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HELPING CHURCH LEADERS TRANSITION FROM THE PRESENT TO THE FUTURE

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## The New Apostolic Reformation

For over 30 years, Peter Wagner has been studying and writing about the movements of God in the US and around the world. His latest book chronicles the stories of 18 churches that are part of what he is calling the "New Apostolic Reformation." These churches share a common DNA of nine characteristics. The following are summaries of six of the nine characteristics.

**A new name...**the name I have settled on is the New Apostolic Reformation, and individual churches being designated as new apostolic churches. These new wineskins appear to be "*at least as radical as those of the Protestant Reformation almost 500 years ago.*" The New Apostolic Reformation is an extraordinary work of God at the close of the twentieth century that is, to a significant extent, changing the shape of Protestant Christianity around the world.

**New authority structure...**views of leadership and leadership authority constitute the most radical of the nine changes from traditional Christianity. Here is the main difference: *the amount of spiritual authority delegated by the Holy Spirit to individuals.* We are seeing a transition from bureaucratic authority to personal authority, from legal structure to relational structure, from control to coordination, and from rational leadership to charismatic leadership.

**New leadership training...**although new apostolic pastors are fervently dedicated to leading their churches, they are equally dedicated to releasing the people of their congregations to do the ministry of the church. Members of the paid pastoral staff are usually homegrown. New apostolic coordination is primarily rooted in personal relationships, which verify character, and in proven ministry skills. Continuing education for leaders more frequently takes place in conferences, seminars and retreats rather than in classrooms of accredited institutions.

**New ministry focus...**traditional Christianity starts with the present situation and focuses on the past. New apostolic Christianity starts with the present situation and focuses on the future. Many traditional churches are *heritage driven*; new apostolic church leaders are *vision driven*.

**New worship style...**Contemporary worship is the one characteristic of the New Apostolic Reformation that has already penetrated the most deeply into traditional and denominational churches across the board. Worship leaders have replaced music directors and their goal is to help every person in the congregation become an active "participant" in worship.

**New outreach...**aggressively reaching out to the lost and hurting of the community and the world is a part of the new apostolic DNA. Planting new churches is usually an assumed part of what a local congregation does. The question is not whether to do it, but when and how. The same applies to foreign missions.

To order the book, *The New Apostolic Churches*, published by Regal Press, call 1.800.446.7735. The price is \$17.99.

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