## **Moving Forward**

### BY MICHELE BUCKINGHAM

Perhaps nearly as difficult as experiencing the death of a loved one is moving forward into the future without him.

Jamie Buckingham was many things to me—father-in-law, pastor, mentor, editor, friend. I gladly worked at his side, sure of my calling to minister to God by ministering to this one special servant of God. Going forward now as managing editor of *Ministries Today* has been one of the greatest steps of faith of my life.

In his last months, Jamie spent much time prioritizing. It was obvious he could no longer do everything he wanted to do. God was calling him to a narrower path. So what was important? Family, friends, church—and Ministries Today. Jamie told me more than once this magazine was his most important writing project. He loved the church. He loved pastors. He wanted to encourage new leaders, make them think, force them to constantly re-evaluate the status quo. He wanted to build bridges between Christianity's many streams by building bridges between their leaders. He wanted Jesus to be lifted up. Ministries Today was his forum.

But Jamie also knew *Ministries Today* was God's—not his. God called Jamie to give the magazine direction, vitality, heart. He did that. He pressed for excellence. And in every area—editorial, design, advertising, circulation—*Ministries Today* flourished under Jamie's leadership.

Now it is up to others to carry on.

Jack Hayford, senior pastor



Jack Hayford



Stephen Strang

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Michele Buckingham is now managing editor of *Ministries Today* after serving as associate editor since 1990. She has been a professional writer and editor for 13 years.

of the Church on the Way in Van Nuys, California, and the regular contributor of our Pastor to Pastor column, has agreed to become our senior editorial advisor. Jack's love for the church at large, his understanding of the Scriptures, and his ministry of bridge-building and reconciliation are well-known. He is respected the world over as a "leader's leader." His guidance and input over the months to come will be invaluable.

Stepping in as interim editor-in-chief is the magazine's founding editor, Stephen Strang. As the president of Strang Communications Company, which publishes Ministries Today, Steve has been integrally involved with the magazine from its beginning. He shared Jamie's vision for a Christian leadership magazine that was not ashamed of the gifts of the Holy Spiritand he made it happen. His help and support will be invaluable at this time, as well.

Together with all of our contributing editors, who will continue to play a significant role in the direction of the magazine, we're moving forward. (Jamie always said, "We have the best team of columnists in Christian journalism.") Our hearts are sad, but our eyes are on the goal.

We want every one of you to move forward with us.

# **Ministries**

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