

Notions abordées : « Mythes et héros »

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Chad Vera and the Samaritans

Eric: Samaritans was founded by an Anglican clergyman named Dr Chad Vera. One of his parishioners, this was probably 1953/1954, one of his young parishioners, a young teenager, committed suicide, and he felt that if she had had someone just to talk with, to speak to, that perhaps her death could have been prevented; that she wasn't alone, she wasn't isolated and there were people in the world that did care about her existence. So he set up, in his rectory, in London, a table and a telephone line and put out flyers, information, "If you're feeling down, feeling depressed," you know, "call me." And he thought he might get a few calls, well, he turned out to be, his phone rang constantly, and he recruited some of his parishioners to come in and help with the calls, and from that The Samaritans was founded in...in the mid-50s, and it operates world-wide. Samaritans are actually non-denominational, non-religious affiliated also. It's just sort of coincidentally that he was an Anglican clergyman. Dr Chad Vera did come in 1974 from London and worked with the people in Paris to set up SOS Help.