

PKs forge ahead in Christchurch

Support from around NZ ensures event happens

Despite the numerous shakings of the earth in Christchurch, Promise Keepers (PK) maintained their firm, ongoing support for the region by forging ahead with their annual event there. This was welcomed with much appreciation.

As one man said on Friday night to National Director Promise Keepers NZ Paul Subritzky, "Thank you so much for coming to Christchurch. We need this hope and encouragement that you (PK) bring".

The Friday night started off with the singing of New Zealand's national anthem, *God Defend New Zealand*.

Mr Subritzky welcomed everyone and made special mention of the fact that in spite of the obstacles and difficulties our brothers in Christchurch have experienced, support from around the country had ensured the event would continue. He further laid out the game plan for the event by outlining the messages and programme that were to follow. His challenge was for men to move away from being spectators or observers on the sidelines to actually becoming participants and being active in the game of life.

The first speaker, the international president of Open Air Campaigners, Robert Stakimotu, challenged men to join the team by giving their lives to Jesus. Many men responded to this call for salvation.

Pastor Geoff Wiklund, founder and pastor of Eden AOG, followed this up with a further call to men in need of purification and cleansing from sin. Again the Holy Spirit was moving and men responded in vast numbers. Such was the response that the stage was needed to accommodate the men coming forward.

The second speaker for the night, Senior Pastor of West Auckland's Church Unlimited, Tak Bhana, spoke on empowering the team. Here the message focussed on moving and functioning in the power of the Holy Spirit. Men broke into groups of five and ministered to each other.

Said Stefan, "Great Event as usual, Robert and Tak fired the event up in great style and with a lot of passion and fire for God".

Some lighthearted humour from South African MC Myan Subrayan went down

well when he shared how

God had heard his prayers and healed the 21 injured Springboks for the Tri-Nations encounter in Durban. "It's a miracle," he joked.

Auckland property developer Tony Tay started the Saturday morning with a message on integrity, sharing his testimony on suffering financial loss during the 2008 recession. Despite the pressure from his lawyer to file for bankruptcy, Mr Tay chose to pay his creditors. God honoured his integrity and restored his business.

"It was a long journey to recovery and it was only God's grace that saw me through those tough times," said Mr Tay.

Brian Hughes, Senior Pastor of Calvary Chapel in Auckland, spoke next on functioning as a team. Many men were surprised when he



AWESOME: Men worship at the Promise Keeper event in Christchurch.

message on love and emphasised that love was the key component for us being a part of God' team.



DARE: Open Air Campaigners international president Robert Stakimotu challenged men to give their lives to Jesus.



INSIGHTFUL: Ian Grant of Parents Inc. had some valuable advice about parenting.

shared that he was a member of the United States Olympic water polo team at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Mr Hughes delved deep into the Apostle John's

Mr Subritzky chaired the panel discussion on developing a game plan, where the importance of setting goals was emphasised. New Zealand superbike

champion Andrew Stroud shared about his goal to be the best in his sport and how focussed he was in attaining his nine championship titles. Mr Subritzky was also well received in the Transition and Stance breakouts where he inspired the young men.

On the lighter side of things, Mr Subrayan worked the guys into frenzy, stirring up the rugby rivalry of South Africa vs New Zealand in a tug of war.

New Zealand won this first competition convincingly but Mr Subrayan and his band of complaining South Africans said that were their 'B' team and they were saving their 'A' team for later. This proved to be somewhat true when the South

Africans won the next round. Mr Subrayan gloated and laughed, "We won fair and square and did not food poison any of the opposition".

New Zealand had the last laugh when a final challenge was mounted and they convincingly beat the South Africans to retain the tug of war title. Parents Inc. founder, Ian Grant, shared some insightful and valuable advice for parenting.

Rangiora Baptist won the Best Men's Group Award for their ongoing support of Promise Keepers through attendance and volunteer support for the Christchurch event. Mr Subritzky stressed how valuable the role of the volunteers was for the success of PKs and encouraged future volunteer support for next year.

The humour and powerful messages that the drama team conveyed were very



BONDING: Fathers and sons pray.

“It was a long journey to recovery and it was only God's grace that saw me through those tough times.”

— Tony Tay
Property developer

much appreciated. Shaun and Jono greatly blessed the men with their skills and giftings as did the worship band led by Boyd Ratnaraja. Every man was blessed as the band

led the men in worship and praise to the Lord. Evangelist Bill Subritzky capped off the night with a practical message on the power of the Holy Spirit to heal and bring restoration to the physical and mental elements of the body and to relationships. He prayed for the sick and there were many testimonies of God healing men in the auditorium that night.

Liam describes his experience: "Great event. I do admit I was sceptical at first but God opened my heart and broke away my pride and renewed my heart and mind... Awesome openness to the moving and power of the Holy Spirit." ■