

TOUGH TALK!

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2010-11

2010 has been another very busy year for the members of the Tough Talk team. We have been privileged to be able to present the gospel in prisons, churches, colleges and universities and have seen large numbers of people respond to the call of Jesus Christ on their lives.



Simon Pinchbeck and the team at Loughton Essex



The team in Leicester Square

Message from Ian McDowall, founder of Tough Talk:

" Through Jesus let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that confess His name. And do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" Hebrews 13: 15-16.



Ian McDowall

Once again, the Lord has opened amazing doors for Tough Talk to confess the good news of Jesus and we have seen more responses than ever before to the gospel message. This often entails long journeys and many miles travelled but we know that the Lord is pleased with these sacrifices. He is also pleased with those of you who support us in your prayers and by your financial support. We have found that our continued work in prisons has changed the way the inmates respond to us.....many come to hear us time and time again. We receive letters every week from inmates telling us how Jesus has changed their lives.

During the last year alone, we have had the privilege of handing out over 10,000 copies of the Tough Talk testimony books to prisons in the UK. What a wonderful opportunity to reach men who would never normally visit a church to hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.....He does not change He is the same yesterday, today and for ever!

Meetings 2010

We in the Tough Talk team have been amazed by the way the Lord has used us to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ up and down our country over the last year. We have been able to send a team on more than 60 prison visits where often the guys present at two



meetings. And a team has even presented the gospel to people in the Dover Immigration Removal Centre. Invitations have come from Army barracks at Deepcut, Aldershot and Colchester. The team were involved with two large outreach events in London during the summer...Pentecost Festival in Leicester Square and Notting Hill Carnival. On these occasions, the guys presented the gospel to crowds of people in a "non-churchy" setting.

Martyn Parrish demonstrating the squat

In addition, every week we have been very much involved with outreach programmes put on by churches and we continue to receive invitations to colleges, universities and schools. In all this activity, we have seen many people respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ and we are truly humbled that the Lord should use us in this way.

Early in the year, we released a new DVD called "Stories from the Frontline" in which the team discuss the problems men face when trying to live a Christian life...addictions, pornography, violence, anger etc. We sent a copy to every prison chaplaincy in the UK with the hope that it could be used in the chaplain's work with prisoners. We have received several very positive comments from prisoners who have seen the DVD.



Joe Lampshire

Message from Arthur White, founder member and trustee of Tough Talk



2010 has been another great and busy year. I have personally travelled in the region of 100000 miles, covering the length and breadth of England and Scotland. Other team members, who are also on the road every weekend, have also travelled thousands of miles. There have been many amazing moments, seeing and hearing of people giving their lives to Christ, of baptisms in prison and of lives transformed. How great and gracious is our God! But for me it has been a privilege to work alongside the other guys in the Tough Talk team and to serve many prison Chaplains and

Arthur White

churches, all of whom want to share the gospel of God's grace and to see souls saved. I pray 2011 will see us travel more, speak more, and see more of the power of Our Lord Jesus Christ and that new doors will be opened for us to extend our work in the prison service.

Finally, I want to thank all those people who have supported us during 2010 and pray God will bless you in all you do., and lastly to say that your continued support will enable us to continue our work, TOGETHER

Letters from prison inmates

We receive many letters from inmates but these two from men in Norwich prison are particularly encouraging:

"On your visit here Ian, I asked you if you was for real. What I thought at the time that you was talking rubbish, which I am sorry for. At the time you was giving us the talk about God, I laughed at you, and again I am sorry for that. I experienced something very peculiar at the end of the session, which I now know was the Holy Spirit..... I felt the urge to go to the Chapel on Sunday.....I have given my life to God. I go every Sunday now and pray every day. You see I wanted what you guys had, not the muscles but the peace you talked about. I now have that peace inside me, I feel so alive.....You also saved my dearest friend who experienced almost the same things as me....."

" I don't know what made me come to the meeting that day but I do now. I have never been a believer in religion but after your visit I got such an urge to start going to the chapel, praying and reading the Bible which I do every night now. My look on life has drastically changed. I'm leaving my old life behind and starting a new one with God. I'm so happy about it it's unreal. I already feel like I've been born again. I'm getting baptised this Sunday. Me and my friend experienced the same thing and it's brought us so close as friends and brothers."

And here are some extracts from more letters.....

"I am on remand for stabbing and robbery...I have done a lot of things I regret and have been involved in things I wish I hadn't. Until reading your book, I was convinced this was the only lifestyle for me....I know there is more to life now. I have been going to church every week now, and have realised I can be forgiven. It feels so good, like a load has been taken off my shoulders. HMP Doncaster.

"Hi, I was at the Tough Talk event in our prison ...I enjoyed it a lot and it made me think about things....it really opened my eyes and made me realise that there is much more to life than women and money.....I can now sort my life out and start my life on that new road. " HMP Norwich

" I would like some help to become a Christian....all I want is to be a good dad to my kids...and to change my life for the better.....please send me something to help me on my way " HMP Holme House

"After seeing the team and reading both the books I can now see a light at the end of my dark dark tunnel.....I am to be baptised.....I have found God and Jesus" HMP Norwich

New projects:

Testimony book

It is now 10 years since the publication of the first Tough Talk testimonies book. Since that time the book has been reprinted on 8 occasions and we have sold quite a number during this time and have given thousands to prisons in the UK. We continue to receive letters from people who have read the book, particularly prisoners, saying how God has used the book to challenge them. However, we feel that the testimonies need to be updated to bring them in line with our more recently published Tough Talk 2 book. In addition, Steve Johnson, whose testimony is in the book, has not been involved with the team for several years and his story will not feature in the new book. The book has been written and will be published in 2011.

Promotional DVD

The Tough Talk UK DVD, which was made several years ago to promote the work of the charity, has become dated and we feel that we need a new promotional DVD. In collaboration with Jabez Productions, we have produced a new DVD "Tough Talk in Prisons" which highlights our work in prisons. We have been very fortunate in being allowed to film in a Scottish prison and to interview staff and inmates for the DVD. The DVD will be available in 2011.

Message from Chairman of Trustees Mike Steward

Many thanks to all who have prayed for the team over the last year and to those who have also supported us financially.

We are pleased to report that the Lord has continued to bless the work of Tough Talk and has again anointed the members of the team to powerfully share the good news of Jesus Christ. We have had a very full diary and even though the guys have been stretched at times, we have met all our commitments. Arthur White has been more involved than ever, even though he lives in Cornwall, and we are pleased to say that this year we received a generous gift to enable us to support his involvement. We are praying for similar help for 2011.

"..and pray for us, that God may open a door for our message so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ "Colossians 4:verse 3

TOUGH TALK!

119 George Lane, South Woodford, London E18 1AN. Telephone: 0208 9236190;

email tough-talk@ntlworld.com. Website: www.tough-talk.com.

Tough Talk is a Registered Charity No.1084886. Chairman of Trustees: Professor M W Steward