

## Pentecostalism and the Transformation of World Christianity

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Heather Williams (Year 2, [BA Theology \(/undergraduate/courses/thr/theology.aspx\)](#)) was awarded an undergraduate research scholarship by the College of Arts and Law in summer 2011 to assist Professor Allan Anderson (Theology and Religion) in a book research project examining the phenomenon of Pentecostalism and its influence on the demographics and nature of world Christianity in the twentieth century.

Pentecostalism is a entrepreneurial Christian movement of great variety, promoting voluntary associations, creating new communities in impersonal cities and with a propensity to multiple schisms. Its focus on spiritual experience and 'supernatural' gifts has altered Christianity fundamentally, especially in the non-western world, where it is strongest.

The research has resulted in the completion of a book titled *To the Ends of the Earth: Pentecostalism and the Transformation of World Christianity*, which is in the process of publication by Oxford University Press in New York later in 2012.

Heather Williams said, 'The undergraduate research scholarship is a great opportunity for undergraduate students to engage further in their degree. I was very pleased when I was awarded the scholarship as I had a real interest in Pentecostalism and wanted to gain a wider understanding of the subject. By assisting in the research, I gained research and analytical skills which have benefited me hugely in my essays and my dissertation. I would recommend the scholarship to any undergraduate student who wants to expand their knowledge of a subject further and wants to gain the experience of being a research assistant. If you want a career in research this is definately a opportunity you should not ignore!'