

Ministry reaching out to New Age strongholds



Buck Elsmore, left, Jesus Video coordinator for Encinitas, prays for a team before they departed for door-to-door outreach on July 18

New Age ministry . . .

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chology, science, politics, business, education, class, gender and ethnicity. As Christians, we have an obligation to educate ourselves to recognize New Age beliefs and strive to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

To that end, God has raised up the New Age Ministry. Spearheaded by Michael Kole, the purpose of the New Age Ministry is to fulfill the Great Commission with a specific focus on evangelizing those who are currently in the New Age Movement, equipping the saints to make disciples of those who are in the New Age movement, and educating the body of Christ to recognize New Age deceptions and respond appropriately.

Kole had spent more than 20 years involved in nearly every aspect of New Age tenets and experiences, only to be left feeling high and dry in his search for enlightenment. His thirst for a loving God remained unquenched in a sea of self-centeredness and self-gratification. In 1986, he heard the Gospel and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

The call of the New Age Ministry is to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as He brings down spiritual strongholds keeping our country in darkness and spiritual bondage. Encinitas has been identified as a primary target and is commonly referred to as the "spiritual center" for San Diego, primarily because of the Self-Realization Fellowship (SRF) established there in 1939. A center for New Age philosophy and practices, their clear goal is to assist indi-

viduals in developing the power within themselves. The area surrounding the SRF is heavily entrenched in New Age activity as well as other occult practices.

A map of the city of Encinitas has been divided into 134 neighborhoods, with each having an assigned prayer group praying specifically for the Holy Spirit to bring spiritual awakening to that area. Evangelism teams will use the *Jesus* video as a tool to contact neighbors, while neighborhood discipleship groups will help build a strong biblical foundation for new believers. New Christians will be encouraged to participate in existing home fellowships with local Bible-teaching churches or new home fellowships will be established to assist the new believers' continued spiritual growth in the Lord.

A citywide presentation is scheduled for this September for pastors and church leaders where the vision for the Encinitas Evangelism Outreach will be described in greater detail.

For information, call the New Age Ministry at (619) 279-8718. The New Age Ministry also welcomes help in the form of prayer partners, support raising, evangelism teams, administration, newsletter assistance, and website design and maintenance. For those interested in participating, call or write the New Age Ministry at 9225 Chesapeake Drive, Suite J, San Diego, CA 92123, or visit their website at www.newageministry.org.

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By HOLLY M. LIVINGSTON

"One for all and all for one!" This familiar call to arms lights our hearts and our faces as we remember the swaggering swashbucklers who, with inimitable style, parried and riposted triumphantly over the villains of their day. Alas, a more insidious villain than ever faced a musketeer has firmly entrenched itself around us and its cry is "one in all and all is One." Such is the siren song of the "New Age Movement."

The term "new age" can be defined as a loosely structured network of individuals and organizations which share a common vision of a new age of enlightenment, self-realization and harmony. The New Age movement is anything but new. In fact, it dates back to the dawn of man, in the Garden of Eden, when Satan deceived Adam and Eve by telling them that they "shall be as gods" and will not die if they eat the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:4-5). Adam and Eve thought they could gain power and knowledge apart from God. The New Age movement is the same old lie in modern packaging.

There was a time when the movement rose to the surface of our social and spiritual awareness much as a passing fad would do. Terry Cole Whitaker, self-actualization and crystals

abounded. Preachers denounced Shirley Maclaine from the pulpit and spiritual warfare ensued. While the more flagrant signs and symbols of the New Age movement have yielded to the next craze, the philosophies and practices of this belief system have quietly taken root in the hearts and minds of millions of people and in practically every arena of our lives.

The magnitude of the New Age influences in our culture is quite staggering. Randall N. Baer compiled the following indicators in his book, *Inside the New Age Nightmare*.

- One billion people worldwide believe in astrology
- Nearly 1/4 of the American population believes in reincarnation
- *Forbes* magazine estimates that the New Age market makes \$3.43 billion per year
- Business corporations spend \$4 billion on management and employee "training" programs based on New Age philosophies
- Robert Muller, former assistant secretary general to the United Nations, has written a book, *The New Genesis: Shaping a Global Spirituality*, calling for a globalistic "new order."
- New Age books account for approximately one billion publishing dollars per year.

New Age beliefs and practices can be found in health care, psy-

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