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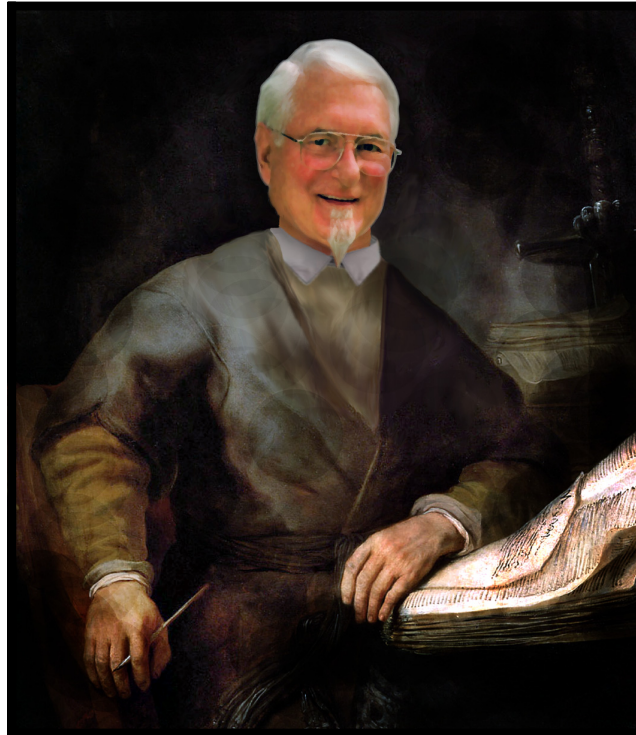
Peter Wagner and the Modern-Day Apostles Examining the New Apostolic Reformation

by Gary E. Gilley

The New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) is one of the largest, broadest, and most powerful movements within Christianity today, yet it flies largely under the radar.

Even those involved often misunderstand the movement so much that they deny they are part of it. This confusion stems from the fact that the NAR does not have official membership or leadership. Rather, the NAR is a loose coalition of mostly Pentecostal and Charismatic Christians, organizations, and churches that are united over the interpretation of certain portions of Scripture. The interpretation of these New Testament texts is widely held by those connected with the NAR and focus mainly on the miraculous sign gifts.

Some have equated the NAR with the so-called third wave of Pentecostalism. The first wave is said to have started with the birth of the Pentecostal movement in 1901; the second wave is identified with the Charismatic movement in the 1960s; and the



third wave, which emphasizes power evangelism, healings, and spiritual warfare, was led by John Wimber and the Vineyard movement in the 1980s. This greatly influenced C. Peter Wagner, who has been most instrumental in the development of the NAR. Pentecostal and Charismatic historian Vinson Synan writes:

“In 1983, Peter Wagner, professor of church growth at Fuller Theological Seminary, proposed the existence of a ‘third wave of the Holy Spirit’ that was entering wholesale into historic evangelical churches. In his view, the first wave consisted of Pentecostals while the second wave were the charis-

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