

## THE PENTECOSTAL REVIVAL – A GLOBAL AND GROWING MOVEMENT

The Pentecostal movement is a Protestant revival movement, which started at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the United States. It came to Finland through Norway in 1911. The first Pentecostal church was founded in Helsinki in 1915. Now there are 271 local Pentecostal churches with about 46 000 members in Finland. The churches are independent, and they operate actively in their local communities.

Pentecostal Christianity is characterized by a passion for sharing the gospel, active participation and commitment of the members and informal worship life. The Pentecostal movement has spread very fast, and it has taken root in various cultures all over the world. The growth has been especially strong in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Worldwide there are 124 million classical Pentecostal Christians, and the number of Pentecostal-charismatics amounts to 644 million. The Pentecostal movement has been organized in many different ways: somewhere as a church denomination while in other places as a loose network of local churches. Large Pentecostal movements can be found for example in Brazil, the United States, South Korea and Ethiopia. The biggest Pentecostal movement in Europe is in Romania. Also in the Nordic countries, especially in Sweden, the Pentecostal movement has had a strong influence on the Christian life of the country.

The services in Pentecostal churches are multifaceted. Besides the sermon, they include music, prayer and personal testimonies. Multiculturalism and immigrants affect churches particularly in bigger cities. The Finnish Pentecostal churches are committed to evangelization, missionary work and development aid as well as diaconal work.

A number of nationwide associations/actors belong to the Pentecostal movement in Finland:

- **Aikamedia Oy** – a Christian publishing house, publishes among other thing a weekly newspaper Ristin Voitto, which has been in publication since 1912.
- **Avainmedia Lähetysjärjestö ry** – an organization specialized in media missions
- **Elämä ja Valo ry** – an organization operating among the Romani population, in addition missionary and humanitarian work in European Romani communities
- **Fida International ry** – an organization carrying out development and humanitarian aid work and missionary work, also known for the Fida secondhand chain that started in 1979
- **IK-opisto** – a Christian folk high school operating in Keuruu and Helsinki; also runs a conference centre in Keuruu where one of the biggest Christian summer events Juhannuskonferenssi (Midsummer Conference) is arranged
- **Kan ry** – Christian alcohol and drug rehabilitation ministry, an association that supports and rehabilitates people with alcohol, drug and criminal background and those who lost control of their lives
- The Pentecostal movement also has nationwide operations in children’s and youth work, diaconal ministry and work with people with disabilities

Further information and contacts: [helluntaikirkko.fi](http://helluntaikirkko.fi)

Please see the video “Seitsemän pointtia helluntailaisuudesta”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RiV2lWBOB8>