

MINISTRY TODAY 1994-2018

**STUDY GUIDE and
COMPREHENSIVE INDEX to**

VOLUMES 1-8 ISSUES 1-72

PDF VERSION

General Editor Paul Beasley-Murray

Published by The College of Baptist Ministers

INTRODUCTION

For 24 years and 72 issues, Ministry Today (later Ministry Today UK) was the only interdenominational professional journal on the practice of Christian Ministry in the UK. It remains an invaluable resource for ministers in pastorate, in sector ministries and in training. In 2018 Ministry Today UK closed leaving a legacy of wisdom and experience in 512 stimulating articles from a breadth of contributors covering almost every aspect of ministry in practice.

At the request of the Board of Ministry Today UK, The College of Baptist Ministers republished those articles in eight volumes. Hard copies are available from copyright libraries and in many theological libraries. The volumes are also available as PDF files.

Here to aid study and research is a comprehensive study guide listing thematically many of the key articles. It is followed by a general index to all the articles and authors.

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You can obtain the PDF files for all eight volumes and 512 articles from The College of Baptist Ministers – details on page 4.



www.collegeofbaptistministers.com

PREFACE TO THE SERIES

Paul Beasley-Murray

A ‘cornucopia’ of pastoral wisdom and insight.

‘Cornucopia’ was the word that came to mind as, in my role of General Editor, I began to look at the 520+ articles to be found in the 72 issues *Ministry Today* with a view to preparing a study guide for *MTUK 1994-2018*. What an amazing collection of pastoral wisdom and insight is to be found in these pages! I was overwhelmed as I realised afresh how creative and stimulating many of our authors have been.

Incidentally, for those readers not blessed with a classical education, a cornucopia is derived from two Latin words, *cornu copiae*, literally ‘a horn of plenty’, which alludes to a mythical horn able to provide whatever is desired. According to the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, by the 17th century figuratively ‘cornucopia’ came to be used of ‘an overflowing stock, an abundant source’. While *Roget’s Thesaurus* lists the following synonyms: affluence, amplitude, bountifulness, bounty, exuberance, fullness, lavishness, luxuriance, plentifulness, plenty, richness, superabundance.

So where does the reader begin with such a collection? One possibility is to begin at the beginning, and gradually work through issue after issue. Another possibility is to go to the index at the end of the volume eight, where all the articles are listed in alphabetical order, with a view to making a choice of what to read. Yet another possibility is to go to the ‘study guide’, where some of the key articles are listed thematically: this could be useful for ministers looking for inspiration during a reading week – or for ministerial students having to write a paper on a ministry issue.

A digital resource too

Although in my 2017 research project on ‘Ministers Reading Habits’ I discovered that that 70% of ministers ‘always’ or ‘often’ rely on print books for their ministry development (see *Baptist Quarterly* 49 (January 2018), we are conscious that we are living in a digital era.

As a result, with the help of The College of Baptist Ministers, we have ensured that the electronic issues of the journal have been retained at www.ministrytoday.org.uk. Provided proper acknowledgement is given, we are happy for articles to be downloaded and shared with others.

Incidentally, the electronic copies on the website still contain all the reviews, which past subscribers found so useful – whereas in this ‘legacy’ set of volumes we have reproduced only the articles.

Ministry Today or Ministry Today UK?

Although we have entitled these eight volumes *Ministry Today UK 1994-2018*, eagle-eyed readers may notice that we also refer to the journal as *Ministry Today*. The fact is that for most of its life the journal was called *Ministry Today* (issues 1 -52). However, as I note in my ‘Retrospective’, in order to avoid confusion with an American journal with the same name, from autumn 2011 we called our journal *Ministry Today UK*. For sake of ease, in these volumes we refer to *Ministry Today* or to *MT*.

The Legacy Volumes are now available as PDF files

Many ministers and students may find it useful to have the Ministry Today UK articles always to hand. They are now available in PDF files, which can be searched for words and phrases, such as themes, author names and Bible references.

All eight Legacy Volumes adding up to more than 2900 pages are available for just £10. Details on the website at

www.collegeofbaptistministers.com

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