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The Durawall of Faith: Pentecostal Spirituality in Neo-Liberal Zimbabwe

Author: [David Maxwell](#)

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This paper considers the nature of Pentecostal spirituality in contemporary Zimbabwe, taking as its case study Zin (ZAOGA), one of the continent's largest and most vital Pentecostal movements. The analysis centres upon a lexicon of narratives used in song, preaching, testimony and prayer. For example, there is a preponderance of images of security and protective concrete fencing surrounding a factory or a suburban home. The paper demonstrates how Pentecostalism, as a religion, is able both to satisfy deep existential passions and to aid those struggling for survival in the specific social context of Zimbabwe. While Pentecostalism helps create an acquisitive, flexible person better suited to coping with neo-liberalism, the neo-liberal cultural project. Instead Pentecostal communities provide believers with security in the face of state capriciousness of global capitalism and growing levels of violence and crime. Pentecostal religion also offers hope t

personal abjection created by the shattered hopes of independence and the elusive promise of modernity.



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