# Keys to the Success of Teen Challenge

By Dave Batty

**1. A brief history of Teen Challenge**

Started in NYC in 1958 by Rev. David Wilkerson

*The Cross and the Switchblade* book tells how Teen Challenge started

Now over 1,000 centers in over 82 countries

Research has shown that Teen Challenge graduates have a 70-86% success rate of living drug free. Studies looked at those who had been out of Teen Challenge 2-15 years.

**2. Models of treating drug addiction**

A. model

B. model

C. model

D. model

I tell the students, you’re not here to become drug free.

You’re here to become a man of God who is holy and righteous, set apart to serve your Creator.

The incredible by-product of a life in Christ is that you find healing, joy, hope, and peace. You don’t use drugs, or have sex outside of marriage, or get drunk because you love God.

--Sallie Culbreth, Teen Challenge, Hot Springs, Ark

**3. A closer look at the Christian discipleship model used in TC**

Discipleship is not a miracle, like salvation or healing.

God needs experts at discipleship today.

At Teen Challenge, Christian discipleship training is the primary tool for assisting those with addictions. Counseling is used as a secondary treatment method to assist these individuals.

Students spend at least 3 hours a day 5 days a week in Christian discipleship classes, learning how to apply the teachings of the Bible to their daily living.

**Ten keys to discipleship**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Effective discipleship produces disciplers. 2 Tim. 2:2

**5. Our view of addictions**

A. Definition of an addiction

Chemical dependency (addiction) is the state that results from the process of turning to chemical use to meet life’s needs.

(Jeff VanVonderen)

B. How addictions are overcome

TC Statement of purpose

The mission of Teen Challenge is to evangelize persons with life-controlling problems and initiate the discipleship process to the point where the student can function as a Christian in society, applying spiritually motivated biblical principles in relationships in the family, church, chosen vocation, and community.

C. Three-stage view of addiction

Addict Ex-addict Non-addict

**6. The critical element of renewing the mind**  Romans 12:1-2

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