

*There are many of us that are willing to do great things for the Lord,
but few of us are willing to do little things.*

D. L. Moody

New Zealand

Report: August - October 2006 Tour

New Zealand is a country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean comprising two large islands (the North Island and the South Island) and numerous smaller islands, most notably Stewart Island and the Chatham Islands. In Maori, New Zealand is also known as Aotearoa, which is usually translated into English as the Land of the Long White Cloud.

The population is mostly of European descent, with the indigenous Maori being the largest minority. Non-Maori Polynesian and Asian people are also significant minorities, especially in the cities.

2006 TOUR

Tony was invited to lead a 7 week mission's tour of both the North Island and the South Island by Julian Batchelor, a New Zealand based evangelist. Bernie Anderson from Auckland was responsible for a large majority of the planning and preparation of the tour which took her nearly a whole year to administer, and the success of the tour was a real credit to her hard work and commitment.

Six people toured cross-country with Tony, including Bernie Anderson, Matt Old, Julian Batchelor, Eleanor Goodall and Janice Teo.

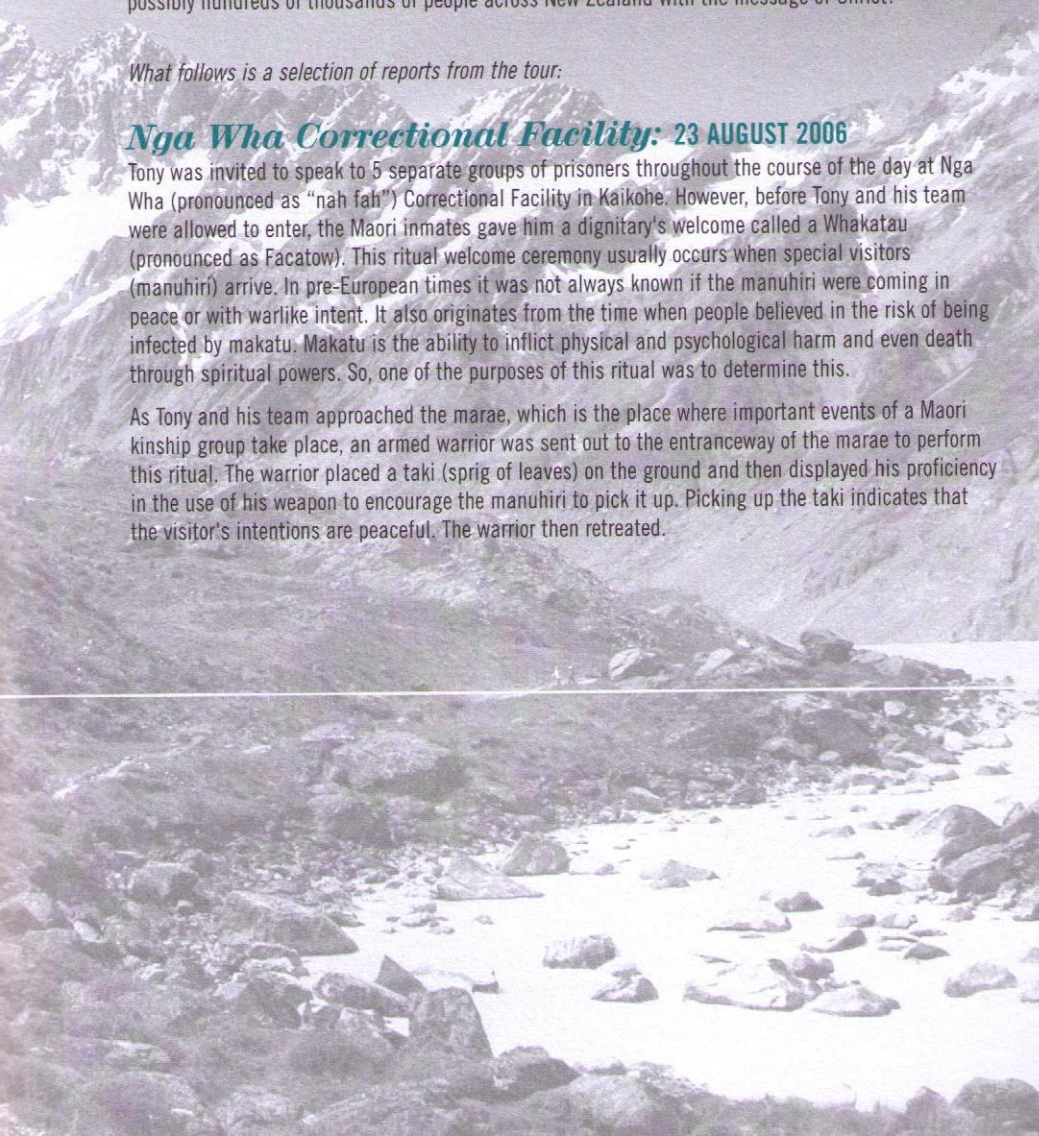
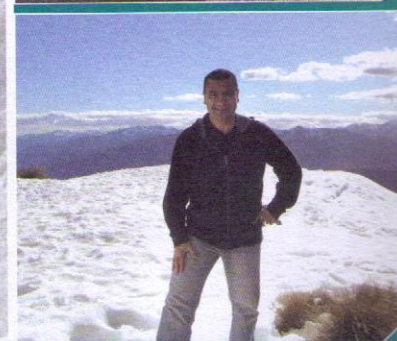
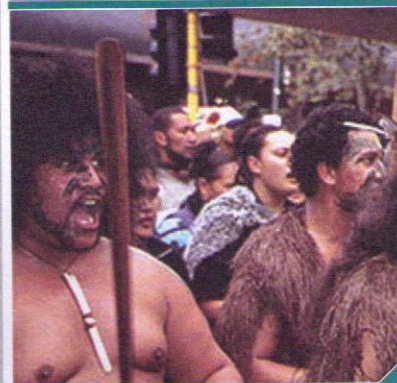
Tony spoke at 97 meetings in the 7 weeks, and literally tens of thousands of people heard the Gospel under his ministry. A very broad base of people gathered to hear Tony share his testimony and proclaim the Gospel. His speaking engagements took him to schools, prisons, men's breakfasts, large and small town & city wide outreach events and various Christian ministries including Unleashed, which is a large scale men's ministry run by Promise Keepers. Tony was interviewed on a number of regional TV and radio stations and he also featured in countless newspapers. Reaching possibly hundreds of thousands of people across New Zealand with the message of Christ!

What follows is a selection of reports from the tour:

Nga Wha Correctional Facility: 23 AUGUST 2006

Tony was invited to speak to 5 separate groups of prisoners throughout the course of the day at Nga Wha (pronounced as "nah fah") Correctional Facility in Kaikohe. However, before Tony and his team were allowed to enter, the Maori inmates gave him a dignitary's welcome called a Whakatau (pronounced as Facatow). This ritual welcome ceremony usually occurs when special visitors (manuhiri) arrive. In pre-European times it was not always known if the manuhiri were coming in peace or with warlike intent. It also originates from the time when people believed in the risk of being infected by makatu. Makatu is the ability to inflict physical and psychological harm and even death through spiritual powers. So, one of the purposes of this ritual was to determine this.

As Tony and his team approached the marae, which is the place where important events of a Maori kinship group take place, an armed warrior was sent out to the entranceway of the marae to perform this ritual. The warrior placed a taki (sprig of leaves) on the ground and then displayed his proficiency in the use of his weapon to encourage the manuhiri to pick it up. Picking up the taki indicates that the visitor's intentions are peaceful. The warrior then retreated.





Once Tony picked up the taki, the Maori group then performed a haka pohiri (posture dance). Tony's team was then allowed to advance slowly onto the marae, and at this stage the haka pohiri ended and the people remembered the dead. Once this was over the team were able to move to the seating provided after which the speeches began. Once the speeches concluded, Tony led the team to greet the inmates with a hariru (hand shake) and hongis (greeting by a short press of the forehead and nose). The ritual concluded with an exchange of songs, after which Tony was able to commence his talk. They were a very serious and respectful group of men, and yet tearfully thankful for the Gospel message that Tony shared with them. Many of the Maori made a commitment to Christ throughout the course of the day.

Hebron Christian College: 29 & 30TH AUGUST 2006

(Photo: Teacher: Lovell Gravey / Tony / Head: Geoff Matthews)

Before leaving for Tauranga, Tony spoke to 150 pupils at the Hebron Christian College in Mount Albert, Auckland, which is an independent co-educational, non denominational Christian School for new entrants to year 13. The young people were very moved by Tony's talk, and a third of the group made a response to the altar call. The emphasis of Tony's message was on the way Christians do not need to have a dramatic testimony to reach out to others, but on the contrary God can use everyone. Michael Wright never had a dramatic testimony, and yet God used a man like him to reach a man like Tony. Jesus said to doubting Thomas, that in fact "greater are those who have believed in me without seeing me". The answer lays not in how dramatic our testimonies are but in our faith in an all powerful God of wonders!!!!!!

Waikeria prison: 4 SEPTEMBER

The highlight of Tony's visit to Hamilton was his visit to Waikeria prison the largest correctional facility in New Zealand holding 1000 inmates. Tony addressed only two very small groups of men that would not normally go to the chapel. The inmates were very straight faced throughout the entire presentation and so Tony was worried that the message was not getting through to them. It was clear that many of them were deeply impacted by his testimony as many of them were in tears by the end. Please pray that these men will spread the Good News of the Gospel to the other men in the Waikeria and that God would speak to many more men through the books that were given to the prison for free.

Letter from Rev. Hono Huirama, Chaplain Coordinator at Waikeria Prison:

Dear Mr. Anthony,

A big 'Thank You' to you and also to the support team for coming to our Prison. The prisoners were blown away with the anointing, eloquence and sincerity of an amazing testimony. How through one mans obedience to Gods prompting he was able to get alongside you and win you over to God. Then how you have gone out to the world to continue to sow and preach the Good News. I know that you have a deep passion to speak to inmates in prison you seem to speak their language and they identify themselves with you and you are able to reach deep down inside their souls to bring change in their lives so that they may be renewed and transformed by the power and actions of the Holy Spirit. Keep up the good work for it is profitable to you and the Kingdom of God.

Thank you also for coming to Aotearoa, Land of the long white cloud (New Zealand). Did you know that a Pastor from Australia had a dream in which God said to him, "If you had some precious jewels, where would you keep it?" The Pastor said, "I'll keep it under lock and key and I'll keep a guard at the door so that nobody can steal it", Lord. The Lord said that is exactly right, so go and tell everyone to go to the prisons and preach the gospel so that my precious jewels will be returned to me. Satan has had them long enough, I want them back. The Lord not by might nor by power but by His Spirit He will release the prisoners and set the captives free. This revelation was for Aotearoa-New Zealand. Your book and work may be the catalyst that brings revival to our nation. A big anointing always brings a big responsibility. Maranatha!

'Till we meet again Gods blessings to you and your loving wife and children'.

On behalf of all the Chaplains, Farewell.

Rev. Hono Huirama
Chaplain Coordinator, Waikeria Prison

Photographs:

Eleanor Goodall, Julian Batchelor,
Matt Old and Bernie Anderson





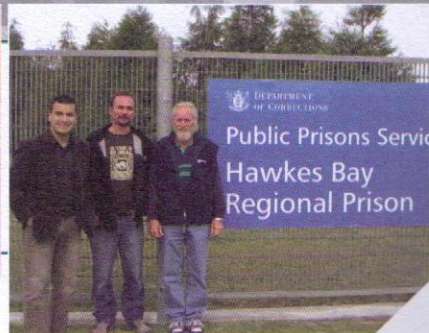
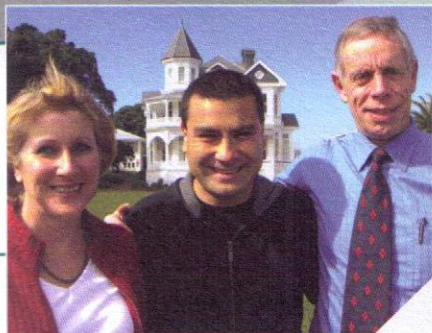
New Plymouth: 6 SEPTEMBER 2006

The day began with a visit to New Plymouth Prison. Paul Prestidge (Pastor at St James Presbyterian) took Tony to speak to about 90 men, which is 75% of the prison population. The Prison Manager, Peter Madsen commented on how impressed he was with the clarity of Tony's message to the prisoners.

The afternoon was filled with visits to 3 schools including Inglewood High School (30 young people), New Plymouth Boys' High School (over 1000 students) and Spotswood College (1300 students).

In the evening Tony addressed 1000 people at a city wide evangelistic event. This is apparently a rare number to get at a meeting in this area and it was a joy to see many young people come forward at the altar call.

Throughout the course of the day, Tony was able to share the Gospel with over 3500 people.



Photographs:

Lovell Gravey (Teacher), Tony, Geoff Matthews (Head Teacher) / The staff of New Plymouth Prison.



Email from Paul Prestidge:

Hi Tony,

Thanks for your ministry in New Plymouth. We're still gathering stories, but the general feedback has been very positive.

A couple of encouraging stories. I received this email from the local Open Brethren pastor:

The middle aged gentleman who was first to the front last night (Lyn), has come from South Africa and has only been in NZ for the last 3 to 4 months. He has been staying with his daughter and family who live in Opunake. They are Christians and fellowship at our church at New Plymouth Bible Chapel. His daughter, husband and family have been praying for many years for Lyn to commit his life to Christ but he has been a "hard man" and completely resisted any attempts of family members to witness to him. He has been completely opposed to the gospel of Christ - until that is, last night when he committed his life to Jesus Christ - Praise the Lord.

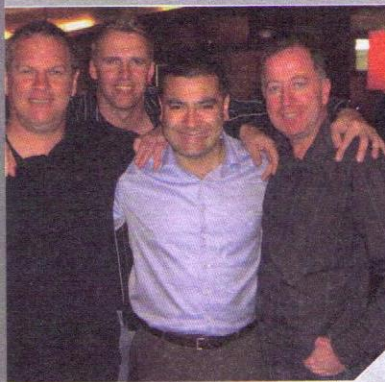
Thank you to Tony and the team and may God continue to bless you in your service to Him.

Leighton Mossop (Pastor)



Palmerston North: 10 SEPTEMBER 2006

The afternoon consisted of a visit to Manawatu Correctional Facility. There were 45 men in the first group and 53 in the second, and one of these groups included the segregated prisoners where there were some high profile murderers. It was awe inspiring to see these rough men sitting quietly as Tony shared his testimony and presented the Gospel. Hardened men tearfully responded to the altar call - praise God. The men were very pleased to be given a free copy of "Taming the Tiger". Please pray that the Gospel would be gossiped around the prison and that many other inmates would get to read Tony's books. The Chaplain, John Major, was very pleased with the result of the visit; please pray for John as he now follows up these men. A major outreach event was held at the Regent Theatre in the centre of Palmerston North for nearly 2000 people. It was a spectacular venue and a great number of people came forward at the altar call. This was the first event of its size in the area, and serves as a great building block to continue Church unity. Many leaders in the area expressed a keen interest in pulling off a "Love Palmerston North".



Highway 61 Motorbike Club: 12 SEPTEMBER 2006

Adrian Pritchard (ex-convict and drug addict turned evangelist) from Hastings invited Tony to visit the President of the Highway 61 Motorbike Club, the largest patched gang in New Zealand. The gang is very cautious with visitors as they are monitored by the police. Tony was only allowed to visit on the basis of Adrian's recommendation. Their pad (club rooms) was surrounded by a very high metal fence with barbed wire and dotted with cameras and lights for safety from rival gangs.



Photographs:

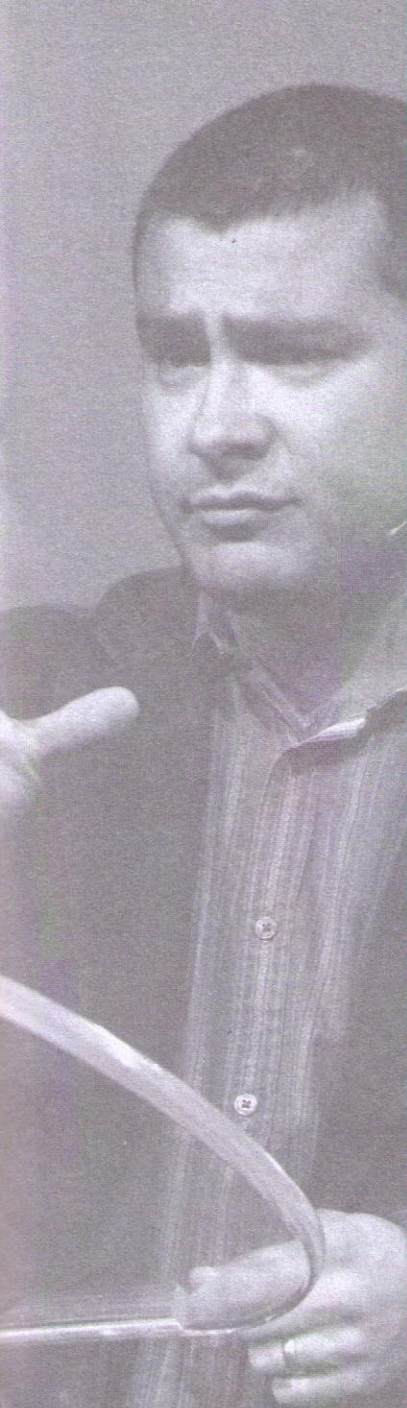
Dean (The President of the Highway 61 Motorcycle Club) and Tony.

The Chaplaincy Team at Manawatu Correctional Facility.

Anthony Walton (Senior Minister) and the team at The Rock in Wellington

*The Great Commission is not an option to be considered,
it is a command to be obeyed.*

J. Hudson Taylor



Tony was able to share his testimony over a cup of coffee with Dean, the gang president. He also met Pug and Wino (the longest patch members of the gang). After building up trust with Dean, he then gave Tony a little tour of the gangs Harley Davison's and Triumph's. Dean even let Tony take a picture of him, which is never usually allowed under normal circumstances. Please pray for Adrian, as he continues to use his past connections as a unique platform to share the Gospel with this gang each week. Please pray that the 5 copies of *Taming the Tiger* that Tony left with the Gang would impact their lives.

Napier: 13 SEPTEMBER 2006

Tony's itinerary in Napier was packed with a visit to Napier Boys' High School, a Ministers meeting (led by Julian, Matt & Tony), Hawke's Bay Regional Prison and a Churches Together event at the Samoan AOG Church for over 800 people.

The obvious highlight of Tony's day was his visit to the prison where he addressed 3 groups of men in the space of 3 hours. 60 men from the Maori Focus Unit came to hear Tony, and nearly two thirds of the group responded to the Gospel. One of the lifers stood up to thank Tony for coming to share such a life changing message, especially as it happened to be on his birthday. Each of the men went to shake Tony's hand and hongi, and then they all made their way outside to perform a haka pohiri as a way of showing Tony respect and thanks for his visit. It was very moving.

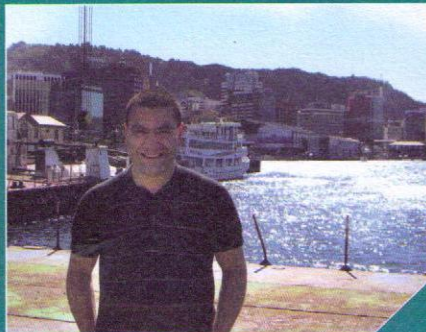
It was very difficult to connect with the 12 young offenders, as they all had so much to prove, however the seed was sown in the hearts of these teenagers.

The final talk was to the high-risk adult unit where the men were in the process of being sentenced. One of the prisoners, Skudder, head of the notorious Mongrel Mob stood up in front of his fellow inmates to tell Tony how he had become a Christian in prison after reading his book and was challenged to stop fighting with people. He said that God turned his life around through reading "*Taming the Tiger*" in prison. It was clear that Tony had already been in that prison in a manner of speaking, making an impact months before the actual visit. Some of the inmates asked Tony if they could perform a haka pohiri for him, which was quite spectacular. They put so much effort into the display, it was very emotional!

Wellington: 14 -17 SEPTEMBER 2006

Just over 5500 people from Wellington, New Zealand's capital city, heard the Gospel through Tony's ministry in Schools, Prisons, Leaders Conferences and Public Events. Mighty harvests were yielded at each meeting.

On Friday, Tony spoke at the first "Promise Keepers" event to over 1000 men, and around 100 men came forward at the altar call. Later that evening Tony spoke to 600 young people at an outreach event held on the other side of town at The Street Church where a third of the audience came forward at the altar call. There was an overwhelming presence of God's power on Tony's message.



Photographs:

Open Air Campainers Team in Wellington / Tony at Wellington Harbour
/ Local worship band with Tony at the Town Hall event

*Promise
Keepers
at the
Telstra
Clear
Pacific
Stadium in
Auckland*



Promise Keepers: 5 OCTOBER

Promise Keepers capped off a series of unique events for men held around the country with a record breaking gathering of nearly 3000 at the Telstra Clear Pacific Stadium in Manukau, Auckland. The Unleashed events, aimed at encouraging men to be what God intended them to be and fulfil their God-given potential, were also held in Dunedin and Christchurch in August and Tauranga and Wellington in September. Lavinia Ngatoko reported in Challenge Weekly (New Zealand's Christian Newspaper) in issue 40 on October 16, 2006 that there were 195 first time decisions.

Photographs:

Approximately 300 people reach out to God after coming forward at the altar call - 195 of which were first time decisions