

Transforming Despair to Promise

By Rev. Rhonda Johnson, BSN, RN, PHM Coordinator

Awareness, education and communication are tools which enable all of us to bring about positive change around any tragedy of life. According to MedlinePlus, “Suicide is the tenth most common cause of death in the United States.” Most of us have been touched by the tragedy of someone who has ended their own life or know someone who has attempted suicide and yet most of us are not comfortable with the subject. We also know as part of the healing process, those who are hurting and or grieving need to tell their stories. Suicide must be talked about!

Faith community nurses and/or health ministers are advocates of health and have the ability to provide a safe place where these stories of pain and/or loss can be heard. We can help transform a life in complete despair into a life of promise and hope. The Parish Health Ministry program is currently focusing our efforts around the topic of mental health and hopes to aid in the awareness and prevention of suicide. We want to provide our partners with educational resources which will equip you as you educate and stimulate conversations to remove the discomfort associated with the topic of suicide within the congregation and community you serve.

Consider the following excellent, NEW resources and opportunities:

Promoting Hope and Reasons for Living: Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Response Workshop

Thursday, May 21, 2015, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Lindner Center of Hope is offering this workshop for faith leaders, mental health professionals, Faith Community Nurses and health ministry volunteers, in partnership with NAMI. The workshop will strengthen your understanding of suicide and its impact on communities. You will learn about conducting a suicide assessment, the aftermath of suicide, talking with someone who may be suicidal or is a survivor of suicide. Presenters: Robin Thompson Arthur, PsyD, Lindner Center of HOPE, Chief of Psychology and Leah Casuto, MD, Lindner Center of HOPE, Staff Psychiatrist. Special guests: Christi and David Eaton, co-writers and producers of the new movie, **Hope Bridge**. Event cost: \$25.00 by midnight April 21, 2015, includes continental breakfast. \$35.00 after April 21, 2015. Registration closes May 11, 2015. To register, contact Pricila at 513-536-0318.

Hope Bridge – Where There Is Hope, There Is Life (Movie)

Written and produced by Cincinnati natives, Christine and David Eaton.

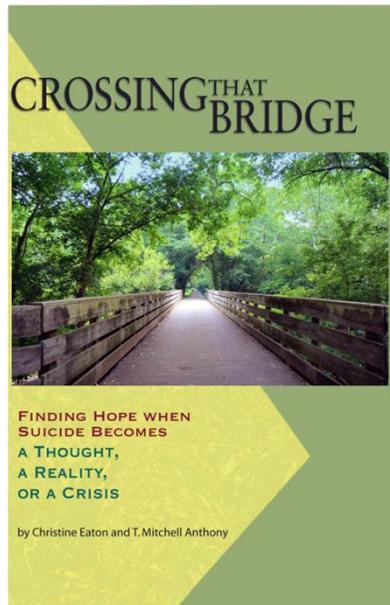
Tuesday, May 26, 2015 - The movie will be released nationally & available for purchase on DVD.

Friday, May 8, 2015 – Sneak peek theater run prior to the national launch will be held at the Kenwood Theatre in Cincinnati for 2 – 4 weeks depending on demand. Tickets available online starting mid April at www.kenwoodtheatre.com.

After losing two loved ones to the tragedy of suicide, Dave and Christine Eaton felt a calling to write a movie which brings into the light this dark topic of suicide. Though the topic is dark, the movie is not. Hope Bridge opens the doors for a dialogue to begin and a place where healing can occur. Church groups such as those in leadership, youth groups, small groups, parents, and senior groups may consider watching the movie together. The film has made the messaging acceptable for church's and youth groups, etc.

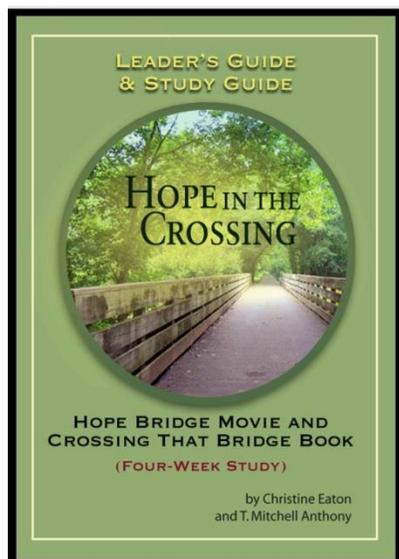
After the film, people may need to share their reaction to what they have just seen. It could be helpful to provide a safe, confidential place for them to do that. Consider setting guidelines ahead of time and ask clergy and church leaders to be available.

Dave and Christi would like to encourage you to continue the discussion by using the 4- week study also available in May called *Hope in the Crossing*. They also welcome the opportunity to speak at your church. If interested, visit www.hopebridgemovie.com for contact information. Additional dates, times and locations of the movie showings will be available on the website as the opportunities arise.



Crossing That Bridge – Finding Hope When Suicide Becomes a Thought, A Reality, or a Crisis

Available May 2015. Christine Eaton and T. Mitchell Anthony co-authored this book which coincides with the movie, Hope Bridge. The emotional effect of those touched by suicide is devastating. The Contemplators, Survivors (those left behind) and Lifeguards (those paving the way for lives to be saved though awareness and prevention) need encouragement, support and information to assist in their healing journey. *Crossing that Bridge* provides this needed hope. For more information, visit: www.reasons2live.org.



Hope in the Crossing – Hope Bridge Movie and Crossing That Bridge Book (Four-Week Study)

Available in May 2015. Created by Christine Eaton and T. Mitchell Anthony. “Hope in the Crossing is a 4 week study kit for youth and adult groups including a study guide, Hope Bridge DVD and Crossing That Bridge Book. This study has the ability to break the silence and save lives by building open and safe communication for suicide prevention in your communities, schools, churches, and neighborhoods,” as stated on the Hope Bridge website.

For more information or to share anything on your heart and mind about this topic with Dave and Christi Eaton, please visit www.hopebridgemovie.com .