

# DNA Descriptors

## What is TC DNA?



### 1 – Prayer:

“...And I learned how important it is to strike a balance between prayer of petition and prayer of praise. What a wonderful thing it is to spend a solid hour just being thankful. It throws all of life into a new perspective.”

- *The Cross and the Switchblade*

### 2 – Evangelism:

“...Go to New York City and help those boys.”

- *The Cross and the Switchblade*

### 3 – Dependence on Holy Spirit:

“All we can say, perhaps, is that we have found a power which captures a boy more strongly than narcotics. But that power is the Holy Spirit Himself which, unlike narcotics, does a strange thing: He captures only to liberate.”

- *The Cross and the Switchblade*



### 4 – Discipleship & The Jesus Factor:

“It was normal, in the early days of the center [Brooklyn], to have thirty-nine workers going out each evening, and one person staying behind to tend the ten or so ex-addicts who were drying out. ‘But we would come home,’ Don [Wilkerson] said, ‘to find only nine left, and the next night eight, and the next, seven. We came to realize that it was not enough to have them kneel and accept Christ, if we were not going to care for them and give them a real chance...In short, we found that evangelism without discipleship was not true evangelism.’”

- *The Jesus Factor*

### 5 – Personal Responsibility:

“Drug addiction, in short, was moving into the suburbs, needle and all...their attention focused on the past, on trying to assign blame...there was a difference bigger than race and age and background [between the inner-city and suburban addict], and that was in the ability to accept responsibility for a problem. We’d never heard about a “wrong crowd” until we met the suburban family...”

- *Beyond the Cross and the Switchblade*

### 6 – Exemplary Leadership:

“It sprang, full-grown, to mind. The house I had dreamed of – we might call it Teen Challenge Center – would be located in the heart of the roughest part of the city. It would be headquarters for a dozen or more full-time workers who shared my hopes for the young people around us...Each worker would be a specialist...And here we could bring boys and girls who needed special help. They would live in an atmosphere of discipline and affection. They would participate in our worship and in our study. They would watch Christians living together, working together; and they would be put to work themselves. It would be an induction center, where they were prepared for the life of the Spirit.”

- *The Cross and the Switchblade*

### 7 - Faith:

“That noon we were supposed to hand over a certified check to the holders of our second mortgage. The amount needed was \$15,000...I had been counting so much on another miracle...yet here we were at our deadline and there was no money...That afternoon I did a rather brash thing. I called all the young people together, gang members, drug addicts, college boys and girls, staff members, and told them that the Center was safe. There was a great rejoicing. ‘I think we ought to go into the chapel and thank God,’ I said. So we did...Finally someone looked up and asked: ‘Say David, where’d the money come from?’ ‘Oh, it hasn’t come yet.’ Twenty-five blank expressions. Twenty-five frozen smiles. ‘It hasn’t come in yet...but by September 10th, I’ll have a check for \$15,000 to show you. I just thought we ought to thank God ahead of time.’ And with that I walked out.”

- *The Cross and the Switchblade*

