

**Title: Resistance, Resilience, Re-direction: the trajectories of  
Pentecostalism in Ethiopia**

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Abstract

The Pentecostal movement in Ethiopia is relatively speaking a recent phenomenon. Over the last five decades the number of Ethiopians who consider themselves as Pentecostals or to employ a more popular local term, Pentes, has grown considerably. Pentecostals experienced severe persecutions under the imperial rule as well as during the Communist era. The Pentecostals were key players in the expansion of Christianity through the underground church formations during the period of the revolution. The freedom that is obtained in the country following the collapse of the military regime has allowed the context for the unfolding of new strains of Pentecostalism dubbed as Neo-Pentecostals or Neo-Charismatics. The new expressions of Pentecostalism are becoming increasingly conspicuous and are making significant debut in the public space. The new generation of Pentecostals although they share a lot in common with their older counterparts, there alarming signs of differences. The paper seeks to examine the trajectories of Pentecostalism in Ethiopia in the juxtaposed contexts of milieus of persecutions and relative autonomy.