



## African Pentecostalism in Belgium: An Overview of Experiences, Differences and Developments

*A lecture presented at HIPGO Institute, Brussels - Belgium*  
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## Outline

1. Introduction
2. Historical overview and essential contents
3. Theological issues and differences
4. Current developments and trends
5. Conclusion

# Introduction

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- ❖ First, I will offer a brief overview of the migratory flows that brought African Pentecostals to Belgium in order to account the essential nature of African Pentecostal constituents.
- ❖ Second, I will survey some of the theologies that makes these movements different from each other and the wider Protestant and Evangelical minority in Belgium.
- ❖ And third, I will point out some of the current trends that African Pentecostalism must contend with if they intend to contribute to better integration into Belgian society.



## 2. Historical Overview and Essential Contents

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### Historical Overview

- a) Belgium's colonialism, temporary migrant workers
- b) Political and socioeconomic turbulence of the 1990s
- c) Internal mobility of migrants



## 2. Historical Overview and Essential Contents

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### Essential contents

- a) People
- b) Praise
- c) Prayer
- d) Prophecy

# 3. Theological differences of African Pentecostalism

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## Walter Hollenweger

- a) An oral liturgy
- b) A narrative theology and witness
- c) A reconciliatory and participant community
- d) The inclusion of vision and dreams in worship
- e) An understanding of the relationship between body and mind that is revealed through healing by prayer and liturgical dance

## Timothy Tennent

- a) These Christians accept the authority of Scripture and considered conservative, orthodox and traditionalists by western standards
- b) They are likely to be morally and ethically conservative
- c) They are more likely sensitive to the Christian social responsibility to address issues related to poverty and social justice
- d) They are experienced in articulating the uniqueness of the gospel in the midst of religious pluralism
- e) They are more likely to grasp the cooperate (not just individualistic) dimensions of the teachings of the New Testament

## 4. Current Developments and Trends

- a) Second-generation
- b) Secularization and liberal neutrality
- c) Gender regimes and religion
- d) Mission and witness



# EXCEEDING GRACE WOMEN FELLOWSHIP FESTIVAL



TUESDAY • 29 DEC • 2020  
7:30PM

1 Samuel 2:1-5

**DON'T GIVE UP, BE PATIENT AND PERSISTENT IN PRAYERS**

Zoom meeting

ID 293 351 5379

# Conclusion

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# Questions for Student Discussions

1. What liturgical practices have you witnessed at African Pentecostal churches that reveal aspects of the church's theology concerning God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit?
2. What implications do you think have emerged from African Pentecostalism's emphasis of the influence of the supernatural world on the affairs of man in the physical and inhabited world of humans? Examples include: disease and death; witchcraft and misfortune; demons and demonic possession, etc.
3. In what ways do you think African Pentecostal churches are preparing second-generation and mixed-race (African) youth to take their place in a secular and liberal Belgian society?
4. In your view, what practices must African Pentecostal churches embrace and/or drop in order to make its congregational meetings welcoming to secular Belgians?