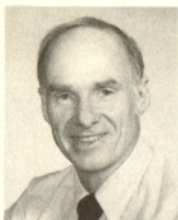


A NEW PERSPECTIVE.

jamie buckingham



Every church has a spirit, an identity, a personality. Some are formal. Others highly organized. Ours is a "people's church."

Years ago God told me, "Don't turn the Tab over to the professionals." We were to be a church run by amateurs--listening to God day-by-day, making mistakes, apologizing, backing up, starting over. That's who we are: The Church-of-those-who-are-starting-over.

People who study human behavior know you cannot force a radical personality change without causing deep damage to a person's spirit. Over the last several years we've been trying to change the Tab. We forgot our original slogan: "For those who want more than a Sunday religion." If it didn't lead people to attend this church, and put their money in our offering plates, it wasn't valid. In short, we tried to take a growing organization and turn it into an organization. It was a mistake. I apologize. We're starting over.

This same concept was reflected in the new Trumpet. "The

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Tab deserves something better than this dinky little Trumpet," I told the elders. "We should have a fancy newspaper like the big boys so we can brag about our many programs...." That, too, was a mistake.

It's like the time my father, who at the age of 80 grew his first mustache. He kept it for four years and shaved it off. "It's just not me," he said.

That expensive, fancy newspaper we published for the last six months was just not us. It was a great idea but it didn't reflect the personality of the Tabernacle. We had turned it over to the professionals and lost the spirit.

In the book and magazine world I work with professionals. I admire their excellence, their long-range planning, their demands for perfection. I understand their concept that the end product is worth more than the people who create it.

But here at home, hearing from God in the leadership of this church, I'm an amateur. Here people are more important than products. This dinky little Trumpet is who we really are. We're starting over.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



For the last several months large numbers of "newcomers" have been attending all the services held in the Tabernacle. While many of these people are from out of town and are attending because they have heard of the Tab or are visiting with relatives, the majority are local people. This is a sovereign move of the Holy Spirit, since we seldom use the media to advertise the church services.

In the past we have not done a very good job winning these people to Christ--much less leading them into a long-term relationship with the church. But all that is changing.

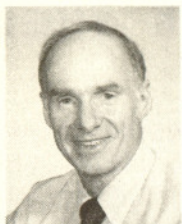
Change one started with Al Reed. Al has chosen 13 couples and several singles who are ministering as "greeters" at all the Sunday services. These are the friendly folks wearing the "Ask Me!" badges that you see when you first arrive at the Tab. They are our front line of ministry to people who attend our services, directing folks to various classes, answering questions about the Tabernacle Church, and ministering to those who come with needs.

Change two is Bruce Truitt's new 8-minute multimedia slide presentation. Beginning October 25, this will be shown to newcomers after each Sunday morning service. Bruce and Michele Buckingham have prepared the slides and script. This will replace the monthly "newcomers' coffee." Bring visitors, neighbors and strangers and urge them to stay over to see this presentation, which illustrates not only the various programs but the vision and spirit of the Tab.

Change three is the powerful evangelism seminar to be held October 18-21 with Francis Anfuso. Both New Covenant Church and Zion Fellowship are cooperating with us, and a number of other churches in the community are sending representatives. The church leadership is convinced God is telling us to give special emphasis to reach out into this community in a new way.

Some years ago the Lord said the Tab was to have a two-fold emphasis: the first was to "come and see," the second was "go and tell." In these new fall programs we combine both --lifting up Jesus to a community filled with activity but walking in darkness.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...
Jamie buckingham



As we close out 1987, I want to try to bring a few things into perspective.

This has been a year of trauma. I never dreamed, just a year ago when I called the leadership into daily morning prayer, that events would unfold as they have. This has been true not only in this church but out across the Kingdom as well. It seems everything that could be shaken has been shook. However, I am more convinced than ever that God has been in charge all along.

The Tab has rebounded exceptionally well from the loss of three staff members and about 300 people. Outwardly, we are now back to where we were before the shaking started. Inwardly, we have made great spiritual strides forward. Reorganization has taken place among the top leaders, and I feel good being back in the saddle again.

God has spoken to me about my own mistakes--including the mistake of trying to hand over the leadership of this church to anyone else. When He handed it back to me, He warned me

this was my last chance to do what He had told me to do with this Body--and that is to impart His Spirit into the people.

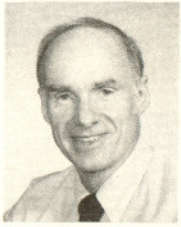
I am going to need your help with this, for I know I am not to get involved with pastoral things--weddings, funerals, counseling, visitation, personal ministry. My task is to impart God's Spirit to the leaders, and through my preaching and teaching, to the corporate Body. It is the task of the home church pastors, and a number of others in the Body who have a pastoral call on your life, to do the actual sheep-herding. In short, if you'll do your task, I will be able to do mine, and together this church will become what God intends for it to be.

The call God gave us back in the summer to go "out," not "up," remains. We are not called to build a superchurch, we're called to help evangelize this community by starting other churches. You'll be hearing more of this in days to come.

It's been a wonderful year. Next year will be greater. Hug someone in Jesus' name as we celebrate His birth together.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



After living with church people for half a decade including 30 years of being a shepherd,

I remain amazed over our inability to know how to settle disputes.

In my early years as a pastor I struggled with people who boycotted the church at the first sign of trouble. If some church leader crossed someone in a business deal, it was invariable that one or both those persons would drop out of corporate worship. If a man's wife had an affair with someone in the church, usually both innocent spouses would stop attending church services. They'd withhold their money, too.

That's just plumb crazy. If ever you need the corporate body, it's when you're going through some kind of crisis. Yet across the years I've watched people blame "the church" when someone in the church does them in.

When my children refused to come to the dinner table following some dispute with another family member, we had a word for it. We called it

sulking. Pouting was a better word. It's bad enough when it happens to a 5-year-old. But when you see a 50-year-old man pouting, it's even worse.

Absence from one another in times of discord intensifies the discord. If someone says something that offends you, it is natural to withdraw. But that withdrawal always results in additional distrust. Now enter "vain imaginations," and we begin believing the lies Satan whispers to us about the other person. The only way to overcome this kind of distrust is to force ourselves back into relationship.

Granted, if you try to relate and are rebuffed, if you go to visit and they refuse to let you in (or scurry into the closet and pretend they're not at home), there's not much you can do but love and pray. But most people aren't that crass. They may be hurt but they, too, want the relationship mended. Contact, even casual contact, will start the healing.

If you have aught against anyone, go to them. Love them. And let God restore the relationship.

TAB PEOPLE JOIN JAMIE IN ISRAEL

FOR ON-LOCATION VIDEOTAPING



Cameras roll at Sea of Galilee as Jamie teaches from one of the miracles of Jesus.

One hundred thirty Americans, 29 of them from the Tabernacle, met Jamie in Israel in October as he videotaped 30 Bible lessons on actual location. These, along with the workbooks he is preparing, will be ready for distribution in February. They will be given to all the prison ministries in America and will also be available for purchase to be used in churches and home groups.

Jamie and his camera crew from Cape Cod's Community of Jesus went to Israel a week in advance to do preliminary taping. The tour group, headed by Jim Jackson from Montreat, NC, later joined him--first at Megiddo in the Jezreel Valley. From that point on the tour group comprised Jamie's audience as he taught from the

miracles and the parables of Jesus, as well as from the lives of well known Bible heroes such as Elijah, Joshua, and Simon Peter. Of special interest was a night taping from the Garden of Gethsemane when Jamie recalled the night of Jesus' betrayal and how young John Mark had fled into the darkness--only to later become a Bible hero.

Jamie's work in Israel is part of the outreach of the Tabernacle ministry. The finished product, distributed to America's prison chaplains and prison ministers free of charge, is possible because of gifts from Christians around the nation.

Churches and small group leaders who are interested in more information on this project should contact Paraclete Press, Hilltop Plaza, Orleans, MA 02653-9990 or may call free of charge 1-800-451-5006.



At Samuel's tomb, overlooking Jerusalem, camera crew gets ready to tape Jamie's teaching on the parable of the talents.



In Wadi Kelt, in the Judean Wilderness above Jericho, Jamie teaches on Joshua.

THE TABERNACLE FAMILY ALBUM

bruce buckingham



During worship you usually see BONNIE and DALE VELIE on the front row, dancing, often shaking a tambourine. That is, unless Bonnie, one of our Hebrew dancers with a special gift for interpretive dance, has moved onto the platform with the dance group.

They are a unique couple. It is hard to believe it when Bonnie says she was a "suppressed person" before coming to the Tab.

"At other churches I was suppressed because of what the leadership said a Christian could or could not do, or should or should not be," she says. "But when I came to the Tab, I began to inch out and become a whole person. The leadership here gives me the freedom to be who God made me. I feel I'm encouraged to grow into who I am."

Dale and Bonnie both grew up in Christian homes. Dale's father was a Pentecostal Holiness pastor, and Bonnie's dad, Don Lees, was a minister who is now one of the Tab's elders.

The couple met as teenagers at Brevard Christian School where Bonnie, the head cheerleader, was designated to cheer for Dale, the leader of the football team. Dale had a crush on Bonnie but never let her know.

The two went separate ways when Bonnie moved to Ohio. In rebellion against God and family, she became heavily involved in the drug culture. But the Lord had different plans for her. After much struggle, she eventually returned to God and to Melbourne. She decided to look up some "old friends" and called Dale. Within four months they were married.

That was nine years ago. They now have two children, Jason, 8, and Linda, 6. They own a lawn care service, Shear Class, Inc., and together are superintendents of the Sunday School (9:30-10:30 a.m.) for the kindergarten through sixth grades.

THE TABERNACLE FAMILY ALBUM...

bruce buckingham



"My mission in life is to cheer people up." Imagine growing up in Nazi Germany, surviving World War II, and being able to say that.

Born in Berlin in 1933, UVE LAUFENBERG not only survived, he prospered. He met his wife, IRMGARD, in Dusseldorf and they were married in 1956. Three years later they emigrated to Florida.

"We both worked for the German government," Irmgard said. "We were assured a job if we decided we didn't like it here and wanted to return to Germany." But they didn't return.

"When we arrived in Melbourne we found a Lutheran church," Uve said. "As Germans you can only be Lutheran or Catholic," he joked. "That is, except Irmgard." She became spirit-filled in 1972. "We had big fights over charismatics," Uve said, "and I decided to go on a crusade to eliminate them all, beginning with those in the Lutheran church we were attending."

But to win the arguments with his wife, Uve had to learn about charismatics. "I was forced to study the Bible, to keep up my end. Then I started going to the Tabernacle on Sunday nights with Irmgard."

But after being "hurt spiritually" by the other church, Uve said to Irmgard, "It's over." "What's over?" And Uve said, "We are going to the Tab."

It took a while, but eventually Uve was baptized in the Holy Spirit himself. "I resisted tongues," he said. "I didn't like anything coming out of my mouth I didn't understand." But soon the barriers came down. Now his mission to cheer people up is backed by the Spirit of God.

Uve has been head usher at the Tab now for 8 years. You can find him in the back with a visitor's packet in one hand and an offering basket in the other. "It's the perfect place for someone who once said 'You will never catch me dead in the Tabernacle.'"

Uve, a quality control inspector for Harris, is also Eau Gallie High soccer coach. Their two children are Angela, 29, and Alexander, 24.