

New Things

BY MICHELE BUCKINGHAM

There are some things in life that are better when they're old: an overstuffed chair or a pair of faded jeans, for example.

But as a rule, most of us like things *new*. Unless, of course, we're sticks-in-the-mud, avoiding "new" along with that other four-letter word, "change."

I like to wear a new outfit now and again (no gender-based comments, please). My husband is in the market for a new car. My best friend's husband delights in tinkering with the latest computer program. My pastor loves nothing more than a hardback book hot off the presses.

"New" is exciting, hopeful, forward-looking. It appeals to our sense of adventure.

It can force us out of our comfort zones.

It can get us into trouble.

In this first issue of a new year, *Ministries Today* talks about "new" things.

On the one hand, there is the false kind of new, the kind that can kill you if you accept its false promise of hope and adventure. I'm talking about *New Age*. The name itself is a lie and a misnomer, since *New Age* is not new at all, but an amalgamation of ancient religions and age-old deceptions.

Paul McGuire knows firsthand the dangers of *New Age* philosophy and practice—and the pervasiveness. Free in Christ today after years of entanglement in the *New Age* web, McGuire is now an author, speaker and minister to the church-at-large. In his article, "How to Escape the New

"New" is exciting, hopeful, forward-looking. It appeals to our sense of adventure.

Michele Buckingham is managing editor of *Ministries Today*.

Age," he offers insight as well as practical advice on reaching unbelievers who, knowingly or unknowingly, have been taken in by the often-subtle *New Age* lie.

Then there is the other kind of new, the kind that offers real hope, real truth and a real future more exciting than our minds can imagine. I'm talking about the "new move of God."

More and more these days, I'm hearing leaders talk about the "new thing" God is doing; the "new move" that is upon us; the "new wave" that is on the horizon. I sense God moving, too, but my feeling is that when it arrives, it won't look anything like what we're expecting.

In any case, I can only hope to keep my head in the Book, my heart hidden in Christ and my spirit sensitive to the Spirit of God. That way, when I see it, I'll know it.

In his article, "Are You Ready for a New Wave From God?" Randy Sly notes that ours is a time when new moves and new waves are being heralded in the church on a regular basis.

As leaders and thoughtful Christians, we have the responsibility and mandate to discern whether a new move is of God and to be embraced—or a counterfeit to be rejected. Sly offers counsel on telling the difference, as well as wisdom on how to respond to both.

I look forward to 1994. I trust that you do, too. This is an exciting time to be living and ministering unto the Lord.

Happy New Year from all of us at *Ministries Today*. ■

Ministries TODAY

EDITORIAL STAFF

Stephen Strang	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Jack Hayford	SR. EDITORIAL ADVISOR
Timothy L. Gilmour	PUBLISHER
Joy F. Strang	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
Michele Buckingham	MANAGING EDITOR
Barbie Eslin	ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Jimmy Stewart	COPY EDITOR
Eric Jessen	CORPORATE ART DIRECTOR
Geoffrey V. Sprague	ART DIRECTOR
Wendy Cordeiro	PRODUCTION DIRECTOR
Brenda Haun	ASST. PRODUCTION MANAGER
Kathy Curtis	PRODUCTION EDITOR
Linda Fowler	PRODUCTION ARTIST
Bob Minotti	ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Marc Stockwell	ADVERTISING ACCT. EXECUTIVE
Alexander Vassiliev	ADVERTISING ACCT. EXECUTIVE
Lisa Gorrell	AD TRAFFIC COORDINATOR
Gail Speigle	AD TRAFFIC COORDINATOR

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Charles Blake	Senior Pastor, Los Angeles, CA
Mark Buckley	Senior Pastor, Phoenix, AZ
Jean Coleman	Co-pastor, Laurel, MD
Loren Cunningham	Missionary Statesman, Kailua-Kona, HI
Michael Green	Co-pastor & Worship Leader, New Orleans, LA
James Guinn	Certified Public Accountant, Irving, TX
Richard Hammar	Attorney and CPA, Springfield, MO
Frances Hunter	Healing Evangelist, Kingwood, TX
Leonard Lovett	Professor of Religion, Tulsa, OK
Francis MacNutt	Christian Healing Ministries, Jacksonville, FL
Don Moen	Worship Leader, Mobile, AL
Doug Murren	Senior Pastor, Kirkland, WA
Joyce Strader	Pastor's Wife, Lakeland, FL
Jack Taylor	Evangelist, Indialantic, FL
Devi Titus	Pastor's Wife, Camp Hill, PA
C. Peter Wagner	Professor of Church Growth, Pasadena, CA

EDITORIAL OFFICES: 3901 Hield Road NW • Palm Bay, FL 32907
(407) 724-2999 Office • (407) 729-5707 FAX

ADVERTISING OFFICES: 600 Rinehart Rd • Lake Mary, FL 32746
(407) 333-0600 Office • (407) 333-9753 FAX

Ministries Today (ISSN #0891-5725) is published bimonthly by Strang Communications Co., 600 Rinehart Road, Lake Mary, FL 32746. Second-class postage paid at Lake Mary, FL and additional entry offices. Subscription rate is \$19.95 for 6 issues and \$29.95 for 12 issues. Canadian subscriptions add \$9 per year, foreign countries \$20 per year, payable in advance in U.S. currency only. **Subscription questions? Call 1-800-877-5334.** *Ministries Today* is available in microfilm from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Ministries Today*, P.O. Box 549, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0549. Copyright © 1993 by Strang Communications Company. Printed in USA.

STRANG
COMMUNICATIONS

Publishers of:
• *Charisma & Christian Life*
• *Christian Retailing*
• *Creation House Books*
• *CharismaLife Learning Resources*

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Strasburg, VA
Permit # 16

**Third Class
Mail
Enclosed**