

One out of every four Americans suffers from some type of mental health issue.

Over 25% come first to their pastor or church for help.

Research also shows that people do better in recovery when their faith community is included. Yet, only 3% to 4% of churches are ready to respond.

What is **your** church doing to offer **hope** to the people in your community who **face** hopelessness in their lives?

Offering a Fresh Hope group is one way to offer real hope and real healing to the hopeless who suffer from a mental health diagnosis ...and for their loved ones.

What is Fresh Hope?

Fresh Hope began in 2009 as a **Christian support** group for those who suffer from mental health challenges and their loved ones. Fresh Hope was started by a pastor seeking to provide a support group from a Biblical, hope-filled point of view.

Fresh Hope's Foundation is six faith-based tenets (principles). These tenets have been proven to be instrumental in offering hope and key insights into a wellness-driven, successful road of recovery from a Christian perspective. The tenets are for both those with a mental health diagnosis and for their loved ones.

Those with a diagnosis and the loved ones meet together for the first half of each meeting and then break into separate groups. The Fresh Hope philosophy has a bias that everyone working together is better for all involved. While sometimes only the loved ones attend or just the person with the diagnosis attends alone, the mix of those will a diagnosis and their loved ones provides a unique opportunity for each to learn from one another and solve issues together. This is one of the greatest strengths of the Fresh Hope approach to recovery.

Fresh Hope offers a book entitled

Fresh Hope: Living Well in Spite of a Mental

Health Diagnosis. This book may serve as...

- a resource for pastors and counselors to offer to those who come to them for help
- a workbook for those who have a mental health diagnosis, individually or in a small group
- encouragement for family members

A second Fresh Hope book for loved ones is scheduled to be released at the end of 2014.

