

God Is Moving

BY MICHELE BUCKINGHAM

In a cross-country telephone conversation several months ago, I asked Jack Hayford what he believed were the most significant Holy Spirit-inspired moves in the church today. Without hesitation, he named two:

- The Christian "men's movement," which is teaching men to take responsibility for their roles as servant-leaders in the body of Christ; and,
- The "prayer summit" movement, which is drawing church leaders from various denominations and backgrounds into true spiritual unity.

My spirit leaped as God confirmed in my own heart the significance of his answer. I immediately got to work—and in this issue of *Ministries Today*, we have included feature articles on both topics by men who are recognized leaders and pioneers in their areas of ministry: Ed Cole, founder of the Christian Men's Network, which has been teaching and challenging men in Christ for over a decade; and Joe Aldrich, president of Multnomah School of the Bible, who has written the definitive book on prayer summits.

I trust your spirit will leap, too.

TEARING DOWN WALLS

Also in this issue, *Ministries Today* is introducing a new columnist, Charles Blake, who will rotate writing duties with pastor/professor Leonard Lovett. Blake, who was appointed Bishop of the First Jurisdiction of Southern California of the Church of God in Christ in 1985 and elected to

The Holy Spirit is working today through both the Christian men's movement and the prayer summit movement.

Michele Buckingham is the managing editor of *Ministries Today*.

the General Board in 1988, has been an ordained minister in the COGIC since 1962.

He has served as pastor of the West Angeles Church of God in Christ since January 8, 1969, where he started with a 50-member congregation. Today the church has more than 9,000 active members. Blake's Los Angeles-area "neighbor," Jack Hayford, along with many pastors and leaders across the country, recognizes Blake as a man of integrity and strength with an important message for the body of Christ at large.

There is a strong tie between the issues raised in our feature articles and those raised in Blake's inaugural column. After all, how can we talk about unity across denominational lines unless we speak with similar urgency about unity and understanding across racial lines?

Even if denominational walls were to come down tomorrow, Sunday morning still would be "the most segregated hour in America." In this issue, Blake raises questions and concerns that all Christian leaders, black and white, must address with integrity and determination—and with faith in the God who, through Christ, made us "neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free."

Race is a wall that divides our culture. But the church is not intended to reflect the culture; it is, in its essence, *counterculture*. We must show the world a better way.

For Christ's sake, the walls must come down.

Ministries TODAY

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