

# TOUGH TALK!

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2014

The team has been very busy again this year with a full diary of meetings in prisons, churches, and schools. More than 50 prisons visits have been made this year. Each prison visit involves up to three separate presentations - to inmates on different wings of the prison, to vulnerable prisoners etc (up to 100 men at a time).

A large number of the new version of our "Tough Talk" New Testament has already been given away in prisons, for which they were primarily produced. Reports we have received indicate that it is being greatly appreciated. The new Tough Talk testimony book is proving very popular amongst prisoners up and down the country (and recently to Nigeria) and we regularly send batches to prison chaplains who distribute them to inmates. We also send a batch to a prison in advance of a team visit to that establishment.

For several years the team have been visiting prisons in Scotland under the auspices of Prison Fellowship Scotland and here are some comments on our work with PFS from Terry Paterson, Director of Operations :

*"Over the past 5 years Prison Fellowship Scotland has been responsible for an itinerary of 8 to 10 dates per year in Scotland's prisons on behalf of Tough Talk. This has been a fantastic opportunity to work with the chaplains and staff promoting the Christian message in the gymnasium area of the prison. Many men attending would normally have*



*nothing to do with Christian activities but because it is in the "Gym" that's different and acceptable. Ian, Arthur, Simon and Joe have brought the message of salvation to the men in a way that opens Christianity up to all listening. After the visit men do come along to fellowship groups and make enquiries about what they have heard and*

*for some make decisions to follow Christ. It has been my pleasure to be part of what Tough Talk does in our prisons and I would encourage all prison establishments to host an event."*

All this activity has resulted in literally thousands of prisoners hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ this year! We continue to receive letters from prisoners who have either heard the team at their prison or who have read one of the Tough Talk books. In these letters the prisoners are often seeking help and advice or more books. Each letter is responded to personally. Here are a couple of excerpts from letters received recently:

*"I have just read your stories in "Tough Talk" and I must say that a light has been switched on in my head....I have been a very violent person and a drug-taker....I have toyed with becoming a Christian in the past but have never taken the step. After reading your book I am comfortable in making my decision to give my life to God...."*

*" Just finished reading two books of yours. I was overwhelmed by your stories and it has made me look at Jesus in a way I never thought I would. I was brought up in an Irish Roman Catholic family .....but did not want to listen to all this Jesus thing but reading your books has opened my eyes to new things. Thank you for making me open my eyes and know that Jesus is there if you believe"*

### **Recent visit to HMP Glenochil, Scotland.**



Ian and Arthur visited HMP Glenochil with Terry Paterson in December 2013. This was the last of 10 visits to Scottish prisons that the team had made during the year. They presented two sessions during the visit. Both sessions were well received by the inmates and they were presented with a clear gospel message at the end of each session.



Ian demonstrating the squat



An inmate in the benchpress competition

### **Message from Ian McDowall, founder of Tough Talk**

*" That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:9*



Our aim has always been to advance the Christian message, to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. What an incredible year we have had! Men's breakfasts, Sunday morning church meetings and prison visits. We have seen an amazing response to the Christian message and of God's power to save through the preaching of the Gospel. With this in mind I would like to thank all the Pastors, Chaplains and Christian workers we have had the privilege to work with this year. People of God, that have allowed us to enter their Church or Prison and share the wonderful message our loving saviour Jesus Christ.

### **Message from Arthur White, founder member of Tough Talk.**

I first met and worked with Ian McDowall 18 years ago and we set up Tough Talk as a charity in 2000. In all that time I have seen God move powerfully in the lives of the team and in lives of so many we have come in touch with. I remember a meeting in a prison and a guy said that we "saved his life", I replied that it is only Jesus who can save. He replied "but it was you who told me about Jesus". In a nutshell that is what Tough Talk is about - we just want to tell people about Jesus Christ. It is He and He alone who is the answer and to Him we give all the glory for the continued grace He pours out in meeting our needs. There are so many people I would like to thank - our supporters, trustees and prayer partners and of course, the guys for undertaking the meetings.



### **Message from Simon Pinchbeck, team member of Tough Talk.**

2013 was a very busy year for me with Tough Talk, speaking at almost 40 meetings. With Arthur sidelined through injury for much of 2013, it gave me more opportunities within our Prison Ministry, and I was able to visit the Scottish Prisons for the first time. The prison meetings I have found to be a great `Faith Builder`, it is amazing how God uses me, an ex `copper` to help bring the message of salvation to inmates across the country.

Two stand out meetings were: first, the Vulnerable Prisoner unit at HMP Northumberland..... I was just about to speak to 60 men when I felt God say to me, `These are my children, and I love them` then when I looked back at the men, all I could see was faces of little children. Second, in HMP Altcourse in front of 80 men, there was an amazing response to God`s message, with all of the bibles and books we had were taken at the end of the meeting. A stand out church meeting was one I and Joe Lampshire did in Lichfield, again there was an amazing response, with The Lord touching one guy in particular. He had been reluctant to attend, and had previously been stabbed badly trying



to stop a gang fight, God spoke to him powerfully through us that day, and he even won the bench press challenge!

I have been part of Tough Talk now for 10 years, and last year, more than ever, I have felt God saying to me `Simon, it is not what you can do for me, but it is what I can do THROUGH you` and I have tried to take that into every area of my

Life: family, work and ministry. My work with Tough Talk helps to keep my life focused on the basis of my faith; Jesus and The Cross." *With*

*man it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27*

### **Message from Mike Steward, Chairman of Trustees**

The diary for 2014 is filling up rapidly with many meetings in prisons and churches already arranged. Ian and Arthur have been invited to present the gospel of Jesus Christ in prisons in South Africa, including Stellenbosch, Obiqua and the well-known Pollsmoor prison. This visit will be a great privilege and challenge. Also, we are planning to visit the Philippines to work with the City Gates Church, Ilford who are closely involved with a thriving ministry there. It is proposed to present the gospel in prisons and churches .

We recently received a very encouraging letter from one of our supporters in which she says : "*I constantly pray that God will speak to the men to whom you minister. As I hear on the news of men being sent to prison, my thoughts go to you and your work. I pray that many of these men will come to a real faith in the Lord Jesus.*

*Do not acknowledge this gift....to save postage".*

This highlights my request: please pray regularly for the team: that they be protected both spiritually and physically as they lift enormous weight and travel long distances to share the Gospel. Pray also for some new blood in the team, men who have a burning desire to share the gospel.

Please also pray for people to be invited to hear the gospel .....

Otherwise, what we see in this picture may really happen! "Where is our audience???"



*" I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believeth" Romans 1: 16*

### **TOUGH TALK!**

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