

TOUGH TALK!

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2008/9

Once again, we are pleased to report that we have had a very busy year presenting the gospel message in prisons, schools, festivals and churches up and down the United Kingdom. Sadly, we have had to decline many invitations because our diary was full and on the basis of invitations received already, 2009 looks as if it will be just as busy! We are very aware that since all our team members have jobs and families we have to be careful we do not put an unreasonable burden on them.

In addition to meetings, the team present their message through our books and DVDs which have proved very popular. Whilst we do sell quite a lot of merchandise to support the work of the charity we give away very many books, DVDs and New Testaments, particularly in prisons.

Members of the team have been the subject of TV programmes this year. A BBC TV crew accompanied a Tough Talk team (Arthur, Ian and Joe) on a visit to HMP Polmont in Falkirk. The filming done there was used in the programme "Sunday Life" and focused on Arthur's story and he clearly told of how he became a born-again Christian and how Jesus had dramatically changed his life. We praise the Lord for this fantastic opportunity to present the Gospel and to highlight the work of Tough Talk.

Martyn Parrish demonstrating the squat



There were two further programmes on TV that involved members of the team: Simon Pinchbeck gave his story on BBC "Songs of Praise" and Martyn Parrish and Simon appeared on the God Channel with the "Message".

Here is a message from Ian McDowall, founder of TOUGH TALK:

Ephesians chapter 6 verse 19 says: *"Pray also for me that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.....!"*

Please continue to pray for us in Tough Talk.

2008 was a difficult year for many of the team and yet we still were able to preach the Gospel to more people than ever, through TV, radio, newspapers and outreaches. The prison work has been truly amazing this year, with many men turning to the Lord.



Acts chapter 26 verse 18: *"I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God so that they may receive forgiveness of sins....."*

Please continue to pray for this work and for the Chaplains working in the prisons throughout the country.

May the Lord bless you and may His grace be with you.



Last year, we mentioned that we were making our prison work a main focus for our efforts and we have presented the gospel of Jesus Christ at 45 meetings in prisons this year which is a significant increase on previous years. Furthermore, we are now receiving invitations from prisons we have not previously visited.



Ian, Chris, Arthur and Simon on a visit to Guernsey prison

The feed back we receive from inmates and chaplains following prison visits is very encouraging and here is an example of a letter we received from the chaplain at HMP Kirkham:

“Could you please pass on my thanks once again to Arthur and Ian for coming to Kirkham yesterday. The guys have come up to me today saying how good it was – but also Tough Talk was praised by the No 1 Governor at the morning meeting! Praise indeed. On behalf of the team here, thank you – and could we start thinking about another date...?”

As part of our emphasis on work in prisons, early in the year we sent each prison chaplain a copy of our DVD inviting them to use the testimonies in their work with prisoners. We have received a number of very positive responses and some new invitations to take meetings.

More recently, following so many letters from inmates telling us that they have been influenced by reading it, we have begun to send 25 copies of the first Tough Talk testimonies book to the chaplains to put in their libraries and to distribute to inmates.

New DVD for men.

In conjunction with Jabez Productions and with the financial help from Authentic Media, we are currently producing a DVD targeted particularly to men. It covers some of the major problems men face when trying to live a Christian life: addictions, pornography, violence, anger etc. The approach we have taken is, we think, unique in that the issues are covered by members of the team discussing them in various locations in a spontaneous and un-scripted way.

Highlights of the year 2007:

As in previous years, the team presented their message at a very large number of meetings up and down the UK. We highlight a few here to give an idea of the kind of meetings we take:

Pentecost Festival, Leicester Square, London.



The team were invited to take part in the first London-wide Pentecost Festival held over the Whitsun weekend. Leicester Square was the venue chosen for the Tough Talk presentation and the event was on an impressive stage erected in the Square. There was a large enthusiastic audience who listened attentively to the testimonies and the gospel message. The organisers hope to put on a similar city-wide event in 2009.

Catterick Garrison.



A Tough Talk team was invited to the British Army garrison in Catterick, Yorkshire. This is the largest British Army base in the world with around 12,000 personnel. Ian and Arthur gave a Tough Talk presentation to the soldiers. Their testimonies were very well received by the soldiers, many of whom were waiting to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sadly, several soldiers from Catterick have been killed in these countries. So it was very important that those leaving for active duty should hear the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Rugby School.

Arthur, Martyn and Mike visited the famous Rugby public school at the invitation of the Chaplain, Rev Richard Horner.

At the school chapel service, attended by all 750 pupils and staff (including the headmaster, Patrick Derham) Arthur gave a short testimony and described the work of Tough Talk. He then invited the students to the Tough Talk demonstration after the chapel service. At least 200 students came to the meeting and they were very impressed by Martyn's demonstration of the squat. Arthur gave a full testimony and gospel message and challenged the young people to make right choices early in their lives.

A tour of the school followed the meeting and we saw where Rugby football was first played and saw some of the places that formed the backdrop to the famous novel "Tom Brown's Schooldays".



and the Headmaster



*Rugby
Martyn,*

*School
Arthur*

Message from the Chairman of the Trustees, Mike Steward:

Once again, we are pleased to report on a busy year for the team which as expected, had its problems, challenges and successes.

The Trustees are delighted to say that Rev. Steve Derbyshire, the senior pastor of the City Gates Church in Ilford, has agreed to join the Board and to provide spiritual oversight to the team.

Although Arthur White now lives in Cornwall, he is even more involved in the work than previously and feels that he should also spend more time on our work in prisons. We feel that the charity should provide some financial help for him to do this. This of course means that we need to find this money and we pray that friends reading this might be able to help.

TOUGH TALK!

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