A House Divided: Regional and Local Disparities in the Ministry of Deliverance as Evidenced by the Church of Ireland.

This dissertation explores the relationship between the ministry of deliverance and the broader healing ministry within the Church of Ireland in the 21st century. A comparative analysis between the Church of Ireland and the Church of England was conducted to provide insight into the independent evolution of the ministry of deliverance in these closest of neighbours. The study employed a multidisciplinary methodology, including a literature review, qualitative interviews, and comparative analysis with the Church of England. This allowed for a thorough exploration of the practice and availability of deliverance. The research uncovered a notable disparity in the availability and public acknowledgment of deliverance ministries between the Church of Ireland and the Church of England. Surprisingly, it also revealed a striking difference between the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Church of Ireland. Findings suggest that regional, theological, and cultural differences significantly impact pastoral care and access to deliverance services. The Northern Province, influenced by evangelical movements such as GAFCON and New Wine, exhibits a more robust engagement with deliverance, integrating it more fully into its healing ministries. Conversely, the Southern Province shows minimal formal recognition or practice of deliverance, reflecting a more secular and cautious approach. The research highlights the need for the Church of Ireland to address these inconsistencies to provide coherent and comprehensive pastoral care across all provinces. Recommendations include developing standardised training and resources for clergy to equip them for deliverance ministry, ensuring ethical practices, and fostering dialogue within the Church to reconcile theological and practical approaches to deliverance. This study contributes to the broader discourse on the role of deliverance in modern Christianity, advocating for a balanced and pastorally aware approach to spiritual affliction and healing within the Anglican Communion and the Church of Ireland in particular.