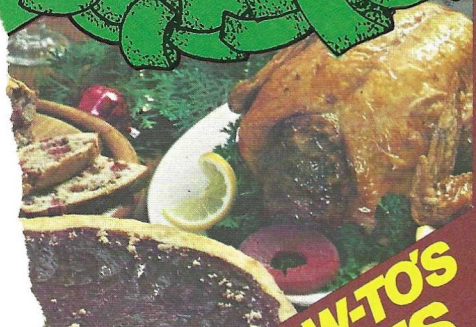


VIRTUE

The Magazine of Christian Womanhood \$2.95 Nov.-Dec. 1980



**COOKING HOW-TO'S
CRANBERRIES
PUMPKIN PIE
& COOKIES**

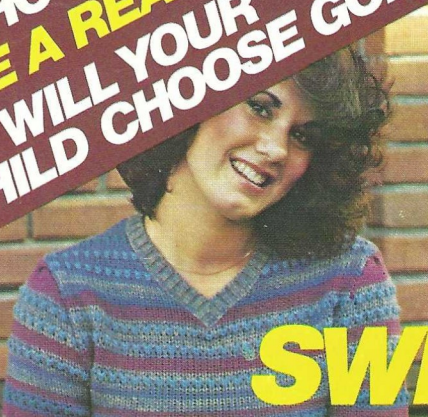
Special Christmas
Story



**"CALEB
the CAMEL"**

**SARAH
HALE** and
the first official Thanksgiving

**CHOOSING A CHURCH
BE A REAL FRIEND
WILL YOUR
CHILD CHOOSE GOD**



SWEATERS



**JACKIE
BUCKINGHAM**

wife of author Jamie Buckingham
talks about her calling in God as a
wife and mother



People must wonder a lot about you, Jackie. Jamie is so well-known but we don't get to "see" you very much, unless it is in something he has written. Are you a public person or do you like to stay around home more?

There is nothing public about me. I function much better behind the scenes than I do on stage. Like jasmine and morning glory, I fold up when someone turns the spotlight on me.

I have spoken publically only three times — to various chapters of Womans' Aglow Fellowship. Each time I felt terribly self conscious. When I walk through an airport I want to do it on the arm of my husband. When I attend church services, I want nothing more than to sit with the congregation, pray for my husband or whoever is leading the service, and enter into worship.

This is the first time I have ever been interviewed by a magazine or a newspaper. Even though I am glad to share my life with the readers of VIRTUE, I do not feel there is anything different about me than a million other Christian mothers and wives.

The reason you don't "see" me much is I choose to remain in the shadows. Ministering to my husband. Mothering our five children. Taking care of our home. Ministering quietly to the long line of people who always seem to be passing through our lives.

Your family is many times the subject of Jamie's writing. Does this ever make you feel like you live in a glass bouse?

For 12 years we lived in a parsonage in a small southern town while Jamie was a denominational pastor. That's living in a glass house. Living in a glass house means you have no control over who peeks in.

Now the point of control has changed. We are the ones who pull back the drapes and say, "Come and see." We can also control our privacy. Jamie's secretary,



"From the time I was a sophomore in high school, all I wanted to do was become Jamie's wife. Despite the heartbreaks along the way, God has granted me the desire of my heart."

JACKIE BUCKINGHAM

Laura Watson, shields us from the public. The elders of our church, the Tabernacle Church in Melbourne, Florida, are protective of us. And I get to edit most of the things Jamie writes. So, we share only what we feel is necessary to help others.

Jamie feels the Gospel is best presented through transparent persons. He is virtually without pretense. He doesn't hide behind a title such as "Reverend." He has taught the rest of us that as long as we are honest with God, we can be honest with each other — without fear.

After a Sunday morning service when Jamie had illustrated one of his sermons by telling a story about our 17-year old daughter, Sandy, I asked her if she was offended.

"I love it!" she grinned.

I told Jamie one day that if it were not for me and the children, he wouldn't have anything to say or write about. He agreed. That makes us special, too.

Is your family's relationship affected by a hectic lifestyle or do you actually have a lot of time together?

Our home is full of activity. We live in a large, two-story house on twenty acres. We call our place "Hebron," after one of the Biblical cities of refuge. We feel God has called us to minister to those who need help, especially wounded pastors and leaders.

Besides this, we have emphasized "community living" in our church. More than 30 of our friends — all of whom are in spiritual relationship — have moved out in the country with us. They are helping each other build their houses close by where we live.

Then, we look on a number of people in our church as dear friends. Our lives are completely open to them, as theirs are to us.

Sure, there are times when all this gets hectic — especially with Jamie traveling so much. Besides this, he is always bringing home visitors — or inviting them to "stop by." This last year we entertained families from Holland, Israel, Australia — all of whom stayed more than a week — plus numbers of others from around the nation. Many of these are Christian leaders who desperately needed spiritual help.

Then you have to remember that our church is, itself, something of a city of refuge. Many of the people in the body have come from wounded situations. This means that constantly there is some kind of crisis going on in the church. We love it, but it is draining.

Thankfully, when Jamie is home, he is with us. Our church makes few demands on him. They recognize his unique role as an apostle. He meets with the elders one day a week to give spiritual insight. He tries to be present on Sunday so he can preach. But the rest of the time is for that which he feels called especially to do, write and be with us.

This coming year Jamie has felt he should curtail most of his traveling. He'll not be going out to speak across the nation nearly as much as before. Both of us are looking forward to his being able to spend all day, days at a time, in his little writing studio in the woods behind our house.

I shall leave him alone. But it will be good just knowing he's home.

What are your keys to happiness and togetherness as a husband and wife? How are you and Jamie opposites?

Everyone who knows us well, recognizes just how opposite we really are. Jamie is positive, optimistic, almost naive. I am negative, with a prophetic nature which sees things in black and white. No

middle ground.

To many this kind of contrast would spell disaster. But in the Spirit, Jamie and I are like a battery — with positive and negative poles. Despite the sparks, we have been able to create light and power.

For the last several years we have been committed to a small group of seven families. In the beginning all of us took a psychological test which revealed our "feelings" in a number of different areas. Each week we meet to go over the results of the test in a particular area. It was only then we discovered most other families are opposites, too.

I like to go to bed early; he likes to stay up late. He is warm-natured and sleeps on top of the sheets, while I freeze if the thermostat is turned below 80 degrees. He enjoys adventure. Each year he spends two weeks camping in the Sinai. I enjoy my kitchen, my comfortable bed, and a clean bathroom.

Over the years, though, we have learned to allow each other the right to his own feelings — and the right to express those feelings without intimidating the other party.

We disagree on a lot of things. But I do not try to force him to agree with me. I just want the right to express myself. It's taken 26 years of marriage (and five years of engagement prior to that) to bring us to this place. But we're together — and happy.

What are your thoughts on mothering?

We had our children early. Things were tough then. Jamie was a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. I was trying to finish my senior year at Texas Christian

Continued on page 88

JACKIE BUCKINGHAM was born in Vero Beach, Florida, in 1933. She fell in love as a sophomore in high school with a boy one year older—and has never fallen out of love with him. She attended Brenau College, Mercer University, and Texas Christian University. She and Jamie were married in 1954 and moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where Jamie completed graduate studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

For eight and a half years they lived in Green-

wood, South Carolina, where Jamie was pastor of the South Main Street Baptist Church. They returned to Florida in 1965. Jamie was pastor of the Harbor City Baptist Church in Melbourne and later founded the Tabernacle Church in the same town, where he still remains as the spiritual overseer.

The Buckingham's have five children, three of whom are graduates of Oral Roberts University. All the children, and the two grandchildren, are living close by in Melbourne.

Coming next issue
... an exclusive interview
with scholar & theologian
Elton Trueblood

University when our first son, Bruce, arrived. Our first daughter, Robin, was also born before we left the seminary. Bonnie arrived the year we moved to South Carolina where Jamie was a Baptist pastor. Tim came along two years later. We thought our family was complete, then our last daughter, Sandy, was born in 1962.

All five of our children gave their hearts to Christ at an early age. And all were baptized by their father.

Bruce has graduated from Oral Roberts University and is presently living at home. He is working as a special aide to our Congressman.

Robin is also a graduate of ORU. She is married to Jon Moore and they have one daughter. They have recently moved back to Melbourne and are living on our property.

phone and dealing with anxious editors who want to know where Jamie is today, trying to find out why the well is pumping salt water — you don't have much time for needlepoint.

Occasionally I travel with Jamie. We have recently returned from a week-long skin-diving trip to the Bahamas where we lived aboard a small boat with another couple. I was scared the whole time, but we still had a good time.

We have a yard full of animals. Our son, Tim, has a Brahman calf who is growing horns and pushes down the fence so she can graze in the front yard. We have two cats (one of them pregnant), two rabbits (one of whom stays pregnant), two big dogs and eight puppies, two horses, four pigs (which get out of their pen twice a day to eat my potted plants), five children, two children-in-law, two grandchildren,

along the way, God has granted me the desire of my heart.

Jamie infers, in "Where Eagles Soar," that there was a time when your marriage was confronted by an extra-martial relationship. How did you react? Was it difficult to forgive? How was trust re-established?

I believe God gives each of us certain gifts. Among other things, Jamie has the gift of mercy. That is one of the things which makes him a good writer. When he gives himself to a project, he gives his entire self. When he is talking to someone, he makes them feel like they are the most important person in the world.

Jamie has often taught that when we are tempted, it is always at our strongest point — not our weakest. If Satan can destroy a man's strengths, invalidate his gift, then much damage is done. Thus the intellectual person is tempted to lord it over the person with less education. The person with a gift of prophecy often becomes arrogant and harsh. And the man with a gift of mercy is tempted to misuse his sensitivity and compassion to satisfy his own sinful nature.

I didn't understand that principle when, eight years into our marriage, the mountain fell on me. Had I known then, what I know now, I think I could have spoken to the mountain. Instead, I reacted in anger — and hurt — at his infidelity. It has taken us years to get over it, for it lasted a long time. But we were both committed to each other and the idea of forgiving was no problem. It was the pain of remembering, and the constant fear of reoccurrence, which twisted my own life.

Jamie and I were engaged for almost five years before we got married. I thought I knew him pretty well. I had put him on a pedestal and thought he could do no wrong. Then, when I discovered his life was full of secret sins, it almost killed me.

The lessons Jamie and I have learned from these years of heartbreak are the things, however, which have molded our lives into the image of Christ.

You see, just when it seemed neither of us could go any further, we both received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Jamie first, then me. That did not put an end to our problems, nor to the interference from the outside. But it gave us the power — and, more important, the desire — to deal with them. With it came a new factor which, although terrifying at first, was the tool to see us through. Honesty.

What have I learned? There have been many things I learned about myself — ugly things. There were things I learned about Jamie, and about other people. But far more important, I have learned something about God, and his grace.

When you love someone it is easy to forgive. ♥

Continued from page 39

JACKIE BUCKINGHAM

Bonnie is a senior at ORU.

Tim is married, also. He and Kathy have a baby and are also living in a cottage on our property.

Sandy, now 17, is a senior in high school.

We chose to keep our children in public school, feeling it was best for them to be exposed to the reality of this world at an early age. Jamie and I then took the challenge of teaching them how to be Kingdom citizens in a secular society. The fact that they have chosen a fine Christian university is evidence of the fact the early training paid off.

None of our children has ever had a major crisis. None have ever been seriously ill. Growing up on the east coast of Florida has exposed them to a heavy emphasis on sex and drugs, but all five have chosen to stick with Kingdom principles.

The family, as you can see, is close. Although we have not encouraged it, we are pleased they are migrating back home after they grow up and marry.

My job has been that of shepherd girl to a small flock. I have checked the water for poison, chased away a few wolves, smacked the unruly ones who wanted to stray, and led them to the Green Pasture. The chief shepherd has done the rest.

What are your hobbies?

Hobbies are for those who have spare time.

Maybe, when I am older and the children are gone, I will have a hobby. But right now with a house as busy as a hotel, an active husband, living in the middle of a Christian community, there isn't much spare time.

When you are fixing dinner for 12 people each night, cleaning five toilets each day, riding the tractor, answering the

constant guests, and one compost.

Hobbies? How can I think about hobbies when I'm chasing a 400-pound pig off the patio, pulling a puppy out of the swimming pool, and running from the crazy cow who wants to butt me everytime I step out of the house?!

How do you maintain an active relationship with the Lord?

Someone once told me that John Wesley's mother, Susanna, had 12 children and a wood stove. The only way she could find quiet time was to reach down, grab the hem of her dress, pull her long skirt up over her head and there in her little cloth closet — pray.

I feel like that sometimes. I try to remain in a constant attitude of community with God. Every major decision is accompanied by prayer. And since Jamie is constantly involved in things that require decisions, we do a lot of praying.

Furthermore, I see raising my children in the "nurture and admonition" of the Lord as an act of obedience akin to worship. Thus, as I see them grow, and watch the Lord touch my husband in special ways, my heart is constantly filled with praise.

What do you consider your calling in life?

I cannot speak except as a wife and mother.

I believe God has given me a special gift as a mother to my children and a wife to my husband. I cherish this calling as the highest of all callings. I have no desire to do anything other than fulfill that which God has called me to.

From the time I was a sophomore in high school, all I wanted to do was be Jamie's wife. Despite the heartbreaks