

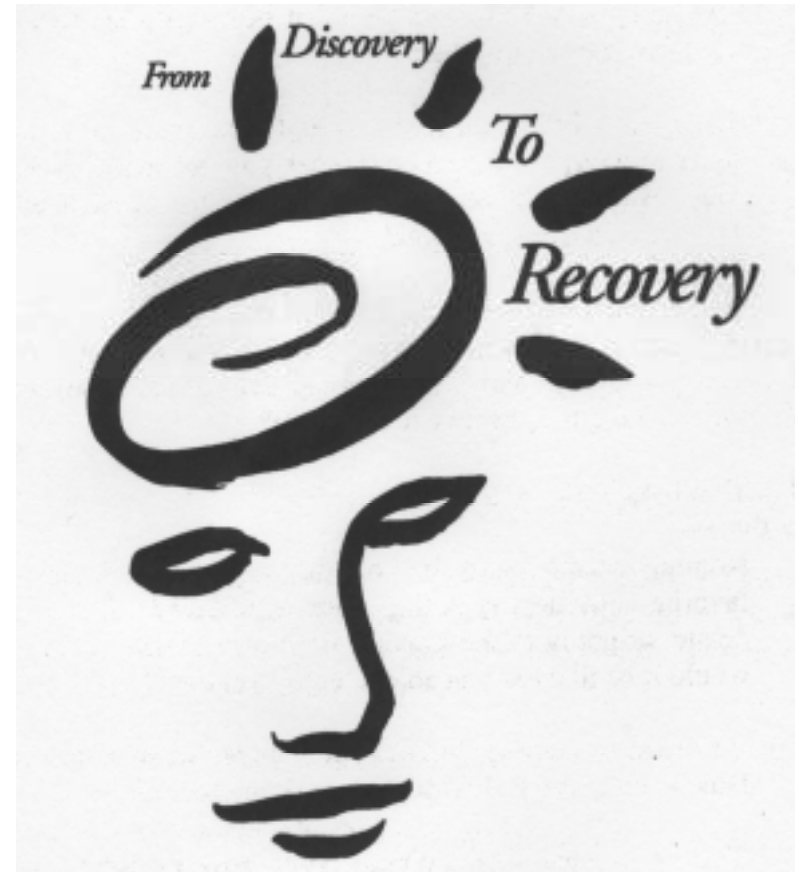
Mental Illness Awareness Week

October 1 to 7, 2006

Michigan District Committee On Mental Illness



“And you will have confidence, because there is hope”
Job 11:18a



Someone You Know Has A Psychiatric Disorder

At least one in four families in our community is coping with the challenges brought on by a family member experiencing a severe and persistent psychiatric disorder. Four of the ten leading causes of disability are mental disorders.

These disorders include alzheimers, schizophrenia, depression, manic-depressive illness, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, suicidal tendencies and personality disorders. More hospital beds are occupied by people with serious mental illness than by persons with cancer, lung disease, and heart disease combined.

Mental illnesses are not caused by bad parenting and are not a sign of character weakness, but are due to a biochemical disorder of the brain's neurotransmitters.

Just as diabetes is controlled with medication, symptoms of mental illnesses can be helped and sometimes completely alleviated with proper medication.

We can make important contributions to the lives of people with brain disorders and their families by:

Listening,
Reaching out in friendship and acceptance,
Letting people know they are not alone and are in our prayers.
Integrating children and adults with brain disorders into our lives and the life of the church,
Educating ourselves and advocating for those with brain disorders through our church, community and government

As we do so, we are breaking down the barriers and taking away isolation and stigma.

Prayer

Pastor: Lord, we thank you for the invitation to ask of you in prayer.

Response: **We know that brain disorders are legion, and some of those who suffer are very young.**

Pastor: We think of those on the margins in our congregations and in our communities, and plead especially for the ones bewildered by false voices and visions.

Response: **We ask for your help for those among us who suffer from depressive disorders and the many other illnesses that can affect the brain.**

Pastor: Give our families courage and wisdom. We pray for health care workers.

Response: **Direct the efforts of those who produce new treatments and medications.**

Pastor: We pray for courage to challenge the old notions about mental illnesses, which created guilt and shame in so many lives.

Response: **Help us remember the words of Jesus: "As you have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto me."**

All: **We ask this through the merits of Him who loves us and gave Himself for us. Amen.**

