I'd never hear about otherwise. So though God gave the ministry of prophet to Jamie, I have the same outreach as I stand behind him. My ministry is to him as he goes out and to people he brings in. I feel very comfortable in my role as his wife and the mother of our children."

Jackie has a unique way of whistling behind her teeth when she's happy. Today, while Jamie was talking to one guest in the den and two more were expected in a few minutes, I heard that funny little whistle while we loaded the lunch dishes in the dishwasher.