

BEULAH HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY

A PAPER SUBMITTED TO  
PROFESSOR DR. PAUL STOCKARD, PH. D.  
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF  
THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
ATH 622 MINISTRY RESPONSE TO CRISIS AND DISASTER

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ATLANTA, GA  
FALL 2017

**1. Write a one page synopsis, in your own words, of what you believe the authors, Aten and Boan, are trying to communicate to the church in part one of this book. Why are these foundational lessons so important?**

The church and her leadership have a massive mandate to exemplify toward those who experience crisis, disasters, and trauma. Christ left the church a plethora of examples for us to follow to care for those who suffer human casualties and natural disasters. Our authors challenge their reading audience the importance of being preparation, organization, collaboration, and strategic planning is necessary for the church.

Leadership is a regular part of pastoral caregivers, counselors, and leaders responsibilities. Christian advisors are in high demand to bring healing, deliverance and hope to the hopeless, spread the Gospel Jesus Christ, and serve the community with honesty and integrity.

According to Northouse, implementing a vision also requires a leader to set high-performance expectations for others.<sup>1</sup> As a leader, the church must be influential in collaborating with other agencies and organizations that currently exist to aid those who experience natural disasters and human casualties. Our authors, provide us with a blueprint on how to connect with entities, collaborate with agencies, and coexist with organizations that bring deliverance, healing, and hope to those affected by the crisis. Pastoral caregivers are visionary leaders who use every opportunity or crisis to learn, develop, and implement strategies that will assist those who are impacted by trauma and disaster.

**2. Write a one page summary of what these authors are teaching in part two of this book.**

**Use your own words to summarize your understanding of these chapters (4 – 8).**

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<sup>1</sup> Peter G. Northouse, *Introduction to leadership*, (Sage Publication, Thousand Oaks, CA: 2015), p. 160.

The natural disaster and human casualties are significant in the life of the Christian Church of a contemporary area. Programs to assist those affected by the crisis with successful implementation, where the church can influence and share creative and innovative ideas on how to set up a crisis ministry in our local churches. Fortunately, more pastors are becoming aware of leaders are finding opportunities to minister during the crisis.

Implementing a strategic plan for our congregation and family has enlightened us on the importance of planning, responding, recovery, and providing spiritual and emotional care for the crisis victims. Every crisis is different, but with proper planning, it can be manageable if preparation is the foundation. Regular exercises drills and exiting plans can be useful for those who live in areas where trains, biohazards materials transported, and oil refineries exist.

First, pastoral leadership works with other professionals in a community to meet the needs of individuals who are affected by the crisis. Next, ministers should forge relationships with other organizations to serve better the community in which he/she lives. Thirdly, pastors and leaders active time to a crisis can be a critical part of establishing a presence during a trauma or natural disaster. The church has a considerable responsibility to assist not only congregants, but we have an even higher mantle to carry for the non-parishioners who live in the community where we serve.

Pastoral leadership is a phenomenon that is growing at a rapid pace. Many pastor leaders produced in seminaries, however, they're only learning a fraction of what it means to become a real leader with integrity, character, ethics, and moral who will stand the test of time during a crisis. We are responsible for creating an atmosphere where individuals who experience human casualties and natural disasters can perform ongoing pastoral caregivers, counseling, and leadership duties.

**3. Why is it important to have an understanding of your own personal struggles with crisis and or hurtful times in your life? Explain why it is important in ministry to have not only faced, but embraced your own pain before attempting to minister to others who are working their way through personal crisis and pain.**

Understanding my struggles with crisis and unfortunate events is teaching that continual training is necessary for my relevance in the community where I live and serve. Most pastor/leaders fill that teaching and preaching are their only responsibilities. However, my awareness of crisis is sensitive and more compassionate toward those individuals who experience loss, death, divorce, fires, or any other trauma that disrupts their way of living. As a leader, embracing my pains and struggles brought healing, hope, and deliverance to family and me first, and secondly to those who are dealing with the crisis. There are personal struggles I have encountered this semester with my health and not being able to provide for my family as God intended, but as I continue to heal, God is restoring my eyesight, renewing my strength, and bringing change to my current situations.

#### *Bibliography*

Aten, Jamie D., & Boan, David M. *Disaster Ministry Handbook*, (InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL: 2016).

Northouse, Peter G., *Introduction leadership concepts and practice*, third ed., (Thousand Oak, CA: SAGE).