

# Minister Wins Trip to New York

By NANCY JAFFER

TODAY Staff Writer

An Eau Gallie minister has made his hobby of writing pay off.

An article he sent to Guideposts Magazine, an inspirational publication, won him an all-expense paid trip to New York for a seminar on inspirational writing.

James W. Buckingham, pastor of the Baptist Tabernacle Church, 1616 Ferndale Rd., will be one of 20 people traveling to Rye, N.Y., for the seminar Oct. 1-6.

Among authors handing out literary criticism there will be Mrs. Catherine Marshall, wife of the late U.S. Senate Chaplain Peter Marshall. She is the author of, "A Man Called Peter."

Also present will be Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, whose guideposts' Foundation publishes the magazine and sponsored the contest.

Buckingham, who lives at 1524 Windward Dr., said about 1,100 people in this country and Canada competed for the trip. All wrote about an inspirational experience that happened to them or someone they had known.

Anxious for an opportunity to be published in a major interdenominational magazine, rather than the Southern Baptist Journal (for which he often writes,) Buckingham decided to submit the story of one of his friends, Lt. Tom Smoak.

Smoak was the only one of four Air Force officers who survived the explosion of a fuel-laden jet over Little Rock Ark. in March 1960.

Buckingham's article, called "A Morning of Miracles" details the unlikely events that enable co-pilot Smoak to survive. He also includes Smoak's thoughts before, during and after the disaster.

The minister met Smoak in Vero Beach four years ago. The pilot sought him out after he crash-landed a plane in the area.

A native of Vero, Buckingham attended high school there. He graduated from Mercer College in Macon, Ga., with a degree in English, and went on to post-graduate work at Southwest Seminary in Ft. Worth, Tex.

He has been a minister for nine years. In addition to writing for Southern Baptist Publications, he writes a weekly column in a newspaper in Greenwood, S.C.



## Eau Galliean Entertains

An Eau Gallie minister, the Rev. James Buckingham, entertains fellow writers in Rye, N.Y., this week during a Guideposts Magazine religious writers' seminar there. The pastor's coffee break companies are Mrs. Pat King (left) of Seattle, Wash., and

Mrs. Annamae Cheney of California. Buckingham is pastor of the Baptist Tabernacle Church of Eau Gallie and lives at 1524 Windward Dr. They were three of the 20 writers chosen for the seminar.