

# **Jamie D. Aten, Ph.D.**

**Founder and Executive Director of the Humanitarian Disaster Institute & Disaster Ministry Conference |  
Rech Endowed Chair of Psychology at Wheaton College**

Wheaton, IL, US

Dr. Aten is a disaster psychologist and disaster ministry expert. He helps others navigate mass, humanitarian, and personal disasters.

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## **Biography**

Jamie D. Aten, Ph.D., is a disaster psychologist and disaster ministry expert. He helps others navigate mass, humanitarian, and personal disasters with scientific and spiritual insights. He is the Founder and Executive Director of the Humanitarian Disaster Institute and Disaster Ministry Conference and holds the Rech Endowed Chair of Psychology at Wheaton College. Learn more about HDI's new M.A. in Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership at [www.wheaton.edu/HDL](http://www.wheaton.edu/HDL).

In 2016 he received the FEMA Community Preparedness Champion Award at the White House. He doesn't just study disasters—he has survived disasters.

Jamie got his start helping others amidst disasters after moving to South Mississippi just six days before Hurricane Katrina struck his community. Eight years later he diagnosed with late-stage cancer. Now in remission Jamie shares his disaster research and cancer story with scientific and spiritual insights, helping others cultivate faith and resilience.

His research has been supported by over \$6 million in grant funding. In addition to over 100 scholarly publications, he is the co-editor and co-author of 7 academic books, including two American Psychological Association bestsellers. His disaster and humanitarian resources have been adopted and utilized by World Relief, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, Chicago Department of Public Health, and many other organizations.

Jamie is a disaster columnist for Christianity Today's (CT) Church Law & Tax. His writing frequently appears in outlets that include The Washington Post, CT, and Psychology Today. Jamie is also regularly cited or interviewed by news outlets like CBS News, Fox News TV, Yahoo! News, Moody Radio, and Religion News Service.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Education/Learning, Training and Development, Research, Mental Health Care

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## **Areas of Expertise and Research Interests**

Faith-Based Organizations, Psychology of Religion, Humanitarian Disasters, Disasters and Mental Health, Trauma, Disaster Research, Religion and Disasters, Children and Disasters, Children and Trauma, Faith and Mental Health, Natural Disasters, Psychology, Relief and Development, Emergency Management, Disaster Preparedness

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## **Professional Affiliations**

American Psychological Association : Member, APA Division 36 (Psychology of Religion) : Member,  
Christian Association of Psychological Studies : Member

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## **Presentations and Event Appearances**

### **Keynote Speaker**

Fred Hutch Cancer Center Moving Beyond Cancer

### **Speaker**

Wheaton College Chapel

### **Speaker**

GC2 Summit on Caring for Refugees

### **Intensive Speaker**

Justice Conference

### **Keynote Speaker**

Disaster Ministry Conference

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## **Education**

### **Indiana State University**

Ph.D. Counseling Psychology

### **Chicago Area Christian Training Consortium**

Pre-Doctoral Internship Clinical Psychology

### **Indiana State University**

M.Sc. Counseling Psychology

### **Indiana State University**

B.Sc. Psychology

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## **Accomplishments and Awards**

### **FEMA Community Preparedness Champion Award**

<http://www.wheaton.edu/Media-Center/News/2016/09/FEMA-to-Honor-Wheaton-College-Disaster-Expert-with-Award-at-the-White-House>

**American Psychological Association Div. 36 Early Career Award**

<http://www.wheaton.edu/Media-Center/News/2011/09/Psychology-Professor-Recognized-by-American-Psychological-Association>

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