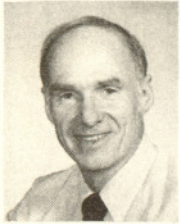


A NEW PERSPECTIVE

jamie buckingham



Mr. & Mrs. James Buckingham
3905 Hield Rd. NW
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All living things do four things. They assimilate nourishment. They eliminate waste.

They grow. They reproduce.

If they fail to do any of these functions they die.

Plants need nourishment from the sun, air, rain and earth. They shed leaves, bark, and cells. They grow and they reproduce with seeds, sprouts, acorns, or spores.

Horsemen know that feeding, shoveling, grooming and breeding are all part of the process of life and health.

Our homes reflect these processes with kitchens, bathrooms, exercise rooms and bedrooms.

The same is true in God's Kingdom. We must feed on God's Word--not just through Bible preaching, teaching, but by assimilating His truth from every corner of the winds.

We must eliminate. That means a willingness to throw off dead traditions, repent of our sins and leave them behind, and nail even our greatest dreams and ambitions to the cross.

We are commanded to grow. In Power for Living, I listed an acrostic which describes growth.

G--Go to God in prayer daily.

R--Read God's Word daily.

O--Obey God, moment by moment.

W--Witness for Christ by life and word.

T--Trust God for every detail of life.

H--Holy Spirit. Allow Him to fill, empower, and control your daily life.

The final element of life is reproduction. We can live comfortably and never have children. But we can never live victoriously--for life demands we somehow reproduce ourselves. If not in physical children, then in spiritual children. The only thing which brings as much satisfaction as watching one of your children grow in the Lord is to see the marvelous changes which come after introducing someone to Christ.

This New Year I challenge you to begin living by feeding, leaving old things behind, growing in Christ, and sharing your testimony.

To move on with God means change. Those who do not are dead already.

From myself, Jackie, our five children and spouses, and our eight grandchildren (with two more on the way)--
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



Several weeks ago President Reagan honored seven outstanding Americans for their contribution to the arts. Among them was Nathan Milstein who is one of the world's greatest violinists.

"When I play," Milstein said, "I become one with the music."

When people worship, they become one with God.

I watched this happen one Sunday night recently. There had been a period of prophecy. Then Jimmy Smith, sitting at the piano, confessed he was having a hard time translating what he was hearing into English. Jimmy had been struggling with some deep personal problems Saturday night and all day Sunday. Yet he was at his appointed place Sunday night, even though he didn't feel like it. As he reached out to God in his limited but obedient way, God responded--as He does to all worshipers. Sitting at the piano, Jimmy spoke, hesitatingly, what he felt God was saying.

As Jimmy spoke I was reminded of Jeremiah 31:33. I picked up my Bible and turned to the passage. When Jimmy finished I walked over to the piano and put my open Bible above the

keyboard. Reminding the people that Jimmy said he was struggling with the prophecy, I asked them to pray that God would anoint Jimmy in his most gifted area--music. I asked them to pray God would give Jimmy an instant song, enabling him to set to music Jeremiah 31:33.

It was a bold move, believing God would give a man the ability to compose and sing on the spot. But each one in the auditorium reached their hands out toward Jimmy, praying. Then came the music, first soft, floating on the wings of a butterfly, then building to a crescendo on the powerful strokes of eagles' wings. We listened and worshiped.

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.... This is the covenant."

When the notes from the Baldwin grand piano and the sound of Jimmy's magnificent voice drifted away, we sat listening to the heavenly echo--each one hearing God for himself.

Because one man had worshiped, becoming one with the Word and with the Spirit, all the rest of us had been swept into the throne room of God.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



Last year, jolted by the PTL scandal and the revelation that the heads of many large ministries were paying themselves obscene salaries, the media went berserk trying to discover what everyone was making. When the Orlando Sentinel called and wanted an interview, the reporter insisted on coming to my house.

Looking around my house, he asked, "You bought this on donations given to the Tabernacle Church?"

"Step out here in the front hall," I said. "I want to introduce you to the woman who paid for this house." We stood looking at a picture of Corrie ten Boom. "That old woman bought this house and property for you?" he asked.

"No," I laughed. "But Tramp for the Lord brought in \$90,000--enough to buy this house and 20 acres, 12 years ago. We still owe \$40,000--but not a penny of Tab money went into purchasing this house."

Last year I ran a survey of 20 churches across the nation to determine what pastors and staff were being paid. The salaries of senior pastors ranged from a Seattle church paying their pastor \$35,000 to an Orlando pastor receiving \$121,000. But the Seattle

church paid \$1.3 million in additional salaries, and the Orlando church plunked out another \$2.2 million on staff.

Total salaries at the Tab this year are less than \$300,000.

In January I radically revised the salary scales at the Tab--one of the reasons we operated at a deficit in 1986. We have given substantial raises to all staff pastors. These are called, dedicated people, due double honor. If our church income increases, we'll give them another raise before the year is out.

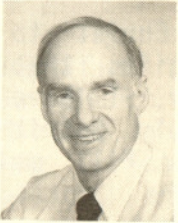
My total salary and allowances, which includes my home office and travel expense, is \$36,000. Out of that I pay my own social security of \$6,000. This is my only regular income. I am paid per piece for each article and column I write for Charisma and Ministries Today magazines. My writing income (book royalties have dwindled to almost nothing) and a few speaking honorariums are paid to a small non-profit organization called Hebron Ministries, Inc. that disperses money to ministries our family supports. A tithe of all Hebron income goes to the Tabernacle. We always seem to have an abundance.

God blesses those who live sensibly and give generously.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

jamie buckingham

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In my basic journalism class in college I learned that every news article needs to incorporate, in the first paragraph, the five W's of journalism: Who, What, When, Where, Why?

When these W's are transposed over into corporate life, you have what is known as a "corporate mission statement."

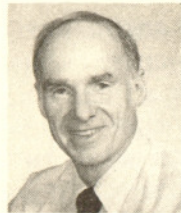
I have struggled with the mission statement of the Tabernacle Church--simply because it seems to keep changing. Who are we? What are we supposed to be doing? Why are we here?

Last year, however, following John Noble's visit from England, some things began to fall into place. The only adequate mission statement for this church is the mission statement God gave the first church in Jerusalem. That statement is found in Acts 2:42-47. Here, then, is the mission statement of the Tabernacle Church, paraphrased into modern language.

1. We are a family of people who devote themselves to Biblical principles.
2. We major on fellowship. Individuals are infinitely more important than programs.
3. We regularly commune with God through the Eucharist.
4. The foundation for life is prayer--talking to and hearing from God. If we do not hear from God, we do not act; likewise, we do all God tells us to do.
5. We are a people of worship--filled with awe at God's majesty.
6. Signs, wonders, and miracles performed by believers are the norm, not the exception, of the Christian life.
7. We are a giving, sharing church. All we have belongs to our brothers and sisters in the body.
8. As cells in the Body of Christ who enjoy each other's presence, we meet often in home groups but also in Sunday celebration.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



A number of years ago we had a fine group of men who served the church. They took care of widows and orphans, gave oversight to ministries, and distributed the money that came in weekly. We called them "The Seven."

One day I said to them, "You men are doing the work of New Testament deacons. Instead of calling you "the Seven," let's call you deacons." It was a big mistake. Almost overnight they began acting like the modern concept of deacons. Instead of servants, they became rulers. Eventually the entire concept had to be abandoned.

Titles, I've discovered, corrupt. They corrupt the people who have the titles. They corrupt the people who call them by the title--for each of us has our own idea of what "deacons" or "elders" should do. That is one of the reasons I have shunned the title of "pastor," because I was afraid of the corruption. I would rather serve as pastor with no title than have the title and lose my perspective of chief shepherd.

I have struggled with this in the appointment of new elders. For more than a month I have been meeting with two former elders (Don Lees and Gene Berrey) as we have begun the new eldership. Both men feel as I: elders are overseers and advisors, not managers. Rather, they are men to whom I can submit, men who will give oversight to this body through me. I have appreciated their understanding of New Testament eldership, their willingness to support and correct me and to give servant-leadership to the Tab. We may add a couple more in the future, but this will remain a low-profile group.

I am emphasizing the ministry of the pastors as the hands-on managers of church affairs. In the Biblical sense, the pastors are shepherds in that they give pastoral oversight and are looked upon as mature, recognized public leaders. I also submit the direction of the church to them, while looking to the elders for the final overview.

Pray for these men and women who lead us.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



Last week, during lunch with a young pastor from south Florida, I told him my dream

was for everyone at the Tab to have their dreams fulfilled. I believe every Believer wants to serve God in a deep way, and wants to help hurting people. My task is not to lead people to fulfill my dream for the church, but to serve them as they accomplish their own dream.

The pastor asked, "But what if their dreams run counter to your dream for the Tab?"

"You don't understand. My dream for the Tab is that the people have their dreams fulfilled. I have no other goal or vision."

Recently we saw one of those "dreams" fulfilled when Arnold and Phyllis Lent left to spend a year in Brazil on the Amazon. The Lents have retired from his job as a boatbuilder. They've sold everything and with only Social Security as support have left for the Amazon where Arnold will be building river boats for missionaries and Phyllis will be cruising the river as a nurse

working with the Indians. We took up a special offering of more than \$5,000 to help them on their way.

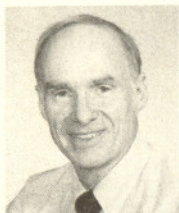
Another fulfilled dream came when we called Jim and Evelyn Bartholomew as Pastor to Youth and Young Adults. Jim and Evelyn have worked their way up through the church, believing God has a special call on their lives. Evelyn spent a year in Peru as a Short Term Missionary with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Jim served as a part time pastor in a church near here. He has now resigned his job at Harris and will be giving full-time ministry to our young people as well as supervising discipleship training among our college, career and young adult group.

There are many others in the Tabernacle who believe God has a special call on their lives. Join me in this marvelous goal of helping each one find fulfillment of the dream God has placed in their hearts. The Tab is not a church of programs--it is a church of people. Each one has something precious to contribute. We will all be richer when each dream is fulfilled.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

jamie buckingham

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When Hurricane Gilbert slammed into Jamaica, it was not only packing winds close to 200 mph, but

the eye of the storm registered the lowest barometric pressure in history. The result of this low pressure as the hurricane roared over open water was an "ocean surge." The ocean, at the eye of the storm and extending out almost 100 miles on all sides, had actually risen--like a great dome--more than 200 feet higher than normal. On top of this surge were the normal waves caused by the wind--ranging between 12 and 15 feet high. No storm in history has compared to this one.

As we finished our leaders' retreat in Daytona, Gilbert was rapidly dying in the Gulf, blowing itself out over the mountains of Mexico. But at the same time God said He was going to send a "spiritual surge" over the Tabernacle Church. The creative and constructive power we would receive would make the destructive power of Gilbert seem as nothing.

A prophetic word came as the retreat came to a close. God said because of the tears of

repentance shed by the leaders He was going to send a mighty wave of signs and wonders into our midst. There would be miracles and healings like we've never seen before. The announcement was met with awe, humility, and more tears.

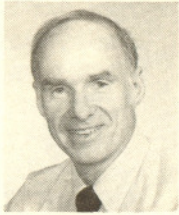
The next morning as I stood to receive the offering God spoke to me. He said He wanted me to know He could now trust the leadership of this church not only with miracles--but with money. For years we've moved slowly--paying cash as we went, blessing the poor, supporting missions, never using God's money to build monuments to our egos. Our decision to give our first offerings to missions has pleased Him. Now, following the breaking the church has been through--fasting on the part of many, tears of repentance and love shed by the leaders--God says He can trust us with His abundance. Specifically, He said He was going to increase our offerings and by the end of October they would be double what they were in early September. This would be done without man's efforts to raise money.

I know this means all of us must cooperate and hear God as He tells us how to give. The surge is here. Rejoice!

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

jamie buckingham

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Citizens for Drug Awareness has compiled statistics showing that our nation is now on the verge of drug chaos. It is our #1 problem.

- * The life expectancy of every age group in the nation is increasing except for the teen group--whose life expectancy has decreased 15 percent since 1960.
- * 50 percent of teen deaths are alcohol related.
- * One out of every five high school students has a drinking problem.
- * One-third of American children start smoking marijuana in grade school.
- * More than 70 percent of high school seniors use drugs regularly.
- * It takes an adult five to 15 years from the time of his first drink to become an alcoholic. Because of more susceptible body chemistry, it can take a teen six to 18 months, and a pre-adolescent as little as three months from the time of first drink to be a confirmed alcoholic.

- * 20 percent of all those whose lives you depend on--airline pilots, doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers--are active drug users.
- * One out of every five drivers approaching you on Saturday night on Brevard roads is either drunk or high on illegal drugs.
- * There are more than 4,000 adult alcoholics in Brevard County--and at least 12,000 adults and youth addicted to drugs. Local drug experts say that number could be twice as high in Brevard.

The answer is not to stop the flow of drugs into the nation. The answer is changed hearts inside the nation. That's the reason we have called Jim Gaffney to this full time ministry, helping those struggling with addiction. If you have a problem with drugs or alcohol...if you have been (or are being) victimized by someone who has a problem...if you are willing to help those with problems--please contact Jim at the church.

Jesus sent us to "set the captives free." No bondage is worse than addiction. We need your help.

THE TABERNACLE FAMILY ALBUM...

bruce buckingham



BEN AND HELEN SLAUGHTER celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary last August. They were an unlikely couple to meet and marry, Ben coming from a Southern Baptist background in North Carolina and Helen from the Church of Christ in West Virginia. But to look at them today you can see how God has used them to minister to His body. "We are people-centered," Helen said. "We love people."

Helen has found a perfect niche as the Tab nursery supervisor, though she also holds other jobs that require her to travel over 1200 miles a month. Ben owns Slaughter Insurance Services and B&H Organ Service, Inc. He has turned a photographic hobby into a near-profitable vocation too. Yet despite their busy schedules, they always manage time for ministry.

At their daughter Terri's request, the Slaughters formed a home church for young people. Over a period of five years the emphasis

has shifted from older teens to young adults--studying, praying and playing together.

"My goal in life is to be available for what the Lord wants me to do," Ben said. "He is a better planner of my life than I am. I once heard Adger McKay, a well-known evangelist, say, 'If you are still making plans for your life, Jesus is not your Lord.' That, I can honestly say, influenced me more than almost anything else."

Before moving to Melbourne in 1979, Ben and Helen struggled through some financial difficulties while living in Hickory, North Carolina.

"Romans 8:28 helped us through those times," Ben said. "I was feeling sorry for myself, and God answered my prayer by bringing folks to us who were worse off than we were. It took my mind off my own problems."

Living daily for Christ is what Ben and Helen do best. "When we are in need, the Lord always puts a job in front of us," Ben explained. "He blesses us and meets our needs when we work hard."

The Slaughters have three grown daughters: Chris, Terri and Renee, and one granddaughter, Danielle.

THE TABERNACLE FAMILY ALBUM...

bruce buckingham



"The church I was attending on the beach kept referring to 'that little church across the river,'--the Tabernacle--as being a place to stay away from. But I tried it. After the third visit, I was convinced it was where I should make my home."

Though the Tabernacle did become her church home, Debbie was thirsting for all the fellowship available and found herself attending other churches and home groups. It was at a home group she first saw her future husband, Paul.

By her own admission, DEBBIE BOUTIN was just a shy, soft-spoken teenager when she moved to Florida in the early 1970s. But it was that same quiet spirit that allowed the Lord to move and shape her life in a way only God can.

"Both my parents went to church and my grandparents were deeply religious," she says. "But I met the Lord through the rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar. I bought the album and every time I listened to it I started crying."

Soon she discovered a friend of hers at school was a Christian, and they began attending the Sunshine Surf Shop fellowship. It was there she was filled with the Holy Spirit. After trying several churches and home groups she decided she needed a Spirit-filled church.



Paul the builder

"I didn't know him very well, but once, when I was thinking about him, I actually heard audible wedding bells," she says, smiling.

Over time, the Lord continued to show Debbie in little ways that she and Paul were going to be married. He even told her once that Paul was the one He had picked for her. She prayed that the Lord would reveal the same to Paul, and it was confirmed in a manner that was unmistakably from God.

"We met in March and were married in August," Debbie says. "In fact, our first kiss was on our wedding day, after Jamie said 'You may kiss the bride.'"

Since then, Debbie and Paul's relationship has grown into a healthy, mature and loving one. Paul, an employee of Florida Power and Light Company, has been building their house on Masters Road in Palm Bay. They moved in seven years ago and have continued to build while living in the house--not an easy job while raising two children, Noel, 12, and Tyler, 9.

People at the Tab know Debbie as an accomplished mime, Hebrew, "musign" and interpretive dancer who blesses us often on the platform during worship. But she doesn't just dance at the Tabernacle. As part of the dance group "Silent Witness," she performs dances she has choreographed herself before huge crowds in churches and workshops, and even in some TV commercials.



Debbie the mime

"The Lord works through me with special songs," she says. "He gives me the steps to the dances as I listen to the words."

THE TRUMPET



The Tabernacle Church
Melbourne, Florida

Vol. 22, No. 3

March, 1988

CHURCH POLICY ISSUE

Recently we took a survey of the Sunday morning congregations. One of the questions was: "Do you feel our church has a good policy of openness and honesty with regard to the disclosure of church business?"

360 said yes.

158 said no.

Of the 158 who answered no, 138 wrote out suggestions on how to change that policy.

Some of those, as you can imagine, were impossible to implement. Many were solid suggestions. Most simply said, "We love this church but don't know what's going on."

Since I refuse to use Sunday morning time dedicated to worship and ministry to discuss business, and since it's difficult to get everyone together for one of our "town meetings," I've decided to use these next few issues of the Trumpet to write candidly and honestly about church policy and church business. (Beginning in February, one Sunday night a month is now dedicated as a "Body Meeting" which replaces the quarterly town meetings.)

Your church staff and leaders are here to serve you as "ministers of reconciliation." If after reading this material you have additional questions, I urge you to contact the church office at 259-2024. If you call, I promise someone will respond.

Love,

Jamie Buckingham, Pastor

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

God is the source of all our material needs. Disciples of Jesus are those who have chosen to use all their material possessions for His glory. They follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit and give unselfishly as He directs.

The scriptures are plain concerning God's plan when it comes to money. Long before the law of Moses came into existence, God instituted a principle called TITHING. Abraham gave tithes to Mechizedek, an ancient king who is portrayed in the scriptures as a type of Christ ("And he gave him tithes of all," Genesis 14:20).

God commands His people to tithe to Him as a way of showing love and honor. In early days, before money became a means of exchange, the tithe meant bringing 10 percent of all increase. Ten percent of the lambs born to a flock and of the bushels of grain gathered in the field were given to God. These tithes were brought to the Temple and were received by the Levites who lived off a portion of them, distributed a portion to the poor, and used some as a burnt offering to God.

The command of God to "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house" (Malachi 3:10) has never been rescinded. Jesus, who said He came not to destroy but to fulfill the law, told the religious people of His day that while they should not neglect the "important matters of the law"--they should continue to tithe (Matthew 23:23).

The tithe of all your income should go to the church where you belong. If the Tabernacle Church is where you are fed spiritually, you should be tithing through that church to God. To do less would be as Derek Prince once suggested: to eat your meal at the Hilton, then tell the cashier you preferred to pay your bill to the Holiday Inn, since their need was greater.

However, the tithe is but a starting point. It is "God's minimum." The Bible has much to say about "tithes and offerings." Tithes belong to the local church. The tithe is not ours to designate. It belongs to God. Offerings, over and above the tithe, are to be used to finance other worthy ministries as God directs.

Those who withhold from God--who disobey God's command for giving--disqualify themselves from God's blessing and protection. Those who give with cheerful and obedient hearts qualify for God's promise: "Return to me, and I will return to you (Malachi 3:7).

CHURCH SURVEY RESULTS

Here are the results of some of the questions of the recent survey.

1. My basic reason for attending the Tabernacle Church is:
Music Ministry--171; Children's Ministry--33; Jamie's preaching--323; Joy Ministry--73; Friends, friendly atmosphere--211; Youth Group--40; Home group involvement--103; Opportunity to minister--51; Pastoral counseling--29; God has called me here--335.

2. Do you feel comfortable inviting friends to your church?
Yes--517; No--63.

3. What's wrong with our Sunday morning services?
Preaching too long--10; Music "old fashioned"--22; Not enough special speakers--30; Messages unrelatable--14; Service is boring--8; Inadequate children's ministry--24; Inadequate parking--21; Don't like dancing--67; Singing too long--63; Standing too long--120; Too strong appeal for money--3; Unfriendly--12; Inadequate nursery--6; None--202; Other--120 comments.

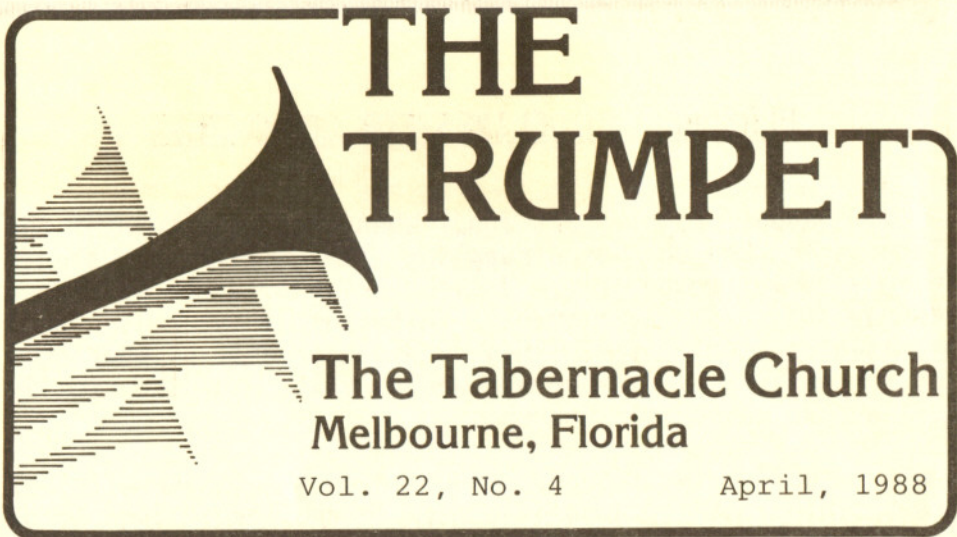
4. Are you involved in a home group?
Yes--213; No--311.

5. The reason I am not in a home group:
Don't know how to get in one--44; Too unfriendly--9; Purpose not clear--24; Too busy--61; Never invited--46; Where are they?--55; I don't need one--10; Other--171 comments.

6. The largest concern in our home is:
Family devotions--96; Problem with children--80; Financial problems--90; Marriage not strong--62; Lack of Biblical understanding--69; Need friends--107.

7. Should we cancel Sunday evening services?
Yes--263; No--236.

8. Should we establish a church membership?
Yes--141; No--301.



THE TABERNACLE CHURCH: WHO WE ARE

We are a family of believers (koinonia) who have been called out of the world (ecclesia) to live holy, separate lives to God's glory. We serve at God's pleasure. The Tabernacle does not belong to, nor is it run by, the people, the elders, nor the pastors. Jesus Christ is head of the church and we are but a part of His greater body. We believe in divine order and divine government, but all leadership serves under His Lordship. Even though we have long-range goals and plans, we are to hear God on a daily basis, and be open for major and minor course corrections.

We are a Tabernacle, not a Temple. Temples are for settlers. Tabernacles are for pioneers. We are called to pioneer in spiritual matters--constantly striving to be a New Testament church in the 20th century. Our mission is to be the church described in Acts 2:42-47, imparting to this, and subsequent, generations the person of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

While the corporate meetings of the body take place in the Tabernacle buildings, the church is present wherever God's people--singular or plural--are found. The Tabernacle building is not a church, it is a meeting house for the church. We assemble ourselves weekly in corporate services, and regularly in small groups for fellowship, personal ministry, and outreach; however, our service to God and worship of God is without ceasing.

PERSONAL GUIDELINES FOR COMMITMENT

About eight years ago, when the leadership of the Tabernacle Church was struggling with whether we should have a formal membership, Jamie Buckingham wrote out these "Guidelines for Commitment." Although they have been revised several times, they remain the basis of what this church expects of those who would relate to the family called the Tabernacle Church.

While the Tabernacle Church does not have a formal membership, it is composed of people who feel called to be a part of this body. These guidelines will help define that relationship while giving meaning to a paraphrase of John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what your church can do for you; ask, rather, what you can do for your church."

* * * * *

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to recognize Jesus Christ as the Son of God, having surrendered my life and possessions to His Lordship, having sealed this by water baptism, I now submit myself to the visible body as expressed through the Tabernacle Church of Melbourne.

I commit myself to an irrevocable relationship with God as my Lord and promise to seek Him with all my heart. I shall never be satisfied in my spiritual growth until I have been conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

I recognize I belong to the Kingdom of God as opposed to the systems of this world, and I vow that Kingdom shall always have preference in my decisions, my behavior, and my life style.

I shall love God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. I shall view worship as my principle activity and vocation.

Believing it is the desire of the Risen Christ to equip His disciples and give them supernatural gifts that each one might perform God's designed ministry, I have opened my life to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and will never cease to allow the Holy Spirit to fill me and use me in every circumstance of life.

I recognize God as the source of all my material needs. He has given me ownership of all I possess to use as I please. I have chosen to use all my material possessions for His glory. I will follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit and give unselfishly as He directs. I believe God wants me to give at least one tenth of my total income back into Kingdom activities through the local family of God at the Tabernacle Church--undesignated. I have also chosen to plant my financial seeds generously (above the tithe) to other Kingdom causes--believing that God will supply all my needs through His riches in glory through Christ Jesus.

As the temple of the Holy Spirit, I will treat my body with care, honor, and purity. I will exercise regularly, plan constructive times of leisure, and eat and drink only that which will strengthen my body and glorify God. As an example to others I will keep my "temple" in a way that others may see the glory of God reflected in me.

I will deepen my understanding of God by expanding my knowledge of His creation and studying His works in all areas of history, arts and science. I will allow the Holy Spirit to create through me in my gifted areas. I will freely share my knowledge, gifts, and skills with the Body of Christ.

I will learn of God and His ways by practicing the spiritual disciplines on a regular basis. These include but are not limited to meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance, and celebration.

4

My commitment to the Tabernacle Church shall be exemplified by submitting to the pastors and the elders of this church as my spiritual authority. I will seek their mediation in all matters of disagreement between myself and other Christian brothers, in all matters of family conflict, and in areas involving the good name and the ministry of this church.

I will do all in my power to make my home a place where Christ is honored, exemplifying the Spirit of Christ in all my relationships.

By committing to this body I make available to this, my spiritual family, all my material resources, my home, my job, my skills and abilities, my reputation, my friendships, my family, my time. I will also seek God's ministry for my life beyond the limits of the local church and with the blessing of the pastors and elders give myself to those tasks.

I will walk in a spirit of forgiveness toward my brothers and sisters. I refuse to harbor malice, anger, resentment, or bitterness toward others. I will not let a day end before I have permitted God to correct any wrong attitude toward another. When I feel I have been wronged, I will take the initiative and seek restoration.

I will faithfully assemble with the believers as I am able, entering into corporate worship with joy. I recognize the value of committing myself to a small group where I may receive and give personal ministry. I will seek God's place for me in such a group and joyfully become a part as the Holy Spirit directs.

Believing that every follower of Jesus is called to share his faith, I will--in all situations and in all relationships--be a faithful witness of the grace of God in my life as and when the Holy Spirit directs.

Regardless of circumstances, I will separate myself from this body only as the Lord directs and with the blessing of my spiritual authorities.

I will love and obey Christ through my behavior, my influence, my example, and my decisions in every relationship in the world: personal, social, business, political, academic, cultural. I will love my neighbor as myself and look upon each one as better than myself. I will constantly seek God's guidance for my life and will, when that guidance seems to evoke a change, submit that to my spiritual authorities (elders, pastor, or home group) for confirmation, denial, or modification.

I will seek first His Kingdom, avoid being ensnared by the standards and values of this world, accept the joyful privilege of witnessing to others, and refrain from anything which would mar the witness of my life and lips.

I will seek not so much to be ministered unto, but to minister; not to receive, but to give; not to be helped, but to help; not to be loved, but to love; not to be served, but to be a servant to all:

Realizing my own inadequacy, I will earnestly seek the help of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of the church in accomplishment of these purposes, to the glory of God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ.

(signed)

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THE TRUMPET

The Tabernacle Church
Melbourne, Florida

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A CALL FOR "INVOLVEMENT"

Jamie has said on a number of occasions that the things that count most in the Tabernacle Church are our relationships--with God and others in the church family.

While people may have a deep and meaningful relationship with God on an individual basis, the best way to please God and establish and maintain relationships with each other is through the home churches.

The following prophecy, received by a home church pastor, sheds new light on God's expanding practical plan for this ministry. While given to one specific home church, it outlines God's broader plan for the entire Tabernacle body. The pastors confirm the prophecy and urge you to prayerfully seek God's plan for your own life and your home church as you read it.

"My children, you have served me quietly, behind the scenes in your prayer closets, in feeding the hungry, in ministering to the needy, in giving to the poor, and in reaching out to the forgotten ones. I want you to know I will reward you openly here on earth as well as in Heaven. You bring great pleasure to me and you need to know I appreciate you and desire the whole Body of Christ know that this is to be its function on earth.

(continued on page 2)

A Call for Involvement

continued from page 1

"Your pastor wants the Tab to function as a New Testament church, yet if the inner circle of the church--which is made up of the home churches--does not reach out in love to those who do not know me, to those who are homeless, hungry, poor, needy, lonely, and bound in chains of addictions, the Tabernacle (as well as the home churches) will die.

"I do not call all home churches to the same ministry. I have put individual home groups together for different purposes. I am preparing some to feed the hungry and clothe the needy. Others are to give to the poor. Some are to provide beds for the homeless. Some will be used to set the addicts free and provide rehabilitation. Some are to visit those in nursing homes and hospitals--showing my love to these forgotten ones.

"Some of the home churches are to adopt orphans. Some are to help the widows and the elderly in the body who have great needs. I want some to provide help and transportation for shut-ins, not only to church meetings but to the places they need to go during the week. Some are to pray for and give financial support to missionaries. Some are to visit the prisoners and minister my love and salvation to them. Others are to help those in the body who are terminally ill --physically as well as spiritually. Some will proclaim the gospel in public--even in the streets. Others are to teach and disciple the babes in Christ.

"In short, the home churches are to be the Church.

"My children, there are even more ways than I have mentioned. I want my people to reach out and give of themselves in a sacrificial way; but most are not seeking me or my will for them. They are getting fat on teachings and fellowship, doing what they think I want, but they are getting no exercise in works.

"If only all the home groups would see me, and my purposes for them, what a glorious church body the Tabernacle would be."

THE TABERNACLE FAMILY ALBUM...

bruce buckingham



When our tired party of four finally landed at the tiny airport at Pucallpa, Peru, we were a little unsure of what to expect next. The trip from Melbourne was planned well in advance, but until I actually saw MILLIE and FLOYD LYON waiting for us in the airport parking lot, I felt anything could happen.

They picked us out of the crowd and greeted us with open arms. Floyd, fluent in Spanish, took it upon himself to see that all our bags had arrived safely. Then the six of us squeezed into the community pickup truck to bounce over several miles of unpaved roads until we reached the Wycliffe Bible Translators jungle camp of Yarinacochoa.

I was excited about visiting missionaries in the field. My wife, Michele, who was three months pregnant, nevertheless saw the trip as an adventure of a lifetime. Heading up our group was Don Lees, with his son-in-law, Dale Velie.

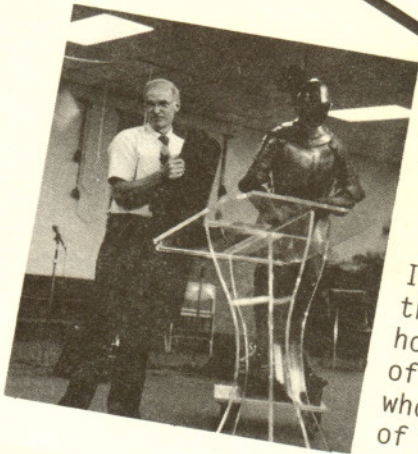
Our purpose was to encourage and uplift this couple who have dedicated their lives to the Lord's work in the jungles of Peru. Floyd went to Peru as a jungle pilot and Millie was a radio operator. They took their three young boys with them. Now grandparents, they serve as liaison between WBT and the Peruvian government and frequently host dignitaries in their comfortable home at Yarinacochoa.

When we arrived at the "Lyons Den," it seemed as if we had just driven across town to visit friends. Several nights later after touring the base, visiting an Indian tribe in the heart of the jungle and taking a pecky-pecky ride down the river, I realized what I was experiencing--I was simply visiting family. Though Floyd and Millie are on the other side of the equator, thousands of miles away, they are no less a part of what we do at the Tabernacle than those of us who meet each Sunday morning.

Floyd and Millie have been in Peru for 20 years. Most of that time they have been under the covering of the Tabernacle. Their goal is to spend another 10 years at Yarinacochoa. With our continued support, they will.



Three generations:
Jackie, Bruce, and
Kimberly Buckingham



Ivan the Ironman spent
the summer teaching us
how to wear the full armor
of God, assisted by Jamie
who holds up the "shield
of faith"

W/