

TLC was founded in 1982 by New York City Pastor and evangelist, Tom Mahairas. Pastor Tom was involved with the hippie movement and drug culture during the 1960's, but had a life-changing experience at Word of Life when he submitted his life to Jesus Christ in 1968. After marrying his longtime girlfriend, Vicky, Pastor Tom went on to establish Manhattan Bible Church (MBC) and Manhattan Christian academy. During this time, he found himself broken-hearted by the large number of childhood friends struggling with and succumbing to life controlling issues. After performing funeral services for several of his friends, Pastor Tom decided that something had to be done.

Pastor Tom and Vicky graciously opened up their NYC apartment to those seeking refuge and freedom from their life controlling issues. They shared the love and truth of Jesus Christ with them and out of Romans 12:1-2, "...and do not be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of your mind..." came the idea of metamorphosis—the total change that can be seen when a caterpillar enters the cocoon and after a time emerges as a butterfly. Still in the city, however, Pastor Tom and Vicky frequently found valuables stolen and friends gone missing, and the need for an appropriate cocoon became more apparent—a place away from the distractions of the city where men with life controlling issues could heal and be restored.

The answer came when George Yphantides, a Greek piano teacher from Pontios, had heard about Pastor Tom's conversion experience and reached out to him.

George was a member of

the Board of Directors for the Fort Lee Christian Home for Children, and during that time he knew of a property in West Park, NY that would suit the needs of a Christian discipleship program. After much prayer, Pastor Tom asked for a sign to know this was God's prompting, and he got it. The Board of Directors told him that God wanted them to gift the property to his ministry under MBC. Transformation Life Center was founded in 1982 for \$1, under the covering of MBC. In 1992, TLC was incorporated under MBC, and in 2003, MBC officially transferred the property to TLC, with the final paperwork completed in 2004.

Pastor Tom is still highly involved with supporting and carrying out TLC's mission of transforming lives to transform the world. He serves on the TLC Board of Directors and is the spiritual leader of both the Board and the TLC campus, coming to TLC on almost a weekly basis to preach the truth of the Gospel to the students and staff. Pastor Tom Mahairas has been used of God to establish Manhattan Bible Church (1974), Manhattan Christian Academy (1978), Transformation Life Center (1982), New York Gospel Outreach (1985), Manhattan Love Kitchen (1987), and Citivision (1996). He actively sits on the board of many of these ministries, as well as pursues his ministry through Citivision by providing evangelistic campaigns in places such as Indonesia, Greece, Uganda, Sudan and

Angola Prison in Louisiana, as well as recruiting, equipping and motivating disciples to reach their local cities with the Gospel.