**TEEN CHALLENGE MINISTRY INSTITUTE**

David Wilkerson recognized that God was calling a significant number of redeemed and enthusiastic Teen Challenge graduates into the ministry. He also realized that with training, they could have an amazing impact on those from similar backgrounds and those living in needy drug and gang-infested communities.

To meet this need, Rev. Wilkerson established the Teen Challenge Ministry Institute at his Texas headquarters. The school successfully trained hundreds of students who are in leadership ministry positions today. He closed that school in 1980, and to ensure its continuance, he assisted with the establishment of that ministry here in Southern California in 1981.

**Mission:** Teen Challenge Ministry Institute equips workers for the harvest to serve the church locally and around the world through evangelism, discipleship, and leadership training.

After graduation, 80%–90% of Teen Challenge Ministry Institute students go on to serve as pastors, missionaries, teachers and lay leaders. Here at TCMI we are convinced that some of the greatest works of God are still to come as they are conceived in the hearts of our committed students. Of the 250 graduates since 2010; 105 are still in full time ministry.

**Structure:**  The ministry model of TCMI consists of three general tracks:

* + Urban Ministries: Prepare students to serve in a church or lay leader settings
  + Teen Challenge Staff: For effective ministry at Teen Challenge centers within the TC USA network
  + Missions: Facilitate the call to global and cross-cultural ministry

Classroom education includes courses in Biblical Studies, Doctrine, Hermeneutics, Evangelism, Missions, Intercultural Dynamics, and Pastoral Care. Courses are recognized by the Assemblies of God as fulfilling most of the educational requirements for the first level of the ministerial credentialing process.

**Practical Training:** At TCMI, we believe that our mission is not only to equip the students in classroom but to create as many platforms as possible to shine and find their voice in ministry. Experiential training includes:

* + Evangelism: Homeless, skid row, park outreaches, and street witnessing
  + Internships: Hands on practical ministry experience in churches and TC centers
  + Compassion: Serving locally and globally in anti-human trafficking, and learning centers, and living free curriculums

**OUR HISTORY**

The Teen Challenge Ministry Institute concept was established by David Wilkerson when he realized that God was calling a number of redeemed and fired-up Teen Challenge program graduates into the ministry. David Wilkerson knew that with the proper training they could have an amazing impact on people from similar backgrounds such as addiction, alcoholism and life controlling problems. He subsequently formed the Twin Oaks Leadership Academy in Tyler, Texas which trained hundreds of young men and women in various Teen Challenge Ministries.

When the school closed in 1980, David Wilkerson and his staff approved the creation of the Teen Challenge Ministry Institute to succeed the Twin Oaks Academy. TCMI was then moved to Riverside, CA in 1981 with the thought of training and preparing graduates of Teen Challenge programs to work in Teen Challenge centers and entry level ministry positions nationwide and worldwide.

In 1986 TCMI relocated once again to South Gate, CA and moved into a church, Bible Assembly, which was in dire need of revitalization. TCMI students and staff co-labored with the pastor of Bible Assembly to help bring life back into the church through neighborhood evangelism and church outreaches. TCMI’s classrooms, kitchen and offices were on a campus shared with what became a very active church in its community.

After 18 years of sharing facilities God provided an opportunity for TCMI to acquire its own 1.6 acre campus less than a mile from its previous location, where we still are today. The buildings provide 23,000 sq. feet of space that includes a church, dormitories, classrooms, offices, a kitchen, and auditorium. Since this time TCMI has continued in its growth and mission to train up individuals both spiritually and academically, and to serve the local community. TCMI is one of four staff training schools in the United States and over 90% of Southern California Teen Challenge Staff members are graduates of the Teen Challenge Ministry Institute in South Gate.

**TCMI TRACK SYSTEM**

At TCMI our students have the option to select from one of three educational tracks based upon their personal vision and ministry goals. This is a little bit like picking a college Major. The structure of each track emphasizes character and spiritual formation throughout the entire year. The students are accountable to both their peers and Staff Advisor. Practical training in evangelism and ministry begins locally in the classroom and pours out into the communities surrounding the urban churches we serve.

**TRACK 1: URBAN MINISTRY**

The Urban Ministry Track was designed to train students who feel specifically called to pastoral, church and worship ministry.

**Pre-Pastoral Intensive**: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to think Biblically about various special Christian services required of those in pastoral ministry. Students will earn how to lead and perform those pastoral services, and develop uniquely personal practices of walking with believers through a variety of Christian life experiences.

**Church Planting Intensive**: Students can apply to serve within the Southern California City Reach group of church planters and launch teams while attending TCMI.

**Urban Worship Ministry**: Learn about the heart of worship and continue growing in your gifts of leading others though vocal training as well as the theological basis of worship.

**Church Internship**: Partner with your home church or one we currently partner with to learn the ins and outs of the backend of serving full time in local church ministry.

**TRACK 2: TEEN CHALLENGE STAFF**

Many of our students sense God’s calling to return as staff members to centers in Southern California Teen Challenge. However, we have many TCMI graduates serving as staff members at various Teen Challenge Centers throughout the United States.

**PSNC Certification Course**: Personal Studies for New Christians (PSNC) is the required curriculum for every student who enters the Teen Challenge Program. Here at TCMI our students learn how to teach and facilitate PSNC curriculum in the Teen Challenge classroom and after completing the necessary course work are then given a Teaching Certification by Teen Challenge USA.

**Teen Challenge Internship:** The Ministry Internship will allow students to obtain real life experience in the various ministry capacities of Teen Challenge and through different methods of learning including an online cohort and hands on involvement.

**TRACK 3: MISSIONS**

The purpose of the missions department is to equip, train and send those who sense a calling by God to the nations. The training includes Cultural Studies, Spiritual Formation curriculum and Strategic Training which will help prepare each student for the field. Practical experience includes: short term missions such as disaster relief, working with children in orphanages in Mexico, and globally to Teen challenge centers and missional churches around the world. Once a student graduates the Missions Track program they will be eligible for a two to six month Global Internship. Post internship the Intern will return to TCMI for a debriefing period and continue building their ministry network to be supported long term.

There are currently five focus sections to the Missions Track which are combined with the student’s core classes.

**Intercultural Studies**: Explores the demographics and cultural barriers that must be overcome for effective incarnation of the gospel into the context that each student is called into.

**Spiritual Formation**: Students journey through curriculum that addresses how to overcome personal issues and let the character of Christ be formed in them. The emphasis being on the emphasis of grace that will help nurture their intimate relationship with Jesus. A student’s intimacy with Jesus enables them to be prepared physically, emotionally and spiritually for the real pressure of life in ministry.

**Strategic Training**: Discovers the purpose and function of each person on the missionary field; i.e. teaching, evangelism, administrative, building etc. Students will learn through field assignments and from short term missions throughout the year. Students will be taught relationship building and how to create a ministry network to raise the necessary provision for a long tem mission’s assignment.

**Missions Theology**: Both a foundation class in the Biblical mandate of missions throughout the Bible and an introduction and survey of practical Biblical Theology in modern missions.

**Global Internship:** Our students have the opportunity to serve on short term missions while they are enrolled and have the opportunity to serve for 10 weeks or more upon graduation of TCMI with one of our global ministry partners.

**TEEN CHALLENGE MINISTRY INSTITUTE**

**Third Quarter Internship for Spiritual Formation & Ministry Preparation:**

***Ours is a missional movement that unashamedly follows Christ, embraces servant leadership, and share transforming grace***. – Teen Challenge of Southern California Statement of Corporate Culture

**Purpose:** The mission of TCMI is to prepare disciples for Christian ministry whose lives and work embody the qualities found in our Statement of Corporate Culture. To fully realize this mission TCMI desires to partner with like-minded churches and pastors to provide TCMI students with practical church ministry experiences under the supervision and mentoring of pastors who desire to invest in the lives of our minister-in-training through the TCMI Internship Program.

**Vision:** TCMI Interns have completed the 1st and 2nd quarters of academic coursework and ministry practicums. TCMI Interns are placed in a local church for the 3rd quarter of their one-year enrollment at TCMI. Interns are involved with the local church for 28-32 hours per week and work under the direction of the Pastor or his designated representative. Interns return to TCMI for three days each week in order to maintain cohesiveness with others in their cohort and continue relationship with their Advisor.

**Partnership**: The church recognizes the benefit of having a TCMI Intern and acknowledges its responsibility to partner with Teen Challenge by mentoring the TCMI Intern and developing his or her spiritual life and ministry skills. TCMI desires partnerships with churches and pastors who share its commitment to ministry preparation and want to invest in the lives of its students. TCMI believes that, properly understood, this relationship will greatly benefit the church, the student, TCMI, and the Kingdom.

**Investment and Benefit:** TCMI students are responsible for their annual tuition. Virtually all students satisfy their tuition obligations through regular TCMI-directed fund-raising activities throughout the year. Placement of a TCMI Intern eliminates the student’s ability to raise tuition by fund-raising. In recognition of this and as an acknowledgement of the benefit of having a TCMI Intern for 28-32 hours each week, the church agrees to contribute $2,400 the student’s tuition account and related program expenses. For convenience and cash flow purposes this will be invoiced in three $800 installments.

Additionally, we ask that the church assist with Intern transportation from their facility back to the TCMI campus (TCMI will provide transportation to the church each week). Also, help with student lunches/meals, based on the individual Internship is greatly appreciated.

**Commitment:** The TCMI Intern recognizes the significant value of the investment made by the church – in both money and time – to become involved in his or her spiritual formation and ministry development and commits to perform with excellence to the best of his or her ability.  
  
**2017 Internships Begin and End**:  
January 3rd – March 12th   
April 3rd – June 11th   
July 3rd – September 10th   
October 9th – Dec. 10th

**TCMI ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

**WINTER QUARTER**: January 3rd-March 19th

THE114 Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine (CM)

* *Acts: Commentary by Stanley Horton*
* *The Cross and the Switchblade*

MIN223 Introduction to Homiletics: Biblical Preaching

Scripture Memorization

Evangelism Practicum

**SPRING QUARTER**: April 2nd-June 18th

MIN110 Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling

BIB105 Introduction to Practical Missions Theology

Scripture Memorization

Evangelism Practicum

**SUMMER QUARTER**: June 28th-September 17th

MIN181 Relationships and Ethics in Ministry

* *Ministerial Ethics a Guide for Spirit Filled Leader*s

Introduction to Christian Education/PSNC Teacher Certification

Scripture Memorization

Children’s Ministry Training Seminar

Evangelism Practicum

**FALL QUARTER**: September 26th- December 18th

BIB121 Introduction to Hermeneutics

* *Dictionary of Hermeneutics*

BIB114 Christ in the Synoptic Gospels

* *Life of Christ*

Scripture Memorization

Evangelism Practicum

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**ORIENTATION DATES for 2017**

**WINTER QUARTER**: December 28th

**SPRING QUARTER**: March 21st

**SUMMER QUARTER**: June 20th

**FALL QUARTER**: September 19th

**TCMI SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY**

8:30am Ministry Teams depart

1:00pm Lunch

**MONDAY**

Day off except for those on Academic Assistance and Discipline. Schedule is subject to change.

**TUESDAY**

7:30am Breakfast

8:00am Personal Devotions

8:30am Campus Clean Up

9:45am Class

10:50am Break

11:10am Class

12:45pm Lunch

1:45pm Work/Ministry Projects

7:30pm Pickup/Dinner

**WEDNESDAY**

7:30am Breakfast

8:00am Personal Devotions

8:30am Morning Focus

9:00am Chapel

10:45am Elective Classes

12:45pm Lunch

1:45pm Work/Ministry Projects

7:30pm Pickup/Dinner

**THURSDAY**

7:30am Breakfast

8:00am Personal Devotions

8:30am Chapel

9:45am Class

10:50am Break

11:10am Class

12:45pm Lunch

1:45pm Work/Ministry Projects

7:30pm Pickup/Dinner

**FRIDAY**

7:30am Breakfast

8:00am Scripture Memory Class

8:15am Personal Devotions

8:45am Growth Group

10:00am Choir

11:15am Study Hall

12:45pm Lunch

1:45pm Work/Ministry Projects

7:30pm Pickup/Dinner

**SATURDAY**

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am Circle-up for Fundraising

5:00pm Pickup/Dinner

**HOW TO GET STARTED ON YOUR JOURNEY**

Each student has a personal goal of raising at least $7,500 towards their tuition. However, a check or upfront payment is NOT required. TCMI will assist each student in reaching their personal goal through providing vocational projects, work-call projects, fundraising etc. Once the student reaches their tuition goal a percentage of any additional funds raised will be transferred into the student’s personal Transition Scholarship Fund which can be accessed for eligible expenses after their graduation.

1. Download and complete the entire TCMI Application Form. Please be sure to indicate which quarter you are applying for.
2. Include a personal testimony with your application and indicate which study track you intend to follow.
3. Mail your completed application to: TCMI Admissions, P.O. Box 739, South Gate CA, 90280
4. Along with the application are three personal recommendation forms. Please arrange for your three references to complete the forms and mail them directly to TCMI. These are to be submitted separately from the application because they are confidential. TCMI does verify references.
5. Expect a call for a phone interview once all application materials are received.

Any Questions can be directed to the TCMI Student Services Office at (323) 569-2818. An acceptance packet will be mailed upon approval and will include a detailed list of items to bring, travel arrangements etc.