

TOUGH TALK!

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2009/10

After another hectic year of sharing the gospel throughout the United Kingdom (and in Switzerland) we are so aware of how much our nation needs Jesus! Our diary has been full with weekend meetings in churches, prison chapels, sports halls etc and midweek in prison gyms. We have been privileged to see many respond to the gospel and praise God that he has trusted us with sharing the good news of Jesus with so many people.

Message from Ian McDowall, founder of Tough Talk

In Jonah 3:10 we read that when God saw what the Ninevites did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

At Tough Talk, we have experienced God's grace and mercy. And if the Lord can forgive us and trust us to go out and share his Word, then he can forgive anyone. We believe that a powerful door has been opened to allow us to go and talk in prisons. conducting meetings in gyms and giving testimony in Sunday morning chapel services. We do believe that nothing is impossible with the Lord and if men can turn from the ways and receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, then true forgiveness and restoration of lives is possible. Please continue to support our prison work in prayer and consider inviting us to talk in your church or prison.

Prison work by Arthur White, founder member of Tough Talk

The work of Tough Talk is in two parts: working with established churches, no matter what denomination, and our prison visits. I see our main "ministry" as our prison work. The number of prison visits has grown steadily and on average during the past few years, we have visited a prison every week.

We have worked with some fantastic prison chaplaincy teams and have heard wonderful stories of prisoners' lives being changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. In June we visited a prison that had six baptisms at one service! I spoke to one prisoner earlier this year who was in prison for murder and although he may never be released, he has been freed on the inside by



Ian and Arthur in a prison meeting

God's grace. One thing that impressed me about this guy was that he was truly repentant about his crime and many of us need to look at the issue of "true repentance"

We in Tough Talk are ordinary men who serve an extraordinary God. The path He has led us on has taken us into the prisons, and the psalmist tells us "He leads forth the prisoners with singing" and if we can add the odd note of joy to that song then our work is not in vain.

A few statistics: most criminals are victims of crime themselves before they become the perpetrators..... often it starts with abuse or neglect in the home....

65% grow up without a father for some or all of their lives..... 70% have considered suicide..... 80% will commit another crime upon release..... 90% have used drugs. This does not justify their crimes, the law needs to be upheld and someone NEEDS to tell them about

Jesus. It is through hearing about Him that kept my life from ending and we will continue with our work until told otherwise by God and it is with your support that we will continue.

Testimonies from prisoners:

FELTHAM: I've read your book....and was overwhelmed by the changes in all three men...I'm on remand in Feltham for taking a man's life by hitting him....although I was provoked, my actions are inexcusable. Can God still forgive me for my actions? Perhaps you could tell me how I go about bringing him into my life as a permanent feature.

HIGHPOINT: You have opened up a new light in my life after reading your book...tears of joy and thankfulness that Jesus has touched your lives were streaming down my face I had a truly unforgettable experience with Jesus and the Holy Spirit in prison many years ago.....but life got the better of me and I am now serving another 3 years....Seeing you in Highpoint has rekindled the light and love of Jesus in me again.....I feel a massive turn-around in my inner self again...

NOTTINGHAM: Thanks a million for coming all the way up from London to see us all .I must admit I was very moved by your talk and I can assure you that most of the lads were too. One bright spark was heard to say you were only promoting your book to which I replied, if you can see the price on the front, inside or back cover, I will buy him lunch at the Savoy when we get out!

BEDFORD:I did enjoy reading the book.....it has made me look at my life, and I know that I cannot be like I am for the rest of my life, I can be a decent helpful person I want to be like that, full stop. The book has made me think of a better future.

NOTTINGHAM: Before you came here I had started going to Chapel.....and when you came it was like a sign, it might sound mad but I felt something come over me when you was speaking..... and that day when I went back to my pad I said to myself would God help me like he has helped that man. So I started talking to him and no, I am not mad, but it's like he is talking to me. I have been doing so many things different. I know that me not doing wrong won't happen overnight but I know something will change when I get out...

ONLEY: I've messed up...because I have a drug problem. I've tried everything to get over this evil but the temptation is too great. I've lost all my friends because of this...I'm writing to ask you to help me try and find Jesus Christ because may be he will help me conquer this bad part of my life like he has for Arthur, Ian and Steve.....

LANCASTER: I have just read the Tough Talk book and can really identify with Arthur, Steve and Ian. I have been thinking what am I doing in here when I could be with my family. I have used the prayer at the end of the book to ask the Lord Jesus Christ into my life and it seems like a weight has come off my shoulders.

Highlights of 2009

In addition to the many prison meetings we have conducted this year, some in prisons we have not previously visited, we have had some remarkable open-air meetings. On Good Friday, City Gates Church in Ilford invited us to their open-air outside the Town Hall. A great crowd saw Joe Lampshire demonstrate the squat and Arthur White and Simon Pinchbeck gave powerful testimony.



Joe demonstrating the squat



*Joe, Simon and Arthur with new Trustee
Rev. Steve Derbyshire of City Gates*

Following the success of the Pentecost Festival in 2008, the organisers ran the Festival again in 2009 and Tough Talk had the privilege to present the gospel in London's Leicester Square:



A great crowd thronged the square on a beautiful sunny day and heard powerful testimony from Ian, Arthur and Simon on how Jesus Christ has changed their lives.

A Tough Talk team was invited by churches in Sheffield to a men's meeting held at Hillsborough stadium, home of the Sheffield Wednesday football team. The facilities provided were superb, and there was a great crowd of men that evening who heard powerful testimony from both Simon Pinchbeck and Renton Baker.

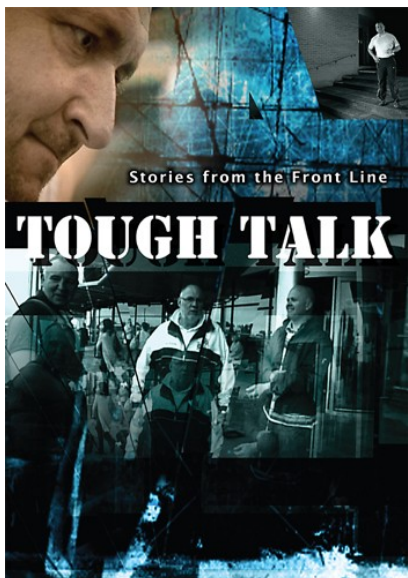


New team member, Segun Adekoya



Segun, known as “Koya” grew up in a Christian home but did not have a relationship with Jesus Christ and in his teens he got involved in petty crime. Later, he started work in security at some of the notorious night clubs in London and violence became a way of life for him. He was involved in fights with weapons but he was always unhurt and he realized that ultimately he would be in trouble with the police or be involved in a tragic incident. Koya’s ability to survive these fights earned him a reputation as a “hard” man.

But God began to tug at his heart and he started to feel bad about his life and to re-think where his life was leading. A young woman, now his wife, took him to church where he gave his life to Jesus Christ. He now has a passion to lead others to God and uses his strength as a powerlifter as part of the Tough Talk team in their meetings in churches and prisons.



A DVD produced in cooperation with Jabez Productions and Authentic Media has now been completed and will be available for distribution in the New Year. The DVD is targeted particularly to men and covers some of the major problems men face when trying to live a Christian life: addictions, pornography, violence, anger etc. Much of the DVD was filmed on location during the team’s visit to Guernsey and 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. We hope that the DVD will be used by prison chaplains and leaders of men’s groups to encourage both new believers and mature Christians in their walk with Jesus Christ.

Message from Mike Steward, Chairman of Trustees.

After such a busy and successful year for the team, we are humbled by the fact that God is using such ordinary men as us to share His wonderful good news! Without His anointing on each team member as they share the gospel, the team would be powerless. Please continue to pray for the team as they go into the front line to share Jesus.

In the last Newsletter, we appealed for help in supporting Arthur White’s continued involvement with the team. As a result, we received a fantastic gift that helped cover this for a year! We are trusting that we may receive further help for 2010.

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