

Prayer is Growth

by Jamie Buckingham

Until his death in February 1992, Jamie Buckingham was a member of the Breakthrough Board of Directors.

There is a frightening tendency, when we talk about intercession, to immediately drop over into methodology. We want to nail God down and try to make Him work the same way each time we pray.

But one of the ways God responds to our prayers is to allow us to grow into the answer. What we understand about intercession today may not be the same as what we understand tomorrow. I think God always wants us to move into newer understanding. The same methods don't work every time, because the life of faith is a growth process.

When the angel came to Joshua, for example, he made an interesting declaration. The children of Israel had crossed the wilderness and were camped on the west bank of the Jordan River on the very edge of the promised land.

The angel said, "Now look across at this land. Every place where you put your foot is yours." At that very moment, according to God's Word through the angel, the land belonged to the Israelites.

However, they still had to do something to gain control of Canaan. They had to physically march over it and



Jamie and Jackie Buckingham (center) at home with their children and grandchildren.

put their foot on it. Of course, it was already occupied so they also had to drive those people out.

The children of Israel could no longer rely on the understanding that got them through the wilderness. Now they were required to do something. This speaks to me of challenge and growth.

After hearing those dreaded words so many are hearing these days — inoperable cancer — Jamie Buckingham found healing in God's Word.

Speaking in his rich pastor's voice, Jamie recorded on tape over 200 Scriptures for posterity.

You can purchase this wonderful, uplifting tape called "Summer of Miracles" for yourself or a friend. See Resources Section of this magazine.

In the same way, you and I have got to move and grow. If an answer to prayer has been promised to you, then you've got to go and get it, no matter if you are faced with struggles on the way. Intercession is an exercise process; each step strengthens. As we move into a little bit of healing, for instance, we become stronger and stronger. We are taking back more and more ground.

Intercession, after all, is tapping into the resources of the Kingdom of God. It has nothing to do with method, nothing to do with what we say. Intercession means *doing it God's way* — whatever that may be.

When you intercede, seek this. Jesus, our Intercessor, will tell you what God's way is in any circumstance.†

This article is reprinted from *The Breakthrough Intercessor*, Volume 7, Number 2.