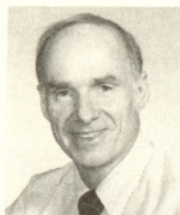


## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

*jamie buckingham*

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Buckingham  
3905 Hield Rd. NW  
Palm Bay FL 32907



1988 was not only the finest year in the history of the Tab, it was my most

prolific year when it came to writing and video production. Even though I was the one who put the words on paper, and it was my image which appeared on the video tapes, it was possible because the people of the Tab understand the importance of ministry beyond this body. Through your prayer support, your willingness to release me to withdraw and write or fly to Israel to do the video taping, and your support of the finest church staff in the nation--you have made this incredible outreach a possibility.

All four video curriculum series are now being used not only in prisons all over this nation, but are being sold at a fantastic rate to churches and individuals who lead Bible studies. Recently I was in the largest Episcopal church in Arizona and found them using all four sets for their adult Sunday school--with hundreds enrolled. The four sets are: Ten Parables of Jesus, Ten Miracles of

Jesus, Ten Bible People Like Me, and The Journey to Spiritual Maturity. All were filmed on location in Israel or the Sinai and are complete with workbook. Trumpet readers outside Melbourne may order by calling 1-800-451-5005.

In the late summer my first secular book, Mission, written with Congressman Bill Nelson on the American space industry, was released.

Three other books came out in December and are available through the Tab office or at your Christian bookstore. They are:

The Miracles of Jesus--Then and Now (Paraclete Press).

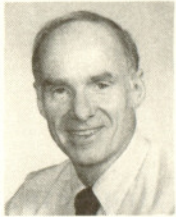
Ten Parables of Jesus--Poking Holes in Religious Balloons (Paraclete Press).

The Truth Will Set You Free--But First It Will Make You Miserable (Creation House). (This is a "spoon" book, which will offend only those who take themselves too seriously.)

Thank you for your part in making all this possible.

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

*jamie buckingham*



I am personally endorsing the general thrust of Operation Rescue.

While I understand the diverse nature of the Tab, and have no desire (or authority) to speak for all of you, I am encouraging you to get involved in the anti-abortion emphasis.

One of the things that has made America great has been our solid emphasis on the sanctity of life. In most nations life is cheap. Humans are slaughtered at the whim of evil power-brokers. The king of Egypt ordered the murder of all newborn baby boys to control the Hebrew population. Herod the Great ordered the murder of baby boys to attempt to kill the Messiah. Adolph Hitler started his holocaust by ordering the murder of deformed and mentally handicapped children. Later this was extended to the Jews. In every case the judgment of God fell not only on the evil leader--but on his nation which allowed him to rule.

Now we see the same thing happening in the USA as our

government has sanctioned the murder of unborn babies by the millions. While I believe the ultimate battle will be won in spiritual warfare, God expects His earthly warriors to do certain things. One of these is to resist, in a nonviolent way, those things which are evil and ungodly. This may mean participating in civil disobedience (or as Randall Terry, founder of Operation Rescue, calls it--scriptural obedience). As the Hebrew midwives disobeyed Pharaoh, as the Wise Men disobeyed King Herod, as our entire nation rose up to overthrow King Hitler, so it is now time for God's people to rise in loving but firm protest against the laws and the places that sanction the murder of innocents. Some of us will do this by passing godly legislation. Others will do it through public proclamation. Some will do it through personal protest --at the risk of being arrested--in front of our local abortion house, where hundreds of babies are being murdered. Hopefully all of you will do it through intense prayer.

I commend all these efforts.



## THE TAB FAMILY ALBUM: DAN & DEBBIE THOMS

*bruce buckingham*



In late 1987 a special blessing came to the Thoms household. DAN and DEBBIE adopted a baby girl.

Though they had one child, JANELLE, who is now 8 years old, they had a strong desire for a second baby.

"We were told by several adoption agencies that it would take a very long time before everything was worked out for us to adopt," Debbie said. "And in the beginning we were patient as the Lord prepared us for that possibility."

Then things started coming together with speeds not normally associated with the adoption process.

Through the assistance of Catholic Social Services, the Thomses were put in contact with a woman who could not

keep her child. Then at miraculous speeds the paper work was processed and the formal papers signed.

"The birth mother actually picked us," Debbie said. "And from that point on we felt like EMILY was brought into the world especially for us."

Dan and Debbie have been married for 14 years. Both have spent most of their lives in Florida. Dan is an engineer with Harris Corporation and Debbie is "retired" from Wuesthoff Hospital as an administrative assistant to raise their family.

Three years ago they built a new house on Masters Road in Palm Bay, and each week they lead a home group of young couples in studying the Bible.

"It took some time for the Lord to prepare us for the new responsibilities of raising a child, even with the first one, Janelle," Debbie said, acknowledging that God was working patiently with them. "Romans 8:28 was a comforting Scripture for us during the times we were waiting. The verse was a constant reminder that God is always in control."

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

*jamie buckingham*

Mr. & Mrs. James Buckingham  
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Palm Bay FL 32907



One of the marks of the anointing of God on a church is the number of people in the body who volunteer for missions. For years I have encouraged you to "leave all and follow Jesus." I believed it would be our youth who would volunteer --and a number have gone on summer mission tours and others are preparing for lifetime service. But the surprise came when some of our finest adults stepped forward and said, "Here am I, send me."

Bob Crumley was in the insurance business before he and Diane answered God's call to join Open Doors with Brother Andrew. Now they cover the southeast United States and make regular trips overseas representing Brother Andrew's Bible distribution ministry.

Bob was the one who recruited Tom and Carolyn Dembowski into Brother Andrew's ministry. Tom worked for the Post Office and had a secure job with good retirement benefits. He and Carolyn gave that up to move to North Carolina working with the Bible distribution ministry.

Jackie Wicks, a registered nurse and a single mother with three children in college, was

happy helping her children prepare for the mission field. Then God spoke to her. After a period of training with Youth With a Mission in Hawaii and Miami, Jackie has joined YWAM full time as a nurse and crew member aboard the M/V Anastasis, touring the world with evangelism teams.

While all this was going on, engineer Maurice Plante began to believe, along with his wife Arlene, that God was calling them to join YWAM. Even though they are at what the world calls "retirement age," they volunteered and are now in Miami at the YWAM training school preparing for missionary service overseas.

The Missions Committee, thrilled over this surge of interest, rejoiced. Then came the problem of support. Their budget was set for the year--with every dime allocated to existing missionaries. Yet surely our primary obligation should be to those from our own body, while not cutting support to others. Bottom line: receive a special offering to support "our" missionaries. We need \$10,000. Pray about your part. The offering will be taken Sunday morning, April 23.

Some go. Others give.



## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

*jamie buckingham*

Mr. & Mrs. James Buckingham  
3905 Hield Rd. NW  
Palm Bay FL 32907



I commend the large group from the Tab who put themselves "at risk" and were arrested for blocking the entrances to the local abortion clinic. These included three staff members: Don Williams, Jim Gaffney, and Gordon Strongitharm.

It also included 73-year-old Dori Metcalf. For years Dori and Arthur Metcalf (who was Kathryn Kuhlman's choir director) took in foster children. Following Art's death and Dori's move to Florida, she didn't leave behind the deep belief that every child has the right to be born and have a loving home. That Saturday when police hauled her away on a stretcher, her wrists were handcuffed for the glory of God and the sake of the unborn

Abortion, per se, is not evil. Choices must always be made concerning human life. But abortion on demand is wrong. The morning after the demonstration someone called the church office and said, "You bunch of dirty fascists." But he had it backward. The fascists killed the unborn. Christians protect life.

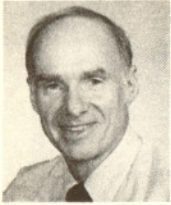
The following Sunday Don testified before the church and made it plain that each member of the body has a different calling. All are not called to demonstrate. But all are called to respond to God's call.

Sometimes we leave the impression that if you're not part of the current emphasis, if you're not on our bandwagon, then you're not obeying God. Not so. Each call is different. While I commend the ministry of Operation Rescue, I was not there. Instead, I was on the platform of the largest church in Orlando, participating as the lone non-Episcopalian in the consecration of the new bishop of central Florida -- John Howe. Though dressed in my business suit I felt like an onion in the petunia patch, I knew I was where I was supposed to be. I was building bridges and celebrating with my brethren.

The church has but one task: to hear and obey God. Each call is different. But each of us has a call. Obey Him gladly -- and rejoice with others who are doing the same, only differently.

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

*jamie buckingham*



In 1776 only one out of every 50 Americans was over 65. Today one out of 9 Americans (11%)

exceeds 65. In Florida those figures are now double--and by 1995 will triple. Within 50 years one person in 12 in the US will be at least 80 years old--and in Florida that figure will approach one person in 8. By the year 2050 one-half the persons in Florida will be over 65.

These figures are especially alarming when it comes to women. In 1900 a woman's life expectancy was 45 years. Today it is 79 years. A man's life expectancy is only 71. Women predominate in the grim statistics of one-person households. Demographics from the White House Conference on Older Women revealed:

- \* The average age of beginning widowhood is 56.

- \* 85 percent of surviving spouses are female.

- \* 3/5 of all women 65 years and over are unmarried.

- \* 2/3 of all widows live alone.

- \* Elderly women are twice as likely to be poor than elderly men.

- \* 3/4 of all nursing home residents are women.

- \* The elderly are the most vulnerable people in America; i.e., vulnerable to violent crime, scams, disease, death, despair.

The Tab is under a divine mandate to evangelize, train, utilize, minister to, care for, protect, house, clothe, heal, and encourage these mature sheep. To adequately do that, we are establishing an Adult Retirement Ministry.

The elders and church staff have asked John Bankosky to direct this ministry. Working with a dedicated board of directors, John is forming a separate corporation to provide housing and care for Christian seniors in our church and community.

This ministry will insure that the elderly are honored, not tolerated. Here aging people will be viewed and respected as valuable resources to the body, not as liabilities to be cared for. Hopefully, those advancing in years will contribute to the Tab as grandfathers and grandmothers do to the family.

Our plan: not only to provide housing, but to so integrate the seniors into the full body of the Tab that we will become koinonia--the family of God.



## A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

*jamie buckingham*



Much change has been occurring in the church staff. For years church administrator Jim Bauman coordinated all staff functions and handled administration. As his construction company--Indian River Builders--has grown, Jim has been forced to give full time to his business. Recently he gave up his duties as a staff member but continues in a consultant's role. I thank God for his valued service to this church.

Inez Thompson, who for years handled all church finances, has turned over that task to Sandra Reed, who is our financial administrator. Inez continues as full-time JOY pastor, and Sandra is ably assisted by Kelly Johnson, who works part time on the computer. Phyllis Smith, church secretary, handles other areas of administration, assisted by Alice Akers. Don Williams coordinates the staff and manages the office.

The biggest changes, however, are not in new job duties but in spirit and attitude. Tuesday morning staff meetings have become times of prayer

and ministry. The people of this church, not the programs of this church, have become primary. Every Wednesday the nine pastors meet in the prayer room to intercede for the church, for each other, and for those in crisis. Occasionally the meetings have extended for hours as the presence of the Lord fills the prayer room.

There is a new spirit of loyalty and respect. While the staff understands my role as spiritual father, we have become a family of brothers and sisters dedicated to serving each other and serving this body. At the same time, God has anointed the public teaching/preaching ministry of several on the staff. Recently when I announced that Jim Gaffney, pastor of the Overcomers, was going to preach on Sunday night instead of me, the attendance doubled. At the close of the service Jim deferred to Jimmy Smith to lead the ministry time. Jimmy in turn called all the pastors to minister. Gone are the spirits of suspicion and competition--a blessing being reflected throughout the church. Thank God for these "mighty men" (and women) in leadership.

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

*jamie buckingham*

Mr. & Mrs. James Buckingham  
3905 Hield Rd. NW  
Palm Bay FL 32907



The Webster decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, returning abortion rights to the states, is not a political case--but a moral one. Our governor has announced he is going to call a special session of the legislature to deal specifically with this issue.

In the light of this decision I want to signal, loud and clear, that I stand unequivocally for the sanctity of human life. I believe the Bible teaches that life begins with conception--rather than, as the pro-abortionists would have us believe, at "viability" (when a baby is capable of living outside the womb). That is not only an anti-Biblical position, it is nonsense. None of our five children, or their ten children, have been able to exist "on their own" even after they were born. Left alone, all would have perished in a matter of hours.

Abortion is sin. Those who support it have blood on their hands. I do not know a single evangelical or Catholic leader who does not believe that life begins at conception. That means there is essentially no difference in taking the life of an unborn child and taking

the life of a newborn child.

Now--some other hard questions we need to ask: Should an exception to abortion be made for the life of the mother? I think so. Does the state have the right to pass a law forcing a woman who has been raped to carry the child to birth? Kenneth Kantzer of Christianity Today magazine makes a solid case for allowing abortion in case of rape when he says, "Ordinarily we do not force a person to risk his life to save the life of another--even though morally we think such a person ought to be willing to take the risk. Not all morally wrong acts should be specifically prevented by law and punished as crimes."

Finally, no one has the right to speak out in favor of strict laws against abortion unless he is willing to provide support for those babies --many black, some deformed and retarded--who will be saved because of the new laws.

The real solution to the abortion problem is not a restrictive law. It comes only when men and women become godly. In the meantime, we need to speak up--to make our views known to our state representatives.



## THE TAB FAMILY ALBUM: Steve & Michele Pauly

*bruce buckingham*



Steve and Michele Pauly began thinking about eternal life as the miracle of physical life was presented to them in the form of their first child. During that time, Steve said, "We were both searching for something when the miracle of life started us thinking about where we were going."

Their first child, Lauren, now nine years old, developed heart problems when she was 18 months old. "We had nowhere to turn," Steve said, "and it was a significant event in Michele's search for God."

But Steve continued to rebel. For a while the strain of events beyond their control caused them to separate. Then they were brought back together by friends and taken to a church. After a time of searching and prayer, the answer became obvious. Steve turned over his life and the

life of his little daughter to the control of the Lord.

"It occurred at that church's Vacation Bible School," he said. "And from that point in time, I've had a great love for the VBS program."

Originally from Virginia, the Paulys moved to Florida four years ago. This move was initially prompted by a job at Harris, but Steve has since signed on with Grumman as a systems engineer.

Because of his experience with VBS, he has stepped into the role of the Tab's VBS coordinator. "It's a great outreach to the community," Steve said, "and a way by which we can actively seek God's plan for the future of our children and their families."

Michele is currently active in the Hebrew Dance Group, Body and Soul Aerobics, and the Sunday morning Young Praise Dancers. Michele and Steve also share responsibilities as Directors of Children's Ministries at the Tab. Besides Lauren, they have a son, Jay, who is 5 years old.

"We feel at home at the Tab," the Paulys said, "and the key is being involved."

## THE TAB FAMILY ALBUM: Bob & Diane Crumley

*bruce buckingham*



Each morning when BOB CRUMLEY awakes, it's the beginning of a new adventure. He and his wife, DIANE, are confident they are where God wants them. "God has sent us here to Melbourne," Bob said. "I know He has us here for a special reason."

That special reason is to travel the six southeastern states as the full-time representatives for Open Doors With Brother Andrew, Inc.

Several years ago, Bob and Diane realized they were traveling a road that was under construction. Both of them had been divorced and were equally determined to never marry again. But after meeting at an Orlando Calvary Assembly home group, they decided to change their minds and open their hearts to each other in marriage. That was six years ago. Struggles were

frequent and at times discouraging. But they knew God had His hand on their lives. For a while Bob worked as an independent insurance agent and pastored part-time as the adult singles minister at the Tabernacle.

"I have known Jamie Buckingham for 20 years," Bob said, "and once while I lived in Sanford, Florida I traveled with him on one of his Sinai Desert expeditions. But only recently have I begun to fully understand how the events of the past 20 years were each a necessary part of preparation for our ministry. God is using every one of the lessons we learned along the way."

Because two and a half years ago another change was made. Bob and Diane felt the Lord's gentle nudge to minister to people under political repression. Now working with Brother Andrew, the famous Bible smuggler to communistic countries, Bob and Diane are acting as special couriers to China and Cuba. Future plans call for trips to Russia.

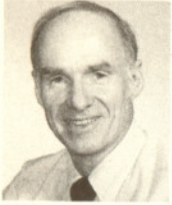
That's why every day is a real adventure for this ex-insurance salesman.



## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

*jamie buckingham*

Mr & Mrs Marion Ranzino  
3905 Hield Rd. NW  
Palm Bay FL 32907



Recently at the 10:30 am service our dancers came to the platform

during the time of worship. Twelve of them. Dressed in white. They led in a beautiful phase of worship--ending first on their knees, then slipping prostrate face down.

There was a moment of sacred silence. Then someone began to applaud. Instantly a number of others picked it up.

Interestingly, at the 8:00 am service the dancers led in the same worship experience--closing on their faces before God. No one applauded. Instead, many slipped out of their chairs--kneeling.

Is it wrong to applaud? Certainly not. Applause can be an expression of praise.

Nor is it wrong to applaud an excellent performance. But the dancers that morning were not performing. They were leading us in worship--wanting to involve us in what they were doing.

Why, then, was ther response different at the two ser- vices? Are the 8:00 am peo-

ple more spiritual? No. The difference was "sympathetic applause."

We have a number of people attending the services who are not spiritually percept- ible. They see a dance rou- tine, listen to a solo, and judge it as a performance. They do not understand the "involvement" between leader and worshiper. Seeing it with worldly eyes, they respond as people respond in the theater. With clapping. Even though the Holy Spirit may be calling others to kneel, or sit quietly, they join in the clapping rather than let- ting the person clap solo. That's sympathetic applause.

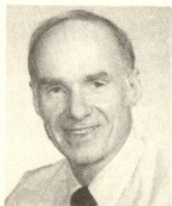
It's better to let the person clap alone than for the rest to grieve the Holy Spirit.

Our dancers, soloists, en- semble and instrumentalists may, at times, perform. When they do applause is appropri- ate. But when they lead us in worship, the only proper response is to worship with them.

Mature Christians know the difference.

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



For years the TAB has maintained a balance in ministry between "come and see" and "go and tell."

Our Sunday celebrations have been a "come and see" type ministry. The same is true with many of our home church gatherings, the Overcomers meetings, and other "meeting" activities. People in the community--and from around the world--have come into our meetings, caught the spirit of what we are doing, and been blessed. Many have returned to their own places to put into practice what they have seen and heard. Others have liked what they saw--what they felt--and have stayed with us to be a part of this body.

The TAB has also had a powerful outreach ministry with a "go and tell" thrust. Each member of the body is an evangelist--sharing with others at work, in the neighborhood, and at school. We take a "good news" message of a God who loves, accepts, forgives, saves, heals, delivers, and fills with the power and authority of His Holy Spirit.

This same two-fold ministry is carried on, not just by each TAB member, but by the staff.

Some on the staff spend their time preparing for those who will come and see. Others are also in the go and tell business. Jimmy Smith spends much of his time traveling around the world as a modern missionary--taking the message of healing, deliverance, and salvation through his music and teaching. Jim Gaffney's ministry is spreading across the state. The November issue of MINISTRIES TODAY features the Overcomers Ministry on the cover--which is going to catapult us onto the national scene. I've encouraged Michael and Diane Thompson in their consultant ministry--helping Strang Communications (Charisma) develop a strong charismatic Sunday school curriculum. I equally divide my own time between these two ministries. I am grateful to this church which not only understands that dynamic but has encouraged it as an outreach ministry to the world. Both of these are "go and tell" ministries. When I am here I devote full time to the "come and see" portion of the ministry.

This, it seems, is the balance God wants us to have. To each of you I repeat what Jesus said to His disciples: "As you go, preach, saying the kingdom of heaven is here."



## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

*jamie buckingham*

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Buckingham  
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Palm Bay FL 32907



Two months ago Don Williams challenged our pastors to read Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "The Cost

of Discipleship." In 1930, aged 24, Bonhoeffer was teaching systematic theology in Berlin University. Germany was rapidly coming under the influence of Hitler. The young teacher suddenly found himself faced with deadly choices. Should he support his country, which had turned anti-God, or dared he pay the cost of discipleship? His choices put him in a Nazi prison during World War II. Five days before Germany surrendered he was hanged

Our pastors have now begun serious discussions on how the principles of "wholly following Jesus" should be implemented in our lives. Granted, it sounds odd to hear church leaders say, "We're going to wholly follow Jesus." It's like reading an ad taken out by General Motors which says, "From now on we're not going to manufacture any inferior cars." Christians have but one call--to wholly follow the Lord. But honesty forces us to admit most of us are not doing it--very well. Oh, we want to. But we find ourselves in the

Romans 7 dilemma: "What I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do...what a wretched man I am!"

Over the next several months the leadership of the TAB is going to be challenging you to "wholly follow Jesus." For each of us our methods will differ. But it is time to stop playing church games and start walking our talk. Jesus, you remember, was not kindly disposed to the fig tree which had abundant leaves but no fruit. In fact, He cursed it and it withered.

The 90s will be the most difficult, the most exciting times in the history of the modern church. Restrictions will turn to persecution. Only those who are wholly following Jesus will stand. But for these it will be a time of unprecedented miracles and creativity.

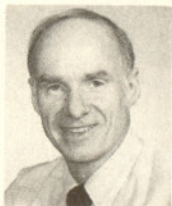
To do this we must be filled with the Holy Spirit who will not only give us strength to survive but to flourish in the tough times which are coming.

Walk with us into the future, prepared to preface each decision with the question which changed Bonhoeffer's life: "What would Jesus do?"

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

*jamie buckingham*

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Buckingham  
3905 Hield Rd. NW  
Palm Bay FL 32907



As 1989 ends and the last decade of the millennium begins, a single prophetic word is coming from many

sectors of the Kingdom. It is the same word God gave this church at the beginning of 1989: God wants to do a brand new thing among His people.

I believe the 90s will be years of profound change and preparation. God's new thing does not mean renewing the old --which is the basic meaning of "revival." Rather it is the "new thing" mentioned in Isaiah 43:19. This will mean new methods. New ministries. A new understanding of God, His Bible, and Kingdom activities.

Most important: There will be a new move of the Holy Spirit at a different level as we are drawn into a new relationship with Jesus. Accompanying this move of the Spirit, or should I say preceding it, is a call to repent of past things in order to move freely into the future.

As I have considered this, I've felt the Lord saying that both morning services on New Year's Eve at the Tab are to be devoted to personal and corporate repentance. We've

never had a "repentance service" at the Tab. We've often had people repent of various things; and on rare occasions we've joined in corporate repentance.

Just a few weeks ago, as we were closing our time of worship during a 10:30 a.m. service, prophecy came from the congregation calling the church to repent. I confirmed the prophecy and asked everyone to kneel. From my knees on the platform I voiced a prayer of repentance in behalf of the church. I admitted we had allowed the "spirit of this world" to creep into our church. I rebuked the spirit and am convinced it left us. That was followed by a time of high praise and worship which lasted almost 30 minutes.

On December 31, however, I believe the Lord wants us to dedicate the entire service to repentance. I will teach briefly on various areas where I think He wants us to repent. Then I will call for the body to join me in a unison prayer of repentance in each area.

This will give you time to ask God what He wants you to "leave behind" as you enter the 90s. Come December 31 prepared to do business with God.



## THE TAB FAMILY ALBUM...

*bruce buckingham*



BILL and JEANNETTE FINCH first met in a bus station in North Carolina in the early 1940s. America was just entering the war and the encounter was brief--but it started a relationship that has now lasted 44 years. "Bill was in the Air Force and on his way to Europe and I was on my way to school," Jeannette said. "We met as we were catching separate buses. I was so taken with him that I gave him my name on a match book cover."

After they parted they corresponded for several years. Then word came that Bill, who was flying as a gunner on a B-17, was shot down over Germany. "We were flying at 25,000 feet and suddenly our three main fuel tanks caught fire," Bill recalled. "I bailed out, and as soon as I hit the ground German soldiers were waiting for me." Bill was immediately taken to a German POW camp where he spent 10 long months behind barbed wire in enemy territory. Then he escaped. "It took a month, but I made my

way through unknown country back to the American lines," Bill said. "I was not a Christian at the time, but I fully credit the Lord for my safety. Later I found that my mother had spent every night of my capture on her knees. I am convinced that because of her prayers I am alive today."

When Bill returned to North Carolina he looked up Jeannette. Two months later they were married. "Bill went to OCS and I became a court reporter," Jeannette said. They had three children, and Bill later retired as a major in the U.S. Air Force.

"We were aware that the Tabernacle was experiencing something exciting. We were attending a local Presbyterian church," Bill said. "But on a visit to the Tab we were given John Sherrill's book, 'They Speak With Other Tongues.' It led us right into the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Regardless of everything else we have been through, receiving the Holy Spirit was and still is the most exciting thing in my life. Our greatest desire is to continue to grow in the Lord and remain in His will."

The Finches now have 5 grandchildren. Jeannette is an expert flower arranger, and Bill is treasurer for the Tab's proposed retirement center. Both serve on the Tab's Missions Committee.



## THE TAB FAMILY ALBUM: DONNA AND STEVE LIGNELLI

*bruce buckingham*



A Mennonite camp seemed an odd place for a Catholic boy of 19, but to STEVE LIGNELLI it was a place he had to go: "I went to the camp in order to get to know DONNA," Steve confessed. "I had inside information from a friend who said she was there."

Their different backgrounds didn't mean anything to Steve because it was love at first sight. But a few years after they were married, problems slowly crept in. "We were married in 1970 and lived in Washington, DC," Donna said. "I had an idea we were bound for problems when most of my Mennonite family refused to attend our Catholic wedding."

"The first part of our marriage was a real struggle," Steve added. "I now know it was due to my needing to become aware and receptive of God's hand on my life." But it was almost 15 years before Steve fully accepted what the Lord was saying.

Steve and Donna moved to Melbourne in 1984. Times were

rough. Shortly after the move they decided to separate. "It was hard on the kids," Steve admitted. "But we knew God was in the process of making us both into new people. We told the kids that sometimes this is how God heals relationships."

"Prayer really helped move us closer together," Donna said. "I refused to give up. I tried not to preach at him, but I found myself doing just that. It didn't help the situation."

When the Lord brought Steve and Donna back together, "We did everything over from the beginning," Donna said. "We even renewed our vows in public. Now it is our mutual goal to want for ourselves only what God wants for us."

"A while back," Steve said, "we took the kids to look at houses we had lived in during our years of struggles. They all agreed we are much better off now than we were then. That is truly evidence of God's grace."

Currently Donna works with the Hebrew Dance group and aerobic classes at the Tab. Steve is an automobile technician at Patrick Air Force Base. They have four children -- Jeannette, 16; Jodie, 12; Matthew, 10; and Jessica, 8.