

PENTECOSTAL STUDIES:
EXPANDING CANADIAN PERSPECTIVES

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The Canadian Pentecostal Research Network (CPRN) began in 2006 when a group of researchers met at Trinity Western University for a symposium that led to a number of initiatives including the publication of *Canadian Pentecostalism: Transition and Transformation* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2009). The participants included Peter Althouse, Peter Beyer, Bob Burkinshaw, Blaine Charette, Michael Di Giacomo, Bruce Guenther, Randy Holm, Pamela Holmes, Marty Mittelstadt, David Reed, Tom Robinson, Roger Stronstad, Don Swenson, David Wells, and Jack Wisemore. There was a lot of energy among the participants including discussions about how we can establish a research agenda to tell the Canadian story. A number of developments came from this initial meeting including a website to promote our research initiatives, a Facebook page, an annual symposium at the Society for Pentecostal Studies, several sessions at the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, a session at the Canadian Society for Church History (Wilkinson and Linda Ambrose), numerous publications in prestigious journals and university presses, and the *Canadian Journal of Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianity*. There is much to celebrate in less than a decade of research and scholarly engagement. And yet, there is so much more that can be done.

In Canada there are more than a dozen Pentecostal denominations and we still know very little about the vast majority of them including denominational histories. To date there is still no scholarly publication on the largest of these denominations, the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, not to mention the smaller and less known Pentecostal denominations in Canada. A growing number of graduate students are finally opting to write dissertations on topics related to Canadian Pentecostalism, even if there is some concern about the job market. Some Canadian scholars are applying for research grants with private funding

agencies and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to conduct research. One of those projects included a national study of evangelical congregations by Michael Wilkinson and Sam Reimer. McGill-Queen's University press will publish the results in 2015. The book is called *A Culture of Faith: Evangelical Congregations in Canada* and will offer some valuable insight into the culture of evangelicalism including the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Linda Ambrose and Pamela Holmes continue to conduct valuable research on women, gender, and Pentecostalism. Adam Stewart completed his dissertation at the University of Waterloo on Canadian Pentecostalism, which will make an important contribution. His book *Handbook on Pentecostal Christianity* (Northern Illinois University Press) is an excellent work and includes important resources about Canada that contextualizes the worldwide story. David Reed's work continues to expand our understanding of Oneness Pentecostalism in Canada and throughout the world. Reed has expanded his scope to include global contexts in Asia and Africa. Tom Robinson's book *Out of the Mouth of Babes: Girl Evangelists in the Flapper Era* (Oxford University Press) offers important insight into our understanding of Pentecostal evangelism in the early movement. James Opp's study of the relationship between religion, medicine and healing practices in Canada in *The Lord for the Body* (McGill-Queens University Press), while not primarily focused on Pentecostalism, includes important historical material explaining the belief and practices of Canadian Pentecostals at the turn of the twentieth century. Wilkinson and Althouse completed a new study of the "Toronto Blessing" which continues to expand throughout the world (see *Catch the Fire: Soaking Prayer and Charismatic Renewal*, Northern Illinois University Press). Peter Althouse, Steven Studebaker, Roger Stronstad, Peter Neumann, and Andrew Gabriel have published important theological works in pneumatology and are making excellent strides in Pentecostal studies. It is not our intention to review all the research that has been published in the last decade, but someone needs to do it and account for the growing amount of Canadian scholarly work.

Although important strides have been made that provide a foundation for continued scholarly work, a future research agenda on

the study of Pentecostal and charismatic Christianity will need to account for Pentecostalism's place in, and relation to, Canadian culture and society as well as its transnational ties to the Americas and the rest of the world. What is the relationship between Pentecostals-charismatics and politics? Are there methodological ways to hear the marginalized voices that have been damped by institutional and societal forces? What relationship, if any, exists between Pentecostal-charismatic Christianity and global migration? Certainly there are numerous research questions that can be pursued. But this kind of research requires funding. Researchers of Pentecostalism will need to find creative ways to partner with funding sources.

This edition of the journal is the fifth annual we have published and includes three articles, review essays, and book reviews. The first article by Mark Hutchinson is about Italian immigrants in North America and the role they played in expanding the Pentecostal movement. Hutchinson's tremendous historical work raises a number of important questions about the transnational aspects of early Pentecostalism highlighting that globalization is a long process. Pentecostal studies will benefit from rich empirical descriptions like Hutchinson's work. The second article by Bernie Van De Walle is the type of scholarly piece that illustrates how historical and theological work offers insight into early Pentecostalism and the kinds of theological problems they pose for contemporary theologians. The third article is based upon the graduate work of Dara Delgado and her analysis of the role of hymnody in the Apostolic tradition of the Pentecostal movement. A series of review essays critically evaluate the book *The Lord is the Spirit* by Andrew Gabriel. And finally, there are reviews of books that have particular relevance to Pentecostal studies in Canada.

This fifth volume represents the last for the current editors. We are very excited to announce that Linda Ambrose (Laurentian University) and Pamela Holmes (Queen's University) have accepted the editorship of the journal for the next five years. While we reflect on the past decade of work in Canadian Pentecostal studies, we also anticipate the next decade and look forward to your work.