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Douglas Rudd, *When the Spirit Came Upon Them: Highlights From the Early Years of the Pentecostal Movement in Canada* (Burlington, ON: Antioch Books, 2002). 413 pp., \$24.95, paper.

Reviewed by Bradley Truman Noel

Douglas Rudd has compiled a fascinating account of the early Pentecostal movement in Canada. For more than half a century, he has been involved in Pentecostal ministry and, at over 80 years of age at the time of publication, was personally acquainted with many of the individuals profiled in his book. His long-time ministry within the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (PAOC) culminated in 1986, when he was asked to serve as denominational Archivist, a position he held for more than 12 years. With the wealth of material afforded him in that position, he felt compelled to record the beginnings of the Canadian Pentecostal movement up to 1925.

Rudd's account is collected under five sections. Section I, "Pentecostals," is subtitled, "Who They Are and What They Believe." As with many Pentecostal historians, Rudd traces the development of the Pentecostal movement from the Book of Acts to Azusa Street. Curiously, the initial thing Rudd notes is that Pentecostals are first and foremost Christians. For me, this was a remarkably telling insight into the world of early Pentecostal leaders. After a brief explanation of the doctrines of subsequence and initial evidence, Rudd concludes this section by listing the PAOC statement of faith.

Section II, "The Pioneers," contains the biographical accounts of more than 80 early Pentecostal leaders in Canada. Indeed, it encompasses half of the book, Rudd's intention being

clearly to focus on the men and women of God used within Canadian Pentecostalism. While some names, such as A.H. Argue, G.A. Chambers and R.E. McAlister, will be readily known to anyone familiar with Canadian Pentecostal history, Rudd includes many lesser-known pastors and workers. In doing so, he vividly tells the story of the spread of Pentecostalism in Canada from the days following the Azusa Street revival up to 1925. His is no dry, theoretical recounting of those early years, but a dynamic account, full of tales of the working of the Holy Spirit, told him personally by many of the pioneers.

Rudd moves in Section III (“The First Churches”) to the first churches of Canadian Pentecostalism. Province by province, starting with British Columbia and moving eastward to Newfoundland, Rudd gives an account of each church in Canada opened by 1925. Church historians will find captivating Rudd’s account of churches from Broadway Pentecostal Church in Vancouver, BC, to Bethesda Pentecostal Church in St. John’s, NL. Perhaps no other church history monograph has so richly preserved the Spirit’s powerful work in establishing places of worship for His people. Miracle after miracle is related and celebrated as Rudd recounts the Spirit’s moving in Canada almost 100 years ago.

Section IV, appropriately entitled “Branching Out,” comprises another large portion of Rudd’s work. Surveying the development of Pentecostal publications, camp meetings, colleges, church activities, and missions, the author seeks to provide the reader with a larger picture of Pentecostal ministry in Canada. The prominent place of printed publications within early Pentecostalism is noted and explored. For a movement known to be somewhat anti-intellectual in its approach, the pioneers knew the value of the printed word and, from the beginning, sought to

make their message known through tracts, magazines and pamphlets. Through the development of Pentecostal colleges and camp meetings, the young movement found its voice and place within Christendom.

Finally, Section V takes stock of contemporary Canadian Pentecostalism. The author seeks to evaluate the current state of affairs for Pentecostals in Canada. Through his survey of PAOC colleges, missions and ministries, he notes the bright future of Pentecostalism in Canada. His warnings concerning pride, complacency and false doctrines betray his concern and hope for a movement he has proudly promoted for over 60 years.

The stated purpose of this work is to "...make the present generation aware of the price paid by...brave and faithful pioneers..." (p. 55). Rudd achieves his goal admirably. "When the Spirit Came Upon Them" is a tremendous account of the cooperation between faithful believers and the Holy Spirit, resulting in the birth of a revival movement.