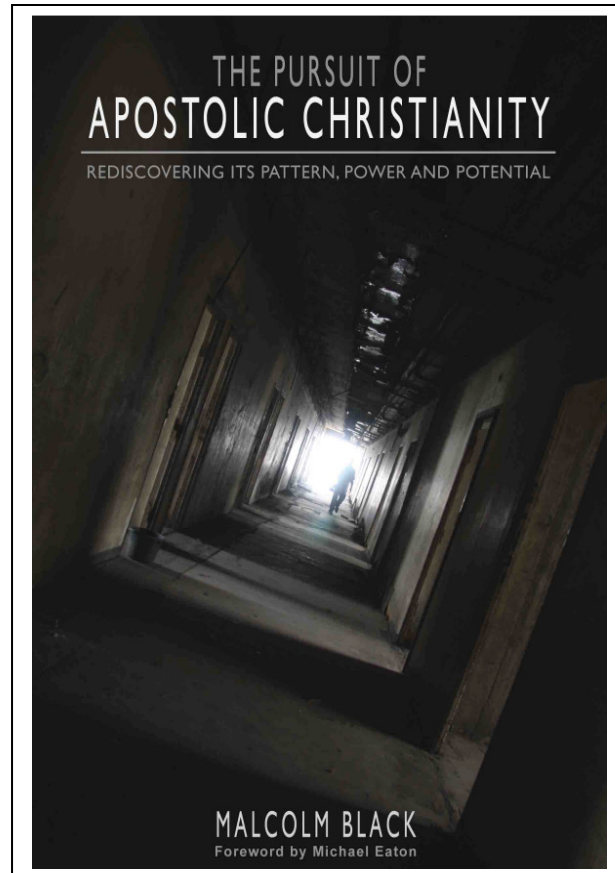


# ***The pursuit of Apostolic Christianity***

Rediscovering its pattern, power and potential

By Malcolm Black



**Comments by four influential men about the book:**

***Dr. Michael Eaton: Theologian. Scholar. Leader, Chrisco. Fellowship, Nairobi, Kenya.***

The "fivefold ministry" movement or "apostolic movement" came to the fore in the 1970s, emerging a decade or so after the beginning of the charismatic movement, with thousands of 'apostles' (some no doubt more authentic than others) appearing in twenty-first century Christianity.

Three decades on, it is time for some questions to be considered. Malcolm Black's book grapples with **continuing** in apostolic power, using the much-blessed New Covenant Ministries International (led until recently by Dudley Daniel) as a starting point. His questions are good ones; his answers worth

considering. His book will be useful to those seeking God's will for "fivefold ministry" movements in the next generation. I recommend it to all who need to consider such matters.

***Dr Christopher Pepler: Founder and Chairman, The South African Theological Seminary. Lead Elder, The Village Church, Sandton, South Africa.***

Malcolm Black views what he calls Apostolic Christianity through three lenses -- the Bible, Church History, and the experience of New Covenant Ministries International. This 'triangulation' yields helpful and balanced insights into current church planting efforts. It also provides a useful basis for anticipating future problems within apostolic-based movements. Leaders in these movements will find this book both helpful and challenging.

**Peter Howard-Browne – Pastor, New Generation Church, Somerset West, South Africa.**

Malcolm Black has written a winner! I have been privileged to read his manuscript as they have unfolded, realising how important this work is to 'our tribe' and to the wider body of Christ.

There just is not another book like it—part historical analysis, part theological evaluation. In addition, the book is well weighted with enough prophetic stirring to leave the reader with an abiding sense of confidence for the future along with a tangible warning regarding the inevitable results of doggedly pursuing the status-quo when a new modus operandi is obviously required.

The fact that Malcolm does not write from the technical and detached stratosphere of academia, but speaks with authority as one who has pastored several churches, planted two and is deeply and daily committed to apostolic Christianity is of particular relevance. I wholeheartedly endorse his work as an indispensable textbook on 'Apostolic Christianity'.

**David Cape. Church of the Nations International - Apostolic Council Member. Ormond Beach. Florida. USA.**

Up to this point in history, the twentieth century must surely be the most exciting era in which the Body of Christ has lived since the first Apostles pioneered in the Book of Acts. What a privilege to be alive at this time.

Armed with extensive research Malcolm digs into the core of the subject matter. This results in a wonderful explanation of this unfolding 'revival,' which has steadily gained momentum over approximately the past two hundred and fifty years.

In this book which you now hold, lie answers, discoveries, and truths to help us understand the strengths and failures of past moves of the Lord. It captures those things in which we have lived over the past fifty years and are still living.

Yet we too, like those who have gone before us are not immune to the dangers of falling into the same traps or shipwrecks which have been the demise of so many good moves of God. This book sounds a clear warning!

Malcolm is well qualified to commentate on such an exciting subject. He has lived and journeyed through the transitions of having been a denominational minister, through the Charismatic Renewal of the 60's and 70's into the then fledgling Restoration Church movement of the 80's (through the outstanding expression of New Covenant Ministries) and now into the coming of age of Apostolic Christianity. His flexibility and ability to adapt to the leading of the Holy Spirit has been a joy to observe for almost three decades.

Be inspired on the adventure as you absorb these pages.

David Cape.

Church of the Nations International - Apostolic Council Member.

Ormond Beach. Florida.

USA.

Co-author of: God's Secret to Greatness: The Power of the Towel  
by David Cape, Tommy Tenney

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## **Book Synopsis**

What is apostolic Christianity all about and what is the modern apostolic movement? In order to answer these questions and understand the development of the current apostolic movement, the author has chosen a number of prominent church movements including: the Methodist revival (1700s); the Pentecostal Movement (1900's); the Renewal Movement (1960s) and the Restoration Movement (1980s), showing how each in turn has contributed to the current apostolic movement. He looks at their rise to prominence and their loss of power and effectiveness resulting in a fall into institutionalism.

### **Movements to monuments**

From the days of the first apostles, the Church has seldom managed to maintain fervour and effectiveness for longer than a generation. Movements invariably slip into deadening institutionalism.

The book asks questions like:

- What is required for movements to stay on the cutting edge of growth and effectiveness, keeping the vitality of faith and vision alive from one generation to the next?
- What can leaders do to assist movements in staying true to their initial vision?
- How can leaders ensure they stay focussed in their pursuit of ‘making disciples of all nations’?
- Can a movement be ‘**self-renewing**’, continuing an upward trend of growth and effectiveness?
- How do movements avoid the pitfalls of institutionalism, denominationalism, professionalism and many other debilitating practices?
- Can the current apostolic movement break this trend, increasing in effectiveness to hand a flaming torch and not a smouldering wick to the next generation?

### **Defining hour for the apostolic movement**

The current apostolic movement is approximately thirty years old. It has come a long way but like all movements, it faces a defining hour in its history. The path chosen by leaders of the movement will determine whether the movement goes on to greater heights of growth and effectiveness, or declines into institutionalism like its predecessors.

#### Short Biography:

Malcolm has been in the Christian ministry since 1971. He served as a minister in the Methodist Church of South Africa for thirteen years. In that time he has pastored several churches and planted two. In 1983 he started relating to Dudley Daniel of New Covenant Ministries International. After pastoring for many years he took over the Bible College (ITCC) and has served in that position for the past eleven years. He holds a Masters degree in Theology. Malcolm is married to Gill and they have a married daughter and two grand children.

***For further information, please contact Malcolm at [itccmb@icon.co.za](mailto:itccmb@icon.co.za)***