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David Wilkerson of "The Cross and the Switchblade" dies at 79

by Sr. Rose Pacatte

NCR Today

The Reverend David Wilkerson, an evangelist and the founder and pastor of the non-denominational Times Square Church, died suddenly on April 27, as the result of a car accident in Texas.

Wilkerson became famous for his 1963 best-selling book "The Cross and the Switchblade" that tells about his first five years in New York City working with gangs amidst drugs and violence. The book was co-written by John and Elizabeth Sherrill, who also wrote "The Hiding Place" with Corrie Ten Boom.

"The Cross and the Switchblade" has sold more than 15 million copies in 30 languages. It was made into a film in 1970 starring Pat Boone and Erik Estrada. Though panned by critics, it continues to have success throughout the world.

Wilkerson also founded "World Challenge," an umbrella organization for his many ministries.

Click here for Wilkerson's last message before his death.

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