# Opioid Crisis

Response Initiative

The greatest health crisis of our time is claiming 140 lives a day. It kills indiscriminately and yet has escaped the public outcry expected of so great a national plague. The opioid scourge is the deadliest drug epidemic in American history, and experts are saying we haven’t seen anything yet.

There’s been a 493 percent increase from 2010 to 2016 in people diagnosed with an addiction to opioids. Four out of five new heroin users started with pain pills, and drug overdoses are expected to remain the leading cause of death for Americans under 50. Synthetic opioids, mainly fentanyl and those similar to it, continue to push the death count higher. Drug deaths involving fentanyl more than doubled from 2015 to 2016. This was with an upturn in deaths involving cocaine and methamphetamine. Together they add up to an epidemic of drug overdoses killing people at a faster rate than the H.I.V. epidemic at its peak.

There are dope dealers on every corner of our country pushing opioids through dirty doctors, the big pharmaceutical industry, and drug runners. They distribute and deliver this deadly poison with the casual efficiency of Pizza Hut. There are dope dealers on every corner.

But we, as the largest Christian Recovery movement on the planet, are going to put HOPE DEALERS on every corner by dedicating ourselves to go after the +1 more in our communities.

Celebrate Recovery is looking for champions of this new initiative. Champions to open their churches doors wide to, not just the opioid addict, but the parent, the brother, the sister, the child of the opioid addict. Champions to open their doors to a community in crisis, open their doors to EMT workers and police officers traumatized and numbed by this epidemic. Champions who will organize, prepare and be ready to be the face of hope in their communities around a seemingly insurmountable enemy.

Are you interested in becoming an Opioid Crisis Response Champion? If so, please contact John Eklund for more info: [cr@templerepresents.com.](mailto:cr@templerepresents.com)