

# TOUGH TALK!

## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015

This year is an important milestone in the life of Tough Talk.....amazingly, it is now 20 years since the ministry was started by Ian McDowall (see below). During that time, thousands of people have heard the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and vey many have responded by giving their lives to Him!

Over the past 12 months since our last newsletter, the gospel has again been faithfully proclaimed in prisons, schools and churches up and down the UK and abroad. Tough Talk's mission to proclaim the gospel to men in prisons in the UK was extended in February 2014 as Ian and Arthur went to South Africa and shared their testimonies and the gospel to hundreds of inmates in Stellenbosch, Obiqua and Pullsmoor prisons. In February this year, they went to the Philippines and shared the gospel with prisoners in Antipolo Prison Manila (see below).

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

*"And He said unto them " Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptised will be saved but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe. In my Name shall they cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them, they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." (Mark Chapter 16; verses 15 – 18. KJV)*

"I was first asked by my pastor Steve Derbyshire of City Gates Church (Ilford E11) way back in 1995 to bring some weights into the church and give my testimony. Unbelievably, that was 20 years ago! Then in 1996, I met Arthur White and we began to minister together. In 2000 we set up Tough Talk as a registered charity. During these 20 years, we have been across the world - sharing our testimonies and the gospel in churches, schools and prisons. We have seen the team change, with many guys joining the team for a while and then moving on. Some members have been with the team for many years: for example, Adam McMillan, who first joined Tough Talk in 1996, and



Joe Lampshire, who has been a major part of the team since 2000. Over this time, we have seen Joe grow in his faith and he is now married and the father of two boys. Simon Pinchbeck joined the team in 2004 and during his time with us he greatly developed his preaching gift. Towards the end of 2014, Simon felt the call of God to move on and has left the team with our blessing. He has recently been appointed Regional Director (East of England) for Christian Viewpoint for Men. With all these changes, it's great to report that 2015 is already proving to be an amazing



year! As I write this, Arthur and I have just returned from Hong Kong and the Philippines where we shared the gospel of Jesus Christ in churches, schools, prison and a re-hab centre as part of the work of the City Gates Church, Ilford. We continue to see great opportunities to preach the gospel. And at last we see ourselves join the modern world with a

Tough Talk Facebook page, accessible through our website [www.tough-talk.com](http://www.tough-talk.com)! Please continue to keep us in your prayers."

### **Message from Arthur White: Founder member of Tough Talk:**

"2014 has come and gone and Tough Talk still marches on! The team have completed dozens of meetings, and I consider it a privilege for me to still be a part of fantastic ministry after nearly twenty years. Although I am less involved now than previously, it still thrills me to share with others the amazing Saving Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The meetings that I am involved with now are predominantly those in prisons up and down the UK. However, a real highlight for me was a meeting in February this year in a prison on the outskirts of Manila in the Philippines.



We were on the roof of the prison, three floors up, because there was no room in the prison itself for such a

meeting. The sun was beating beating down, the temperature was 87 degrees F and there were two hundred men looking on. Through our interpreter, I



shared my story and Ian gave a powerful, yet simple, Gospel message. Many men made commitments, inviting Jesus Christ into their lives, but one young man was particularly broken. With tears in his eyes, he came forward for prayer. Ian prayed for him and he received Hope through the Spirit of Christ. This was a truly privileged moment.

In the picture on the right, the two young men with Ian and Arthur had just given their lives to Jesus Christ. Please remember all those in prison (and not just those behind physical bars) and please continue to support the work of Tough Talk in any way you can. My prayer is that Tough Talk will continue for another twenty years and another twenty after that! I will be in glory by then, but His Glory WILL go marching on forever. God bless you all. "



To conclude the report on Ian and Arthur's visit to Hong Kong and the Philippines, it would be good to highlight the opportunities they had to preach the gospel in the Hong Kong Airport Church, a church in Kowloon and Jackie Pullinger's rehab centre. In addition, they had a great opportunity to share their testimonies to well over 1000 children at the Antipolo City High School outside Manila.

## Letters from prison inmates:

We continue to receive letters from prisoners that encourage and challenge us and we respond to each one. Here are a few excerpts from some recently received letters:

*"I don't know if it was a coincidence or if it was meant to be, but I was in the prison library and took a book called Tough Talk back to my cell. I could not put it down, it amazed me.....Ian and Arthur changed their lives around through Jesus Christ! I couldn't stop crying.....it gave me hope that I can change. I can't stop repeating the prayer at the end of the book....it means so much to me. I can't say it without my eyes welling up!" ( HMP Stocken)*

*"I don't know why I asked the Prison Officer for the Tough Talk book.....but now I know it was God who made me pick up the book. I went to a bible study to try and make sense of it..... Without going into details I can tell you that I've accepted what it says in John 3:16. I'm a long way from release but I'm actually looking forward to release and life.....a future with Jesus." (HMP Manchester)*

*"What a book. Loved reading your stories. So true. I'd like to thank you for the changes I'm making. Believe me, living the high life, especially steroids, seeing the big boys in the gym made me want to use a course. But thanks to your stories, I've changed my mind. Gonna do it the right way, slow and hard. Thank you and God bless."(HMP Winchester)*

*“ I have read your book and it really inspired me....it made me positive about life again. I have struggled with suicidal thoughts and depression and have post-traumatic stress as a result of seeing bad things while I was in the army. I am a back-slidden Christian but have never fulfilled my walk with God... my life spiralled out of control...Sometimes I think God has given up on me....how many chances do I get? I feel lost, empty and alone. I hate prison. Please pray for me.” (HMP Stocken).*

*“ I read your book and your stories have really inspired me to want to accept Christ into my life as the life I was living before prison was unsavoury, a life of drugs, theft and all kinds of selfishness...How can I ask Jesus for forgiveness and how to live a Christian life.....? I want to feel at peace and to live a fulfilling Christian life....” (HMP/YOI Swinfen Hall)*

*“ Last week the book Tough Talk caught my eye....I didn't put it down until I had finished it...it was really good reading and very inspiring. But it left me with a lot of questions rather than answers. Were Ian and Arthur just lucky that things dropped into place for them?... although I know they showed massive will to change. ....Forgiveness was mentioned many times...I interpreted this in the way that if I can forgive it will release me of the burdens I have hanging over me....Will I get a sign from somewhere or do I just pray to our Lord Jesus Christ and believe? I hope someone in Tough Talk can help me as I feel confused.”(HMP Leeds)*

*“ I met Ian and Arthur 10 years ago.....although I went into a life of drugs and crime....and I am now remanded in prison..... their stories never left me.....I have been spreading your stories throughout the jail but I'm finding it hard to accept faith and believe. Is there anything you can say to help me to accept Jesus into my life.” (HMP Lincoln)*

*“I must say you Tough Talk book is one of the most best books I have ever read!.....I have suffered with drug abuse, steroid taking through weightlifting, violence.....these experiences nearly cost me everyone I loved....I was selfish and had dark morbid feelings towards myself, anyone and anything.....I felt that being “carried by 6” was the only way to escape my demons.....and was contemplating just finishing it all. That was changed after reading your book.....it has really touched me and the way I was thinking and feeling about myself has completely changed!”(HMP Featherstone).*

## **Message from Michael Steward, Chairman of Trustees:**

*“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth” Acts 1: verse 8*

What a privilege to be involved in seeing the Lord Jesus' words being fulfilled in this day!

Over the last year, the Tough Talk team has shared the good news in prisons, churches and schools up and down the United Kingdom and in Africa and Asia. In fact, invitations have already been received to visit more countries overseas in the future. However, we are convinced that the Lord wants us to continue to make the UK our primary mission field.

We are very grateful for the many people who pray for Tough Talk regularly and we recognise that without this prayer support our ministry would be powerless. So thank you so much, and please continue to pray that the power of Jesus Christ to save lives will still be demonstrated when the team go out to share the good news.

### **TOUGH TALK!**

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