

**ASSESSING THE CARE OF THE SURVIVING CLERGY WIDOWS
WITHIN THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**

By

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this is both my original and unaided work which has not been submitted to any other university for any degree

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Date

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SUMMARY

The study was undertaken as a response to the need existing within the church. The author's observation of how one widow was going to board a taxi on a very cold day to attend the church service triggered the desire to research the care of the clergy widows within the Pentecostal Church.

The research is undertaken as follows:

- Chapter one:

This Chapter introduces the study and serves as a window into the research by providing a bird's eye view on what is fully entailed. It introduces the subject matter in the most probing and illuminating terms into the broader study which unfolds as alluded in the following subsequent chapters.

- Chapter two:

The Chapter provides the significant meaning of what is entailed in the concept of caring as an envisaged theological tool towards addressing the needs of the clergy widows in general and the said Pentecostal clergy widow in particular, hence submitting the theology of caring. Various theologies such as the theology of brokenness, the theology of comfort and the theology of anointing the wounded are discussed in minute detail. Widows constituting various categories are presented as widows caused by God, caused by others and those caused by self.

- Chapter three:

The methodology of caring is introduced with emphasis on how such a methodology can be practically employed as a way and means of averting the plight of the Pentecostal widows in particular. Gerkin's *Shepherding*

methodology is discussed in a scholastic dialogue with Wimberly, who introduces the notion of privileging conversations with God. These two authorities are presented in a discourse with Pollard who diagnoses a theology which he calls positive deconstruction.

- Chapter four:

Three clergy widows were drawn from the Pentecostal Church and two from the Mainline Church as samples of narrated stories. Their stories managed to open a new well of information which surfaced both in their story-telling as well as in their responses to the questionnaires. The data collected both through the questionnaires as well as the stories they shared was analyzed intensely.

- Chapter five:

The integration of the methodology of caring amongst other subjects unfolded matters related to the required healing of the surviving widow, dying patient's problems come to an end, family problems go on and the submission of a considerable theology for the care of widows. The Chapter is aimed at creating an integration of the methodology of pastoral caring.

- Chapter six:

The following theologies were submitted as proposals in developing the caring theology for the Pentecostal clergy widows:

1. The theology of social responsibility.
2. The theology of power.
3. The theology of proclamation.
4. The theology of tending the flock

- Chapter seven:

This last chapter provided findings and recommendations established throughout the entire research process. Findings discussed were as such

informed by tradition, observation, literature and interviews. Recommendations were provided as a foundational layer of the new tool for the care of clergy widows, and the Pentecostal widows in particular, hence the creation of a caring model.

Title:

Assessing the Care of the Surviving Clergy Widows within the Pentecostal Church.

Keywords:

African; Love; Pain; Pastoral; Shepherd; Widow.

Definition of terms:

In the introductory aspect of the work the critical keywords which will be the buzzwords throughout the theses are defined as follows:

African: 1 Native (esp. Dark-skinned) of Africa. 2 person of African descent (Allen 1969:14)

Love: 1 deep affection ...2 delight in; admire; greatly cherish (Allen 1969:526)

Mainline Church: The four major groups, the Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Methodists and the Dutch Reformed Church (*ed Fraiser 1996:17*)

Pain: 1 any unpleasant bodily sensation produced by illness, accident, etc, 2 mental suffering (Allen 1969:640)

Pastoral: 1 of shepherds, flocks, or herds...4 of a pastor (Allen 1969:652)

Pentecost: A term derived from the Greek *pentekostas*, meaning fiftieth, which was applied to the fiftieth day after the Passover. It was the culmination of the feast of weeks (Exod. 34:22; Deut. 16:10), which began on the third day after the Passover with the presentation of the first harvest sheaves to God and which concluded with the offering of two loaves of unleavened bread. In the Christian church Pentecost is the anniversary of the coming of the Holy Spirit (*ed Elwell 1984:835*)

Shepherd: 1-Person employed to tend sheep. 2- Member of the clergy in charge of a congregation (Allen 1969:839)

Widow: Woman who has lost her husband by death and not married again (Allen 1969:1051)

The author chose to use The Pocket Oxford Dictionary for the provision of the basic and elementary understanding of the words as they are understood in the English language. The more technical meaning applicable to the Pastoral Care discipline will surface as each concept is handled. Each word shall be defined either as the literary sources provide or as understood culturally and traditionally in the relevant sections of the thesis.

Abbreviations

The following are the author's own invented abbreviations:

M/LCW: (Mainline Church Widow).

PCW: (Pentecostal Clergy Widow).

Semawids: (Self Made Widows).

Vivemp Widows: Viper-Vempire Widows (noun denoting the nature of the widow).

Wimas: (Widow Makers).

The following are the existing abbreviations:

SACC: South African Council of Churches

WCC: World Council of Churches

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page Number
1. Acknowledgements	ii
2. Declaration	iv
3. Summary	v
4. Keywords and Definition of terms	viii
5. Abbreviations	x
6. CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY	1
1. Introduction and Background to Study	1
2. Problem Statement	2
3. Research Methodology	4
3.1. Empirical Study	4
3.2. Literature Study	8
3.3. Epistemology	9
3.3.1. Motives Inducing Change to us and Others	10
3.3.2. The Care for the Widows is Accompanied by Divine Blessings	11
3.3.3. Caring for Widows is a Biblical Imperative	11
3.4. Relationship between Methodology and the Epistemological Position	11
3.5. Research Gap	12
3.6. Aims and Objectives of Study	13
4. Target Population	13
5. Instrument of Data Collection	14
6. Classification of Chapters	16
6.1. Chapter one: Introduction to the study: Proposal	16
6.2. Chapter two: The Theology of Caring	17
6.3. Chapter three: Methodology of Caring	18
6.4. Chapter four: Samples of stories of five women	19

6.5. Chapter five: Integration of Methodology of How to Care	19
6.6. Chapter six: Proposal of the Theology of Caring	20
6.7. Chapter seven: Findings and Recommendations	21
7. Recapitulation of Chapter Classification:	22
Chapter 1: Introduction to the study: Proposal	
Chapter 2: The Theology of Caring	
Chapter 3: Methodology of Caring	
Chapter 4: Samples of stories of five women	
Chapter 5: Integration of the Methodology of How to Care	
Chapter 6: Proposal of Theology of Caring	
Chapter 7: Findings and Recommendations	
8. Preliminary Conclusion	23
7. CHAPTER 2: THE THEOLOGY OF CARING	26
1. Introduction	26
1.1. The Theology of Caring	27
1.2. The First Point of Theology	28
2. Analysing Widows from Various Milieus	29
2.1. Widowhood Caused by God	32
2.2. Widowhood Caused by Others	36
2.3. Widowhood Caused by Self	39
2.3.1. Killing Husband as a Result of Jealousy	41
2.3.2. Killing Husband as a Result of Greed	41
3. General Understanding of Care	45
3.1. The Theology of Brokenness	46
3.2. The Theology of Comfort	52
3.3. The Theology of Anointing the Wounded	55
4. Specific Propositions of the Understanding of Care	57
4.1. The State of Widowhood	57

5. Distinct Understanding of the Theology of Caring	60
5.1. Care for Individuals	63
5.2. Love: The Indispensible Ingredient of the Theology	64
6. Preliminary Conclusion	65
8 CHAPTER 3: THE METHODOLOGY OF CARING	68
1. Introduction	68
2. Epistemology	70
3. The Reputable Way to Provide Caring	72
3.1. The Hermeneutical Shepherding Model	76
3.1.1. Appropriation of the Hermeneutical Model	77
3.1.2. Boosting Self-Awareness	78
3.2. The Shepherd as a Guide	80
3.3. The Shepherd as a Healer	80
3.4. The Shepherd as a Comforter	81
3.5. The Shepherd as a Leader	82
3.6. The Three Imperative P's of Shepherding	83
3.6.1. The Shepherd as a Prophet	83
3.6.2. The Shepherd as a Provider	85
3.6.3. The Shepherd as a Protector	85
4. Uniqueness of the Minister's offering	87
4.1. The Traditional Israelite Shepherding Model	87
4.2. The Afrocentric Shepherding Model	89
4.3. Where Does Gerkin Fit In?	90
4.3.1. Priestly	90
4.3.2. Prophetic	91
4.4. Where Does the Author Fit In?	92
5. Love: The Pivotal Point of Departure	94
5.1. Understanding the Care for Widows	97
5.2. The Reformation Theology	99

5.3. The African Traditional Theology	100
5.4. The Stigmatization Accompanying Widowhood	104
6. Preliminary Conclusion	106
9 CHAPTER 4: SAMPLES OF STORIES OF FIVE WOMEN	108
1. Introduction	108
2. The Advent of the Western System	110
3. An Undisturbed Traditional System of Communalism among Aboriginal Africans	120
4. Redressing the Ills Created by Colonialism	127
5. Interviews	133
5.1. Interviews with Three Women from Pentecostal Church	134
5.1.1. Story-Telling is an Art of Empathy	135
5.1.2. Meaning of Words in Story-Telling	137
5.2. Interviews with Two Women from Mainline Church	140
5.2.1. Understanding the Role of the Widow	140
5.2.2. Emotional Upliftment in the Narrative	142
6. An Analysis of the Research Data	145
6.1. Analysing Clergy Widows' Responses	146
6.2. Conclusive Evidence Drawn	155
7. Preliminary Conclusion	159
7 CHAPTER 5: INTERGRATION OF METHODOLOGY OF HOW TO CARE	162
1. Introduction	162
2. Analysis of Various Methodologies of Caring	163
2.1. Caring within the Pentecostal Church	167
2.2. Caring within the Mainline Church	171
2.2.1. The Name of Document Displaying Care	171
2.2.2. How are Contributions Collected	171

2.2.3. How are Contributions Disbursed	172
3. Creating a Synergy of a Range of Methods	176
3.1. Methodology Proposed by the South African Council of Churches	180
3.2. Methodology Proposed by the South African Government	186
3.2.1. The South African Legislation	189
3.2.2. The South African Constitution	194
4. Integration of the Caring System Currently Available within the Pentecostal Churches	197
5. Natural Endowment with Force and Power to Sustain Life	199
6. Preliminary Conclusion	205
11. CHAPTER 6: PROPOSAL OF THEOLOGY OF CARING	207
1. Introduction	207
2. Analysis of Various Theologies As They Relate to Caring	208
2.1. The Theology of Social Responsibility	208
2.2. The Theology of Power	211
2.3. The Theology Proclamation	213
2.4. The Theology Tending the Flock	216
3. The Commencement of a Potential Healing: Starting Within the Context of Any Given Family	219
4. Required Healing of the Surviving Widow	221
5. Dying Patient's Problems Come to an End	223
6. Family Problems Go On	225
7. Decreasing the Family Problems	227
8. Handling the Devastation of a Widow	230
9. Revolutionising Conventional Practices Related to Widow	233

10.Submission of a Considerable Theology for the Care of Widows	237
10.1. Application of Balm	237
10.2. Comforting Truth	237
10.3. Do Not Open Old Wounds	237
10.4. Prepare People for the Hour of Sorrow	237
11.Preliminary Conclusion	242
12.CHAPTER 7: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	245
1. Introduction	245
2. Educing the Findings	248
3. General Findings	251
3.1. Findings Informed by Tradition	252
3.2. Findings Informed by Observation	254
4. Specific Findings	256
4.1. Widows Made by Others	256
4.2. Self-Made Widows	257
4.3. Findings Informed by Literature	258
4.4. Findings Informed by Interviews	260
5. The Presence of the Deceased	261
6. Recommendations	263
6.1. Basic Facts about Death	265
6.2. The Process of Mourning	266
6.3. Realities about the Deceased	268
7. Knowledge and Information Therapeutic to the Surviving Clergy Widow	269
8. Foundational Layer of the New Tool for the Care of the Clergy Widows	270
9. Proposed Mechanism (on how the church can be instrumental in providing the support system that ranges from emotional,	

spiritual, social, psychological circles)	272
9.1. Emotional Support	274
9.1.1. Exercising Pastoral Care Beyond Margins	274
9.2. Spiritual Support	275
9.3. Social Support	276
9.4. Psychological Support	278
10. Conclusion	279
13. BIBLIOGRAPHY	283
14. The Informed Letter of Consent-Addendum A	298
15. Research Questionnaire- Addendum B	299
16. Women's Prayer- Addendum C	303