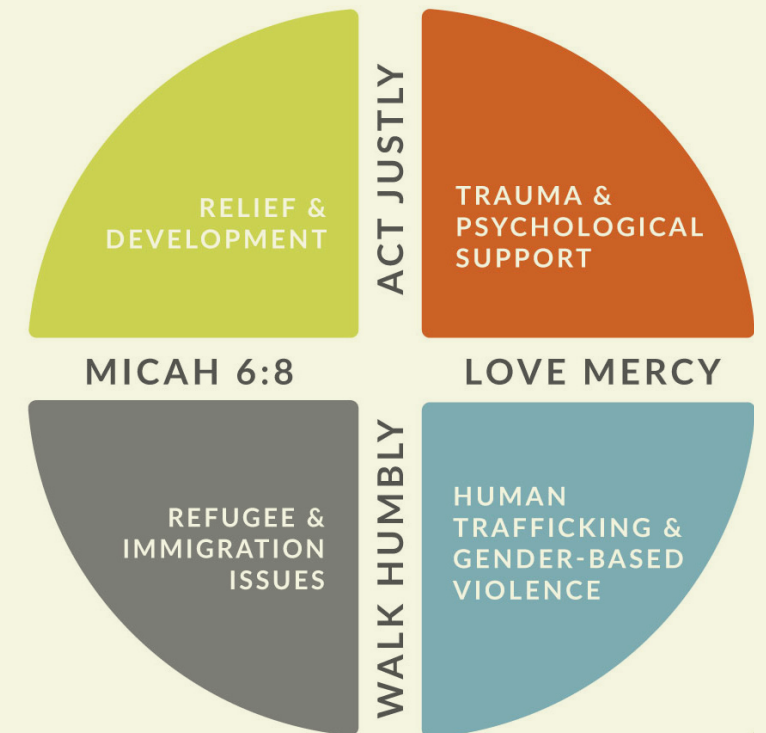


COVID-19 RESPONSE 6 MONTH IMPACT REPORT

HDI is the first
faith-based
academic disaster
research center in
the country.

Our mission is to
help the church
prepare and care
for a disaster-filled
world.

We help by
translating research
advances into
biblically-based
educational
programs, trainings,
resources, outreach
activities, and
partnerships.



Faithfully Responding, Not Fearfully Panicking

The church never closed during Covid-19, and neither did Wheaton College's Humanitarian Disaster Institute. Six months ago we moved our M.A. in Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership program fully online. We also sought to respond in these extraordinary times to Micah 6:8's call to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God."

As you'll see in this report, in many areas we were the first in the country to respond in serving the church. Our team launched into action weeks before the global pandemic declaration to serve vulnerable people and churches around the world.

Our past experiences and research have made it possible for us to anticipate resources that would be needed each step of the way. We also know the response to this pandemic is far from over. We are committed to keep learning, to keep working with you, and to keep loving our neighbors in ways that are both biblically-based and research-based.

The stories and statistics you'll see are our way to be transparent and accountable as we seek to witness to God's love in Christ. We also share these numbers to testify to the ways our HDI colleagues, students, alumni — and the entire Wheaton College community — are serving Christ and His Kingdom.

We present this report with lament for the losses we've all seen-but also with hope as followers of Jesus.



Jamie Aten
HDI Co-Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamie D. Aten".



Kent Annan
HDI Co-Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "KA".

HDI's COVID-19 Six-Month Impact Summary



+603,000,000

People Reached

Based on Critical Mention statistics



29,620

People Trained



118

New
Resources



33,767

Resource
Downloads



32

Language
Translations



22

M.A. Students Graduated
47 Now Enrolled



16

Events
Hosted Online



56

Videos Created
41,000 views



522,160

Website
Pageviews



208

Articles
Published



1,102

Media Citations

Testimonials

“HDI has led the evangelical response to COVID-19 each step of the way, helping churches around the world to navigate the challenges with faith, wisdom, and vision over the last 6 months.”



- Walter Kim, President,
National Association of
Evangelicals



It was an honor for Healthcare Ready to partner with Wheaton College's Disaster Institute to create a valuable and much-needed resource guide for churches across the country to use when faced with the significant dual challenges of racial unrest and the COVID-19 pandemic. Working together, we were able to provide church leaders with practical ways to address the systemic health and social inequities that have placed people from racial and ethnic minority groups at increased risk from COVID-19 and become collective agents of change for good.



- Nicolette Louissaint,
President & Executive Director, Healthcare Ready



With devastating events seemingly becoming more and more routine, the need for Wheaton's Humanitarian Disaster Institute has never been greater. HDI's response since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis has been especially inspiring, and necessary. HDI has been at the forefront of the evangelical church's response to the global pandemic, providing resources for the churches and other ministries worldwide.



- Philip Ryken,
President, Wheaton College

First Month Response

Following are a few highlights of how our team helped respond during the first month during the pandemic declaration in the U.S.

1st

To publish article series on preparing churches for COVID-19

2.27.20

Published article: "Is your church ready for the coronavirus?" in *Facts & Trends*

1st

To release comprehensive COVID-19 church preparedness manual

3.11.20

Released Preparing Your Church for Coronavirus manual and planning template

1st

To create online fillable COVID-19 church preparedness tool

3.11.20

Launched online resource page at wheaton.edu/HDI-covid19

1st

To provide an online COVID-19 resource page for churches

3.11.20 COVID-19 declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization

1st

To mobilize churches online for COVID-19

3.12.20

Founded social media movement: [#covid19church](https://twitter.com/covid19church)

1st

To begin ongoing webinar series to help churches navigate COVID-19

3.13.20

Began weekly webinar series with the National Association of Evangelicals

Committed to continuing webinar series together through duration of COVID-19

1st

To collaborate on COVID-19 website for pastors and churches

3.17.20

Partnered with Ed Stetzer and The Wheaton College Billy Graham Center along with Rick Warren and The PEACE Plan (Saddleback Church) on coronavirusandthechurch.com

1st

To convene COVID-19 online conference for churches

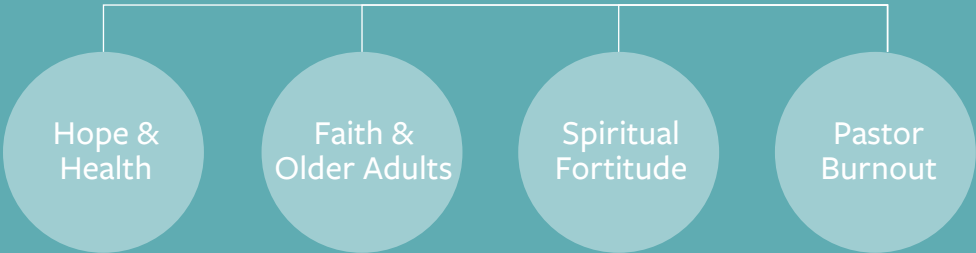
3.26.20

Launched two-day virtual conference with National Association of Evangelicals: COVID-19 Online Church Summit

Research

- 1 We don't do research for research's sake—we do research to make a difference.
- 2 We are pioneering research that helps people and churches worldwide live more faithfully and resiliently.
- 3 We use research as a practical tool for helping others impacted by disasters like COVID-19.

Current COVID-19 Studies



A Research-Based and Ministry-Based Approach to Helping

Spiritual First Aid is based on our team's disaster psychology of religion/spirituality research and the disaster ministry work we have conducted around the globe for the past 15 years. During this time, we spent the last four years field testing and refining Spiritual First Aid.

Based on what we were learning from responding to COVID-19 we jumped into action to create the first COVID-19 spiritual and emotional care manual and intervention specifically designed for helping while socially distancing.

Our research in public health emergencies such as the Ebola outbreak, natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina, and humanitarian crises ranging from the Syrian refugee crisis to the Botswana drought are a few of the many examples of what informed our approach.

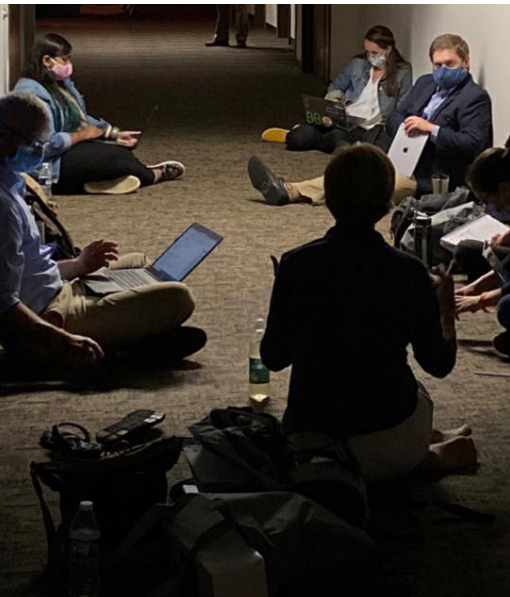
Research Partnerships

HDI is collaborating with world-class Christian scholars at top faith-based and research colleges and universities on pandemic research.



Education

- 1 Our M.A. in Humanitarian & Disaster Leadership (HDL) is the only Christian program of its kind in the world.
- 2 It is the fastest growing master’s program at Wheaton College.
- 3 NEW: This fall we’ve also started a new joint Trauma Certificate with the Clinical Mental Health Program at Wheaton College.
- 4 Our students are putting what they are learning in the classroom into practice by responding to COVID-19.



Our M.A. in HDL program was the first to return to studying in-person at Wheaton College this summer. Toward the end of day one we had to evacuate and take shelter in the basement as a EF-1 tornado touched down across the street. After getting to safety we continued class as shown and processed what could be learned from this unique experience.

Out of this experience in the classroom, our team and students created a manual for Christian professors and a manual for college students that were distributed around Wheaton College and the country.

M.A. HDL	Field Work Placements <i>Sample Summer Internships</i>	IMPACT
Campus Track	Samaritan’s Purse	20 Organizations Served
Online Track	Red Cross	22 Resources Created
Accelerated Track <i>For Wheaton College undergraduate students</i>	White House Anti-Human Trafficking Task-Force	3,520 Service Hours Provided

Student Stories



When COVID-19 hit the world, I pivoted my Field Work project to create something tangible for Re:new that can be applied to other nonprofits as our organization pivoted to sew donated masks to those working on the front lines. This summer, I have been creating a disaster preparedness guide for small nonprofits and using the pandemic while working at Re:new as a case study.

Navigating this season of leadership at an organization looked different everyday, with some time being spent on site and some at home. This incredibly humbling season has taught me that the Lord is always one step ahead, that there is wisdom in being prepared, and that anything is possible with the help of community.

- Kristi Zboncak, M.A. '20, executive director of Re:new Project, a nonprofit that provides a safe space and employment for refugee women who have resettled in the Chicago suburbs



It means a lot for me to translate this handbook into my mother language, Chinese. [It] has been challenging yet meaningful. I especially feel grateful to share this great resource with my Asian Christian community back in Taiwan and Hong Kong. During the translating period, I deeply felt that God has prepared everyone to use our own experience, background, and talent to serve his kingdom!

- Kailin Huang, M.A. '20, who worked on Chinese translations for HDI manuals



Alumni Stories



After working my first few months with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, I was virtually deployed to respond specifically to COVID-19. For two months at the beginning of the pandemic, I was a planning specialist. I attended (virtual) briefings regularly, tracked the provision/operation of specific resources, and debriefed staff on status reports. Since FEMA strives to accomplish their federal role as one that supports and serves the State, I value how HDL prepared me to be a person of humble inquiry—someone who engages others with attentiveness, genuine curiosity, and informed action

- Michael Sawyer, M.A. '19, Hazard Mitigation Grants Specialist, FEMA



We partnered with Wheaton alum Beverly Hancock, Senior Director of Leadership Development at the American Organization for Nursing Leadership, to adapt a series of tipsheets for nurses around the country.



Coping and Caring for Oneself During COVID-19: Practical Steps for Nurse Leaders

COVID-19 brings forth a new level of stress and uncertainty to the world and health care. To care for others well during this season of COVID-19 will require us to learn how to care for ourselves at the same time.

Here are some practical steps you can take to ensure that you are properly attending to your own needs so that you can in turn sustainably attend to the needs of others:

1. Take the necessary steps to protect yourself and loved ones.

The World Health Organization suggests staying informed but avoiding overexposure to news that might cause you to feel anxious or distressed. Take reasonable and well-informed

Training Online Summits

Our **COVID-19 Church Online Summit** was the first digital summit of its kind for churches and church leaders, in partnership with the National Association of Evangelicals. In a time of crisis, church leaders could learn from leaders around the world about how your church can respond to the coronavirus outbreak.

Our **Spiritual First Aid Summit** brought together Christian leaders from around the globe who were inspired and equipped to care for their neighbors, churches, communities, and world during COVID-19 and beyond.

FEATURING THESE SPEAKERS AND MORE!



N.T. WRIGHT



DANIELLE STRICKLAND



DR. EFREM SMITH



PETE SCAZZERO



IAN MORGAN CRON



JIMMY & IRENE ROLLINS



DR. BRENDA SALTER MCNEIL



PHIL WICKHAM



**SPIRITUAL
FIRST AID
SUMMIT**

April 30
Free Online Event
www.sfasummit.com

REGISTER
TODAY

PRESENTED BY



COVID-19 CHURCH ONLINE SUMMIT

March 26 & 27, 2020

COVID19CHURCHSUMMIT.COM



Eugene Cho



Dr. Ed Stetzer



Philip Yancey



Dr. Nicolette Louissaint



Kent Annan



Dr. Jamie Aten



Dr. Margaret Diddams



Dr. Theon Hill



Rev. Dr. Gabriel Salguero



Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil



Dr. Walter Kim



Special Message for churches from the
U.S. Surgeon General
VADM Jerome M. Adams, M.D.,
M.P.H.

#COVID19church

11,294
Attendees for
COVID-19 Church Summit

45K
Video Impressions
Combined

5,677
Attendees for
Spiritual First Aid Summit

Webinar & Town Hall Series

HDI-NAE Ongoing Webinar & Town Hall Series

- Series announced day pandemic was declared
- Series launched same day as U.S. national emergency declared
- Series will continue for however long it is needed
- Examples:
“Spiritual & Mental Health for Children,”
“Faith in Pandemic Times.”

Online Spiritual & Emotional Courses

We created the very 1st online COVID-19 spiritual and emotional care courses in the world—and they’re free. Currently we have over 230 active students participating across our courses.

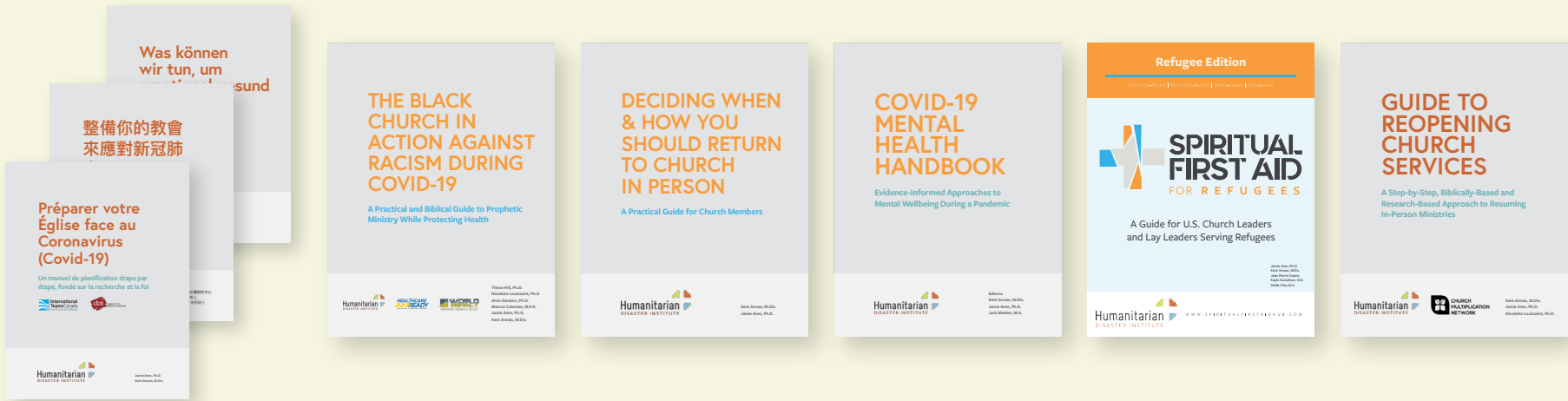
- Understanding & Responding to Suffering
- Providing Practical Presence
- Preventing COVID-19
- Compassion Fatigue and Burnout
- Basic Disaster Spiritual Care Helping Skills



Resources

All our resources are biblically-based and research-based to help teach best-practices in practical ways for individuals, churches, nonprofits, and NGOs.

Where Resources Used: **39 Countries**



HDI has provided important leadership at a critical time for the church and the world, particularly with the ‘Reopening the Church’ resources developed with the National Association of Evangelicals. Their booklet ‘Guide to Reopening Church Services’ is exemplary in both respecting established scientific findings and being thoroughly based in scripture. We’ve been proud to recommend it at BioLogos.

- Deborah Haarsma, President, BioLogos

 18 Manuals	 56 Videos	 3 Social Media Campaigns	 2 Books	 5 Websites & Resource Pages	 20 Tipsheets	 31 Devotionals	 2 Blogs	 12 Tools
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Outreach

The 208 articles we published and 1,102 times we were cited in the media during the first 6 months of COVID-19 were a chance to provide guidance and insight based on our work. These appeared in outlets including the following

The New York Times

The Washington Post

USA TODAY™

CHRISTIANITY TODAY

MOODY
Radio™

RNS
RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

FOX
NEWS

CBN

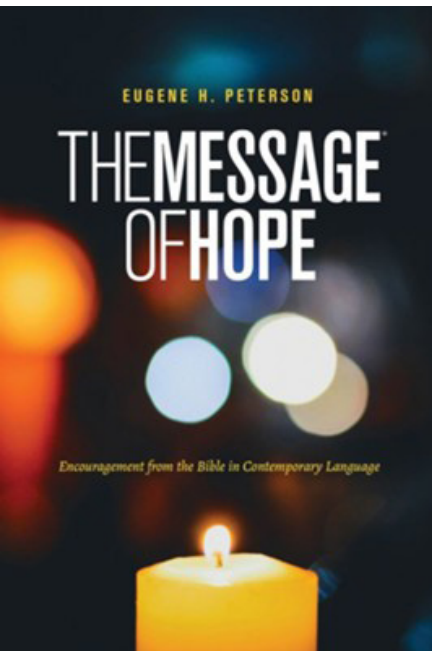
BBC
RADIO

“HDI lives out its vision to prepare the church — and lay providers everywhere — to care for a disaster-filled world.

- Laura Shannonhouse,
Georgia State University

Partnerships

We are grateful for each of the many organizations that we've had the opportunity to partner with in our COVID-19 response.



We are partnering with NavPress to get Eugene Peterson's *The Message of Hope* to those that need it most. How it works: When you buy a copy of *The Message of Hope*, NavPress will send a copy on your behalf to an organization HDI is working with on the frontlines of ministry.

Summit Sponsors

24-7 Prayer
Accord Network
Association of Related Churches
Barna + gloo
Billy Graham Center
Bread for the World
Canadian Christian Relief & Development Association
Christianity Today
Coronavirus and the Church
Council of Christian Colleges and Universities

Church Multiplication Network
DAI
ECFA
Evangelicals for Social Action
Healthcare Ready
InterVarsity Press
Institute for Faith and Resilience
K-LOVE Crisis Response Care
Let My People Go
Medical Ambassadors International
National Latinio Evangelical Coalition

Northstar Church Network
One Million Thumbprints
Resilient Church Leadership
Spire
The Evangelical Covenant Church
Trauma Healing Institute - American Bible Society
Wheaton College Graduate School
World Hope International
World Relief
World Renew

Invitation

HDI is committed to going the distance in serving during the COVID-19 crisis. As a hub for Christians responding to crises, we will continue to research, educate, train, create resources, convene, do outreach, and partner. We love collaborating, so wanted to offer some ways that you can get involved:



Pray

We've been praying throughout this response, and we would love to pray with you — and we also value your prayers as we serve.



Share Resources

All of the resources we create and research that we do is **free**. We love sharing with you — and love when you share with others! Please feel free to share anything that would be helpful with your church, colleagues, friends, or family.



Partner

Please reach out by [email](#) if you see a way we might be able to work together on any aspect of what we do.



Stay Connected for Resources and Training

We'd love to stay in touch with you. We send a weekly newsletter by email to provide the most up-to-date and helpful information. Over the next year we will be launching several new exciting training opportunities to equip church lay helpers and leaders as well as NGO leaders. You can sign up [here](#).



Study with Us

We'd love for you to study with us in our M.A. in humanitarian and disaster leadership or our trauma certificate. The M.A. can be completed in one year on campus or two years online. You can learn more [here](#).



Give

We are grateful to have been able to offer everything we've done in response to COVID-19 for free. We are committed to continuing to walk alongside churches through this historic global pandemic— but we need your help. Two ways you can give to specific needs that make an immediate difference:

- **Scholarships** for students studying in our M.A. in Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership. Your gift can help a student prepare to serve the world's most vulnerable people through crisis.
- **COVID-19 Response.** Your gift can help us to keep creating and sharing resources that are used around the country and world.

To give, please reach out by [email](#) or visit [our donation page](#) at Wheaton College.

About the Humanitarian Disaster Institute

The Humanitarian Disaster Institute was founded in 2011 at Wheaton College and is the country's first faith-based academic disaster research center. Our mission is to help the church prepare and care in a disaster-filled world. HDI carries out our mission through research, training, convening, resourcing, and outreach activities.

Kent Annan
Co-Director
Director of Humanitarian & Disaster Leadership

Jamie Aten
Co-Director & Founder
Blanchard Chair of Humanitarian & Disaster Leadership

Edward Davis
Associate Professor of Psychology

Samantha Ervin
Associate Director of Education and Training

Laura Finch
Communications Specialist

Jamie Goodwin
Assistant Professor of Humanitarian & Disaster Leadership

Dana Krol
Research Assistant

Laura Leonard
Associate Director of Communications

Jack Meeker
Research Assistant

Shayne Moore
Associate Director of Operations

Rose Mumma-Dickson
Office Coordinator

Danielle Ripley-Burgess
Communications Strategist

About HDI's M.A. in Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership Program

Our M.A. in Humanitarian & Disaster Leadership at Wheaton College Graduate School can be completed in one year on campus or two years online (which includes a week of on-campus coursework at the beginning and end of the program).

Authorized Training, Certifications, Licenses, and Resource Development Services

To inquire about arranging an authorized HDI training, certification, manual licensing agreement, or resource development services (e.g., adapting one of our resources for your organization's needs) please email hdi@wheaton.edu with your request.

About the Trauma Certificate

We have also partnered with the School of Psychology, Counseling, and Family Therapy at Wheaton College Graduate School to offer a new Trauma Certificate in a specialized track specifically tailored to humanitarian and disaster responders. Learn more at wheaton.edu/HDL.

Contact Us

Our website and social media accounts provide ongoing updates and resources for preparing your church for COVID-19. You can also find more information about our team and resources at:

Websites: www.wheaton.edu/hdi
www.reopeningthechurch.com
www.spiritualfirstaidhub.com

Facebook: facebook.com/WheatonHDI

Twitter: twitter.com/WheatonHDI

Instagram: [@wheaton_hdi](https://www.instagram.com/wheaton_hdi)

If you have any questions or suggestions about future resources that would be helpful, please email us at hdi@wheaton.edu.