

Teen Challenge Update

Teen Challenge of Nebraska

June 2011

A Living Legacy

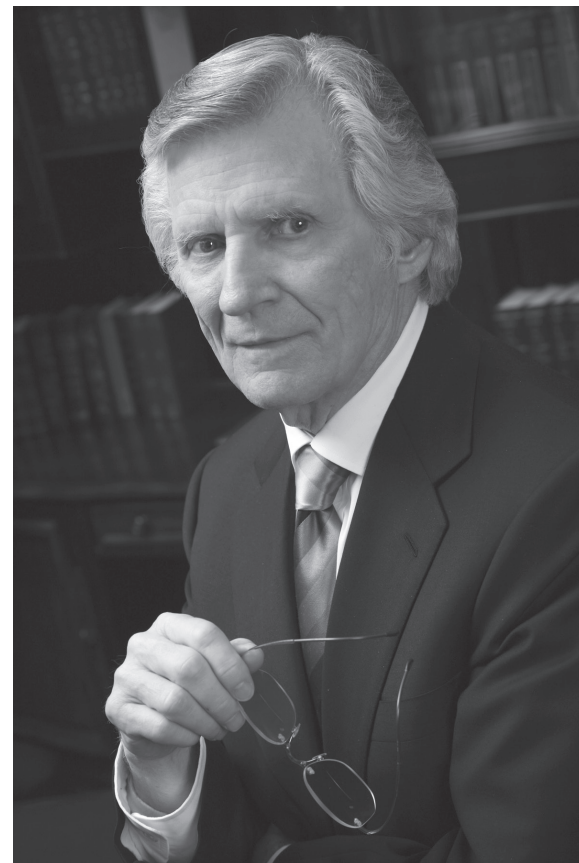
Everyone wants to leave a lasting legacy on this Earth, something that will impact those left behind for the better. That is what Pastor David Wilkerson accomplished before he passed away in April. His passion for Jesus, for His word and people was contagious. He was the founder of Teen Challenge in 1958, author of *The Cross and the Switch Blade*, Pastor of Times Square Church in New York City and founder of the umbrella of World Challenge, encompassing his ministries.

David Wilkerson was a leader to aspire to and a man of God to listen to. The news of his death was saddening and struck every leader and student, here at the Re-Entry Center deeply. His death was so sudden and it seems that he would have been able to do much more for the kingdom. Hebrews 11 tells about the faithful going on before us and how they were strangers here on this earth. "Instead they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them" Hebrews 11:16. Though we feel that his passing was sudden and untimely, God knew and had prepared a place for what some call this "modern day prophet".

His legacy does continue here on this earth, especially through Teen Challenge. Everyday, somewhere a man or a woman is saved from their addictions and shown hope through Jesus; thanks to David Wilkerson's obedience to God's voice so long ago. Our students here at the Re-Entry Center are grateful for his vision for the hurting and lost.

Our prayer is to always have his passion for those who feel that hope is gone and to never be comfortable with what this world has to offer, to always have a heavenly perspective. He left a living legacy here on this Earth and he will not soon be forgotten. It continues everyday through the students of Teen Challenge.

If you would like to contribute in memorial of David Wilkerson, please use the enclosed business reply envelope and mark your check as Wilkerson Memorial.



CONTACT INFORMATION

You can reach Admissions by email at: s.reddish@tcmid.org
Visit our website at: www.tcmid.org

You can reach our other Midlands centers at:

Teen Challenge Admission and Crisis Center
1709 10th St.
Des Moines, IA 50314
515.282.5249

Colfax Training Center
900 N. League Rd.
PO Box 185
Colfax, IA 50054
ph. 515.674.3713
fax. 515.674.4463

Pella Women's Home
714 Independence St.
Pella, IA 50219-1828
641.628.2808

A New Creation

My name is Harrison and I am 24 years old. I was born in Texas but grew up in Southern California. I have a younger brother and a younger sister. Growing up in Orange County was an idyllic situation, until age seven when my parents divorced. My family fell apart, and I did not know what to think. My dad moved in with his girlfriend, and my siblings and I stayed with my mom. Thankfully, God was on my mom's side and she won custody of us.

My grandma moved in with us to help my mom with my brother, a toddler at the time, and my sister who was still an infant. The divorce and my grandma moving in had a profound effect on my life. My grandma helped my mom, but brought a negative atmosphere as well. On top of the divorce and all the stress, anger and hurt that came with it, the negativity and lies I believed about myself affected every aspect of my life. I had always done well in school, but starting in middle school my grades started to drop. Everything became about hanging out with friends and gaining acceptance from kids at school.

It proved difficult to be accepted by others when I did not even accept myself. I did not like who I was and I was constantly striving to be somebody else. I was good at school and academics, but the cool kids were good at sports, skating, surfing, etc.

I started high school and made two very good friends my freshman year through the marching band; I played tenor sax. Jerry, Greg and I spent a lot of time together, and Greg was my first Christian friend. We talked a little bit about God, and I went to church with him a few times. After the divorce, my mom became a Christian, we attended church faithfully. Despite exposure to the message of Christ through my family and Greg, I did not fully buy it, yet.

High school continued on uneventfully, until the summer before my senior year, when I smoked

marijuana. It started out just smoking periodically. By 2006, the year after I graduated, I was smoking everyday. Along the way I also started drinking, but not as often as I smoked. I enrolled in the University of Nebraska Omaha in 2006 and began attending many parties. It was at these parties that I first tried cocaine and percocet. Marijuana always made me feel slow and stupid, and I gravitated more towards cocaine and pain pills.



Harrison, Re-Entry student

I "graduated" to stronger, higher dosage pain pills, such as Oxycotin and Dilavdid. While attending Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, pills were scarce so I tried heroin for the first time. This is what I was looking for, so I thought. My heroin habit became too expensive, so my friend stole a needle from his sister, a nurse. I came back to Omaha that summer an I.V. heroin addict.

Between the summer of 2007 and the spring of 2010, I had a love/hate relationship with heroin. My depression had become so bad, I had tried killing myself at least four times. My mom discovered how bad things were when she found a backpack full of needles. When I was high, I thought everything was great, but coming down dragged my mind and body into a pit of hell. I was arrested for possession in Chicago in 2009, prompting my family to send me to rehab. The charges were dropped, and I relapsed. Finally, in April 2010, I relented and went to Teen Challenge. But as soon as I got to the front door I left for Chicago. After spending a week on the streets and two weeks in a state funded rehab, I asked for a second chance to come back to Colfax.

God's hand has been upon me my whole life, and I am so grateful for His grace and mercy. Even when I wanted to die, He said, "I'm not quitting and neither are you". In the midst of the process, I can see God shaping and molding me into a new creation, someone unrecognizable to my old self. I get to know Him better each day, and I know that He has great things in store for me.