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**THESIS FOR MASTERS DEGREE
IN PRACTICAL THEOLOGY.**

THESIS TITLE:

**THE AFRICAN PROCESS OF MOURNING FOR AFRICAN
WOMAN - A CHALLENGE TO PASTORAL CARE.**

**By
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Submitted in accordance with the requirements
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SUMMARY

My focus on this research is on African women and its oppressive elements of rituals they undergo during the death of their husbands.

I am aware that this grieving process is oppressive to women, although it can also be helpful to some, because it helps them to go through the process of mourning. As an African women I am aware that when Africans are confronted by death, both men and women mourn, although in different ways. For example, you find that a widow wears a mourning gown or a suit, whereas a widower wears a simple black band or a small piece of black material on his left sleeve. This is part of the differences I speak about. What disturbs me most with this rituals is that widows has to undergo a longer process than men, and with a package of very strict rules that they must follow. With these oppressive element, widows find themselves isolated, marginalized and rejected by the in-laws as well as the community.

The above problem raises a challenge to Pastoral Care. It is the responsibility of the church to take care of these widows. The question to ask is, Is the church responsible? The answer will be discovered through research and questions posed on widows.

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