

**“Winds from the North: Canada and the Global Pentecostal Movement”
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Introduction

While there is something of a global culture that all Pentecostals share, Pentecostalism is also rooted in specific local cultures. An analysis of global Pentecostalism requires important comparative work to understand how it is local and global. The purpose of this presentation is to situate Canadian Pentecostalism among the many “Pentecostalisms” around the world.

1. Pentecostalism in Global Context

Peter Beyer makes an excellent case for understanding religion in global and cross-cultural context. While the study of religion may appear to be fairly straightforward, it is not always the case. For example, detailed studies of Pentecostalism in different regions of the world followed by comparisons of similarities and differences might tell us something about Pentecostalism worldwide. However, what “counts” as Pentecostalism from region to region may be overlooked making comparisons less reliable. Therefore, researchers of Pentecostalism must account for the particularities of the movement in the local culture while offering some cross-cultural perspective. Furthermore, researchers must pay attention to the ways in which religion continues to change as it “travels” from culture to culture, identifying its various forms. In other words, a “global” explanation of Pentecostalism cannot be reductionist but must include all meanings in its specific form. What “counts” as Pentecostalism requires historical comparative research which maintains a level of complexity when explaining its universal or “global” quality.

2. Who is Counting and What Counts as Pentecostalism in Canada?

Table 1: Pentecostals in Canada, 1911-2001

Year	Total
1911	515
1921	7,012
1931	26,349
1941	57,742
1951	95,131
1961	143,877
1971	222,390
1981	338,785
1991	436,435
2001	369,475

Sources: Derived from Dominion Bureau of Statistics, 1953, 1963, Statistics Canada, 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003 (www.statcan.ca).

**Table 2: Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada,
Membership and Adherents, 1951-2001**

Year	Total
1951	45,000
1961	60,000
1971	150,000
1981	125,000
1991	222,000
2001	232,000

Sources: Bibby, 1987: 14; 1993: 6; PAOC Vital Statistics (www.paoc.org).

Table 3: Renewal Movements in Canada, 2001

	Total (as percentage)
Pentecostals	504,551 (11%)
Charismatics	2,596,361 (59%)
Neocharismatics	1,324,088 (30%)
Total	4,425,000 (100)

Source: Burgess and van der Maas, 2002: 48

3. Central Figures and Significant Events: Multiple Sites

- The Hebden Mission, Methodism, Healing, and the birth of Pentecostalism in Toronto
- Missionary Nature of Hebden Mission: Charles Chawner
- McAlister Family, Ontario and the Azusa Connection
- Argue Family and the Winnipeg Connection to Chicago
- Innovation and Controversy: McAlister, Small and Oneness Pentecostalism
- The Latter Rain: From the Prairies to the World and Back Again

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