

Experiencing God's power

By Michael Hamilton

Many men were motivated and encouraged in their lives and walk with God at the final of the Promise Keepers 2010 GPS events, in Manukau, South Auckland, on October 8 and 9.

I joined 2500 men at the event to hear challenging messages on being real with God and how to live out our daily life in the way God wants us to — with courage, conviction and commitment in our faith.

Speakers included evangelist Bill Subritzky, American guest Steve Sonderman, who has been actively involved in men's ministry for over 20 years, Richard Ellena, the Anglican bishop of Nelson, Auckland pastor Tak Bhana, and Tim Sisarich from Focus on the Family.

All the men I spoke to agreed that they found the event challenging and helpful. Some said they felt God speaking to them.

Glenn Murphy from Manukau New Life Church, who has been to PK events for several years and helps in church men's ministries, said the events "give you the

necessary tools and ideas to take men's ministries to the next level".

Gordon Richards of Hillsborough Baptist Church said God's power and presence could be felt at the event.

"God is changing men's lives. God is challenging me into a deeper walk with him. I am involved in men's ministry and I have been encouraged to go deeper with men. There are just so many needs and hurts in men out there."

Paul Subritzky, national director of Promise Keepers, New Zealand, said, "From the huge response to the very first message on Friday night, challenging men to accept Jesus as their saviour and turn 180 degrees from sin, it was obvious that the weekend would fulfil our prayers for a massive spiritual breakthrough. Motivational messages can bring change for a while, but only the power of God can bring real and lasting transformation in men's lives. It was a privilege to see that transformation happening and be part of it.

"As men sought direction and purpose for the choices they make on a daily basis, they were guided by powerful



VIBRANT: Promise Keepers choir and band led some dynamic praise and worship.

messages from speakers who spoke from real life experiences based on the Word of God. These messages were relevant and hard-hitting," said Mr Subritzky.

Some first-timers at a Promise Keepers event told me they were "hooked". Brothers Nick, Jan and John Oosthuizen from South Africa, who became Christians over the last year, said the event should happen more often. "It was awesome; we are all new Christians so we have never done any Christian events before. We have just been in our own church. Praising Jesus' name with 2500 people is powerful. It is lifting our spiritual level.

Every single message is powerful and God is speaking to us through them".

There is always enthusiasm generated when a large crowd gather with a common interest — but Promise Keepers is much more. It involves men meeting God in a personal and real way, and determining to work on changing aspects of life.

This can start in the times of quiet for reflection and application to one's life which follow immediately after messages have finished, with a PK workbook for note-taking.

As two young men from New Hope Fellowship in Onehunga, Larry Filoa (28)



POWERFUL: Paul Subritzky national director of Promise Keepers, New Zealand, speaking at the event.

and Telu Gafa (17), say, "It is encouraging us to take on responsibilities in everyday life, at home, at work, wherever we are. We need to apply the biblical principles we are learning here, which are needed for daily living."

Filoa added, "I have a fam-

ily now and it has been very encouraging. Without God or his Word I can just simply adopt whatever, like sexual impurity, wild parties, disrespect to elders and parents. Promise Keepers helps me to deal with these sorts of situations". ■

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