

**Implementing A New Testament Diaconate In The International
Christian Assembly Sasebo, Japan**
Reverend Paul Williams

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the project was to implement a New Testament, service-oriented diaconate in the International Christian Assembly (ICA), Sasebo, Japan.

Biblical—Theological and general literature were researched in order to determine a biblical basis and a framework for establishing a diaconal model. The model consisted of the following components: (1) a theology of service, (2) deacon ministry training [for service rather than administration], (3) adherents and deacons surveys, (4) *A Deacon Ministry That Works* videocassette training series by Herbert L. Pedersen, and (5) deacon meetings in which deacons report activities and receive further training.

The project design used preliminary questionnaires, designed by the pastor and tailored to the needs of ICA, in order to gather and evaluate data to determine the adherents' interest in a service-oriented deacon ministry. Post-questionnaires were used to evaluate the effectiveness of the project and whether the members accepted the ministry of the deacons. Additional surveys were conducted to gather and evaluate data from the deacons concerning their training and deacon ministry.

The major implication of the project is that the pastor's effectiveness in providing pastoral care will be significantly enhanced by implementing a service-oriented New Testament model of the diaconate in the local church. Another implication is that Christian maturing and spiritual growth will take place among deacons who assist the pastor in providing pastoral care for the church members.