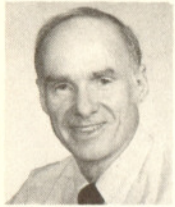


A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



This is a time of great spiritual excitement. By the time you receive this, the church will have gone

through the time of public repentance called for in the New Year's Eve morning services. The strong word God gave me for this service was Jeremiah 33:8. "I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me."

I believe this opens the door for God to speak to us and show us how to meet the needs facing each of us, and facing the Tab as we enter the 90s.

As I've prayed for this church a number of corporate needs keep emerging:

- * Home churches.
- * Building expansion.
- * Mission outreach (in Brevard County and worldwide)
- * Care for the elderly.
- * Expanded children's ministry.
- * Evangelism.
- * Ministry to the poor and addicted.
- * And, primarily, how we're to follow Jesus in everything we do.

I expect the coming decade will not only be a time of geo-political and prophetic conflict, it will be a time of evangelism and deep spiritual growth. It is a glorious opportunity for the followers of Jesus.

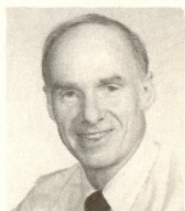
I've told my elders and fellow pastors that I feel like an explorer crossing a strange land. I've been through my own personal repentance--and have been obedient in preaching and leading the church to repent. I have committed myself to new personal disciplines. My family has been obedient in reaching out to the poor. Now, just ahead, I hear a mighty roar. There is a freshness in the air. I don't know what I'll find, but the last range of mountains has been scaled, and just over the next rise lies a marvelous new discovery. It is a promise of another verse in that same chapter of Jeremiah: something "great and unsearchable" (Jeremiah 33:3).

I believe God is going to show us, during our prayer time in January, His plan to meet our needs and the needs of others to whom we are to minister. I call on you to commit yourself and all you have to that end.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

jamie buckingham

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Reinhard Bonnke is a German evangelist whose crusades in Africa sometimes number 500,000 in attendance. For the last several months I've been editing and rewriting his manuscript--translated out of German into English--on the subject of personal evangelism. It's not something I wanted to do, or had time to do. But I felt God said, "Do it for Me!" Fortunately the manuscript is on a word-processing disk. Even so it's taken months, and I'm still not finished. Most of my work has been done early in the mornings or--using my laptop computer--on cross-country flights.

Something has happened to me, however, as I've worked with his words and concepts. Long ago I had this same spirit that Bonnke is writing about: the spirit of evangelism. Across the years it's somehow gotten buried. The words of an old hymn, written by the blind poet Fanny Crosby, keep coming to mind:

Rescue the perishing, care
for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin
and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one,

lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus, the
mighty to save."

As I've worked on the book I've found myself praying that the same spirit which lives in Bonnke will live in me. He writes, referring to the hundreds of thousands who attend his meetings: "We do not have this harvest because we are superior to those precious men and women who have gone before and given their lives, but only because the harvest season has arrived."

He's right. This is the season of the harvest. We do not know how long it will last, before the winds of winter once again howl across the earth slamming shut the doors now open. But never in all history have there been so many open doors.

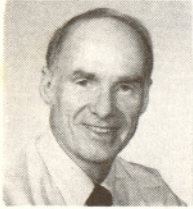
As I've prayed about God's purpose for the Tab in the 90s He keeps telling me to emphasize personal evangelism. As you ask the "Jesus Question," that's one of the things He always tells us to do. Be witnesses.

Find someone wandering in
spiritual darkness. Tell them
about Jesus. You, too, can be
an evangelist.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

jamie buckingham

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One year ago I asked John Bankosky to chair a committee charged with developing a plan to care for

the living needs of our senior adults. John formed a board of directors made up of Dr. Frank Bradley, Jamie Carraway, Hugh Evans, Sr., and Bill Finch. They incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida as Christian Congregate Living Ministries, Inc. (CCLM).

The Tabernacle Church agreed to fund the director's half-time salary and pay his medical insurance and some travel and phone expenses (a total of \$20,400) for a one-year period. It was hoped the CCLM board would be able to find some plan of alternate financing--perhaps through individual donors--so the project could continue.

Over the past year the board has done extensive research seeking a way to care for these needs of our seniors. Recently the board of CCLM met with the Board of Directors of the Tabernacle Church to report their findings. Several things were obvious.

1. Although the need to care for our senior adults is growing more acute all the time, most of our seniors have not

shown much interest in this project. Very few, it seems, are looking into the future.

2. After visiting a number of retirement centers, CCLM has determined it would be unwise to build any kind of project which depends on federal funds. Yet without a massive outlay of cash from some private source, to build from scratch is prohibitive.

3. The Tabernacle cannot continue to fund the director's position beyond the one year established deadline. Effective this month that support is no longer provided.

The Tab board encouraged CCLM to increase its efforts to provide for the elderly by seeking land and/or money to purchase land. We believe some Christian owns property (five to ten acres) in his area, or there is someone with money willing to buy property to get this project off the ground.

In the meantime CCLM was advised to explore innovative plans that do not include the purchase of property but utilize volunteer or paid assistance for those in need.

This is a noble and needed cause--one the Tabernacle is dedicated to fulfill. But we need your help. Contact a member of the CCLM board if God is speaking to you.

IN HIS ARMS...

michele buckingham



January 1, the first day of the new year. I had been looking forward to 1990. But that morning, as I was writing up a grocery list, I noticed my fingers were not moving. I could barely push the pen. Later I sat down at my computer--and again, my right hand wouldn't operate. Then as I got up to give the strange news to my husband, Bruce, I tripped and almost fell. My right leg had not moved as it should have.

The neurologist immediately scheduled a series of tests. The first, an MRI (brain scan), showed a dark spot on my brain. That, plus the symptoms, gave the doctor what he termed a "probable" diagnosis: multiple sclerosis--a degenerative, incurable disease of the nerves which often cripples men and women in the prime of life. Shaken, I left his office, but not before arranging a calendar of additional tests designed to corroborate the diagnosis.

That night our home group laid hands on me and prayed. A word came from the Lord: "Little lamb, do not be afraid. I am holding you in My arms." One of the members heard the Lord say, "She's

being healed."

My family and extended family also began praying. The Lord directed Bruce not only to pray, but to fast--breakfast and lunch--until I was well.

That Sunday Gordon Strongitharm shared my plight with the congregation. Many of you who know me--and many who only know me by name--felt led to pray. Some fasted. A number of people came up to me or called to say, "I don't consider myself an intercessor. I don't even know you well. But each day the Lord has had me pray for you." I don't know what kind of spiritual battle was taking place in the heavenlies. But the Lord made sure there was sufficient prayer and fasting to ensure victory.

The good news is: I'm healed! Within a few weeks all symptoms dissipated. Every subsequent test came back "normal". A dear woman told me of her vision of God reaching His finger down into my brain and removing a black spot--before she knew about the spot that had been revealed on the MRI. I was healed thru the love and prayers of my brothers and sisters. I praise God for placing me in such a family of believers.

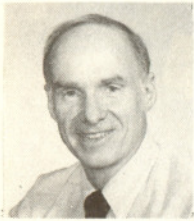
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A NEW PERSPECTIVE

jamie buckingham

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It's possible to be so busy doing God's work that you don't have time to hear God's voice. It's at times like that I am glad God set prophets in the body who are willing to speak and say, "This is what God is saying." Jana Hogan played that role in my life when, on the morning of Ash Wednesday, she took Michael Thompson and me out to the outdoor amphitheatre in Wickham Park.

"I believe this is where God wants the Tabernacle Church to meet Easter Sunday morning." My mind came up with a dozen objections, but I determined to pray and seek God myself. Two nights later I was up most of the night, hearing and writing down what I heard. The bottom line on what God said was "Do it!"

When I said "Yes Sir," He began unfolding His plan.

* The time leading up to Easter is to be a time of increasing joy.

* Easter is to be a time of festive celebration: banners, processional, dance and song.

* We are not to buy any Easter clothing this year but are to dress informally in colorful dress for this great outdoor

festival.

* The service is to be evangelistic, with a time of healing ministry. We're to invite the surrounding community.

* We will have a great feast: we will bring in the hungry and poor, feed them, and give them all the leftovers.

* Following the meal will be a huge Easter egg hunt for the children.

* We are to throw caution to the winds: we're dealing with things closest to God's heart: celebration and evangelism.

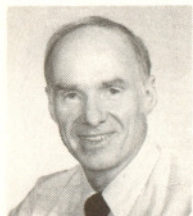
* We are to trust God for all provisions and personnel.

Equally exciting: God's command to "mobilize the church to action". If we're faithful in this small thing, I'm convinced God will open new and larger doors of service we've not even dreamed about. I've asked everyone to take part in something. We're building a huge set for the stage. We have 2,000 chairs to move, cars to park, food to distribute. There will be time for spiritual ministry to those who come. Most of all, this service needs to be saturated with intercessory prayer. This is your time to get involved.

Nothing should be more spectacular than Christians celebrating our Lord's resurrection!

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham



Several people told me after that marvelous "Easter In the Park" service that this marked the beginning of a "new day" for the Tabernacle.

It was a thrilling time. We fed most of the almost 4,000 present--with much food left over to give to the homeless and poor. The praise and worship reached new heights. Many accepted Christ.

But it was the mobilization of hundreds of people--people who felt deep responsibility that this was "their ministry"--that marked the "new day" for the Tab.

The magnificent stage backdrop was painted by a contingent of church artists working from my photos of the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. Scores of intercessors came out during the week, ringing the park with prayer. The 25 dancers worked harder than they've ever worked to help us visualize our worship. Being inside the huge food tent was like being in an anthill with hundreds of joyful workers. The children's workers--from ministry under the tents to the egg hunt--did their jobs with pleasure.

People stayed till almost dark Sunday afternoon re-loading thousands of folding chairs, breaking down the stage, cleaning up. Not once did I hear or see an unpleasantry. And...enough money came in ahead of time, designated for the project, to pay for it all.

Already there is talk of "next year". But God wants us to do more than mobilize for once-a-year celebrations. The "new day" for the Tab centers around "mobilized manpower," involving organization--and innovation. It is time to channel this marvelous power of the Holy Spirit into ministry projects that will bless God and His Kingdom.

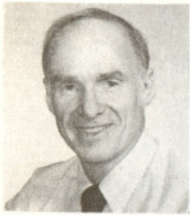
Our starting place is "home groups". While big church projects will continue, the real ministry of this church will always happen in small groups. Of course, people are saved, healed, delivered from demons, even filled with the Holy Spirit while we are praising God in our Sunday services. But in-depth ministry can happen only when small groups gather to help one another, hear one another, and pray for one another.

God wants YOU in a home group.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

jamie buckingham

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In his new book, In the Arena, former President Richard Nixon writes of the

acute depression he experienced after he resigned in shame and then went through major surgery. In his hospital room, with the curtains drawn, he told his wife he wanted to die. Then just at his lowest moment, a nurse came in, opened the drapes and pointed at a small airplane flying back and forth in front of his window. It was pulling a sign: GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO WE. He said that sign--and the prayers he knew were behind it--gave him the courage to make it. He discovered later that Ruth Graham, Billy's wife, had arranged for the plane to fly around the hospital until Nixon saw the sign.

Most of us have no idea of the encouragement and strength that comes with a little sign of love given to those in the black pit of life. This week I got a note from a pastor in the northwest. I did not recognize his name nor remember the incident he was thanking me for. "You will probably not remember me," he wrote. You prayed with me one time in Korea and later sent \$50 to my

family while I was confined in a disciplinary barracks. Thank you and God bless you always." He added a P.S. "My church would not be able to handle my past so please don't let anyone know my name."

Little acts of kindness, forgotten by those who perform them, but lifesavers to those who receive them. I pray this church will be known as a body who really believes it is "better to be kind than to be right." After all, what is more right than being kind--especially to those at the bottom.

COMING AUGUST 4: I received a phone call from James Robison confirming that he will preach at the Tab on Saturday evening, August 4. We will be inviting the community to join us and will reactivate some of our Easter committees to go door-to-door and to intercede in prayer.

RICH FRAHM, son of Jim and Julie, has joined the church staff as a summer pastoral intern. Rich is completing his masters degree in counseling at ORU and will work in pastoral ministry under staff supervision until he returns to school in mid-August.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

jamie buckingham

Aug. 1990



The diagnosis of cancer in my kidney and lymph glands instantly catapulted me into a new dimension of life. Suddenly I was helpless, face to face with a reality that was bigger than me. Some evil force was trying to direct my life. I seemed caught in its inescapable power, no longer able to plan my future, no longer master of my body nor captain of my soul. I was being wrenched and torn by a force greater than anything I had ever experienced.

But all that changed as God moved in with great love and miracle power. It began with my own agonizing personal repentance, instantly bringing a restructuring of my priorities--with Him, my wife, my family, my church. I wept for His presence, knowing that He alone could restore life.

People began to pray. At one point I realized I might be the most prayed-for man in America. Awesome. I remained helpless, but something was changing. No longer was Satan controlling my life--now it was God. On five consecutive mornings, as I woke to attend the early morning men's prayer meetings, God spoke with a

soft whisper. Little sentences. Different each morning. Then July 13 He whispered, as I awoke, "Cooperate with me and I will heal you."

I struggled with the tense. Does "will" mean I must wait? That day, through a series of words from others--and a new understanding of the Bible--I realized if God said "I will" then it had already been done. All I must do is await the "evidence of things unseen."

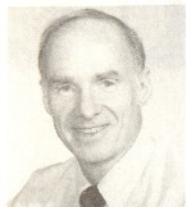
This "faith" has not come easy. I am too honest to try to hype myself up. I am not proclaiming His healing to make it happen but because it has happened. I am staking my life on the validity of the Bible. If these promises of forgiveness, healing and restoration are untrue we should disband the church and forget God. Jesus will not go back on His Word or His nature.

Our leaders have repented, as I have, of our former ways. Hundreds are turning to God in new life commitment. This is not the way we wanted revival, but it is here. We shall never go back. Pray for me as I walk out my healing, for "so the whole round earth is every way bound by gold chains about the feet of God."

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

jamie buckingham

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Last year during the Ray Mossholder "Marriage Plus" conference I began to realize that

most people in this church have never been taught how to treat their wives, husbands, parents and children. I refer to it now and then in a sermon. Our small groups sometimes deal with problems. The Overcomers touch on it occasionally. But we've never made a concerted effort to teach folks--from a biblical position--how to enjoy and prosper inside the most important relationship we have on earth: family.

We do what we do because of what our parents--our only real role models--did. Very few of today's Christians are products of mature Christian homes. We come from broken homes, from single-parent or multi-parent homes. We've been sexually abused, emotionally destroyed, sometimes physically battered. We know virtually nothing of genuine agape love which should be the benchmark of all family behavior.

Several years ago a young bride came by our house. Her young husband was the son of a church leader. Her face was a mass of bruises. "He beat me

on our wedding night," she wept. When I questioned him, he replied innocently, "That's what my father told me to do. He said it's the only way to keep a woman in line."

Recently I was with a young family--new Christians--whose small children had just gotten caught in some innocent but dangerous mischief. Suddenly the young father, who seemed to be a gentle, loving daddy, became a tyrant. He grabbed a stick and beat his little boy across the back. When I explained this was not acceptable discipline, he was confused. "If I did wrong, my dad beat the hell out of me." When I explained the difference between loving discipline and physical abuse, he immediately understood. No one had ever taken time to teach him.

Most of us assume fathers know how to discipline children, that husbands know how to love their wives, that children--including adult children with aging parents--know what it means to "honor their fathers and mothers." It's proven to be a wrong assumption.

Look for a new emphasis on family at the Tab. It's time we become the kingdom of God on earth.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

jamie buckingha

Mr. & Mrs. James Buckingham
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Sept. 1990



Jackie and our daughter Bonnie had stayed with me until 9 p.m. the night before

I went into surgery at M.D. Anderson Cancer Clinic in Houston. I had preached at the Tab the morning before--both services. At the close of each service Don Lees had called the church into prayer and fasting. He had asked, as part of our fasting, that we study Isaiah 58.

After they left I lay quietly in bed, reading that passage from my Bible. I had never spent a night in the hospital. The next morning a team of surgeons was going to try to remove as much of the cancer as possible--hopefully taking out my kidney (which doctors here had called "inoperable") and as many of the cancerous lymph glands as possible. Yet I had never felt such peace.

Isaiah 58:8 seemed to leap off the page..."Your Righteous One will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard."

At 5:30 the next morning Jackie and Bonnie came back in the room, radiating the presence of the Lord. Moments later

Curry Juneau, a pastor in Houston, and his wife, Beverly, came. Then Jack Taylor was there. Jack had flown down from Ft. Worth just to be with Jackie while I was in surgery. Then my sister, Audrey, whose little church had paid her way to fly from Missouri, arrived. They ringed my bed in prayer as I was wheeled out.

Then I was alone again, lying on the gurney outside the operating room. But I wasn't alone. The Righteous One was at one end of the bed, and the glory of the Lord was at the other. I was borne aloft by the prayers of the saints.

We stayed in that condition for the entire 17 days I was in the hospital. The surgeon--God bless him--reported he had removed the kidney and all the cancer he could see. Then he returned. The lymph glands earlier diagnosed as cancerous proved to be non-cancerous when viewed under the microscope. "You're healed," he grinned. Miracle!

There is no way Jackie and I can thank you. We spent those hospital days interceding for you. You called on Him in our behalf--and the Lord has answered you.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

jamie buckingham

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Oct. 1990



Since my bout with cancer I have heard from a number of Christian leaders, many of whom have been through life-shaking experiences. All are saying the same thing. We can never go back to where we were. God is calling us to a new kind of life--and life style.

Chuck Colson, former Nixon White House aide and now director of Prison Fellowship Ministries, almost died during and following stomach surgery last year. Following my own miracle healing he wrote a tender letter.

"You'll live every day from here on differently than you lived before. I get up each day now ever since my own operation and thank the Lord that I have this day and this opportunity to serve Him. Everything in life is a little bit richer following the kind of experience that both you and I have had."

Paul Cain, whom I believe is not only a modern day prophet but one of the "fathers" in the body of Christ, stopped by for lunch in mid-September. He had a "word" for me on "main-

taining" my healing. I thought he might have insight on what we're supposed to eat, since we've been bombarded with all kinds of cancer-preventive diets. Instead he had a word about my daily walk with God.

I shared with him some of the massive changes in my relationships with Jackie and with God. "Not only is your healing dependent on your maintaining this fresh new intimate relationship with God," he said, "but He is calling you--and the Tabernacle Church--to new levels of obedience which will help bring about a change in the entire kingdom of God."

The following day Jack Taylor called with a strong word about the primacy of the Word of God--our only hope as we enter these End Times. "No word of God is empty of the power God says it has," Jack emphasized. "God wants us to look at the Bible as our source of life."

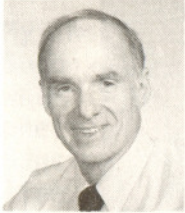
Paul Cain likened our church to a beachcomber who has gathered all the flotsam washed up on the beach. Now, he says, it is time for God to sculpt that old driftwood into something magnificent. Surely we are part of the new work God is doing.

A NEW PERSPECTIV

jamie buckingham

Mr & Mrs Marion Ranzino
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Palm Bay FL 32907

Nov. 1990



You may have heard Jackie mention the problems she (and I) are having re-entering "normal" life. The summer was spent on a spiritual mountaintop as the Holy Spirit brought "into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." Now we're slowly making our way back down the slopes to the valley where the world lives. Yet the spiritual tug o' war remains as we try to balance the desire to spend all our time with Him and the need to walk out our lives with you.

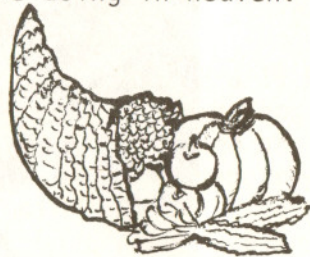
The other night, as I was leaving the house to play basketball on the half-court behind our garage, God whispered "Are you ready to die on the court?"

"But, Lord, you just healed me of a deadly disease. Surely you won't snatch me away now."

"Maybe. Maybe not. That is my business. Your business is to be ready to go at any moment. You are to live one day at a time. THIS is the day the Lord hath made--rejoice and be glad in your basketball. Be diligent in obeying me. Be aware at all times of my presence. Leave the future to me. This

is the way I want ALL my children to live. Show them by your example and life."

PRAYER: Lord, make us like sponges, saturated with your Spirit. May we ever leave droplets of your glory whenever we settle. When we brush against another, let us moisten them with your love. Keep us immersed in your Spirit, that every cell of our being and body is infused with your plan and purpose for our lives. May what we do on earth always be synonymous with what you're doing in heaven.



EVENTS TO PLAN FOR:

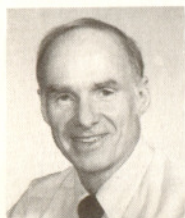
NOVEMBER 21: Churchwide Thanksgiving Eve Service at the Tab. Bring the children. 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. It will be a time of praise and thanks.

DECEMBER 1: The annual Ladies' Christmas Luncheon will be at the Hilton Rialto. Seating is limited. Register now by signing up after the morning services.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE.

jamie buckingham

Mr. & Mrs. James Buckingham
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While emerging from my summer struggle I heard several words from God about the direction of the church.

Three of those words applied to teaching/preaching. God said to emphasize (1) personal holiness, (2) prayer and (3) prophecy. The latter word did not apply to the more sensational "end times prophesy," but to hearing from God, then speaking what God was saying. I do not believe God wants me to limit what is said from the pulpit to these three subjects but He does want them emphasized. Looking back on the fall preaching --both that done by Michael Thompson and by me--you'll find those subjects had a major role.

The other word had to do with administration. "Turn the church back over to the people." I hope you'll be on the alert for whatever God has for you in that. Perhaps, however, the most dramatic change will be the reestablishment of a strong new eldership. God willing, I will make the announcement of this the first Sunday in January.

The authority base of the Tab is threefold. The ministry of the body is overseen by the pastors. This includes home groups, personal ministry and, in the near future, will include a group of strong deacons who will take on most of the ministry and "discipling" the body.

The legal and financial authority of the church rests in our board of directors. The board gives oversight to the budget (which is then administered by our financial administrator, Saundra Reed) and to all matters concerning property and legalities.

The spiritual direction of the church--and the group which gives oversight to all the other groups--rests in the elders. In years past we've always had a strong eldership. Over the last three years, however, I have shouldered this myself--with the able assistance of the pastors and two "personal elders." Now is the time to release that authority back into the hands of a new eldership. I ask your prayers as selections are finalized. This is the dawn of a new day for the Tab.