

**THE  
TRUMPET**

**THE TABERNACLE CHURCH  
MELBOURNE, FLORIDA**

"FOR THOSE WHO WANT MORE  
THAN A SUNDAY RELIGION"

SPECIAL EDITION

# GRACE

**Cheap grace is**

the preaching of forgiveness without requiring  
repentance

baptism without church discipline

Communion without confession

absolution without personal confession

**Cheap grace is**

grace without discipleship

grace without the cross

grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate

**Costly grace is**

the gospel which must be **sought** again and again

the gift which must be **asked** for

the door at which a man must **knock**

Such grace is **costly** because it calls us to follow,

And it is **grace** because it calls us to follow **Jesus Christ**.

It is costly because it costs a man his life,

And it is **grace** because it gives a man the only true life.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

In March, 1967, Jamie Buckingham and about 40 families withdrew from a local Baptist church to form the Tabernacle Baptist Church. Weary of church battles, the weight of excess organization and smothering legalism, the new body majored on relationships, stating that all Christians were called to minister.

A year later Jamie returned from a trip to Washington, D.C., announcing his life had been radically changed through an encounter with the Holy Spirit. "I do not know where God is taking me," he said, "but I challenge you to come with me."

Most did. They rejoiced as new spiritual power permeated the church. Home groups were formed. People were baptized in the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit were soon evident in the church services. People were healed. Many came from other denominations to join the movement.

In the fall of 1970 the Baptist remnant met and voted to drop the word "Baptist" from the name, cancelled the membership, disbanded all the committees, and annulled the by-laws. They were determined to let the Holy Spirit direct the church. Immediately the Baptist association expelled the little church, forcing it to become interdenominational.

The church experienced immediate and stunning growth. Groups of Spirit-filled Presbyterians, Methodists and Catholics joined. Many who had never attended church before found themselves accepted and comfortable in the informal, free atmosphere of love. Elders were set apart to help with the ministry. Emphasis was placed on missions, men and ministry, rather than material things. Offerings doubled, then tripled. Crowds forced the body out of the little Tabernacle. While a new "sheepshed" was being built the church met at Johnson Junior High School. The new Tabernacle was occupied Easter Sunday, 1975.

People moved from distant cities to be part of the body. Additional elders were added. Jamie gradually removed himself from ordinary pastoral work to be an overseer and concentrate on his writing and ministry to the entire body of Christ--although still recognized by the elders as their leader. Home church pastors were set apart. Ministry groups were formed. The elders called the body into covenant relationship. Community was being formed as some groups bought property to live side-by-side.

The original vision--"thy kingdom come to Melbourne" has yet to be fulfilled, but none doubt we are a lot closer to it than we were in 1967.

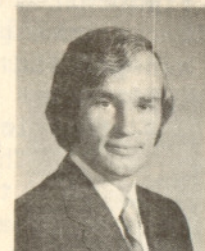
TABERNACLE ELDERS  
WHO ARE THEY



A. RAY BAKER joined the Tabernacle family in 1971. A native of Missouri, he had degrees from Hardin-Simmons University and Southern Baptist Seminary. He was professor of music at Georgetown College and at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. On sabbatical leave from the seminary to complete his PhD in Music at FSU he was baptized in the Holy Spirit and after working for a while as a carpenter, moved to Melbourne. Ray and Wanda have three married children: Michael and Michelle live in Melbourne and are active in the body. Mark is studying music at the University of Indiana.



JIM BAUMAN was raised in Salem, Oregon. He graduated from MIT in 1965 in Civil Engineering and holds a Masters in Construction Management from Stanford Univ. After a short time with Proctor and Gamble he owned and operated his own construction firm in the Bahamas for five years before joining the National Institute of Christian Financial Planning as Executive Administrator. Jim has long been active in fundamental Baptist and non-denominational circles. His wife, Charlene, is from Connecticut. They have three children: Jimmy (11), Debbie (5) and Becky (1). The Baumans moved to Melbourne two years ago. Jim is active in sports, camping and water activities.



JAMIE BUCKINGHAM is best known as a Christian writer and a significant leader of the charismatic renewal. A native of Vero Beach, Fla, he is a graduate of Mercer University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He pastored Baptist churches in South Carolina and Florida. Later he served as a roving editor for Guideposts magazine, executive editor for Logos Journal, and continues as senior editorial consultant for Logos International. He has written 27 books, writes a weekly editorial page column for the Vero Beach Press Journal, and has traveled throughout the world in ministry and research. His wife Jackie, is also from Vero Beach. They have five children: Bruce is a graduate of Oral Roberts University, Robin (a married daughter) and Bonnie are at ORU, Tim and Sandy are at Eau Gallie High School.



DR. BRUCE MORGAN graduated from Baptist Bible Seminary in New York and holds a Doctor of Divinity degree from Manahath College in Pennsylvania. For a number of years he was a featured speaker, Bible teacher and officer in the Independent Fundamentalist Churches of America. He founded Northeastern Gospel Crusade, a home missionary endeavor planting churches in New England. More recently this modern day prophet has emerged from fiery trials, had a shattering experience with the Holy Spirit, and submitted his ministry to the elders at the Tabernacle. A great pulpit orator, he has been used by God to shake men awake preaching God's message of liberty from bondage of sin and the law. Bruce and Trudy have two grown sons, Vaughn and Vance, both college graduates and married to nurses.



RALPH MULL has spent most of his life as a professional fire fighter. A native of Kansas City, Mo, he followed his Air Force training with schools in Firefighting and Firefighting Management. He moved to Florida 14 years ago and rose to the position as County Fire Chief for the S. Brevard District. Ralph and Carol were married in 1953. They have one married child, Cindy LeBeau, and two grandchildren. In 1969 Ralph gave his heart to the Lord and was baptized in the Holy Spirit the same year. After being named as an elder of the Tabernacle three years ago he served for a term as the church administrator on a full time basis before being named a pastor-at-large.



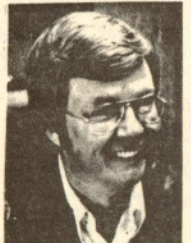
HERMAN RIFFEL, a Baptist minister for 25 years, is a graduate of Wheaton College and has done graduate work at Carl Jung Institute for Analytical Psychology in Zurich, Switzerland. He and his wife, Lillie, have lectured on six continents to church leaders of all denominations, working extensively with Wycliffe Bible Translators and Catholic Pentecostals. For a term he was chaplain to radio HCJB in Quito, Ecuador. Majoring in areas of spiritual and psychological wholeness, the Riffels are known world-wide for their teaching on inner healing and the spiritual/psychological understanding of man. The Riffels moved to Melbourne from Monroe, Michigan in 1977, where he served as Minister-at-large in the Baptist church. They have three grown children: Elaine, David, and Edward.



GORDON STRONGITHARM and his wife, Bernice, are both Canadians. Following service with the military and a brief time with the telephone company, Gordie answered a call to the ministry in 1949. He spent most of the following years as a faith missionary in Brazil with New Tribes Mission. Located on the Amazon River near Manaus, they raised three children on a tiny houseboat while ministering, among other places, among the lepers. Of their children, Donna is a surgeon in Canada, Dick an attorney in Canada, and Terry is married and living in Melbourne. Forced to leave the mission because of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the Strongitharms continued their ministry in Brazil for several years without financial support before being invited to Melbourne in 1974 to rest and later serve in leadership.



JIM UNDERWOOD, born in southern California, wound up in New England after four years in the Coast Guard. He began his career by working in a bank, attending accounting school, and studying Bible at Gordon College in Boston. By that time it was apparent God was directing his life in the area of Christian financial planning. The concept of the National Institute of Christian Financial Planning came into being in 1970 and for three years he worked alone until the NICFP team began to form in Salem, New Hampshire. Two years ago the entire NICFP team moved to Melbourne from New England and last year Jim was named an elder in the Tabernacle. Jim and Joyce live in Satellite Beach and have two children: Scott (8) and Christin (5).



ROGER WILSON was born on an Indian reservation in Utah and later lived in Nebraska and Arizona where his father was dean of Bible schools. Saved at the age of 3½ and baptized into the Swedish Baptist church at the age of 5, he lived with his brother in Chicago after his father died. He graduated from Moody Bible Institute in 1956 and after 2 years in the army worked for 8 years as a technician and engineer at down-range missile stations in the Bahamas and Ascension Island. Baptized in the Spirit he returned to Melbourne working as director of Youth for Christ and later as pastor of a non-denominational church. He married Esther, a former missionary to Africa, in 1968 and has been active in this body since its beginning.



# “ THE ELDERS ”

## WHAT THEY DO

As it was in the tribes of Israel, and in the New Testament church, the elders have oversight of the ministry. At the same time they have a personal call to be servants to the body. While each elder works at his own pace, all are accountable to the other elders in joint submission.

### JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

The elders recognize Jamie's apostolic function in the body of Christ in general--and to this body in particular. Because of his heavy writing and traveling schedule he is not involved in normal pastoral ministry. His mission in Melbourne is to give oversight to the ministry and meet on a priority basis with the other elders, the Committed Body and with the general body on Sunday morning to teach.

### BRUCE MORGAN

Dr. Morgan's ministry is recognized as prophetic, rather than pastoral. While he spends a great deal of time in pastoral ministry, his basic thrust is to teach at the Sunday evening service, direct all the leadership training, and through personal ministry make disciples in the body.

### JIM BAUMAN

Although Jim works full time for NICFP he also is charged with duties as the church administrator for the Tabernacle. He gives direction to the church secretary and all the administrative affairs connected with the office and ministry.

### JIM UNDERWOOD

The elders recognize Jim's basic ministry is that of president of NICFP. Although he works full time at that ministry he also functions in the body as a public Bible teacher and is involved in such pastoral duties as his schedule allows. His basic ministry is to the elders themselves and he gives personal oversight to the Youth Minister.

THE TRUMPET  
PUBLISHED FORTNIGHTLY BY THE TABERNACLE CHURCH,  
1616 FERNDALE AVE., MELBOURNE, FLORIDA 32935,  
SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT MELBOURNE, FLORIDA  
BRANCH POST OFFICE,

MAILING ADDRESS :  
BOX 1405  
MELBOURNE, FL. 32935

Some of the elders are recognized as Pastors-At-Large. They serve the body by meeting the pastoral needs which fall outside the scope of home church pastors. (Those in home churches look to their home church pastors for ministry.) In this capacity they minister in the hospital, visit in homes, do personal counseling, handle weddings and funerals, work with the various ministry groups and disciple home church pastors. In addition they serve in specific areas.

### RAY BAKER

Gifted in music, Ray coordinates all music and worship at the general assemblies of the body. He is also responsible for those who perform ministry to the assembly by discerning their gifts.

### RALPH MULL

An expert at fire-fighting, Ralph has been designated as our "crisis elder", serving the body by being able to step into crisis situations with God's wisdom. He coordinates the buildings and grounds ministry and is responsible for the follow-up ministry, giving direction to all who wish to become more active in the functions of the local body.

### ROGER WILSON

A tender shepherd, Roger coordinates the activities of the home church pastors. Along with Ralph he is responsible for placing individuals in home churches. He also supervises the sound ministry and Tabernacle Tapes.

### GORDON STRONGITHARM

Gordon's 25 years as a missionary in the Amazon have given him a special sensitivity to those in need. Besides his personal ministry in these areas he coordinates all visitation schedules for the pastors-at-large.

### HERMAN RIFFEL

Because of his specialized ministry to the body of Christ at large, traveling and lecturing, the elders have relieved Herman of all but counseling by appointment in Melbourne. He also counsels with the elders concerning any difficult ministry and helps coordinate their personal counseling schedules. He plans church-wide and leadership seminars also.

# TABERNACLE GOVERNMENT

(OR, HOW THINGS WORK AROUND HERE)

(Continued)

GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY in the Tabernacle is local apostolic. While the elders are the determining body, they recognize the mantle of oversight rests on only one of them. He, in turn, submits back to the elders. The elders deeply respect the priesthood of all believers, and therefore submit their direction to the Committed Body for confirmation.

COVENANT RELATIONSHIP is at the heart of the body. Although there are a large number who attend the Sunday meetings at the Tabernacle, there is a much smaller group who has entered into a sacred covenant. They have vowed to: Submit to the total lordship of Jesus Christ, enter into brotherly love with others in the Committed Body, and submit to the elders in matters of church government. This nuclear group of the body has publicly entered into covenant relationship with this local expression of the Body of Christ much as a husband and wife take covenant vows of loyalty and fidelity. Those in the Committed Body tithe their incomes, are endeavoring to find God's purpose for their lives in ministry groups, and have committed themselves to home churches under the spiritual oversight of a pastor.

THE HOME CHURCHES are small groups, 3 to 15 families, who have committed themselves at this level. While they function apart from the Committed Body, the pastors are in submission to the elders. Through them the elders give input and guidance to the home churches. The churches meet at various times in homes throughout the community for the purpose of fellowship, teaching,

ministry and discipleship. While all those in covenant relationship are in home churches, the churches are not limited to those in the Committed Body. Some of the home church are more tightly committed than others, and thus are "closed" groups. Most, however, are open for any who wish to enter into commitment at the small group level, or are agencies of evangelism for those wishing to know more about the Lord and His kingdom on earth.

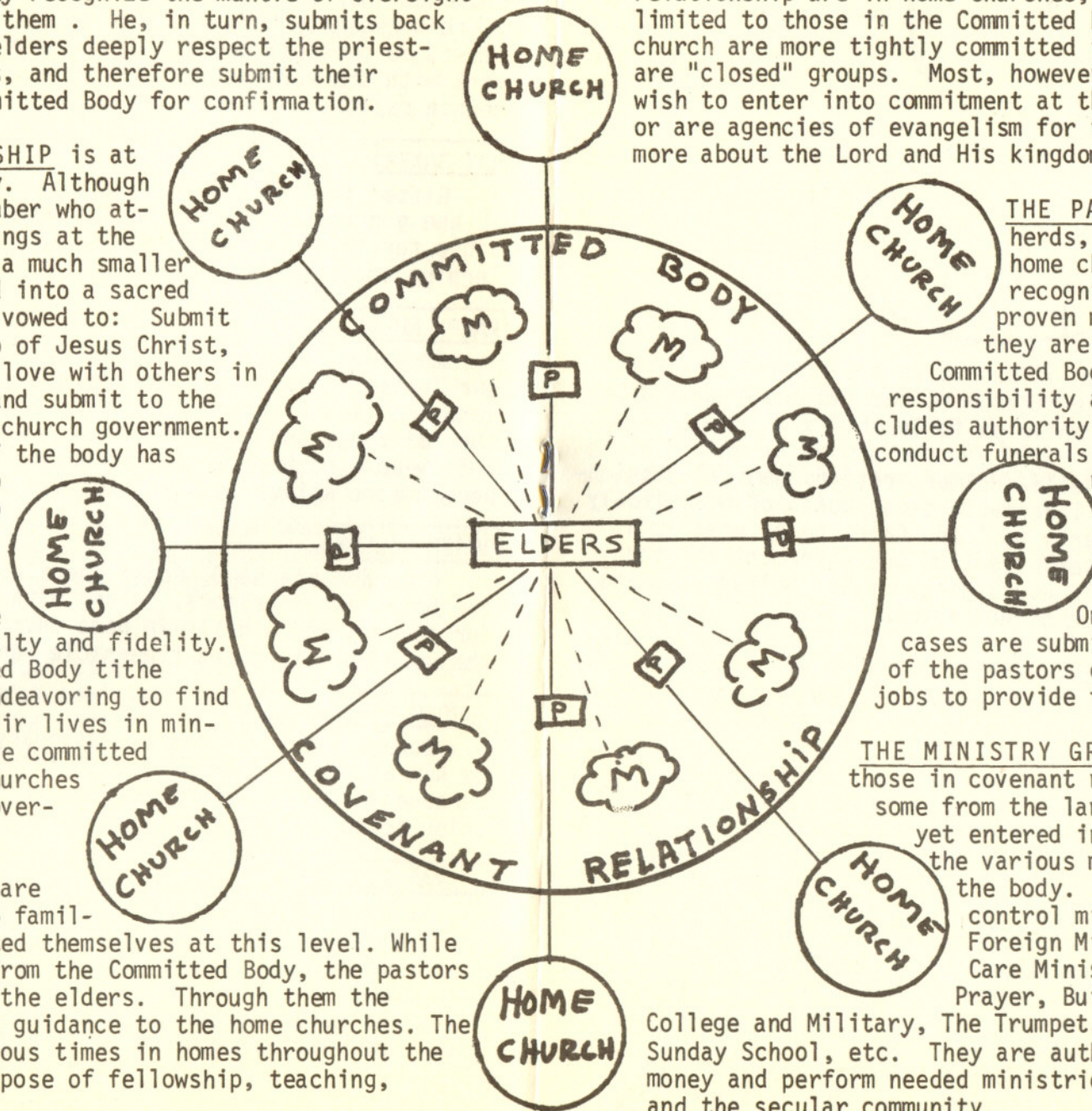
THE PASTORS (P), or shepherds, spiritually lead the home churches. As they are recognized by the elders from proven ministry in the body, they are ordained before the

Committed Body as pastors with full responsibility and authority. This includes authority to perform marriages, conduct funerals, and minister the sacraments (including water baptism). They are also responsible for counseling those in their home churches.

Only the most difficult cases are submitted to an elder. Most of the pastors continue to hold secular jobs to provide for their ministry.

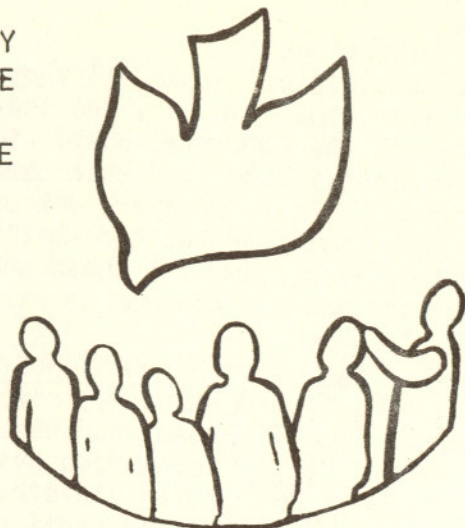
THE MINISTRY GROUPS (M), made up of those in covenant relationship as well as some from the larger body who have not yet entered into covenant, perform the various ministry functions of the body. They supervise and control ministries such as the Foreign Mission Outreach, the Care Ministry, Intercessory Prayer, Buildings and Grounds,

College and Military, The Trumpet, Tabernacle Tapes, Sunday School, etc. They are authorized to spend budget money and perform needed ministries in both the body and the secular community.



## HOLMAN CENTER

A MINISTRY  
OF SERVICE  
TO THOSE  
WHO SERVE



MISSIONARY  
RETREAT  
CENTER

For years a number of people at the Tabernacle have dreamed of a place where tired missionaries could come with their families to rest while on furlough.

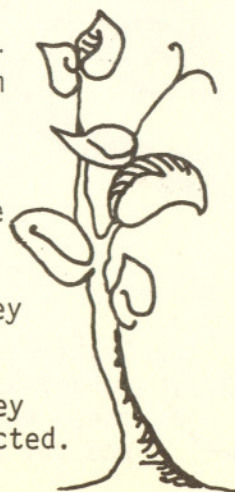
In May, 1977, Dr. Nellie Holman, retired medical missionary to China, gave the Tabernacle seven acres of beautifully wooded riverfront property on Crane Creek to be used as a Missionary Retreat Center. Part of the agreement was the people of the Tabernacle would care for Dr. Holman (who was 85 at the time) the rest of her natural life.

A master plan has been designed calling for a number of single-family cottages on the property, plus a central lodge with a common kitchen and a number of apartments.

Large numbers of missionaries are now being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Many of them have no place to go when they return home on furlough. The need for the Center is acute.

There will be no charge for those using the facilities. Instead, a loving community of Christians will surround these weary warriors from the foreign field to serve them until they return to duty.

The first unit is being built. As the money comes in for other units they will be constructed.



## ← COVENANT RELATIONSHIP →

As the body at the Tabernacle grew in number and matured in spiritual experience it became obvious God was calling into deeper relationships.



In early 1977 about 300 people from the larger assembly entered into covenant relationship, moving toward the full understanding of Christian community. Public vows were made as the people entered into covenant which included: (1) Covenant with God to be under the total Lordship of Jesus Christ. (2) Covenant with one another to enter into a pact of agape love. (3) Pledge loyalty to the others in the Committed Body that the Tabernacle was their spiritual covering. This included practical things such as: submitting to the governmental authority of the elders, becoming involved in ministry, serving in a home church, tithing.

A year later the elders presented a long range plan to move the church into "community." God has confirmed portions of this plan as several of the home churches have purchased property to form "cluster" or "satellite" communities for living relationships.

### HOME CHURCHES

At the heart of covenant relationship is the home church. A number of these churches are now operating in the body. Some of these are "intermediate" churches, for those wanting to learn more about body ministry and commitment before taking a final step into covenant. There are churches for "singles" and for young people.

Those wishing to know more of Covenant Relationship should call the church office or contact Roger Wilson or Ralph Mull. Regular announcements are made for the Life-in-the-Spirit seminars which are prerequisite for those entering into covenant.





# THE FOUNTAIN YOUTH MINISTRIES

Under the direction of Fred Mullins the Tabernacle youth ministry has come of age. Fred came out of the drug culture, was one of the ministers at the original His House, graduated from Stetson University (and served during that time as an associate and youth pastor in a Baptist church) before returning to Melbourne with his wife, Linda, and little Freddy to take over the Youth Director's position.

A large number of young couples have joined the ministry to provide leadership. An adult board of couples in the Committed Body give direction and approve expenditures. A Youth Board, composed of students and young people, help with the plans.

Those who make up the Fountain Ministries believe that the youth today are the church tomorrow. They are emphasizing that the youth ministry is to provide a young peer atmosphere in Kingdom context, building disciples around Jesus Christ.

Two weekly meetings are held for those Junior High age and older.

The Gathering, held in the sheepshed  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Power Hour, held in the nearby teen center (Teen Town) on Sunday 10:00 a.m. --noon.

Activities include regular camp-outs, service projects, sending out summer missionaries, seminars on parent/youth problems, home churches for youth, a dynamic concert ministry, and evangelistic outreach in the local junior and senior high schools.

Youth (or parents) with special needs should contact Fred through the church office. Meetings are open to all youth who wish to attend.



## MINISTRY GROUPS

All those who enter covenant relationship agree to seek God's purpose for their lives as to their ministry in the local body. As they commit themselves to a ministry (some serve on more than one group) they are examined by the elders and then set apart by the body. The current ministry groups are listed. New ones are added as God speaks to men and through needs.

### FOREIGN MISSION OUTREACH

This ministry is the support core of all foreign missionaries and ministries sponsored by the Tabernacle. They select the foreign missionaries for support, monitor their activities, inform the church, and distribute money from the budget to meet their needs. From time to time members of this ministry travel overseas on mission trips.

### CARE

Believing God intends for the church to care for those among its own family who have financial needs, the Ministry of Care carefully interviews those who have needs, ministers to the reasons for those needs, distributes funds from the church budget according to their judgments, and gives financial and spiritual counsel.

### TRUMPET

The Trumpet, mailed fortnightly to almost 8,000 homes across the nation, not only informs the local body of activities at the Tabernacle, but brings encouragement and information to other members of the Body of Christ who do not have a "Tabernacle" close by, or who are interested in this particular expression of the body.

### TABERNACLE TAPES

Not only are all services at the Tab recorded and available for those in the body, but select messages, plus occasional teaching series, are distributed on a regular basis to a growing number of listeners across the nation. All recording, duplicating and distributing are done by this ministry.

### PRAYER

A 24-hour hotline is manned for the sake of all needing prayer. Prayer requests are received at all services and distributed to the Prayer Ministry. Critical needs will reach praying hearts of hundreds of Christians throughout the body within minutes by calling the church office, 259-2024, or (305) 723-8764.

COLLEGE/MILITARY

This ministry keeps in regular contact with all Tabernacle students and military personnel away from home. A limited amount of scholarship money, plus a great deal of wise counsel, is available for college students who have needs.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Physical care of all buildings and grounds are provided by this hard-working ministry. They are also responsible for helping initiate new projects time to time.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

An active Sunday school for kindergarten through grade six is provided in the old Tab building during the regular school year, operating at the same time as the morning services. Regular sessions of "childrens' church" is also provided.

NURSERY

A fully equipped nursery is available for small children during the regular services of the Tabernacle and on other occasions for the use of various home churches.

RADIO CLUB

A radio club for amateur radio operators (ham operators) and others wishing to qualify keeps in constant touch with Christians and missionaries overseas and in remote sections.

MUSIC

The music ministry consists of those who have submitted to qualified leadership for vocal or instrumental presentations in the service, to lead in worship and and train others.

MORNING STAR

The Morning Star is a musical ministry group which represents the Tabernacle ministry in prisons, nursing homes and evangelistic outreach.

LOGOS::TRANSLATORS

Supporting the ministry of Paul and Ginny Witte, who work as independent faith Bible translators in South America. This ministry supports that effort and endeavors to inform not only the Roman Catholics of America, but the entire Body of Christ, of this Catholic Pentecostal outreach into Bible Translation in the primitive tribes of the world.

TABERNACLE CHURCH BUDGET

July-December, 1978

Elders and staff		58,000
Operations and services		
Insurances	4,500	
Nursery	2,500	
Equipment and furniture	1,500	
Office supply	1,500	
Property payments	3,000	
Office rent	2,500	
Utilities	7,500	
Administration	12,500	
Maintenance and improvements	8,000	
Printing and postage	2,500	
Misc.	2,500	48,500
Local Body Ministry		
Youth	14,000	
Care	12,000	
Holman Center (Maintenance)	1,500	
Sunday school	1,500	
Guest speakers	1,000	
V.B.S.	1,000	
College fund	5,000	
Misc.	2,500	39,000
Missions Outreach		
Foreign Missions	20,000	
Evangelism	1,500	
Tape Ministry	2,500	
Trumpet	5,000	
Benevolence	3,000	32,000
TOTAL		177,500
Special projects:		
<u>Jessup property</u> (across from Tabernacle)--to come from local body.		10,000
<u>Holman Center</u> (missionary retreat center)--to come from body-at-large.		100,000



All money given to the Tabernacle Church is tax deductible. Final authority for distribution of funds, including all designated offerings, rests with the authorized ministries. Designated offerings will be honored when at all possible, but people are encouraged to trust their leadership and give to the Lord without strings attached to their gift.





## TABERNACLE MINISTRIES

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1405  
Melbourne, Fla. 32935

CHURCH OFFICE: 1594 Harbor City Blvd.  
(On west side of U.S.1  
between Aurora and Eau  
Gallie Blvd.--next to  
McKemy Realtors.)

CHURCH SECRETARY: Debbie Keiser

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m.-- 4:00 p.m.

TELEPHONE: (305) 259-2024

All inquiries for ministry from elders should be made through the church office.

TABERNACLE BUILDING: 1616 Ferndale  
(Aurora Rd. at Crane  
Field)

SUNDAY MEETING HOURS: 10:00 a.m. til noon  
6:30 p.m.-- 8:30 p.m.

Sunday school 10:00 a.m.  
for children through grade  
six. Nursery open for all  
general assemblies at  
the Tab.

CHURCH TREASURER: Woody and Inez Thompson  
(305) 259-3971