

DECLARATION

**Student
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**“I declare that Narrative
Reflections on Charismatic
Discursive Practices is my own
work and that all the sources
that I have used or quoted have
been indicated and
acknowledged by means of
complete references.”**

**Signature
Date
(E Christodoulou)**

ABSTRACT

The purpose for this research journey was twofold: (1) to discover the power of certain discourses in the charismatic church context and (2) to challenge disrespectful discursive practices in order to co-operate respectful, ethical and caring ways of being. Seven leaders in charismatic churches committed themselves to this qualitative research project. The research process resulted in a confirmation by the participants that some charismatic discursive practices can be abusive and also to the acknowledgement that they too have at times fulfilled the role of abuser, even in unknowingly. This research journey ended in Hope. Hope for more transparency and trust between leaders and members, resulting in more respectful practices.

Key words:

Charismatic, abusive practices, discursive practices, postmodern, participatory action research, qualitative research, narrative research, social construction, power and knowledge, postmodern theology, practical theology, narrative hermeneutic, pastoral therapy, divine healing, faith, gifts of the Holy Spirit, prophecy, abusers, survivors, jezebel, confidentiality, accountability, transparency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I want to dedicate this dissertation to the men, women and children who have so often been hurt / abused, marginalized and totalized by disrespectful charismatic discursive counselling practices. Also to the seven charismatic leaders who dared to take this journey toward more respectful, ethical ways of caring.

I want to thank God my Father who journeys with me and from whom I have inherited a passion for grace, forgiveness, mercy and kindness.

Also to my husband Charlie, thank you for your unfailing belief in me. In the words of Yancey, "I went into this marriage thinking that love would hold us together. I learned instead that it required marriage to teach me what love is." Thank you for loving me. To my children Lynette, Hennie and CJ, thank you for allowing me time off to complete this project.

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