ABUSE OF ALCOHOL BY ANGLICAN CLERGY:

CHALLENGE TO PASTORAL CARE

By

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Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the

Degree Philosophae Doctor (Practical Theology)

In the

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

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APRIL 2011
DECLARATION

I Vicentia Kgabe, declare that this thesis on

ABUSE OF ALCOHOL BY ANGLICAN CLERGY: CHALLENGE TO

PASTORAL CARE

That I’m submitting to the University of Pretoria is my own work and has never been submitted to any other institution. And all the sources I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete reference.

Signed: __________________________ Date: _______________________

Supervisor: _______________________ Date: _______________________
DEDICATION

This work is dedicated all those clergy who died because of alcoholism. And those who continue to struggle and fight the disease of alcoholism; may this work bring answers and tools to conquer the disease.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like first to acknowledge Professor Maake Masango, you are not only a professor to us your students, but also a father and an inspiration. Your guidance has helped me fulfil so many dreams. Thank you also to Mom Pauline Masango, you made sure that we were not only fed spiritually and academically; but you and your team made sure that we are also fed emotionally and physically. Thank you to the Masango family.

To my fellow classmates, it was always a joy to meet with you and share our joys, achievements and challenges of both the academic and ministry. We were truly ecumenical and brave to keep on pushing. Many of us do not only bear the scars of ministry, but we also honoured be post graduates at this prestigious institution of higher learning. Thank you to the editor and proof readers of this work.

My parents, brothers, nieces, nephews and my godchild have grounded me and loved me unconditionally. Ke a leboga Barolong le Batlokwa. To my best and dearest friend, thank you for being so supportive and encouraging. Thank you to my diocesan bishop Brian Germond and the parish I serve St. Peter’s Auckland Park, for making resources and time available to me in order to complete my studies. Thank you ever so much.
SUMMARY

The Anglican Church is experiencing a growing number of clergy who abuse alcohol, and this has made people to ask whether clergy still embody the image of God or if they are “alcoholics.” I therefore undertook to do a research on this problem to ascertain whether the church creates alcoholics or are alcoholics attracted to the ministry.

Questionnaires designed for laity, clergy and the diocesan leadership were given to them to find out if alcohol and alcoholism is a problem to the church and what could be the cause of it. Realizing that the questionnaires may not be sufficient, five case studies we used. These case studies are real stories from different priests across Southern Africa. They are more detailed and shed a light to the problem of alcoholism among the clergy.

Through the questionnaires and case studies, the researcher found that ministerial stress, family stress, financial problems, lack of recreational time and peer pressure contribute to clergy being alcoholics. Moreover, the diocesan leadership has not devised means to assist alcoholic priests on permanent bases. Sending an alcoholic priest to rehabilitation centres has been the modus operandi and there is no follow up from the leadership until the said priest relapses. Families of alcoholic clergy have been left to find their own ways of healing. The parish too, has not received much help. The question asked is how
the parish heal and not take out its pain on a new priest who comes after the alcoholic priest.

The researcher recommends that as part of the discernment process, a psychologist be involved to help to ascertain whether a candidate to ministry does / have exposure to alcohol and to what extend his condition can be a hindrance to performing his priestly calling. With many clergy, the signs were there when they went to the Discernment Conference and no one picked them up.

And as part of clergy training and formation, the abuse of alcohol and its consequences should be discussed and on-going assistance should be accessible to both clergy and their families. Though this research was not aimed at stopping priests from being alcoholics, the researcher hopes that it helps the clergy to realize what alcohol do to their ministry, families and themselves so that they can make wise choices when it comes to taking alcohol.
# DEFINITION OF TERMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Church/ACSA:</td>
<td>The Anglican Church of Southern Africa, covering following countries South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, St. Helena, Angola and Namibia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constitution and Canons:</td>
<td>The rules that govern the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.</td>
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<td>Diocesan Leadership:</td>
<td>Usually known as a Chapter, made up of the diocesan bishop and Archdeacons.</td>
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<td>Discernment Process:</td>
<td>A process where a candidate to ministry tests his/her calling to the ordained ministry.</td>
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<td>Holy Communion:</td>
<td>Also known as Eucharist or Mass; the Christian sacrament in which bread and wine are consecrated and consumed.</td>
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<td>Ordinand:</td>
<td>A person who has gone through the discernment conference as has been accepted as a candidate for ordination.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish:</td>
<td>An area under the spiritual care of a priest, to whose religious ministrations all the inhabitants are entitled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parishioners/Congregation:</td>
<td>A group of people gathered together to take part in a religious worship.</td>
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Parish Leadership: Also known as Parish Council a group of people elected by the parish to see to its affairs. It’s made up of the incumbent, church wardens and the council.

Rector: Member of the clergy in charge of a parish

Rectory: A house of a rector

Sacraments: Any of the symbolic Christian religious ceremonies, such as baptism, marriage, funeral, confession, marriage, ordination and anointing of the sick.
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