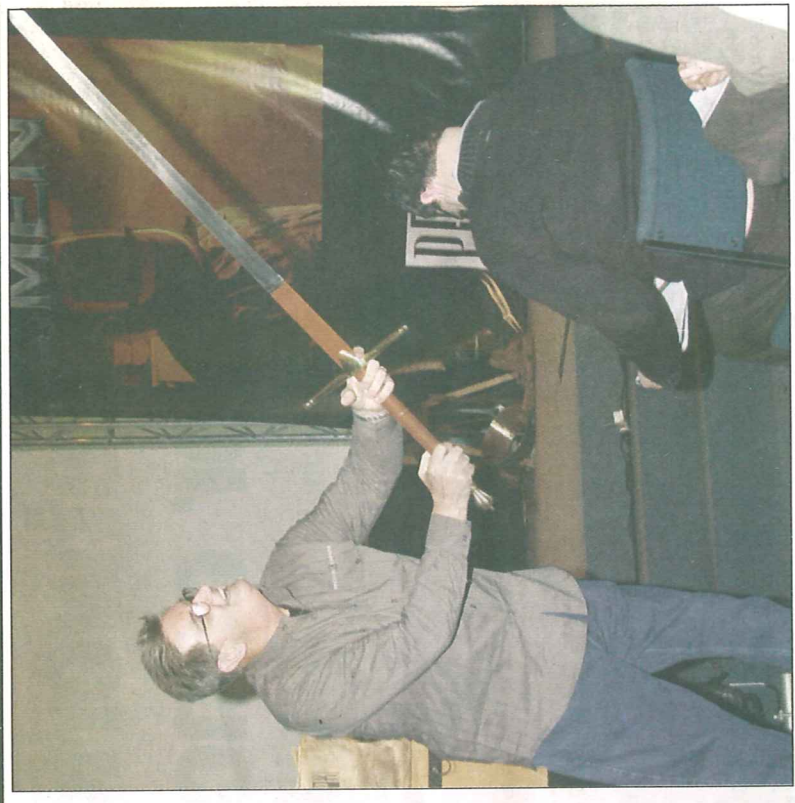




FIERCE COMPETITION: Some of the men were game enough to compete in a relay race.



WHAT A BEAUTY: Speaker, insurance broker and Huntly Baptist pastor Jim Stinton holds up a handmade claymore sword.

Promise Keepers Dunedin 09

Capturing men's imagination

By Aaron Ironside

THE national director of Promise Keepers is excited to hear many who attended the Dunedin event are calling it the "best ever."

Paul Subritzky says that the

theme "Forging Tomorrow's Men" captured the imagination of the more than 400 men who attended the year's first event.

"One man, named Dave, told us that he believes no other event

reaches and ministers to the needs of men like Promise Keepers."

On the Friday night the vision was laid for what the ultimate man would look like in a powerful way that resonated with and inspired men.

Pastor Norm McLeod from House of Breakthrough in the Manawatu prayed for each of the 40 men that responded to the invitation to commit their lives to Christ.

One local father named Steve has attended 12 previous Promise Keepers events, and this year is one he will never forget.

"First time I brought my son and he made his commitment to follow Jesus Christ!!!"

Pastor Mike Griffiths from Dunedin's Elim Christian Centre spoke to the very core of an issue confronting men today: their identity — where it comes from and the false identity that many are struggling with.

"This year we are focusing on the heart of the matter — the matter of the heart", explains Mr Subritzky.

Promise Keepers continues to be well supported by local churches, with 42 men from Invercargill Central Baptist winning the annual group award.

The event closed with 278 dog tags given out as men were commissioned to fulfil the Great Commission and the great commandment. ■



TOGETHERNESS: Rob Hart and his son Nathaniel just after the transition youth event.

SHARING: Popular radio host and part-time Challenge reporter Aaron Ironside was one of the speakers at the event.