

ABSTRACT

The Contribution of the PAOC and PAWI to the Development of Pentecostalism
in Trinidad 1920-2002

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This study was conducted to determine the role of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (PAOC), and its successor institution, the Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies (PAWI), in solidifying a strong Pentecostal presence on the island of Trinidad over the course of the 20th century. With other Pentecostals operating on the island during the same period, this work explains how the PAOC and PAWI was able to evolve and emerge as the premier Pentecostal organization, largely responsible for developing Pentecostalism on the island. It explains how religious revivalism in late 19th century and early 20th century North America, led to the permanence of Pentecostalism on the global religious landscape and triggered the formation of Pentecostal organizations such as the PAOC that subsequently exported and established the religion in Trinidad. The thesis shows that the success of the PAOC and PAWI in developing Pentecostalism on the island was primarily due to the appeal of the various facets of the religion to the Trinidadian population and the implementation of several evangelistic strategies by its missionaries and local workers. It assesses how these features of the faith and the strategies of the institution under different leadership, enabled the religion to grow numerically, infrastructurally and in popularity across the island, leading to its establishment and expansion during the 20th century.

Keywords: missionary; evangelism; Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada; Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies; Pentecostalism; Trinidad; Religion.