

S U M M E R 2 0 1 0

# Teen Talk

Mentoring partnership: DM Live & TruthMedia



## 14 Year Old Discovers Jesus

“I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how thankful I am for all your help and advice. **I am so glad that I decided to sign up for a mentor. I feel like without this experience in my life, I wouldn't know where I'd be, probably dead,** though I am not proud to admit that, it's most likely true. I truly feel that you are one of my best friends, even thou we've never met and don't know a lot about each other I feel like you were meant to be my mentor, like God knew it from the start that that's what he wanted you to do. Thank you so much for being here for me, and I'd love to continue emailing you.”

### **In her mentor's words:**

I received the above email from a 14 year old gal who prayed to receive Jesus into her life a few days ago. Her family attends the Latter Day Saint Church. She is now doing the “Knowing Jesus Personally” lessons. She is quite perceptive. **What an encouragement to mentors who wonder if what they are doing is really important.**

## Teens are Willing to Talk

**You wouldn't walk up to a group of teens hanging out at a convenience store** and expect to have a meaningful conversation, but these conversations happen in mentoring every day. Through our partnership with DM Live, teens have the opportunity to talk to an adult mentor. And wow, do they talk. They tell us about their relationships, about pregnancies, cutting, suicide, peer pressure – anything you can think of and probably a few things you haven't even imagined.

Each mentor is trained to come along the teen, to listen and help guide him or her through his or her circumstances. They share God's love in a relevant way and connect them to other resources wherever possible. This partnership has been wildly successful. In the past six months teens have sent over 5,000 messages to The Mentor Center - slightly more than one every hour, day and night.

## A Few Stories



### Two year mentorship

On June 2008, a hope coach sent the contact info for a young woman “*Having problems with an older guy.*” Now, in June 2010, two years later, after many emails, here are the words of the young lady to her mentor. “*I really enjoy being in touch with you again. it helps me tons. really a lot talking about God. I just want to thank you for your support. and teaching me about God.. i try not to go down. Because emotionally it's so hard for me to get back up. take care, I'll write again.*”

### Girlfriend issues

The initial email came in saying only two words: “*Girlfriend issues*”. As the mentor and Jay corresponded back and forth, much more was shared. Jay expressed his concern about his life by saying “*things have just been going down the tubes lately. the girlfriend situation is worse, my job is becoming more and more hectic, my family is falling apart, and I just feel alone because I don't have anyone to bounce my thoughts and feelings off of. I hope you can be my soundboard. Well, I have class in the morning, but I hope to hear back from you.*”

The mentor: “*Sounds like life is kind of a swirl about now. Kind of hard to keep your feet anchored when the seas are difficult. Do you have a faith walk of some kind? Do you know that God loves you not matter what you are going through? For me, I know that when everything about me is unsteady....He is always steady. Can you share your faith walk with me?*”

Jay: “*The seas are like 50 foot waves as of recently. I have no idea what a faith walk is. Could you explain that to me?*”

The conversation is in progress, but it is incredible how an email with two words led to a conversation that is now moving into a faith discussion. Please pray that Jay would discover Jesus.

### Abuse victim

Her initial email came in saying “*How to deal with a life in a constant downward spiral?*” Over the next few weeks, “A” shared that her boyfriend had raped her. She and her mentor are working through her pain. The mentor has come alongside her and is encouraging her to talk to her parents and get further help.

### Suicide & despair

**Initial email by a suicidal teen who is continuing conversation with a mentor:** “*I can't deal with life anymore. I don't know what to do the pain is just to much. Help please. I've been having trouble dealing with a break up. And m family is really not making it better I feel like I have to hide from everyone.*”

A HopeCoach informed mentor that this suicidal teen was in conversation with counselor, which the mentor continues to encourage the teen to see. Teen's email: “*I've been having problems at school and have considered suicide. The counselor called my grandma and considered it was my parents' fault. I'm still having problems at school. What should I do?*” Mentor's email: “*Please honey, don't give up seeing your counselor! If you feel like talking to me also, please do. Just tell me about you, o k?*” This conversation is ongoing.

# Mentors Make a Difference

Simply having someone to talk to makes a huge difference in the life of a young person. Mentors are trained to transition every day conversations into conversations about God. As a result, young people discover Jesus as their Lord and Savior and mentors see God is using them in a powerful way.

One mentor summarized her experience this way:

*As mentors, I think we are literally hanging on the edge of Heaven, pulling people out of Hell. It is a hidden work, but we are accomplishing Jesus' ministry to bind up the broken hearted, open prison gates, give sight to the blind and proclaim the good news.*

You can be trained and start ministering in just a week or two. The only skills you need to become an online mentor are a heart for God and the ability to send an email. Do you have an hour a week to help a teen?



**Become a mentor**  
[TheMentorCenter.com](http://TheMentorCenter.com)