

# The New Canadian Pentecostals

Adam Stewart

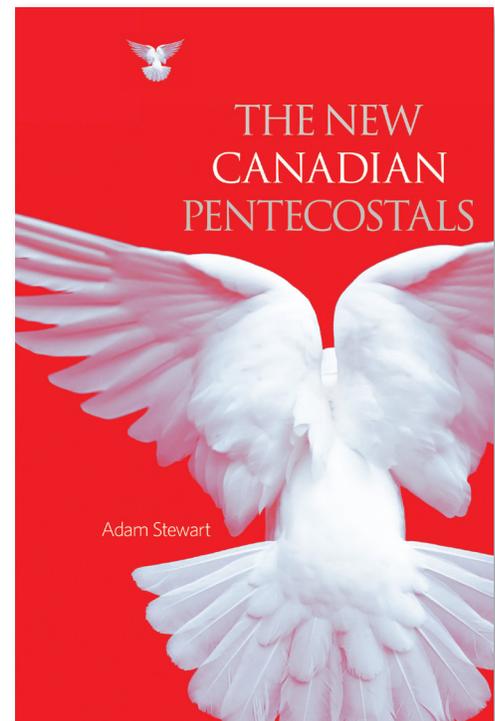
"Adam Stewart's prose is as clear as polished glass, and *The New Canadian Pentecostals* is a joy to read. Skilfully braiding sociological, historical, and ethnographic perspectives, the book deploys carefully culled statistics and dates but also introduces live, talking, thinking bodies. On the one hand, the scope is as big as one of the world's largest countries. On the other, the book finely details three congregations in a single region. Adam is an insider with an outsider's eye who deftly balances both perspectives. He is also unflinchingly candid, making this required reading for anyone wanting to understand Canadian Pentecostalism." – Ronald L. Grimes, Ritual Studies International and Emeritus Professor of Religion and Culture, Wilfrid Laurier University

*The New Canadian Pentecostals* takes readers into the everyday religious lives of members of three Pentecostal congregations in the Region of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Using the rich qualitative and quantitative data gathered through participant observation, personal interviews, and surveys conducted within these congregations, Adam Stewart provides the first book-length study to focus on the characteristics of Canadian Pentecostal identity, belief, and practice.

Stewart asserts that Pentecostalism remains an important tradition in the Canadian religious landscape—contrary to the assumptions of many Canadian sociologists and scholars of religion. Recent decreases in Canadian Pentecostal affiliation recorded by Statistics Canada are not the result of Pentecostals abandoning their congregations; rather, they are indicative of a radical transformation from traditionally Pentecostal to generically evangelical modes of religious identity, belief, and practice that are changing the ways that Pentecostals understand and explain their religious identities.

The case study presented in this book suggests that a new breed of Canadian Pentecostals is emerging for whom traditional definitions and expressions of Pentecostalism are less important than religious autonomy and individualism.

**Adam Stewart** holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Waterloo. He is the editor of the *Handbook of Pentecostal Christianity* (2012).



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