



Written by [Dave Bohon](#) on April 29, 2011

Teen Challenge Founder David Wilkerson Dies

David Wilkerson, who pastored the 5,000-strong Times Square Church (left) in one of New York City's seedier red light districts, and who founded the highly successful faith-based Teen Challenge drug treatment and Christian mentoring program, has died at the age of 79. As reported by the Associated Press, Wilkerson was killed April 27 "in a car accident in East Texas, Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Tela Mange said. Wilkerson's car smashed head-on into a tractor-trailer rig after veering into oncoming traffic on U.S. 175 west of Cuney, about 95 miles southeast of Dallas, Mange said."



In 1958, while pastoring a small Assemblies of God church in Pennsylvania, a young Wilkerson read a