

THE INSIDE RUNNING

As we travel around New Zealand with the GPS 2010 Events, we are hearing many powerful stories about how God has been there for men in their time of need.

All of us face challenges. Whether the problems come in relationships, health, finance, employment, spirituality or other areas, sooner or later we are tested. How do we respond? That question is at the heart of the Promise Keepers Events this year as we seek guidance from God.

We thought that it is timely to share some of these stories with you. We hope that they will inspire you to think about the story of your spiritual journey and how you can live out the potential that God has placed within you.

A friend told me that most people tend to base their expectations for the future on the previous three years, instead of taking into account the present reality and likely future. I know I need to focus on the hope that God has given me, rather than past failings or missed opportunities.

May the next year be one where you are closer to God than ever before.



John

John Subritzky



Transformation

My name is Neil Williams. If you knew me a couple of years ago [Promise Keepers] is the last place you would ever expect to find me. I was such a rebel against everything that [my parents] tried to get me to do... I never even thought that God existed, and I just went out into my own life and went pretty much straight onto the highway to Hell.



I left home as soon as I could. I went into flatting with a woman, and alcohol and drugs occasionally. Each relationship would last about 3 years and then I'd go on to another one; every time I fell in love with somebody my heart would be broken and there was just all this lies and deceit [but] I was seeking out the truth...

I was working hard 7 days a week, and I started rowing for Invercargill. I was doing a lot of training and I got a hernia... I don't know what happened in the operation, but I came out of it and [experienced ongoing

health problems]... Years went by and I was going to the doctor to try and find out what was wrong and had CT scans... and overall my health was just getting worse and worse.

After about 12 years of this, I was getting to the end of myself. Through it all, I met my wife, and when I was about 39 years old, we got married. Then about 4 years ago, my health got that bad that the doctor put me off work. I only had iron levels of 4, and so I was struggling, out of work and had no energy whatsoever. My wife said, "why don't you go to church?" and I sort of dared her back. I said, "I will, if you will". So we started going to church...

And then somebody mentioned about Promise Keepers and a bunch of guys coming away for a trip to Dunedin... And so I turned up on the first night here, and they were talking about Jesus Christ and the ultimate sacrifice and surrendering all, and I hadn't really thought about God. So the next thing I found my arm going up and I went out the back and got prayed for and I surrendered my life to the Lord.

Brian Hughes prayed for me and I was telling him about all the problems I had with health... so he prayed for healing. I came home from Promise Keepers absolutely on fire – from going up there with low iron levels to actually bouncing off the walls, and I just couldn't get enough of God! I found Shine TV and... wanted to hear more of the speakers [like] they had in Promise Keepers. One of them was talking on being baptised – baptised in the Holy Spirit and baptised in fire – so I just poured my heart out and repented to God of all the things that I'd done over the years and just asked him to baptise me in the Holy Spirit.

Basically I wasn't sleeping through the night – I was praising Him in the shower and in the

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car and just couldn't get enough. I joined Bible College; I got into prison ministry, started working casual work...

[When] I was sick and I was tearing people down all around me... I didn't care if I was taking others down. But when I had this encounter with God at Promise Keepers and my eyes were opened, I just had such a turnaround, and a peace that came over me. I couldn't believe it - in the first day I was walking down the street and just seeing all the trees and the clouds looked so different, and just the overwhelming peace.

About 6 months after I gave my life to the Lord, my nephew was having a lot of problems with his mother. He was actually rebelling against her quite bad to the point where she was almost thinking of bringing the Police on him... So we took him in for a few months and he could just see the incredible change in me from where I was - destroying everything around me - to a totally different person. And so he started coming along to church and he got involved in Youth and then this year, we brought him along to Promise Keepers. I was amazed - he'd been toying a lot with the idea of giving his life to the Lord, but last night he just put his hand up and did it in front of everybody... I just want to thank you guys at Promise Keepers for this ministry, for what God's been doing in my life and doing in my nephew's life.

PROMISE KEEPERS

Presents:

Steve Sonderman – Founder of Top Gun Ministries

For nearly twenty years, Steve has been in the trenches week after week, working with Men's Ministry. He knows what it takes to build a vibrant, enduring Ministry with Men. Steve is a father figure for Men's Ministry due to his long, faithful and successful service. The demographics of Elmbrook Church reflect what Ministry with Men can achieve - a good gender balance with men looking for ways to be involved and serve in the church.

Steve's book *How to Build a Life Changing Men's Ministry* is the handbook for working with men. It has recently been revised and reprinted. In 2008, he presented workshops for pastors, hosted by Promise Keepers USA. His co-presenters were David Murrow (author of *Why Men Hate Going to Church*) and Kenny Luck (Men's Pastor, Saddleback Church).

Steve will be at the Auckland GPS Event and will also be presenting workshops in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch on Ministry with Men. Promise Keepers expects his visit to be a turning point for many Men's Ministries as more men grasp these foundational principles.



Auckland
GPS Event 8-9 October
Ministry with Men workshop Mon 11 October

Wellington
Ministry with Men workshop Tue 12 October

Christchurch
Ministry with Men workshop Wed 13 October

See website for details:
www.promisekeepers.org.nz

More Stories

I lost my job because I allowed myself to be caught up in an addiction to pornography. Over the past year God has delivered me and I have now made myself accountable to a group of guys. God has healed my relationship with my wife and graciously given me a new job. It is wonderful to be able to be transparent before my wife and also other guys. My God is an awesome God!
- John

Before getting active in the church and going to Promise Keepers I used to argue with my wife too much and she often said she was not loved. God touched me and through [the] Holy Spirit and resources (books) from Promise Keepers, I learnt that I need to confirm my love for my wife regularly and to take initiative when we argue to ask for forgiveness. Our relationship is now much stronger. - Shane

By God's grace I am here! As at the lowest time in my life, standing in front of a 44 ton B-train truck staring death in the face, somehow it swerved and missed me. God, having His hand on me, lifted me from the depths of despair and has taken me on a journey of healing, and to a place of strength in only Him! Oh, how I love Him forever and ever, amen and amen! - Tom

The best thing that God has done for me on my spiritual journey: coming to Promise Keepers. The first one in Christchurch with the theme "let the walls fall down" [1996 Break Down the Walls] had a huge impact on my life. It broke down the strongholds in my life in the husband and father role. I was already a good husband and dad but that weekend changed my life - now I am a more sensitive man. I was blind but now I see. From that change, a great delight was to have my 3 teenage sons come to Promise Keepers. I was too busy; one speaker that touched me was the pastor carpenter who cut back his church work hours to spend time with his builder son. I have just finished some house renovations with my second son, getting alongside him and teaching him - very fruitful. I have also helped my other sons [as] a way of getting alongside them. - Allan

TAURANGA 27 - 28 AUGUST
WELLINGTON 10-11 SEPTEMBER
AUCKLAND 8-9 OCTOBER

