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PRESS JOURNAL

PERSPECTIVE

Editor's Note—The Press-Journal is pleased to present a new column, "Perspective," which will be a regular weekly feature, along with the news of church activities in the county.

Author of the column is Rev. Jamie Buckingham, a native of Vero Beach and a graduate of Vero Beach High School, who is currently serving as the lay-minister of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Eau Gallie. Before returning to Florida, he was pastor of the South Main Street Baptist Church of Greenwood, South Carolina.

Rev. Buckingham is author of the recently-published book, "Run Baby Run," and two other books which have been completed and are scheduled for publication. He is an assignment writer for Guidposts magazine and for the Atlanta Journal Constitution Sunday Magazine.

His free lance materials have been published in Reader's Digest, The Lutheran Standard, Christian Life, Home Life, Church Administration, and the Methodist Advocate.

By Jamie Buckingham

It makes all the difference in the world where a man looks.

When Daddy taught me to drive he drilled into me: "Keep your eyes focused down the road, not right in front of the hood."

I remember Daddy's wealthy friend who wintered in Florida. He was an infamous driver. One afternoon he pulled out of our country driveway and banged his car into Susie, a mean old cow that grazed in our front yard. Susie turned and kicked the fool out of his car. He apologized to Daddy, saying he hadn't seen Susie because he was looking at a butterfly that had lit on the windshield wiper.



This is what happens when you can't get your eyes off the immediate.

I learned this secret when I learned to fly. My instructor used to say that if I spent all my time looking straight down I'd never know where I was or where I was going. The most important factor in visual flying is the horizon. When you line your plane up in perspective to it, levelling the wings and trimming out the nose, you can feel secure in your present situation.

I know an important business executive who spends five minutes each morning just staring out his window at the horizon. He says that concentrating on the purpose of God is the best antidote he's ever found for fuzzy thinking. One day his secretary came in and caught him staring out the window. She asked him what he was doing. He swung around and said, "Today I have to make a decision that involves millions of dollars. I'm simply broadening my perspective by thinking about the bigness of God."

This is what the psalmist did when he turned his eyes toward the hills. It helps to get your eyes off the present and to look backward and see how God has guided — and to look forward to where He is leading. Life consists of more than the "right now," and we all need a new awareness that our suffering, pain, frustrations and problems are quite insignificant when compared to the bigness of God and the length of eternity.