



Eston College Online

# The Legacy of ACOP

*“Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it.” – Sir Winston Churchill*

*“Why study history? Unlike physics or economics, history is not a means for making accurate predictions.*

*We study history not to know the future but to widen our horizons, to understand that our present situation is neither natural nor inevitable, and that we consequently have many more possibilities before us than we can imagine.” Yuval Noah Harari – A Brief History of Mankind*

## **Introduction:**

Is the statement ‘The Twin Towers fell down on 9/11 because of gravity’, true or false? The correct answer is that it is true. While this statement is technically true, it explains nothing of any significance about the tragic events of that day. Nor does it adequately address the factors such as American foreign policy or the rise of militant Islam and other factors which provide the historic context for that moment in time.<sup>1</sup>

Understanding the historic context of events such as 9/11 gives us greater insight into why these events transpired, and what significance they have for us.

## **I. The Legacy of ACOP Course will:**

- Explore the historical and theological context that gave rise to the modern Pentecostal movement, and in particular the Apostolic Church of Pentecost of Canada.
- Examine the development of ACOP from a local church revival to a global movement of more than 1400 churches.
- Inform ministers and members alike of the rich spiritual legacy they have received, through the Apostolic Church of Pentecost.

## **II. Learning Outcomes:**

Cognitively:

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<sup>1</sup> This question originated with Carl Trueman in *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*

- You will know the story of ACOP.
- You will be introduced to the key players who shaped the ACOP Story.
- You will understand and be able to evaluate the ideas, issues and theology that influenced the development of ACOP.

Affectively:

- You will be moved by the passion of the founders to take the gospel “to every nation”.
- You will appreciate the conviction of those who shaped the philosophy and belief system of ACOP.
- You will be challenged by the faith and sacrifice that the ACOP pioneers made to advance the mission.

Conative:

- You will be able to live into the ACOP story – as you write new chapters in the ongoing story.
- You will be able to reference source material of the ACOP story.
- You will be able to engage in an informed discussion with others about the inception and development of ACOP.

**III. Course Textbooks** (When possible we try to choose books from Scribd.com, but this course is unique and requires an extra 1-time ten dollar fee to [purchase these books](#) which are in searchable PDF format):

Selective Readings From:

Wegner, Linda. *Streams of Grace – A History of the Apostolic Church of Pentecost of Canada*. Edmonton, Alberta: New Leaf Works 2006

This book provides the chronological development of ACOP from its inception to the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Selective Reading From:

Larden, Robert. *Our Apostolic Heritage – An Official History of the Apostolic Church of Pentecost of Canada Incorporated*. Saskatoon, SK: Kyle Printing, 1971

This book provides a narrative about the people and places that were instrumental in the development of ACOP.

Articles:

Articles are available in digital format at no additional charge to course participants.

Lovik, O. J. *Early History of the Apostolic Church of Pentecost in Saskatchewan*. – Unpublished Article from the ACOP Archives.

This is the firsthand account of Rev. O.J. Lovik whose apostolic ministry saw the development of ACOP churches in Swift Current, Moose Jaw, Regina, Yorkton and Saskatoon. This is an amazing story of a faith filled pioneer whose faith and determination saw the establishing of 5 churches that remain to this day.

#### **IV. Course Outline:**

##### Lesson 1 – Introduction to the Legacy of ACOP:

Topic 1: Who is the presenter and what qualifies him to speak to this subject? What is the course about? What are the Learning Objectives of the course?

Topic 2: The Biblical Framework for Pentecost

Topic 3: Pentecost After the Apostolic Era

Topic 4: Factors That Gave Rise to the Modern Pentecostal Movement

Topic 5: Azusa Street & ACOP Legacy

##### Lesson 2 – The Development of ACOP:

Topic 1: How Did the Pentecostal Movement Come to Canada?

Topic 2: How Canadian Pentecostals Form a Ministerial Organization

Topic 3: Who Was Franklin Small?

Topic 4: How ACOP Came into Existence

Topic 5: ACOP & ECP Merger

##### Lesson 3 – The Development of Pentecostal Movement:

Topic 1: Schisms in the Pentecostal Movement

Topic 2: ACOP's Response to the Schisms

Topic 3: Statements of Faith

Topic 4: How ACOP's Beliefs Have Evolved

##### Lesson 4: The Ethos of ACOP:

Topic 1: Why Is ACOP Called a Fellowship?

Topic 2: Equipping and Training for Mission

Topic 3: ACOP's Global Mission Strategy

Topic 4: ACOP's Church Planting Strategy

Lesson 5: The Organizational Development of ACOP:

Topic 1: Governance Structure of ACOP

Topic 2: Operational Structure of ACOP

Topic 2: Mission, Vision, and Values of ACOP

Topic 4: ACOP's Future

## V. Bibliography

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Burgess, Stanley M. (Editor). *The New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*, Zondervan 2002

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Houge, Richard. *Tongues A Theological History of Christian Glossolalia*, Tate Publishing, 2010

Liardon, Robert. *Bartleman's Azusa Street*, Destiny Image, 2006

McLean, G.S. *The Baptism of the Holy Spirit*, Eston College Press

McLean, G.S. *Can A Genuine Believer be Lost*, Eston College Press

Mittelstadt, Martin W. and Courtney, Caleb H. *Canadian Pentecostal Reader – The First Generation of Pentecostal Voices in Canada (1907-1925)* CPT Press 2021

Reed, David A. *“In Jesus Name”- The History and Beliefs of Oneness Pentecostals*. Deo Publishing, 2008.

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Wells, David *Picture This – Reflecting on 100 years of PAOC*. PAOC Publications 2018

Wilkinson, Michael. *Canadian Pentecostalism: Transition and Transformation*. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2010.

#### **Other Resources:**

The Azusa Street Project Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lp-rjyDVrGU> 2006