



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

## COMBAT SUICIDES & MASS SHOOTINGS

[www.ReThinkHopeUMC.org](http://www.ReThinkHopeUMC.org)





# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

**OBJECTIVE: Reach troubled persons  
Before they get to crisis mode and  
decide to commit Destructive Acts.**

**ReThink Hope Ministry**  
**Prayer with Action!**





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## ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

**Statistical Data on Suicides in the USA:**  
**12,000,000 people yearly think about it**  
**3,000,000 people make plans doing it**  
**1.7 million suicides attempted 2021**  
**\* 49,000+ suicides recorded in 2021**  
**\* 50,000+ suicides recorded in 2023**  
**\* Men rate 4:1 over Women in 2021**





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## Suicide Rates by Age:

- \* **10-24 years 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death**
- \* **25-34 years: 19.48 per 100,000**
- \* **75-84 years: 19.56 per 100,000**
- \* **85 ++ years: 22.39 per 100,000**

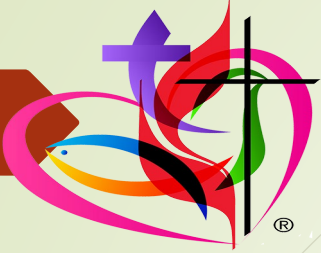
**Average - 132 Suicides Committed Daily**

**Mass Killing: 3 + in a single incident**

**(murder-suicides not reflected in count)**

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**Lone Suicides** may be the result of various mental fatigue issues (i.e. depression, continuous stress, heightened anxiety, etc.,). No matter what sparks suicidal thoughts, *they* seem to have lost sight of the value and purpose of their life.

Statistically **Mass Shooters**, primarily men, kill for various reasons. They often target people associated with groups they themselves detest before committing suicide or accepting death by police.



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

**News Reporting of these horrific events leaves nothing to our imagination, except for 2 questions:**

- 1) What was going through the shooter's mind up to the point, when he pulled the trigger?**
- 2) What makes the difference between those that live through difficult moments and those that take their own life and/or the lives of others?**

**The best answers come from persons who are or were at the *crossroads of despair*.**



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

**The Saddest Words Ever Spoken come from the families and friends victimized by **self-destructors**: “I never knew that he was so distraught...yes, he was a loner and kept to himself, but...I didn’t want to pry into his personal business”.**

**Two Primary Fronts of ReTH (What to Do Now):**  
**1) Create opportunities for people to connect and talk freely about their stresses and concerns in life (ReTH Encounter Meetings).**



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

## Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope!

These words underscore the feelings of everyone at some point in life, when the pressures and the stress of just existing becomes too much to handle.

2) **ReTH Prayerful Messages of Hope** sent to *Targeted Readers* that may cause them to **pause, stop,** and **ReThink** different approaches to address their overwhelming problems.





# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

April 2023, In the **N**orth **C**entral **J**urisdiction of the **U**nited **M**ethodist **C**hurch, a pioneering **F**aith-**B**ased approach was established to tackle the escalating crisis of **M**ass **S**hootings and **S**uicides. **ReTH's** Affirmation of Faith is expressed through **THE NICENE CREED**

The website: [www.ReThinkHopeUMC.org](http://www.ReThinkHopeUMC.org) will serve as a platform to connect individuals with professional help through the promotion of the **988 Suicide Crisis Hotline**.



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

**Churches** that decide to get involved in the campaign to help persons struggling with thoughts of committing suicide, may use **ReTH** in part or as fully outlined.

**Churches** will have the full support from the **ReTH Development Team** and **ReTH Advocates** (members may belong to different **Christian Denominations**).

The **website** is a growing informational hub of statistical data and various crisis management resources.

**ReTH** has done the ground-zero work. The missing part that makes a successful ministry are **Volunteers!**



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

**ReTH** (*What to Do Now*) Ministry  
Endeavors to Bridge the Gap Between  
**Faith-Based Support** and Professional  
Intervention.

*HOW & WHERE???*

The **Church** becomes a **First-Line of Contact**,  
*an Oasis*, for persons on the slippery edge of  
**Self-Destruction**.



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

The ***First Line of Contact*** for the average person is not the professional counselor with years of practical experience.

- The classmate walking home from school
  - The co-worker you meet for lunch
  - Fellow church members you see every week
- IT'S YOU!**

It matters not, if we sense trouble in someone.  
**Ask The Question, 'How is it with your soul?'**





# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

## Create Moments for Conversation

- Is There a Need To Talk?
- Feeling Depressed?
- In a Crisis?
- Being Bullied?
- Thoughts of Suicide?
- Worried about Someone Else?
- \_\_\_\_\_?

( Be Radical - **Pray** as You Greet / Exit )



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

## Common Places of *First Line of Contact*:

- \* Barber Shops
- \* Beauty Salons
- \* College Dorms / Campus
- \* Health Clubs / Spa / YMCA
- \* Walking (find a scenic & peaceful place)
- \* AA Meetings (NA, CA, MA, Grief,...)
- \* Coffee Breaks / *Water Cooler*

Where people meet, talk, and share stories



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

## Features of **ReTH**:

- \* **Dedicated Prayer Phone Line**
- \* **Messages of Hope, *with Reality Checks***
- \* **Advocate Support Teams**
- \* **Group Encounter Meetings**
- \* **Victims Support (ReTH Advocates)**



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

## ReTH Dedicated Prayer Phone Line:

A phone system electronically monitored to ensure that callers are connected to a real person that will listen to their prayer request and offer to engage them in prayer.

ReTH Volunteers will be trained to **LISTEN** for **Clues** that may **Detect *Persons in Crisis*** that might require professional help.

The phone system should be able to connect **988 Suicide Crisis Hotline** while the caller is still on the line.





# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

## ReTH Messages of Hope, *with Reality Checks:*

Messages targeting persons on the edge of destruction will be posted on the **ReTH** website as well as on items used to promote this ministry:

- **Billboards at selected locations**

Examples:

**Suicide Does Not Fix Any Problem. IT Just Makes You Dead!  
Before You Become a Memory of Grief, Contact **ReTH****

**Contemplating Suicide? No Need to Hurry, Death Can Wait.  
IF Suicide is your answer to your troubles, It's time to **ReThink!****



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

## ReTH Messages of Hope, *with Reality Checks:*

### Posters / Flyers Message Examples:

**Committing Suicide or Shooting Others Only Brings Death and Changes Nothing...Except:**

- \* Your family, for those that loved you, will grieve for many years missing you and yet; they will move on.**
- \* Your friends will remember you for a few seasons and they also will move on living through life's 'Ups' and 'Downs'.**
- \* The public will shake their heads and say, 'How Dreadful' and find something else to watch. *Your actions, not yet taken, may only alter 'How You Will Be Remembered...or Not'.***



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

## ReTH Advocate Support Teams

- \* Train Volunteers Offering Support to *Troubled Persons and* Coordinating **ReTH** Activities.
- \* Train church staff and congregation about **ReTH**.
- \* **Host Local ReTH Encounter Meetings.**
- \* Offer to be a brother / sister (good listener).
- \* Gather support from local agencies involved in this battle to reduce suicides.



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

## ReTH Group Encounter Meetings

**Churches** can offer forums (public and private) for troubled persons to air their pain. At least 3 **ReTH Advocates** should manage an open ReTH meeting. While meetings are in session, **ReTH Advocates** and others should be in prayer away from meeting attendees.

Some churches embracing **ReTH** may not want to host **Encounter Meetings**. The **ReTH** website will list the churches that will host these meetings.





# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

## ReTH Victims Support

**ReTH Advocates** can offer to stand '*shoulder to shoulder*' with Bereaved Family Members, traumatized by suicide.

The local **Church** can offer the use of church facilities for repass and other family gatherings.



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

**What's Needed Today: CHURCHES Say, 'Yes We Will'**  
**ReThink Hope Ministry with Volunteers:**

- Establish **ReTH Advocate Teams: Support Meetings Promoters / Graphic Artist / Story Writers / Researchers / Prayer Partners / Teachers / ???**
- Get Trained in Activities of **ReTH**.
- Schedule a Town Hall **ReTH** Kick-off Meeting.
- Make [www.ReThinkHopeUMC.org](http://www.ReThinkHopeUMC.org) accessible from **church's** main web page.



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

## What's Needed Today - continued

- Make **ReTH** visible to your community via signs, posters, fund raising (fish fry, games, family night)
- **Financially Support ReTH** – Church members giving **\$10** a month to cover Website Expenses, Posters, Renting Billboards, Suicide Prevention Training Classes, **ReTH Prayer Request Phone System**.
- Setup church phone system to contact **ReTH Prayer Request Line (TBD)**.



# ReHTINK HOPE MINISTRY

**50,000+ Suicides Recorded in 2023.**

**1453 School Shootings 1997 - 2022.**

**Are **YOU** Ready to Help?**

**What is your church doing to reduce suicides?**

**Start Talking About **ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY****

**Do Something to Make a Difference**



# ReTHINK HOPE MINISTRY

