

A Kingdom Perspective

BY JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

When you come face-to-face with the possibility that you have only a limited time left on earth—everything changes in perspective.

For eight years I've bragged that God had promised me another 50 years of creative and productive life if I cooperated with Him. He did indeed say that to me, but I limited "cooperation" to mean keeping my weight down and exercising. All the rest of my life I lived in my own strength, relying for the most part on my own understanding.

Now all that has changed—changed by a medical report showing cancer in my kidney and lymph glands.

Instantly I began to view life from a different perspective: the perspective of the kingdom.

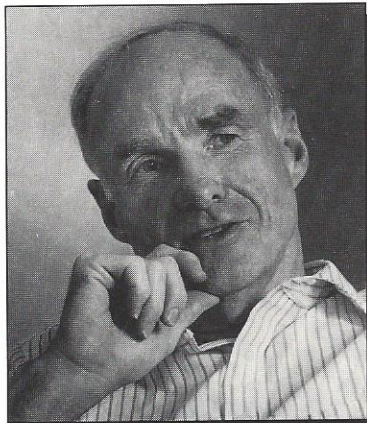
I have been consumed with a passion for God: to know Him, to be with Him, to serve Him.

I huddle with my wife, family and church. I cling to them. They are my prayer fortress. But my cry is for God: that I may be in His presence, for He alone will heal.

Faith has not come easy. Scripture—on tape, in the mouth of my wife and in music—opened the door. Others, praying, held up my arms. But God alone gets the glory. It is He who crushed the devil at Calvary and is, even now, orchestrating my life and healing for His glory—using means and people I do not control.

Faith has come. Faith in God. Faith in His nature. Faith He wants me here for a reason: to wander around heaven, then return as His conduit, His oracle. To speak and write His words—only.

I've been convicted of a judgmental spirit. I was like Charlie Brown, who once said, "I take my religion seriously. I get into arguments almost every day." Many whom I have judged have been the first ones God sent to pray for me.



My prayer is that I would become as a little child. Children do not hold grudges. They do not judge others, and if they do, they forget it moments later as they return to playing together. Children give

everything away. Speaking of them, Jesus said, "Of such is the kingdom."

Lord, make me as one of them.

All across our nation God is moving among the children. I urge you to recognize His move. Re-align your church priorities—hoist your sails, so to speak, to catch His wind. In this issue we examine a small part of what God is doing.

Thank you for your prayers. In future issues of the *Buckingham Report* I shall report on the direction the cloud is moving.

—Jamie Buckingham

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On July 31, 1990, Jamie Buckingham underwent surgery for cancer of the kidney and lymph glands at the M.D. Anderson Clinic in Houston, Texas. While early diagnoses had identified the illness as "inoperable and incurable," the surgeon reported he successfully removed "all the cancer that we could see." Pathology reports later showed that the extracted lymph glands were simply swollen—not cancerous at all.

Ministries Today joins the Buckingham family in praising God—and in thanking all those who prayed during this period. We ask your continued prayers during the critical weeks of recovery ahead.

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3901 Hield Road NW • Palm Bay, FL 32907
(407) 725-4206 Ofc. • (407) 729-8707 FAX

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