

Why a New Journal?

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Despite the fact that Pentecostal–Charismatic Christianity has existed for over a century, there is a surprising lack of scholarly discourse on its role and significance in Canada or the Canadian influence across the globe. Much of the literature on Pentecostal–Charismatic Christianity in North America has come from the United States with the assumption that the origin, identity, development and global flow of Pentecostalism is thought to be essentially American with some minor geographical or cultural contextualization. A girth of literature has recently emerged from the United Kingdom and Europe attempting to understand its significance in those locations. Furthermore, studies have examined the local and global quality of Pentecostalism in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. However, the assumption that Canadian Pentecostalism is simply a transplant of the American story neglects to recognize the social, cultural, and religious influence of the Canadian movement.

Specifically, Canadians have played an important role in the development of the movement both regionally and globally, shaping its religious landscape. Examples

include the Hebden Mission in Toronto, the emergence of the Latter Rain Revival in the 1940s, Canadian leaders in the Assemblies of God, and the influence of the Charismatic renewal known as the “Toronto Blessing.” Yet, relatively little is known about classical Pentecostal denominations in Canada such as the Church of God (Cleveland) or the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. No sustained scholarly work has examined the Black Pentecostal church in Canada, Pentecostal missionaries, aboriginal Pentecostalism, or women in ministry. Other areas to be explored include the relationship between Pentecostals and immigration, multiculturalism, religious diversity, politics, French Canada’s ‘Quiet Revolution,’ and Newfoundland Pentecostal schools. These questions are important for understanding the religious landscape of Canada and its relationship to Canadian identity and cultural life. They may also help us situate Canadian Pentecostalism beyond its state borders.

We feel it is time for the scholarly engagement of Pentecostal and Charismatic movements in Canada. To this end we have initiated the *Canadian Journal for Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianity* as a forum for scholarly discussion. We hope it will be a vehicle to encourage and develop research in order to facilitate our understanding of the modern Pentecostal-Charismatic movement.

The inaugural issue is dedicated to highlighting four important Canadian scholars who have gained international repute for their scholarship. Clark Pinnock, Professor Emeritus at McMaster Divinity School in Hamilton, Ontario, is a significant theological thinker in Evan-

gicalism and the Charismatic Renewal contributing to Pentecostal–Charismatic theology. Roger Stronstad, Professor of Bible and Theology at Summit Pacific College in British Columbia inaugurated Luke-Acts discussions from a Pentecostal perspective. Ronald Kydd, Research Professor of Church History at Tyndale Seminary, has made important contributions to our understanding of spiritual gifts throughout church history, healing movements, classical Pentecostalism, and the Roman Catholic–Pentecostal dialogue. David Reed, Professor Emeritus at Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto, is the leading thinker on Oneness Pentecostalism and continues to research its impact outside North America. Versions of these papers were presented and discussed at a Canadian symposium at the Society for Pentecostal Studies annual meeting, 2010.

We have also included review essays on two significant publications in the area of Pentecostal studies. One is on Frank Macchia's work *Baptized in the Spirit*, an important theological discussion on the place of Spirit baptism in the Pentecostal movement. Another is Michael Wilkinson's edited volume *Canadian Pentecostalism*. In both cases, these reviews emerged in discussions conducted at the Canadian Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Vancouver (2008) and Ottawa (2009). Finally, we invite you to submit your research to this journal. Our hope is that in some small way CJPC will make a contribution to the growing field of Canadian Pentecostal Studies.