

# A Positive Cure for Drug Addiction

By David Wilkerson

## Introduction

“There is no area in which there is so much mystery, so much misunderstanding and so many differences of opinion as in the area of narcotics. The discouraging high degree of relapse among addicts who leave our medical institutions free of all physical dependence on drugs is clear evidence that more must be done.”

President John F. Kennedy

**Teen Challenge** is a faith-based program that has accepted the late president's challenge. It is a unique program that offers undeniable proof that drug addiction is a spiritual problem that can be solved only by the power of God! **Teen Challenge** is not interested in just curing the addict of a drug habit.

We believe the addict is not fully cured until he has the power within himself to conquer all his habits – including smoking, drinking, cursing and promiscuous sex. He is not cured until he is fully motivated to work and to stand on his own two feet anywhere and in any crisis. He is not fully cured until he makes restitution for his many crimes. **We believe in the total cure of the total man!** Only God can grant that kind of cure!

Teen Challenge does not take an incoming addict down the dark alley

of analysis in search of anxieties. We believe that some psychoanalysis provides the hatching ground for newborn anxieties. Nothing is gained in most seminar sessions except a false set of watered down philosophies that work only as long as the addict is in a protected situation. Man-made theories produced by non-spiritual men are usually set forth in persuasive, enticing words of human wisdom. But it is not enough for an addict to know himself ... he must get to know God!

We believe it is the truth that sets men free and **the Bible is the source of all truth!** Men with all their earthly wisdom fail to perceive and recognize God by means of their own philosophy. While they choose to sprinkle a little God into their philosophies, they will not accept the preaching of Christ as a scientific approach to the narcotic problem. It is considered unphilosophical nonsense by the so-called “experts.” Therefore we do not seek to be accepted or endorsed by others.

We are satisfied to know that through this ministry former confirmed addicts are now in the ministry, some in college, others married and restored to society. All of them completely delivered from all dependence on drugs. The Teen Challenge ministry has spread to major cities world-wide and is enjoying the most dramatic success in the field of drug

and alcohol rehabilitation!

Our approach is based on the teaching of the Word of God, the handbook for addicts who come to **Teen Challenge** for help.

## The Teen Challenge Message to Drug Addicts

Dear Drug Addict:

It's about time somebody told you the truth about your problem! You've been lying, cheating, stealing and working angles ever since you got hooked – now it's time to stop and do some hard thinking for just ten minutes! If you like the stuff and just want to control your habit – **no one can help you! Get this straight – there is no hope for you unless you are desperate for help!**

Take a good look at yourself. You thought you were different – you thought you would never get hooked. You thought you would never have to steal or break in. You didn't want to admit you were getting hooked but now you can't fool yourself any longer. **You're hooked – you're losing your life and your soul!** If you like the kind of life you're living – don't read another word of this paper. I want to talk just to addicts who are sick of doing drugs, fed up with it – and want to start a new life.

**There is a lifetime cure for drug addiction!** It doesn't matter how long a run you have had – you can be cured. There are five steps to this cure.

## 1. Admit you are hooked.

- It doesn't matter whether you get high once a day or ten times a day – you are hooked – so admit it.
- Quit talking about a big habit or a little habit. A habit is a habit – you're either hooked or you're not hooked – so be honest!
- Quit trying to cut it down yourself – you can't do it. You know you can't help yourself.
- No one can help you if you just want to continue your habit or shoot up on the weekends. There is no such thing as a controlled habit.
- Admit to yourself – “I'm an addict! I'm hooked! I can't help myself!” **Then you are ready for the next step.**

## 2. Quit looking for an easy way out.

- There is no simple, magic cure. There are no synthetic drugs or substances that can pull you out.
- Hospitals can't help you on a permanent basis. Just ask anyone who has been there. Out of the hospital – right back to the action.

- No clinic can help you permanently – and deep in your heart you know it. Maybe you won't admit it – but it's true. How many times have you been to a clinic already?
- No doctor, psychiatrist or hypnotist can cure you! A doctor can pacify you with some pills; a psychiatrist can tell you why you are an addict, a hypnotist can try – but they cannot cure you!
- Homes for addicts that practice seminars and group therapy sessions cannot put in you what it takes to stay clean when you are on your own in a real crisis!
- Cold turkey is the best and quickest way to **start a cure**. Cutting down on your supply with medication is just an excuse to drag out your habit.
- You must quit smoking! No addict can be permanently cured until he is off cigarettes for good.
- Don't ask for help just to please someone else. You are fooling yourself if you look for help just to keep a wife, mother or friend happy. You've got to want to help yourself.
- You can't be cured in three weeks or three months. You have to get away from your so-called friends and from your connections. Out of the city, out of the community, off the street – for at

least one full year!

- Don't expect to be trusted or babied. You can't fool experienced people in the field of narcotics – so quit working angles. You may be sick – but you're not a little baby. If you can run around making connections – you can work for a cure. **Get up off your seat and quit acting like a baby!**

## 3. Give yourself to God.

- You must have faith in God! When you connect with a pusher – how do you know he's not giving you rat poison? You do it without testing it under a microscope because you must have faith it would work. If you can trust a pusher – why can't you trust God – **He never lets you down!**
- God is the only one who can cure you! Nothing is impossible with God. If anyone claims cures outside the power of God – they are lying.
- You must come to Him like a little child and ask for help. He never turns anyone down who is sincere.
- You must believe the Bible and the Word of God and that it is true. When you know the truth, the truth will set you free.
- It is not enough to believe in God – you must believe in His Son – Jesus Christ. The

Bible makes you this promise: If you will confess Him as your Savior – He will make you a new person. The old life will pass away and everything will become new!

- Open your heart to God even more than you would to a psychiatrist and tell Him all about your problems. Then confess to Jesus all your sins and every bad thing you can remember you have done. Ask Him to forgive your sins and to come into your heart. He will drive out the desire for drugs and give you power over your habit.
- Don't just think your prayers to God – talk out loud to Him. He understands you and knows all about your sins and your problems – but He wants you to talk to Him. While you are talking out loud to God you will suddenly know what prayer really is.
- Talk to God every day at least five times. Read the Bible every day and fill your mind with thoughts from its verses. Keep asking for His help – even if you have to do it a thousand times a day. He will never get tired of listening.

#### 4. Start planning life all over again.

- The moment you surrender your life over to God – that is the time to start planning all over again. Think back to the time before you started on drugs. What was your ambition? Find what you want to do – then start making plans.
- All your plans must start with God. Make Him your partner and don't ever let Him leave your life. Don't make Him leave you by neglect. Give God **first** chance to use your life. Maybe He will want you to help other addicts when you are fully cured.
- **Stay away from your old life as if it were hell itself.** Don't go to your old hang-outs just to test yourself to see if you are cured – that would be tempting God. Find new friends who are clean.
- If you had no plans for your life and if you are sure you can't help others – then mark down on a piece of paper five things you think you would like to do or be. Spend a few weeks investigating what is involved in all these five things – then choose the one that appeals to you most. You must choose a goal – you can never again be a loafer or floater who has no ambition. **Know what you want to do – then go after it!**

- You must learn to love the things you once hated and to hate the things you once loved. You can do the right things now because God gives you **power** to do them.

#### 5. Shake off all your fears.

- **When you turn your life over to God you never have to fear again.** When Jesus comes to live in your heart – He drives away all fears and doubts.
- **Don't be afraid you will go back to drugs!** God guarantees a 100% cure. As long as you stay with God – He will stay with you. If you forsake God – you will go back. When He is with you – you need never fear.
- **Don't be afraid of your past!** When God forgives your sins – He forgets them. He will not hold them against you and He will make society forget them too. Make restitution when you can – but when you can't – leave it all in God's hand.
- **Don't ever be afraid that God will drop you!** He has never done that and He even promises to send an angel to watch over you in all your ways.
- **Don't ever be afraid of what people will say or think!** Keep your eyes on

Jesus and you will never be disappointed or confused.

- **When fear starts coming into your mind** to confuse and bother you – when you start getting restless – get alone and kneel before God. Ask Him to keep your mind in perfect peace. **He will keep you from all your fears!**

## Instructions for drug addicts from the Bible

### 1. How to face temptation:

“Every temptation that has come your way is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps His promise, and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are tempted He will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out.”

1 Cor. 10:13 GNB

### 2. How to stay clean:

“For as you know Him better, He will give you through His great power, everything you need for living a truly good life; He even shares His own glory and His own goodness with us!”

2 Peter 1:3 TLB

### 3. How to get help when you need it:

“Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will run away from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you.”

James 4:7-8 GNB

### 4. How to become a new person:

“When anyone is joined to Christ he is a new being. The old is gone, the new has come.”

2 Cor. 5:17 GNB

### 5. How to get rid of sin and sickness:

“This prayer, made in faith will heal the sick person, the Lord will restore him to health, and the sins he has committed will be forgiven.”

James 5:15 GNB

### 6. How to get a lift when you are low:

“Humble yourselves before God, and He will lift you up.”

James 4:10 GNB

### 7. How to get rid of your fear of men:

“Let us be bold, then, and say, ‘The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?’ ”

Hebrews 13:6 GNB

### 8. How to face persecution:

“Everyone who wants to live a godly life in union with Christ Jesus will be persecuted ... but

as for you, continue in the truths that you were taught and firmly believe ... Know the Holy Scriptures, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

2 Tim. 3:12-15 GNB

### 9. How to answer people who don't believe Christ can cure addicts:

“Whoever teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the true words of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the teaching of our religion is swollen with pride and knows nothing. He has an unhealthy desire to argue and quarrel about words, and this brings on jealousy, dissension, insults, evil suspicions, and constant arguments from people whose minds do not function and who no longer have the truth. They think that religion is a way to become rich.”

1 Tim. 6:3-5 GNB

## Do drug addicts really find a cure at Teen Challenge?

### Dave Y. found the cure!

Dave grew up with an alcoholic father, and turned to drugs and violence. After several close calls with death, desperate to change, Dave



Verses marked GNB are from the Good News Bible.  
Verses marked TLB are from The Living Bible.

came to Teen Challenge. Here he found a whole new way of living with Jesus Christ. Drug free over 20 years now, he is married, and a father. Dave works as human resources manager.

### **Canzada E. found the cure!**

Canzada was a heroin and crack cocaine addict for 27 years. Facing a life sentence for 5 felonies, she cried out for help. She came to Teen Chal-



lenge and was set free through Jesus Christ. Now she is working as a social worker, helping other drug addicts find freedom.

### **Louis R. found the cure!**

Louis was on drugs for 8 years. In and out of jail all the time, he couldn't stay clean for two days at a time. He tried to commit suicide by cutting his wrists. In desperation he came to Teen Challenge and God saved him. Now people can hardly believe the change. No more drugs, smoking, drinking, or cursing. He is a real man of God.

### **Margarita O. found the cure!**

Margarita started using drugs when she was 13, and ended up on heroin and cocaine. At a point of no return, she wanted to die. She came to Teen Challenge at age 32 and established a solid relationship with God. Drugs are no longer part of her lifestyle. She is now employed as a social worker doing community followup with HIV clients.

## **You can find help!**

Come and see for yourself. Many other addicts have made it too. They are now working, some are going to college, others are married. The desire for drugs is gone. God loves you just as much as He loves them. You can make it if you really want to! Teen Challenge will help any drug addict anywhere who is desperate to be clean.

## **Services offered to addicts by Teen Challenge**

Crisis counseling  
Spiritual and vocational therapy  
School and college guidance and placement  
Family follow-up and relief service  
Restitution guidance  
Rehabilitation program for those who qualify  
Church adoption and placement  
Follow-up

## **Other Services**

Films, literature and lectures on the drug problem for high schools.  
Books, tracts, tapes for drug, alcohol, and other life-controlling problems.

## **Admission Procedures**

Individuals needing help may be referred to Teen Challenge from any agency, clinic, minister, friend, or come to the center by themselves.

Addicts are interviewed by an Intake Coordinator. Please drop in or call for an appointment. If accepted, you will be admitted the first opportunity a bed becomes available.

Preference is given to addicts and alcoholics who are genuinely desperate and serious about changing their lives.

Addicts must submit to a program of treatment at most Teen Challenge centers requiring no less than 12 months. Our approach is cold turkey. No cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, and old friends. But remember, you can make it if you want to!

## **To locate a Teen Challenge center near you:**

### **In the USA**

Telephone: 1-417-581-2181

Web: [www.TeenChallengeUSA.com](http://www.TeenChallengeUSA.com)

e-mail:

[INFO@TeenChallengeUSA.com](mailto:INFO@TeenChallengeUSA.com)

### **For Teen Challenge centers outside the USA**

Web: [www.Globaltc.org](http://www.Globaltc.org)

e-mail:

[gtc@globaltc.org](mailto:gtc@globaltc.org)

Mail:

Global Teen Challenge  
P.O. Box 511  
Columbus, GA 31902 USA