



COVID-19 RESPONSE



The outbreak of COVID-19 has created a mission field. Amidst the pain and suffering felt by millions in our country and around the globe, hearts are opening to the hope of the resurrection. Now is the time for us, followers of Christ and leaders in the Church, to boldly and tangibly extend the love of Christ to the hurting.

ReachGlobal [Crisis Response has launched a campaign](#) to raise funds as we prepare for a long-term, gospel-centered response in the wake of this pandemic. The impact of this crisis is vast and atypical. For the first time in the history of Crisis Response, every church in the EFCA is a staging ground for a response at the same time.

In addition, a number of churches are in need of assistance. Funds from this campaign will directly benefit church plants and churches experiencing considerable financial hardship. It is essential that we adequately and appropriately care for the needs of one another and offer solutions that equip churches to continue to share the hope of Christ with their communities.

The support we offer churches will extend beyond finances. Even now, Crisis Response is providing training to churches as we begin to see the fallout of this outbreak, and the response will only grow as Crisis Response engages with local churches to meet needs. Our teams are already distributing physical resources such as N95 masks, hand sanitizer and additional protective equipment in the battle against COVID-19.

As Crisis Response continues to respond to this pandemic, they want to mobilize individuals, the Body of Christ, to not only partner with them in their efforts, but also to serve and love those affected in your own community and context.

Crisis Response is encouraging individuals to respond:

1. We are calling on individuals to continue to financially support the ministry of their local church. Healthy churches serve as the staging grounds for the work of Crisis Response around the world, and without the local church, Crisis Response would not exist.
2. As individuals are able, Crisis Response is requesting contributions to the [COVID-19 Response Fund](#). People are suffering as a result of this global pandemic, and financial gifts will help Crisis Response meet needs on a global scale. The poor and marginalized will not be forgotten, the gospel will be shared, churches will be strengthened and planted, and disciples will be made as financial gifts are invested in the mission and vision of Crisis Response and the EFCA.
3. We're asking individuals to become extensions of Crisis Response by meeting needs in their local communities. Without a doubt, there are people in every circle of influence who are suffering. We want to mobilize a movement of servants to meet needs in Christ's name.
4. Last, but not least, we're calling on people to join us in prayer for those affected by this outbreak. Pray for pastors and churches. Pray for local, state and national leaders. Pray for first responders, doctors and nurses. Pray for those who have been infected by the virus and their families. Pray that opportunities for Crisis Response would become clear and that our response would be vast and rooted in Christ's love.

How can your church participate?

1. To help us spread awareness of this need, please share [this message](#) with your church body and communicate the opportunity to contribute to the [EFCA Crisis Response COVID-19 Response Fund](#). ([Download images for your own social media campaign](#))

2. If your church is suffering, please reach out to your district superintendent. We want to be aware of your challenges and respond with real help in your time of need.
3. There will be churches in your district who struggle to maintain regular ministry function during this crisis. Please consider expressing our value of interdependence and support another EFCA church in your area. We're not prescribing a particular means or method, but we encourage all churches to remember we aren't in this alone, that we are better together and that we are "one EFCA." Reach out to your district leadership if you'd like to connect with another local church in need.

We are grateful for you and look forward with anticipation to how God will use the Church to advance the gospel in these unique times. Thank you for your faithfulness to the Bride of Christ.

Kevin Kompelien
EFCA President

P.S. We would love to know what your church is doing to love and serve during the outbreak of COVID-19. If you have a video or story to share, please take five minutes to share it with us using the following form: <https://www.efca.org/submit-covid-19-ministry-story>