

Dr. Paul Stockard

ATH 622 MINISTRY RESPONSE IN CRISIS AND DISASTERS

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Week 8 Discussion Board

Mid-term Exam

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 is the place that was intended to communicate the works of God. The authors, Aten and Boan are conveying instructions of the importance of preparing for all crisis.

The spiritual leader. This is God's open invitation for people to come and unite in the face of all situations. The Church is responsible for keeping peace and spiritual order within the confines of even natural laws.

The disaster can come in different classifications without a warning to the Church or community. There are natural as well as manmade disasters that Churches are vulnerable without notice. This disaster handbook is designed to instruct the diverse types of disasters that can occur in numerous ways and phases that the area can be impacted. Various disasters cause different degrees of damage and there is not always away to measure. During the disasters there must be people to help with the victims and loss of lives. This can take month to assess the trauma of these families. The government and all kinds of agencies will show up to maintain the comfort level of the devastated at this time. This is a crucial time for the hurting get some type of normality in their lives. The reality will then come to truth of what has happen and all types of emotional, physical, and mental issues may surface to cope or not cope with the situation.

Depending upon the person or persons this is a time when they start to realize just how many problems they have accumulated because of the disaster. This is where the Church come in with spiritual guidance to help turn these live around. This is an essential time slot to care for hurting, especially for the children and the elderly in the group. The mentally will need special attention to protect the other victims.

They have carefully given the fundamentals for each Church to follow in case a disaster occurs in the direct area of the Church or in the surrounding areas. The step by step plans are broken into carefully planned sections for the leaders to understand the importance of training each leader to respond in a professional manner. There are instructions on who to get in touch with the train the leaders on the ministry of responds and recovery.

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).

There will need to be plan how to get started with this major task that the Church is about to encounter. These tasks include meetings to see where your most problematic areas will contain. The leaders must decide if they have the right building in case a disaster happens or will they have to seek cover in another building. If not, they may have to co-operate with a sister Church in the community. Appointments should be made with all the pastors in the surrounding areas to work with the one who are willing to build this into a program.

Present this plan to the congregation to see if you may have volunteers to carry out the plan once it is started. There may be professional personnel caregivers that will help train or manage the disaster ministry. This ministry will have to be built on the prayers of the leaders and congregation. The first stages of these plans are essential to seek what problems may exist in the future. Do your homework to see what a disaster and recovery ministry model is best for the size of your congregation.

The authors have used examples to show what has happen when the Church is out of

order and have not maintained their commitment. It is not enough to just attend, but reach other communities of faith to bridge the gap of social misplacement. If

the Church does not connect in the time of peace, they will be lost when devastation occurs, which makes the Church open to all types of dangers. It shows how many ways the Church is vulnerable with different special needs among the people in the congregation. They must maintain records of every person that attends on the property and emergency records in other places for safety. This will ensure that everyone is accounted for.

There are further instructions on how to help people to recover and rebound from their crisis. The contents of this manual show leaders what to do and what not to do in a ministry of recovery and how to respond. This book is useful for the Church congregation in training the families what to do in case of an emergency occurs in the home or their community.

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.

Crisis have a way of giving you an emotional growth, while keeping you spiritually humble in the sight of God. I had a few very subjective experiences in life that could have pushed me over the edge and yet God came to my rescue. It was in the winter of 1992, I was taking my children to school. There was ice on the road that was supposed to have been removed the day before, but they neglected to remove the ice. My four children were in the car and we slide on the ice, down an embankment and to hit a tree. Out of my four children, I lost a son and my world changed.

A few years before, my two daughters were running for the bus and he left them. They decided to walk to school and one was hit by a car. It a true miracle that she lived and now have children of her own. The man that hit her came to the hospital and I found myself trying to encourage the man who had just hit my daughter. It was an accident and I had to face the fact my daughter was trying to cross a busy street.

Crisis, unlike any other experiences in your life will make you a stronger person, after you make it through. The experiences are like walking through a tunnel without an end. It seems to be something that will never end, but God has a way of showing you a light to the opening. The light of life will become clearer has you continue to walk and embrace the treasure of grace on the other side.

This equips you to stand in the face of adversity and continue moving to the next stage. When blessing others through crisis, there can be no empty statements, for you have lived the crisis before them. You know firsthand what the feelings are like in the crisis of darkness. It is a matter of helping them with your presents of mind, body and soul. Each time you help another soul, one more task becomes complete in the work of Chaplaincy, but the work never ends.

