

The Role of Pastors in Disasters Curriculum Development Project: Training Faith-Based Leaders to Be Agents of Safety

Emergency Management Institute
June 9, 2010

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OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

- Describe the capacity educational institutions have to help prepare citizens for response to emergencies and crisis situations.
- Describe a unique partnership between the Washington Bible College and Morgan State University School of Public Health and Policy
- Describe the process used to develop the 6 module 15 lesson curriculum.
- Discuss the theological, public health, and emergency management principles underlying the course, curriculum content, and our implementation and course evaluation strategies.
- Discuss the need to disseminate this curriculum through strategic alignment with other bible colleges and seminary schools.

Supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center for Study of Preparedness and Catastrophic Event Response (PACER) at the Johns Hopkins University



REVIEW OF JOINT PROJECT MISSION STATEMENT

A translation research project that combines the expertise of public health officials and faith-based leaders by actively involving them in the development, implementation, and evaluation of core initiatives that focuses on the role of public health practices and spirituality in congregational care of pastors as they respond to disaster/crisis. The outcome will broaden existing research knowledge as well as produce a faith-based curriculum to train pastors in best practices for disaster/crisis response.



ROLE OF FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN DISASTERS

Opportunities for specialized disaster training of spiritual care givers and other faith leaders have not been plentiful and are limited to public workforce members such as police and paramedics (McCabe, Lating, Everly, Mosley, Teague, Links & Kaminsky, 2008)

“Faith-based organizations (FBOs) and secular nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) stepped in to fill the gaps when the geographic scales, intensities, and durations of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita overwhelmed the existing disaster response resources. FBOs and NGOs undertook a surprisingly large, varied, and demanding set of activities with extraordinary effectiveness.”

Homeland Security Institute (2006)



Role of Faith-based Organizations

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1. Shelter
 2. Food services
 3. Medical Services
 4. Personal hygiene services

5. Mental health and spiritual support
6. Physical reconstruction
7. Logistics management and services
8. Transportation management Services
9. Children's services
10. Case management and related services.



OVERVIEW OF COURSE MODULES AND LESSONS



Modules	Lessons
1. Biblical and Theological Foundations	3
2. Introduction to Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery	2
3. Types of Hazards, Impact and public and psychological response	2
4. Disaster Response Systems	1
5. Faith Based Organizations	2
6. Faith Based Leaders' Call to Action	5

PARTNERSHIP

- Partnership development process
- Why WBC?
- Why WBC interested in emergency management course
- Why Morgan State University?



FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- Strategic role of faith-based organizations
- Influence of faith-based leaders
- Why this approach is important to faith-based leaders



Biblical and Theological Foundations



Module: Primary focus of this module is to explore the application of these principles in emergency management practice today.

Lesson 1: Explore how society perceives God's role in disasters today.

Lesson 2: Learn about a theological foundation to examine the role of faith-based leaders before, during, and after a disaster.

Lesson 3: Apply biblical guiding principles to church life.

Theological Themes Related to Disaster Readiness & Response

1. Acknowledging God's sovereignty
2. Maintaining belief in God's inherent goodness
3. Exercising stewardship of personal sphere of influence and contribute to collective concern for natural environment
4. Accepting the reality that experiencing some pain & suffering is inevitable in an imperfect world
5. The value of exhibiting faith & fostering hope through times of crisis
6. Demonstrating compassion for those experiencing pain & trauma
7. The strategic benefit of anticipating danger and making plans to minimize the devastation




PUBLIC HEALTH AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

- **Module 2: Introduction to Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery**
- **Module 3: Types of Hazards/Public and Psychological Response**
- **Module 4: Disaster Response Systems**
- **Module 5: FBOs**
- **Module 6: Call to Action**



PUBLIC HEALTH AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

DISASTER RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

A wooden cross is positioned on the left side of the slide, set against a circular, glowing light effect. The cross is made of light-colored wood and is oriented vertically. The background of the slide is a gradient of light beige and white, with a dark brown vertical bar on the far left.

In sociological terms, resilience is the ability of social units, such as communities or cities, to withstand external shocks to their infrastructure. Community resilience is also viewed as a process linking the myriad of adaptive capacities (such as social capital and economic development) to responses and changes after adverse events.

Norris et al. (2008)

IMPLEMENTATION AND COURSE EVALUATION STRATEGIES

- **Feedback from faith-based leaders**
- **Pilot course**

EVALUATION

- **Test and quiz**
- **Ongoing feedback from students**
- **Post course focus group**



ENGAGING OTHER BIBLE COLLEGES AND SEMINARIES

- Bible Colleges and Seminaries
- Engagement strategy



QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

