



**“PROPHETIC DIACONIA FOR RECONCILIATION IN
CONTEMPORARY SRI LANKA”**

**“A STUDY OF DIACONIC THEOLOGY, NORMATIVE AND
STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE METHODIST CHURCH”**

Thesis

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Diaconic Management

Protestant University Wuppertal/Bethel

Rev. Nadarajah Arulnathan

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6. SUMMARY

The purpose of this research is to articulate a diaconic theology for the MCSL in the context, especially in the post - war situation of the country, and not only articulating a theology but also find the way of being realistic with the theology. To be realistic integrating diaconal theology with the strategic management is very significance. Then the diaconal theology in the context becomes normative and strategic management within the MCSL.

The post - war context that is from the year 2009 mid to up to now has been mainly analyzed to identify the needs of the country. The strategic management model especially the new St. Gallen Management Model has been used as a tool to analyze the management efficiency of the MCSL. To create an action plan war widows in a district called 'Kilinochchi' has been considered as sample.

There are two problems highlighted in the study. First, there is no consistent diaconal theology for the MCSL in the prevailing context and, second, still there are gaps being efficiency in management where there is need of integration of theology and strategic management.

In this background the research questions that were raised in the beginning of this study were, what is the diaconic theology is for the MCSL in the post - war context and, how the diaconic theology could be carried out in and through the strategic management. The findings for the above questions show that the diaconic theology in the post – war context is “prophetic diaconia for reconciliation”, saying in other words that diaconic response of the MCSL should be working for authentic reconciliation. Finding for the second question is to be more realistic in the context the MCSL should integrate its prophetic diaconia with strategic management process so that it could bring transformation in the society.

Through the literature research and analyses it has been found that diaconia is prophetic. Diaconia is not just a feeling or just a social work. It is showing God's love in action which is rooted in justice. If working for reconciliation is the prophetic diaconia for the MCSL in the context, then the Church has to work for reconciliation with justice. In the post - war situation it has been clearly analyzed that the stumbling block for sustainable peace is denial of

justice. Thus, 'justice' cannot be avoided in the diaconal response of the church. When the 'justice' becomes the value or the norm for the MCSL it has to be realized. To be realistic, the strategic management process has been used as a tool to go forward with the right vision, mission, goal and objectives and make society transformed.

If then prophetic diaconia is to be normative and strategic management with in the MCSL, there are two recommendations given. First, making structural change within the MCSL that the church has to create a new order - 'diaconal order'- to be more effective with its prophetic diaconia based on values. Second, prophetic diaconia for reconciliation could be realized though following the strategic management process as given a model of action plan among war widows in a particular district.