



New Creations
A Monthly Publication of Minnesota Teen Challenge
October 2002

DRUGS AND THE OCCULT

The battle rages at Teen Challenge



Choir Schedule:

For further choir information/booking,
please call (612) 373-3366 ext.121

October 2002

10/20	Grand Rapids A/G	Grand Rapids, MN	10:15 AM
10/20	Way of the Cross Church	Blaine, MN	10:00 AM
10/20	Westwood Lutheran Church	St. Louis Park, MN	11:00 AM
10/20	Harvest Christian Fellowship	Lakeville, MN	10:00 AM
10/27	Riverdale A/G	Andover, MN	10:45 AM
10/27	Valley Christian Church	Lakeville, MN	9:30/11:00 AM
10/27	Living Hope Community	Blaine, MN	10:00 AM
10/27	Tree of Life A/G	Circle Pines, MN	10:30 AM
10/27	Community Covenant Church	Upsala, MN	10:30 AM

November 2002

11/3	Crossroads Cov. Church	Forest Lake, MN	9:00 AM
11/3	Crossroads Church	Lakeville, MN	10:00 AM
11/3	Glendale UMC	Savage, MN	8:00/10:30 AM
11/3	Excelsior Cov. Church (Harvest Mission Dinner)	Excelsior, MN	4:30 PM
11/10	King of Glory Lutheran	Blaine, MN	8:00/10:30 AM
11/10	Baywind Christian Center	Navarre, MN	10:30 AM
11/10	First Baptist Church	Minneapolis, MN	10:50 AM
11/10	Vision of Glory Lutheran	Plymouth, MN	9:00/10:45
11/17	Salem Lutheran Church	St. Cloud, MN	8:30/9:45/11:00 AM
11/17	First Covenant Church	Redwing, MN	10:15 AM
11/17	Freshwater Community Church	St. Bonifacius, MN	9:00/10:30 AM
11/17	Hunters Ridge Comm. Church	Hutchinson, MN	10:00 AM

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"My mother said that our family was especially gifted at witchcraft," remembers Fazayah, a Teen Challenge resident. "When we would smoke pot and drink, the spells were more powerful. My mother was into crystal powers, casting spells and horoscopes. After seeing the movie, 'The Craft' at age 15, I got deeply into witchcraft. One time, I cast a 'love' spell onto this man that never paid attention to me. It worked, except it was not love, it was powerful lust. He was hungry for me and stalked me for four years."

"I would go out into the woods with my sister and cast spells. I listened to R & B and Gangster Rap music, which motivated me to hate. One day in January 2001, I was lighting a candle to cast a spell when I heard a voice say, 'Don't do this, this is wrong.' After that, I couldn't cast spells because the wind kept blowing my candles out. Then, I lost the desire to do the witchcraft all together, and even when I would try, it felt wrong and I would stop. In April 2001, I was standing out on the street when someone handed me a flyer. 'If you want to stop using drugs, come to this meeting,' it said. I felt that I had to go. I went and there were people praying to Jesus. I hated Christians, so I left and went home. My mother saw me come in and she told me I had to go back to the meeting. I thought this was crazy because she hated Christians, too. I went back and I met God face to face. It was like he was standing right beside me, like a person. He stayed with me for one whole week! I asked Jesus into my life at the end of that week, and the darkness and gloom left me. Before Jesus, I cut myself, tried to kill myself, I had no hope, and felt like I lived in a sealed coffin."

"Today, after 12 months at Teen Challenge, I have a solid foundation in Jesus. I feel free; full of love, so light I am walking on cotton candy. Recently, I carried around a rose petal all day amazed at the wondrous creations of God! The more I get to know Him, the bigger He gets. My mind cannot contain Him; He is just too big!"

WHAT TO WATCH FOR IN YOUR CHILDREN

Sudden changes in:

Dress: Extreme black, tattoos, or body piercing.

Attitude/personality: anger, rage, apathy, isolation, depression, manic.

Involvement with:

Music: Any black metal, death metal, heavy metal, alternative metal, extreme metal or punk bands. Examples include Marilyn Manson, Ozzie Osborne, Judas Priest, Nine Inch Nails (NIN), Slipknot, Tool, Ministry, R&B and Gangster Rap music.

Books: Any books about witchcraft, magic, sorcery, the dead, spells, rites and rituals. Examples are Book of the Dead, Book of Lies, Satanic Bible, Wicca Handbook, Harry Potter.

Games and Cards: Any fantasy games or games that involve supernatural power. Examples include Ouija, Tarot cards, crystals, Dungeons and Dragons, Pokemon, Deckmaster cards, and EverQuest.

Symbols: pentagram, ahnk, stars, crescent moon, crow's foot (peace symbol), and inverted cross.

Speaking or writing about: goats, bats, wolfs, vampires, serpents or snakes, darkness, death, blood or power.

DRUGS AND THE OCCULT



Ephesians 6:12 says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

At Minnesota Teen Challenge, we have an increasing number of residents who have been involved in occult activity. We help individuals break the bonds of sorcery and witchcraft as well as drugs and alcohol.

"I practiced the Wiccan religion in secret for years. I smoked pot because it helped me reach a higher spiritual realm. I thought I was blessing people, but Satan only made it seem positive, to draw me in," says A., a Teen Challenge resident. She now knows that the drugs stripped away her conscious will and left her open to evil spirits. Drugs are Satan's tools. "When people are under their influence, they accomplish his wicked desires," writes Dale Robbins, an evangelist and pastor for over 25 years. Understanding the satanic relationship with drugs is imperative to combating the drug epidemic.

"As a witch, I used drugs to destroy people's sense of reason. If I could get someone addicted, even better, then I owned them. It made my divination over them more complete," says B., a resident in our program and former Wiccan high priest. God clearly states that *pharmakeia* (which can be translated 'witchcraft,' 'sorcery,' or 'drug use') is a

sin in Galatians 5:19-20a; "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and *pharmakeia*." Traditional drug task forces cannot combat the web of sorcery that fuels our drug culture. "I, along with four other witches, used our power to manipulate 30 to 40 other covens at a time. They sold drugs and stole for us, and the cops couldn't figure out how we were doing it," says B.

Satan is not only involved in selling drugs, but he also helps those who serve him make the drugs more potent. Alchemy, the relationship between the use of physically altering mixtures and the wielding of evil power, is a



fuller meaning for the Greek word *pharmakeia*. "When I was caught, the FBI told me I was producing the best meth in the state. I know it was because of my involvement in sorcery. The chemicals shouldn't have turned out the way they did, but because of my sorcery, they always did," states B.

Although all drugs and alcohol accomplish Satan's evil plan to "steal, kill and destroy," methamphetamine is one drug that is particularly linked to demonic activity. Meth accounts for up to 90% of all drug cases in many mid-west communities. Seizures of meth labs in the

mid-west have increased tenfold from 1995-1997.

Methamphetamine, commonly called "the drug of violence," is made using chemicals that would kill you if ingested separately. Meth induces paranoia that often leads to suicide and murder. It is highly addictive, produces hallucinations and may cause heart failure and stroke. Meth addicts are the hardest of all drug users to treat.

"Methamphetamine is what Satan has been working on for hundreds and hundreds of years," writes Steve Box, in his book Meth=Sorcery. It twists "people's morals, values and character into a likeness of him," Box continues. "Not only does the production depend on evil power, it also gives the meth cook power over people. Girls would sell themselves to all kinds of perversions, men would kill, husbands would even trade 30 minutes with their wives to a dealer for a quarter or half a gram." S., a woman in our program, remembers, "My boyfriend, who was heavily involved in Satanism, used to summon demons into our apartment, cut satanic symbols into my chest and drink my blood. I knew that what he was doing was creepy, but I was so high on meth that I didn't care."

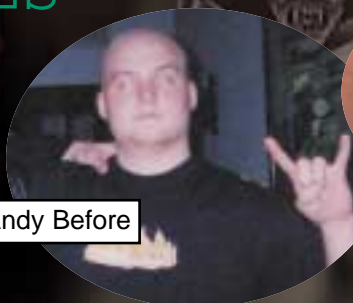
Since coming to Teen Challenge, A., B. and S. have given their lives to God and are living for Him. **S. says, "Whatever power that Satan had on my life is no comparison of the power that Christ has on me now. I am free and I am no longer in bondage. I have been delivered from the darkness that I was in. Praise the Lord! What Satan plans for evil, God turns around to good."**

TEEN CHALLENGE RESIDENTS RELATE OCCULT EXPERIENCES

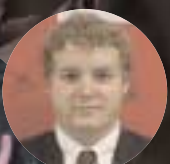


"My idol used to be the group Iron Maiden. I was involved in a Satanic worship service backstage at one of their concerts. I burned Bibles and did things that are unheard of."

-Sean



Andy Before



Andy After

"I started hanging out with several Gothic Metal musicians and they introduced me to drugs (cocaine and meth), paganism, and witchcraft. One Satanist was always trying to get me to deny Christ."

-Andy

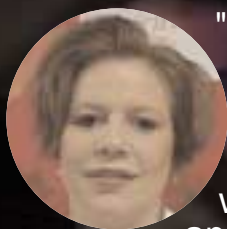


"I was raised in a Christian home, but at Church instead of worshiping God, I would worship Satan. One time, I cast a spell on a person who later got into a car accident and almost died. He is crippled for life because of what I did."

-Saughnya



Teen Challenge residents are finding freedom from past occult involvement.



"I was introduced to Wicca through a treatment center in Memphis. My sponsor was a witch and she got me into Black Magic, Voodoo, and Wicca. I would pray to the Devil, cut myself and carve 666 and pentagrams into everything around me. When I was drinking and using IV drugs, I listened to Metallica and Gangster Rap. A spirit of self-hate filled me."

-Mardina



WHAT IS WICCA?



- Most of the TC residents we interviewed who had been involved in the Occult, were also involved in Wicca. "A lot of residents I have counseled used meth and started worshipping Satan without even realizing what they were doing," states MTC Pastor Karl Lundgren, Pastoral Counselor.
- Wiccan's claim they worship the sacred in nature, often in the form of mother earth and father sky. They believe in reincarnation and openly practice magic.
- In 1972, witchcraft was recognized as a religion by the United States government.
- Wiccan churches are tax exempt non-profit organizations under the IRS code 501 (c) (3). Wiccan priests and priestesses have been given access to penitentiaries, and have the privilege of performing "handfastings," their term for marriages.
- On March 5, 2001, the list of religious preferences in the U.S. Air Force Personnel Data System was augmented to include: Druidism, Paganism, Shamanism and Wicca.
- In 2001, the Graduate Center of the City University of New York estimated there were 134,000 Wiccans living in the United States.

FROM A PARENTS PERSPECTIVE

"I was playing with my 8-year-old son and felt something in his back pocket. I asked him what it was and he told me, 'baseball cards, Mom'. Right away in my spirit I knew that he was lying. 'No it's not,' I said, 'show me one.' He took one out and showed me a demonic trading card with a red-eyed black rat on the face. 'My best friend gave them to me,' he said. This was the second time this year that he had brought home demonic cards from friends. He jumped up and threw them away. Together as a family we prayed and my son repented,

but at 4:32 in the morning, my daughter woke up the entire house. She had a bad dream and wet the bed," says an MTC staff.

Our children are under siege by Satan. He knows his time is nearly over and is stopping at nothing to take as many as he can with him to burn in hell. If he can entice a child, he sometimes can keep them for eternity.

"I used to play and trade in these cards all the time," says B. picking up one of the Magic: The Gathering trading cards. "They are definitely a gateway to the demonic." "The game Magic does nothing more than teach your child how to be a sorcerer," says Pastor Jeff, MTC Teen Boys dean. Our kids are being drawn to the demonic on every front from the music they listen to, the games they play, a search on the net, to the multitudes of sin on TV and the easy accessibility of drugs in our schools and on the streets of

our cities. Books about sorcery, witchcraft, fantasy games and Satan worship can be purchased at Amazon.com and at your local bookstore. A search for books about sorcery yielded 39 books alone. "If they want to find it, they will," says M., a graduate of TC.

What can we as parents do to protect our precious ones? We must be fully aware of what our children are reading, playing and doing, who they are playing with, and where they are. We are the parents after all.

The best line to draw is one that is clear and simple for our children to understand. The Word says that we cannot serve two masters; we will love one and hate the other. We must be seekers of what is good, pleasing and acceptable to God. If what we are involved in does not give glory to Jesus, or if the supernatural power does not come from the Kingdom of God, then we are not to be involved in it.

