

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FORMER INDEPENDENT PANEL

WHICH INVESTIGATED

CERTAIN ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST TONY ANTHONY

When the three Panel members were approached to undertake the task of investigating certain allegations made against Tony Anthony, they agreed to do so to achieve finality in resolving a long-standing issue. There had been allegations since 2004 that Tony Anthony's publicised life story was just a pack of lies. The Panel delivered its Report to Avanti on 26th June 2013.

Two weeks later Avanti and the EA issued a joint statement according to which "*large sections of the book [Taming the Tiger] ...which claim to tell the true story of Tony Anthony's life, do not do so.*" Two days later the Avanti board made a separate statement which said that "*The panel produced its report on 26 June 2013 challenging the integrity of some of the facts of Taming the Tiger. Tony has since confirmed that he is considering a revision to the book.*"

Tony Anthony appeared on Premier Christian Radio three days after the joint statement was made, stating that there were **minor** errors in his story which would be remedied. Apparently he is still undertaking speaking engagements claiming his life story as published is true apart from very minor adjustments.

Contrary to the impression given, the Panel was appointed to investigate "**all principal allegations**" against Tony Anthony, not to consider whether some facts in his book, *Taming the Tiger*, were true or not. One of the principal allegations made by representors was that virtually the whole of his published story was untrue.

The terms of reference of the former panel stated that the inquiry was **confidential** to the Board of Directors of Avanti (David Duell, David West, Paul Salter, Heather Crosskey and George Osborn) and the Evangelical Alliance.

Ever since Avanti announced in February 2013 that a Panel of Inquiry was investigating the complaints there have been people across the globe who have waited to learn whether the allegations are true or not. Panel members have been urged to release the report. The solicitors acting for the former Avanti directors warned the Evangelical Alliance not to release the report **or the executive summary which was written specifically for publication**. The Evangelical Alliance has urged the former directors of Avanti to release the report and the executive summary. They have failed to do so.

In accordance with the express wording of the Agreement the Panel anticipated that upon completion of the Inquiry the Directors of Avanti would make available the Panel's findings to Avanti's supporters and to a wider audience and implement any remedial action required. That did not happen. A day or so after the joint statement was made on 14th July 2013 Avanti announced that **Avanti was ceasing all operations forthwith**. The office was closed overnight, the telephone was cut

off and the website was taken off stream. This took the panel completely by surprise as we were under the impression that Avanti Ministries was a big operation operating in over 90 countries, with 178 evangelists based in 21 global locations. Besides, in an open letter in December 2012 Avanti wrote that “Each week Avanti Ministries continues to receive thousands of wonderful thank you emails, Tweets, Facebook messages, letters and postcards from the general public” [emphasis added]. With such a considerable operation supporting a worldwide ministry it was surprising that they could close the office literally overnight. This meant that those people who had been waiting for the conclusions of the report could not do so. It was apparent that the former Avanti supporters would never know the truth and their former financial supporters would never know how their money had been spent.

The directors of Avanti had appointed the Panel specifically to establish the truth. The Panel had embarked on this task, as required in the Agreement, “*in a professional manner and in a spirit of Christian conciliation as set out in Scripture, [their] prime goal being the glory of God, the honour of His Name and the healing of any divisions in the Body of Christ*”. The closing of Avanti meant that Christian conciliation as set out in Scripture and the healing of any divisions in the Body of Christ could not be achieved.

As former Chairman, for the past two months I have felt like an “insider”, knowing the truth and seemingly being an accomplice after the event to deception and obtaining money by false pretences but unable to tell those who have a right to know. I intend to fulfil my obligations to the Body of Christ by this present Report. I release this report on my own sole initiative without any acquiescence or permission from my co-panellists or the Evangelical Alliance. I take sole responsibility for it.

This Report addresses the evidence presented to the former Panel **WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ANY EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO IT BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED, TONY ANTHONY OR PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THEM**. In this Report such evidence is referred to as “**the non-Avanti evidence**”. **THE EVIDENCE PROVIDED IN THIS REPORT IS ALL FROM NON-CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES.**

ALL EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO THE PANEL BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED, TONY ANTHONY OR PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THEM HAS BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS PRESENT REPORT.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Following discussions between the Board of Directors of Avanti Ministries Limited and the Evangelical Alliance, the Alliance nominated Robert Amess, Keith Civval and me (as Chairman), to serve as a Panel of Inquiry with a mandate to submit a written report to Avanti by 26th June 2013.

PROCEDURE

In accordance with the terms of the Agreement the Panel investigated material containing allegations against Tony Anthony and gave both the Avanti board and third parties the opportunity of appearing before it to answer questions verbally.

The Panel interviewed:

- (a) on 14th May 2013 David Buick and Mike Hancock who are part of a group known as the "Research Group", consisting of David Buick, Carl Chambers, Geoff Elliott, Mike Hancock, Jon Mason, Tony Pancaldi and Aaron Petersen;
- (b) on 20th May 2013 Angela Little, the co-author of *Taming the Tiger* (Robert Amess being absent),
- (c) on 21st May 2013 four members of the Avanti Board, namely David Duell, David West, Paul Salter and George Osborn,
- (d) on 21st May 2013 Bob Hadwen, the Secretary of Leigh Road Evangelical Church,
- (e) on 21st May 2013 Heather Crosskey, a member of the Avanti Board (Robert Amess being absent) and
- (f) on 10th June 2013 Tony Anthony (Robert Amess being absent)

ASSESSMENT OF EVIDENCE

In the assessment of evidence the Panel followed the following principles:

1. The standard of proof to determine a particular fact or issue was assessed on the balance of probabilities.
2. Particular weight was given to third-party corroboration/verification, including documentary evidence.
3. The Panel reached its conclusions solely on the evidence submitted to it.
4. The Panel required submission of evidence which was capable of verification, that is to say, the Panel would not be satisfied with assertions which were either incapable of proof or had not been proved.
5. The Panel made plain to the Board that it had been mandated to establish the truth and it would do this by the evaluation of facts.

TONY ANTHONY'S ASSERTIONS

In publications, the media and public speaking Tony Anthony maintains that:

- (a) He was brought up in China,
- (b) He was an internationally famous Kung Fu champion,
- (c) He was in a prominent role in the field of close protection,
- (d) He was convicted of offences in Cyprus and sentenced to a term of imprisonment,
- (e) On 6th March 2000 he was involved in a traffic accident in Berkshire, which he readily confessed to when confronted by the police,

- (f) He was convicted in 2001 of offences relating to the accident and also of an unrelated offence of harassment and
- (g) For the above offences in England he was convicted and sentenced to fifteen months imprisonment.

THE ALLEGATIONS

The Research Group alleged that:

- (a) There was no evidence that Tony was brought up in China,
- (b) There was no evidence that Tony was a Kung Fu world champion or close protection at any time,
- (c) In 2000 Tony denied being involved in the traffic accident until close to the court hearing fourteen months later,
- (d) Both he and his wife were convicted for perverting the course of justice by telling lies, for which he was sentenced to a term of imprisonment,
- (e) Five years after committing his life to Christ the judge at the trial said of Tony Anthony: "*I regard you as a devious and manipulative man*" and
- (f) His published works, apart from his autobiography, are almost exclusively plagiarised from other sources.

THE ISSUES

The Panel identified six issues which were core to establishing the truth in the matter:

- A. The facts in relation to the traffic accident and a charge of harassment;
- B. The facts in relation to inconsistencies in the court records;
- C. Whether Tony ever lived in China in his youth, as claimed;
- D. Whether Tony was ever a world Kung Fu champion as claimed, or otherwise;
- E. Whether Tony had plagiarised extracts of published works owned by third parties and appropriated them as his own without acknowledgement; and
- F. Tony's honesty and integrity.

The Panel considered each of these issues separately. The evidence and conclusions are set out in Schedules 1 to 7 below.

THE PANEL'S OVERALL CONCLUSION ON THE NON-CONFIDENTIAL EVIDENCE

As the whole inquiry had as its essential feature the establishment of truth by credible evidence the Panel believed that each of its conclusions on the above seven headings should be considered separately. Having carefully considered each of its seven separate conclusions the Panel's overall conclusion was as follows:

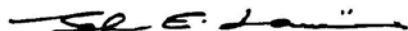
The Panel was given no evidence at all that Tony Anthony spent his childhood years in China or had any involvement in Kung Fu or close protection.

In the absence of any evidence to establish Tony's claims that he went to China as a child and was involved in Kung Fu the Panel turned its attention to the tragic traffic accident in Berkshire as the one event where third party evidence was available. The Panel noted that all the evidence submitted to it by third parties was consistent with each other but was inconsistent with what is written in *Taming the Tiger*. The Panel found all the third party evidence to be persuasive in convincing it that the third parties' accounts of the accident and its subsequent events were true.

THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Under Clause 2(d) of the Inquiry Agreement the Panel were mandated to make recommendations to the Avanti board. **These have been expunged from this Report.**

Under Clause 2(e) of the Inquiry Agreement the Panel was mandated to draft "a separate diplomatically discreet executive summary of the Panel's findings which would be suitable and appropriate to be made available to a wider audience by agreement between the Avanti and the Evangelical Alliance]." **The Executive Summary has been expunged from this present Report.**



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John E Langlois, OBE
Chairman of the former Panel

Date: 13 September 2013

SCHEDULE I

THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

A major issue for the Panel in the Inquiry was the weight to be given to the evidence of the respective parties, and in particular the weight to be given to Tony Anthony's story as told in *Taming the Tiger* by reason of the fact that much of that evidence was not capable of corroboration by third parties.

The Panel therefore decided to commence its examination by scrutinising the evidence relating to the traffic accident, in Hurst, Berkshire, which is described in chapter 14 of *Taming the Tiger*, because it contained the evidence of credible, independent third parties who by reason of their position, namely a policeman and a judge, were bound professionally to adhere to the highest standards of impartiality and truth in promoting justice and the evidence could be checked against reports in the public domain as well as the evidence of witnesses who were cognisant of the facts.

The Panel carefully scrutinised the evidence submitted in a report by seven individuals known as "the Research Group" The Panel concluded that the evidence was well researched. It therefore quoted from it extensively in the Report. The sources quoted by the Research Group are set out in Appendix 09 to this report.

The Research Group's allegations

The allegation by The Research Group in respect of the accident in the village of Hurst was that the account of the accident in *Taming the Tiger* was deceptive and did not accord with the facts. They alleged seven key discrepancies between their findings and what is stated to be true in *Taming the Tiger*, as follows:

1. *The victim was found fatally injured in clear view on the road and not, as Taming the Tiger says, in the bushes.*
2. *Tony took a detour of eight miles to get home.*
3. *No forensic evidence was mentioned in court or in the press.*
4. *The damage to Tony's car was too severe to align with the events described in Taming the Tiger.*
5. *The account in Taming the Tiger of how Tony found out about the accident actually indicates that he already knew.*
6. *The person referred to as "Tom" in Taming the Tiger did not find out about the accident through "radio communications" – it was common knowledge.*
7. *Tony says that he was quick to admit liability – he was not.*

1. The victim was found fatally injured in clear view on the road.

Page 205 of *Taming the Tiger* records that the motorcyclist "*had been knocked into the bushes,*

where she later died". It was noted that on page 203 having stopped, looked and found nothing, Tony concluded that his car had hit an animal that had then "limped back into the undergrowth".

All eyewitness accounts in press reports recorded that the victim was found lying, alive though seriously injured, in the road in clear view, by her motorcycle, not in bushes. The police constable who originally investigated the accident stated to Tony Pancaldi (a member of the Research Group) that it was a 500cc Kawasaki, not a small machine (see photo in Appendix 09, page 60). It was alleged by the Research Group that in Tony's book called "*Passion*" (introduction, page xiv) Tony had 'watered down' this incident to: "*I knocked a lady from her bike*".

A report in a local newspaper stated: "*A girl guide helper was fighting for her life yesterday after a callous hit and run driver left her for dead in the middle of the road.*"

The press report of the coroner's inquest reads:

*"The Reading coroner heard how her limp body was discovered by a passing motorist on the evening of Monday March 6 this year. Former nurse G*** P*** caught sight of E*** lying in the road as she approached the junction of the A321 and the B3034 in Wokingham, Berks. She said: 'I slammed on my brakes and swerved to the right to get around it. I glanced to my left and saw a person lying by the kerb'".*

It was alleged that visibility at the junction was unobstructed and there were no bushes near the spot where the body would have lain (see Google photos in Appendix 09, page 59). The Research Group alleged that an inhabitant of Hurst from that time assured them that the location had not changed and in particular there were no bushes near the spot, then as now. The Research Group indicated that members of their group had visited the location.

2. The detour of eight miles to get home.

Page 204 of *Taming the Tiger* records that Tony "*took another route home*". In the book Tony omits to mention that he actually lived in Hurst at that time. It is alleged that the road he was on was the shortest route to his church in Wokingham and to Bracknell where Sara, his wife, worked. To return home they would ordinarily turn right from the "B" road onto the "A" road into Hurst. The only detour that Tony could take was to drive in the opposite direction from his home in Hurst, because the continuation of the "B" road is a dead end. Tony's home was approximately a mile and a half from the accident. The detour in the opposite direction would have resulted in a journey approximately eight miles longer. There was no alternative route home from this spot.

Page 203 of *Taming the Tiger* records: "*There was still nothing to see, but I had a strange sense of panic. I sat for a moment, gripping the steering wheel*". The Research Group alleged that if the body was not in the bushes but in full view in the road it would explain that strange panic, and his decision to drive eight miles in the opposite direction with his takeaway meal. The body would have been lying directly in his path home, and of course, if he had carried on home as normal, he ran the risk of

being spotted, having driven past an injured motorcyclist in the road, and recognised by a passing local.

It was alleged that Tony's claim that he stopped and looked and that two other motorists stopped did not tally with the absence of any witnesses coming forward. The indications were that he immediately fled the scene, as described, 'after a moment' of panic, before any witnesses drove by.

3. No forensic evidence was mentioned in court or in the press.

Page 207 of *Taming the Tiger* records: "*Forensic evidence proved I was travelling well below the speed limit, but the roads were wet and the lady had no lights on her motorbike.*" The Research Group alleged that no forensic evidence was mentioned in any court or press report. PC Kevin Spiller, who investigated the case, affirmed that the lights were fully operational. At the inquest it was emphasised that there were no contributory factors to the accident other than carelessness, not even weather. It was alleged that if there had been forensic evidence to suggest that the motorcyclist was driving with no lights, it surely would have been mentioned in Tony's defence in court.

4. The damage to Tony's car was too severe to align with the events described in *Taming the Tiger*.

Page 203 of *Taming the Tiger* records: "*The headlight was broken, but there was no sign of anything else*". In *Taming the Tiger* it is recorded that Sara did not notice the damage until the following Saturday, five days later, when Tony pointed it out to her, yet the police described the damage as 'marked'. Press reports stated that one headlight and the front grille were left at the scene of the accident. *Taming the Tiger* also omits to mention that following the accident in Berkshire the car was taken to be repaired to a garage in Essex, presumably in an attempt to conceal the origin of the damage.

5. The account of how Tony found out about the accident showed that he already knew.

Page 204 of *Taming the Tiger* records: "*The following Saturday some of the older kids from the youth group came to our house for lunch and a Bible study. ... 'Y'know the police are looking for a car like yours,' he laughed. 'Oh yeah?' I queried, suddenly interested. 'There was a hit and run accident on Monday night and a lady was killed.' ... I felt sick. What could I say? 'Well, you better hand me in then,' I joked, but inside I was dying.*"

The Research Group alleged that this only made sense if Tony knew he was implicated. Moreover, other factors would have made it impossible not to know about the accident. It was alleged that a local who still lived close to the scene recalled that almost immediately after the incident, bouquets of flowers were laid at the spot. Tony and Sara lived in the centre of the village of Hurst. It was alleged that it was hard to see how they did not notice the memorial en route to church or school or wonder what had happened, especially as Tony knew that this is where he was afflicted with his inexplicable sense of panic after hitting something in the dark.

In addition, Hurst was a small rural community. The accident happened within the village boundaries, but there were no witnesses and no-one had come forward, despite the body and motorcycle being found in full view in the road. It must have been the talk of the village. There was a shop in Hurst, where the headlines must have been displayed. Tony and Sara lived nearby. The incident was reported in the press the very next day, with further extensive newspaper coverage. According to *Taming the Tiger* (page 205), Tony did not know of the newspaper coverage until the following Saturday, five days later: *"Sara was rifling through a pile of unread newspapers. Suddenly she clapped her hand to her mouth. 'No!' I grabbed the paper. It was all there in black and white...The newspaper reported that the driver had sped off and that detectives were still looking to identify the vehicle."*

6. "Tom" did not find out about the accident through "radio communications".

Page 204 of *Taming the Tiger* records: *"Tom was heavily into radio communications and police activity. He was always tuning into the police frequencies and digging up newspaper reports on detective work. 'Y'know the police are looking for a car like yours,' he laughed."*

Members of the Research Group alleged that they had spoken to the person referred to as "Tom" and his recollection was entirely different from Tony's. "Tom" was never "into" telecommunications as described by Tony. He did not find out about the accident by listening in to police conversations. He found out the same way as everyone else did. Everyone knew about the accident.

The Research Group reported that "Tom" recalled that he directly and seriously challenged Tony. He was disturbed by Tony's response and so he challenged him again on Sunday in church. Still unsatisfied with Tony's response, "Tom" then told his father, who was an elder in the Church in Wokingham. "Tom" was not his real name.

According to Tony on page 205 of *Taming the Tiger* he and Sara read in the newspaper that the body was found in the bushes. The Research Group alleged that they had examined all local newspapers and none of them state this. The newspapers unanimously recorded that the victim was found in the road.

The Research Group alleged that the fact that Tony had gone to such lengths to pretend that he did not know until five days later, claimed that the newspaper reported that the body was found in the bushes and distorts Tom's input was striking.

7. Tony said that he was quick to admit liability – he was not.

Pages 206-207 of *Taming the Tiger* record: *"Very early the next morning, there was a loud knock at the door. I leapt out of bed and ran downstairs. Half a dozen policemen with dogs barged in as I opened the door... We couldn't tell our story fast enough. No more lies. We were both desperate to spill out the details of this dreadful accident."*

The Research Group alleged that half a dozen policemen with dogs seemed a little excessive for a hit and run accident. The investigating officer, PC Kevin Spiller, recollected that there were no dogs and there were three policemen.

It took two months of questioning and police investigation before the police were finally in a position to charge Tony and Sara Anthony. Even on July 4, 2000, four months after 'no more lies', a report in the local newspaper states: *"In a statement read to the Reading Coroner, Dr Joe Pim, the driver said: 'I was not familiar with the road'"*.

In a court hearing in January 2001, ten months after *"spilling out the details with no more lies"*, they were still denying that they lied on arrest and the report of the inquest states: *"Mr and Mrs Anthony... each denied a single charge of perverting the course of justice. Tony denied getting a damaged P-reg car repaired at a garage after it was involved in a fatal road traffic accident"*.

In July 2001, sixteen months after the accident, the court proceedings were reported as follows: *"Rejecting his plea for a suspended jail sentence, Mr Recorder Stevenson said Tony had deliberately embroidered his story to throw police off the scent. 'You set to cover up your involvement; you wriggled and wriggled as long as you could, to try and rid yourself of this offence until you could do so no further. I regard you as a devious and manipulative man'"*.

The Research Group alleged that Tony clearly states in *Taming the Tiger* that he and his wife immediately told the truth to the police, which is in direct opposition to the court reports. Sara received a sentence of 120 hours community service as a result of her efforts to protect Tony.

The Research Group alleged that Tony received the sentence that he did because he did not immediately tell the truth about the incident and that the time that Tony actually spent in prison was entirely self-inflicted. They alleged that the law obviously does not want to discourage people from reporting accidents by swingeing sentencing when they do, but it does want to discourage perverting the course of justice.

Page 213 of *Taming the Tiger* records: *"When the sentence finally came there were several gasps in the courtroom. Fifteen months' imprisonment."* The Research Group alleged that press reports reveal a significant distortion of the truth in *Taming the Tiger* because the people in court were shocked at the length of his prison sentence – not for its severity but for its leniency.

The Research Group made the point that it was shocking that in the book Tony tried to create sympathy for himself at the expense of the pain and grief of the victim's orphaned sons and relatives.

They made the further point that Tony was not at this time being sentenced for the accident but for perverting the course of justice (lying to the police) and an unrelated case of verbal abuse (which the Research Group alleged was similarly distorted in *Taming the Tiger*). He was not sentenced for (and

did not admit) any aspect of the actual accident until over a year after it occurred, when the sentencing of nine months ran concurrently with this first sentence. He did not serve any time in prison at all solely for the accident itself. It was alleged that Tony created a picture of himself as a victim of injustice in *Taming the Tiger*, but actually he received very lenient treatment.

A report in a local newspaper stated: *“Family left shocked by death crash sentence” “The family of a Charvil woman killed in a hit and run car crash have been left distraught after the driver who knocked her down was sentenced to just 15 months [nine months of which was for four counts of harassment]. B*** and J*** B*** say they are reeling from the shock. E***’s son S***, who kept a vigil at her bedside stormed out of Reading Crown Court in tears.*

It continued *‘The police worked so hard on this case and spent a lot of time on it. They told us he would be jailed, and we expected a longer sentence. It is not so much for our own sake, but for other people. He could come out and do the same thing again. If he had only stopped. He has caused us so much misery. It is unbelievable’*

The Research Group’s conclusions

The Research Group’s conclusions were as follows: “Press and court coverage along with personal witness statements indicate conclusively that Tony Anthony’s testimony from this phase of his life as recorded in *Taming the Tiger* consists of serious distortion and manipulation of the truth. These distortions have been brought to Tony Anthony’s attention but have not been acknowledged in any meaningful way. Despite his claim to have experienced deep remorse and profound repentance, in *Taming the Tiger* Tony Anthony attempts above all to create sympathy for himself as a victim of injustice. As this investigation shows, this attempt is at the expense of the pain and grief of others, and presents a picture that is far from truthful.”

Submission from the Rev. Leslie Steele

The Rev. Leslie Steel submitted the following to the Panel:

“I have had increasing concerns about Tony Anthony and possibly his organisation Avanti Ministries since his team visited my town, Galashiels in the Scottish Borders, in November 2012. I hadn’t heard of Mr Anthony or his book *“Taming the Tiger”* but the events were advertised in my Church in October. As I was not going to be in the town during his visit because my wife and myself were with my daughter after the birth of her baby I thought I would find out about him on the internet as he is widely advertised through his organisation.

“However two things troubled me that I wanted to clear up and they were unconnected with his book. One was that the name Tony Anthony appeared for him as a director of Avanti Ministries, born 1969 and on the Company set up to make a film out of his book the name that appeared was Andonis Anthony, born 1971. I thought that would be easily enough cleared up however the reply I got from his organisation was in the following e-mail dated 24th October:-

“Dear Leslie, We are struggling to understand the reason of you email enquiry to Mr. Tony Anthony. Our organisation is not at liberty to divulge or disclose any personal details of Mr. Anthony to anyone. I can tell you, however that the registration details have already been amended by a member of the Board, which will clear up any confusion. Yours sincerely, Annie Williams LL.M / SC, Media and Legal Team.”

“Why my query should be a puzzle seemed more than strange to me. The other thing that troubled me was finding out that Mr Anthony had had a conviction not only for dangerous driving but for perverting the course of justice, the second conviction only being able to be brought through the persistence of a police officer.

“Reporting of the matters can be seen on:-

http://www.getreading.co.uk/news/s/552_couple_lied_about_death_crash

http://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/s/1678_hit_and_run_driver_admits_fatal_crash

http://www.getreading.co.uk/news/s/566_how_plucky_pc_solved_a_reallife_mystery

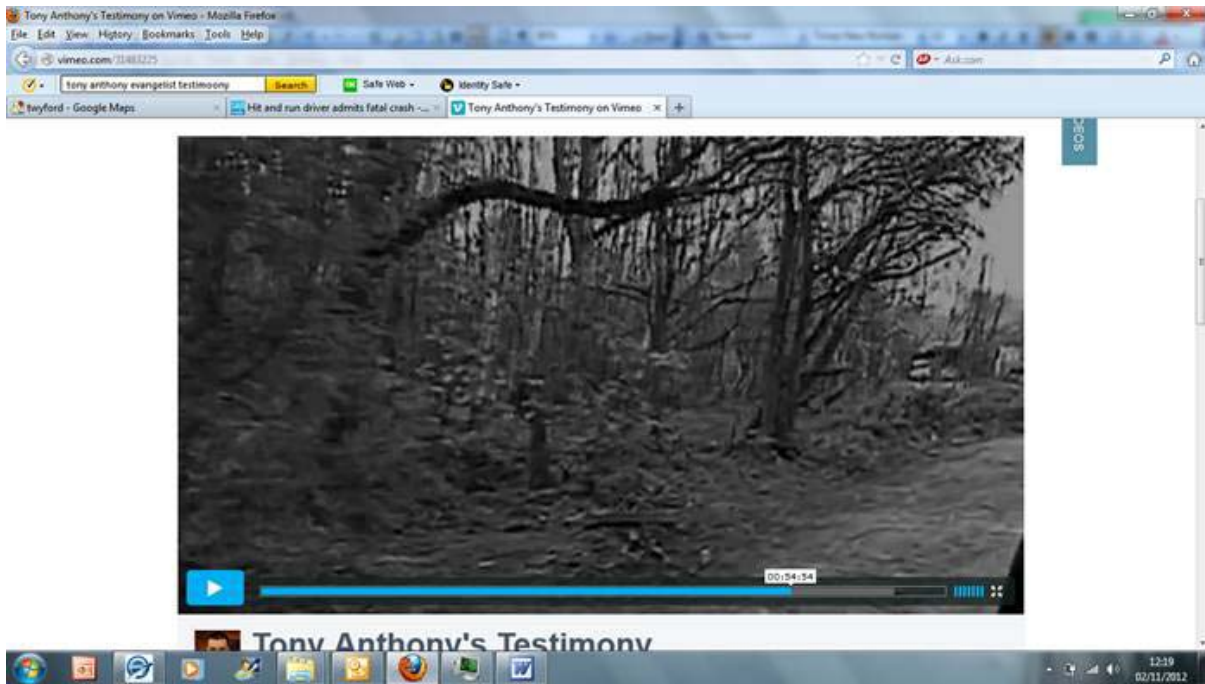
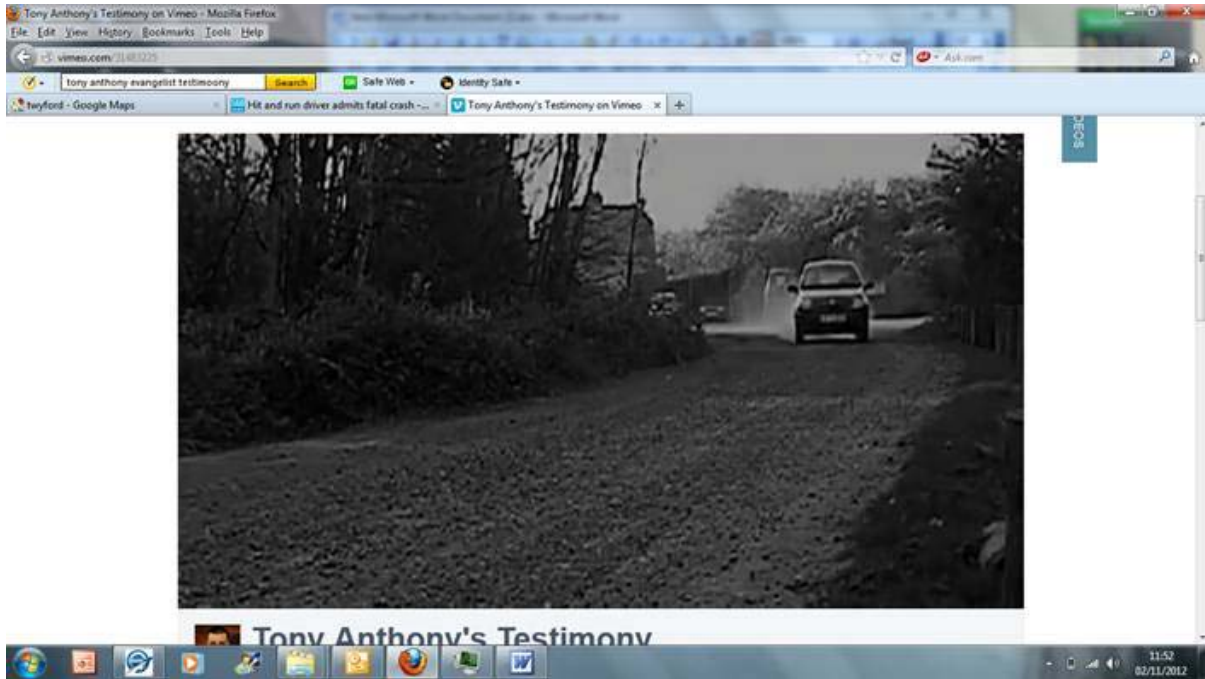
“In connection with this accident I listened to Tony Anthony's acknowledgement of this ‘accident’ on his spoken testimony on the Avanti website but something troubled me about it. As he tells of the collision which he says he was unaware of being of [sic] a motorcyclist a video is played over of a car travelling down a dirt road throwing up a lot of dust and obviously making visibility difficult. I checked out this particular junction from the reports only to find out that it was a perfectly ordinary tarred junction (see photographs below). It was my turn to feel puzzled - why go to all the bother of finding such a road and/or clip which isn’t the norm in Britain? It struck me as a deliberate visual deception which showed to me that difficulty with the truth was still very much an ongoing problem with Mr Anthony.

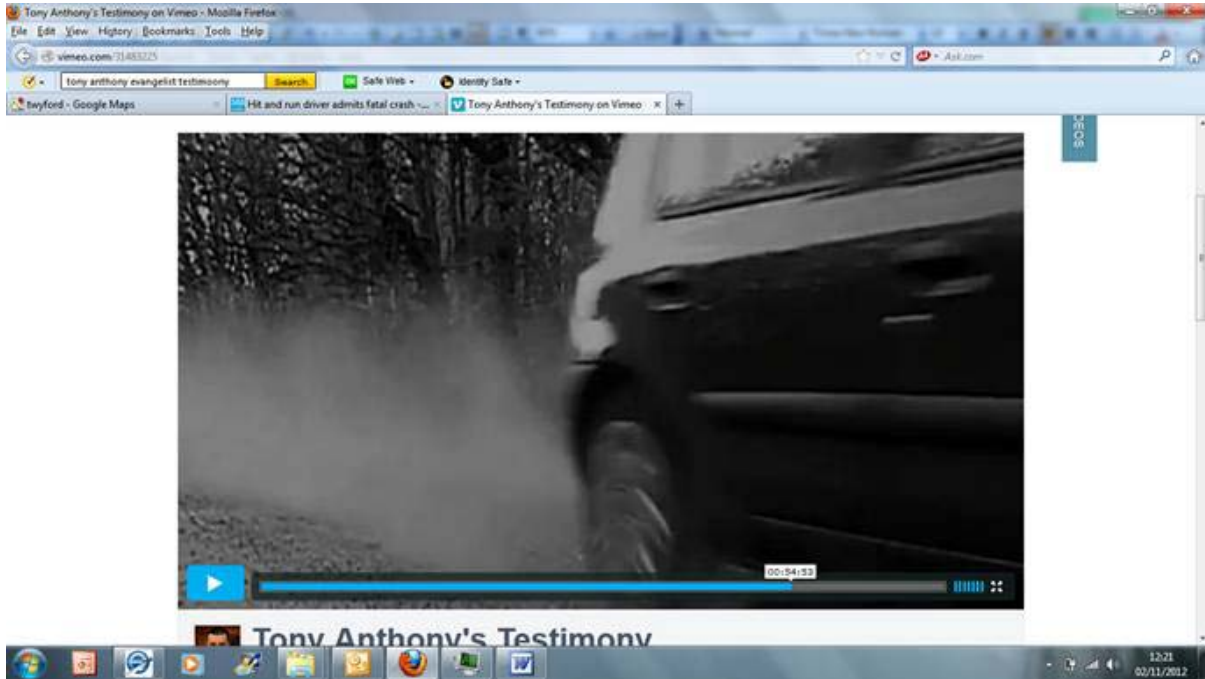
“If these two things weren’t enough the silence from Mr Anthony or his organisation in dealing with these things made me frustrated and feeling very suspicious and others who I have contacted have shared the same experience. I found out that Mr Julian Batchelor in New Zealand had known Tony and on contacting him he told me by e-mail that “Tony doesn't answer any calls when it's about asking questions to do with the validity of his story or where he got his resources.” (28th February 2013).

“The response of his organisation about the covert attitude to queries on his past is that it is to do with threats to Mr Anthony because of his past but this is ridiculous now that he is a public figure with his face and details advertised widely over the internet. This has been in my experience an excuse not to answer any of my legitimate questions.

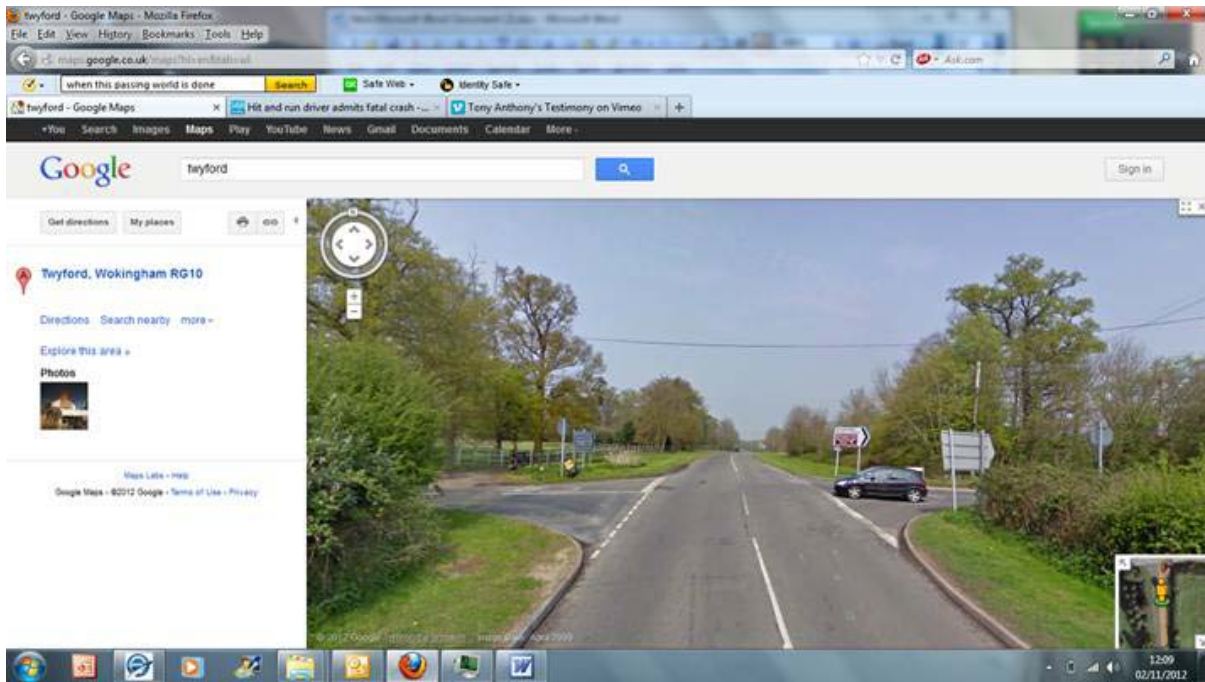
Leslie Steele, 1st April 2013”

PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEO ON AVANTI WEBSITE ALLEGEDLY GIVING A DECEPTIVE PORTRAYAL OF THE ACCIDENT





PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE JUNCTION WHERE THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED





Submission from Mr Stephen Currell

Stephen Currell, a former Secretary and Elder at Leigh Road Baptist Church, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and a retired police officer who retired with the rank of Temporary Chief Superintendent submitted the following to the Panel:

“Conversation with Rev Keith Nichols minister of Didcot Baptist Church where Tony Anthony was a youth worker prior to coming to LRBC and at the time of the accident.

“I am a friend of a former minister at LRBC who moved to Didcot Baptist Church over 20 years ago. In the 2000s I talked to Keith about Tony Anthony and the work he was doing at LRBC and how things were moving on. It was only then that Keith told me that Tony had been the youth worker at his church and despite the accident being months before the date when Tony was convicted and sent to prison the church did not know anything about the accident, investigation or court case until someone, I think it may have been Tony’s wife Sara, suddenly stated that Tony had been sent to prison. Indeed the young people had talked to Tony about the accident at the time and expressed their upset about what had happened. Tony never said anything to anyone at the church.

“I mentioned to Keith that a court report mentioned that Tony had said at his trial that the church would be concerned if he was sent to prison and Keith stated no one had at the church had ever been told of what had happened before Tony had been sentenced so how could that be said?

“I was really concerned that a Christian - working in a church setting and setting an example to young people - could have had such a major problem in their life and all the anguish of the trial etc. and never discussed it pastorally with anyone.

“Keith described the fallout that Tony’s imprisonment caused at the church was significant.”

Written questions/requests put to the Avanti Board and their responses

THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS/REQUESTS HAVE BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS REPORT DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMED BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED

The Panel’s written questions to the Board are shown in **red** below.

1. Page 205 of *Taming the Tiger* states that the motorcyclist “*had been knocked into the bushes, where she later died*”. On page 203 it states that having stopped, Tony looked and found nothing and concluded that his car had hit an animal that had then limped back into the undergrowth. **Is this the truth?** [answer expunged]
2. On page 204 Tony states that he took another route home. **Which route did he take?** [answer expunged]

3. Page 203 states that the headlight was broken, but there was no sign of anything else and goes on to say that Sara did not notice the damage until the following Saturday, five days later, when Tony pointed it out to her. **Is this true?** [answer expunged]
4. **At which garage (name and address) was the damage repaired?** [answer expunged]
5. Page 207 also states that the roads were wet and the lady had no lights on her motorbike. **Is this the truth?** [answer expunged]
6. When did Tony first learn of the fatality? Page 204 states that *“Tom was heavily into radio communications and police activity. He was always tuning into the police frequencies and digging up newspaper reports on detective work. ‘Y’know the police are looking for a car like yours,’ he laughed.”*. **Is this the truth?** [answer expunged]
7. Page 205 states that Tony and Sara read in the newspaper that the body was found in the bushes. **Is this true?** [answer expunged]
8. Pages 206-207 state *“Very early the next morning, there was a loud knock at the door. I leapt out of bed and ran downstairs. Half a dozen policemen with dogs barged in as I opened the door... We couldn’t tell our story fast enough. No more lies. We were both desperate to spill out the details of this dreadful accident.”* **Is this true?** [answer expunged]
9. **Did Tony admit liability when the police arrived?** [answer expunged]
10. **Did the police have dogs with them?** [answer expunged]
11. Page 207 states *“Forensic evidence proved I was travelling well below the speed limit.”* **Please provide us with details of the forensic evidence.** [answer expunged]
12. Page 213 states *“When the sentence finally came there were several gasps in the courtroom. Fifteen months’ imprisonment.”* **Were the gasps because the sentence was too harsh or too lenient?** [answer expunged]

The Avanti Board’s oral representations made at the meeting with the Panel on 21st May 2013
(extracts from the minutes)

THESE HAVE BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS REPORT DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMED BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED

Oral comments made by Heather Crosskey at the meeting with the Panel on 21st May 2013

THESE HAVE BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS REPORT DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMED BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED

Oral answers made by Tony Anthony at the meeting with the Panel on 10th June 2013

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The Panel's conclusion

The Panel noted the clear discrepancies between the story as recorded in *Taming the Tiger* and the independent third party witnesses who were involved at the time. The evidence of all the third party witnesses is fully consistent with each other and with the physical evidence.

The Panel came to the conclusion that the *Taming the Tiger* account of a hit and run accident and ensuing court proceedings systematically distorts the truth in such a way as to minimise the extent of Tony Anthony's wrongdoing and avoid revealing the seriousness and scope of his actual convictions.

SCHEDULE 2

THE TRIAL ARISING FROM THE ACCIDENT AND DISCREPANCY REGARDING TONY'S DATE OF BIRTH

The Research Group's submissions

As stated in Schedule 1 of this present report, which deals with the traffic incident, the Research Group considered that a major issue for the Panel was the weight to be given to the evidence of the respective parties, and in particular the weight to be given to the evidence of Tony Anthony in his publications and in his public addresses by reason of the fact that much of his evidence is not capable of corroboration by third parties.

They considered that the public nature of the trial was of vital importance because the evidence given under oath in a public forum in front of a judge bore great weight, as the evidence was subject to Rules of Court and subject to scrutiny by the judge.

In this schedule the sources which have been quoted by *The Research Group* as reference are in Appendix 09.

The Research Group investigated when and where Tony Anthony appeared in court and secured copies of the related certificates of conviction. They alleged that this research revealed that *Taming the Tiger* grossly misrepresents Tony Anthony's court appearances to his advantage and, much more seriously, it suggested that even as he was being sentenced for perverting the course of justice, unbeknownst to the authorities or the court, he was again perverting the course of justice by using a false identity – identity theft. The Research Group based this research on certificates of conviction obtained from the courts in question.

1. Court appearances

The Research Group alleged that the impression given in *Taming the Tiger* was that Tony was in court twice (pages 211-213), once with Sara and then again shortly afterwards. Sara was sentenced for perversion of the course of justice. It was alleged that it is not clear from *Taming the Tiger* exactly what Tony was sentenced for apart from additional charges of harassment, following which he was sent to prison.

The Research Group's researches showed that Tony was apparently in court at least four times:

1. Appearance at which he admitted charges of harassment,
2. Found guilty with Sara of perverting the course of justice, his sentence being adjourned,
3. Sentencing for harassment and perverting the course of justice, total 15 months, immediate imprisonment and
4. Sentenced, while in prison, for the actual hit and run, six months concurrent.

The Research Group made the following points that they alleged ran counter to the *Taming the Tiger* narrative:

“Tony did not go to prison for the actual accident but for perverting the course of justice, plus unrelated harassment charges (which were much more serious than portrayed), and that he did not admit to the hit and run until his appearance in court while in prison – over 18 months after the accident, and not just a few days later as stated in *Taming the Tiger*.
(http://www.getreading.co.uk/news/s/1678_hit_and_run_driver_admits_fatal_crash)”

2. Certificates of conviction and their implications

The Research Group alleged that all three certificates of conviction gave the name of the defendant as Tony Anthony and state that his date of birth was **August 7, 1969** (whereas it has been established that he was born on **July 30, 1971**). They alleged that it would appear that Tony lied about his age to the court and that even as he was being convicted of perverting the course of justice, he was again perverting the course of justice, undetected, by failing to supply his true identity and date of birth.

They additionally alleged that another troubling detail was that Tony’s age as supplied on his wedding certificate was consistent with this fraudulent date of birth.

Written questions/requests put to the Avanti Board and their responses

The Panel put various questions to the Board shown in **red** below.

THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS REPORT DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMED BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED

1. For what charge or charges was Tony sentenced to fifteen months’ imprisonment? [answer expunged]
2. Pages 211 to 213 infer that Tony was in court twice, once with Sara and then again shortly afterwards. Why was Tony in court twice? Were there more than two court appearances? [answer expunged]
3. Where does Sara come into this? Why was she in court? [answer expunged]
4. What date of birth did Tony give when he was charged, 7 August 1969 or 30 July 1971? [answer expunged]
5. QUESTION: Why was Tony not wholly truthful when giving an account of the accident to the church meeting when he was received into membership? [answer expunged]

6. It appears that at the time that Tony was a youth worker at Didcot Baptist Church the church only found out about the accident when Tony was already in prison, despite the accident being months before the date when Tony was convicted and imprisoned. Apparently the church did not know anything about the accident, investigation or court case until someone said that Tony was in prison. It appears that the young people had talked to Tony about the accident at the time and expressed their upset about what had happened but Tony never said anything to anyone at the church. Apparently the fallout that Tony's imprisonment caused at the church as significant. **QUESTION: As a member and youth worker at Didcot Baptist Church why did Tony not tell the minister of his involvement in the accident? [answer expunged]**

7. A court report of the accident mentioned that Tony had said at his trial that the church would be concerned if he was sent to prison. **QUESTION: How could that be true if no one had at the church had ever been told of what had happened before Tony had been imprisoned? [answer expunged]**

QUESTION: What justification did Tony have never to discuss it pastorally with anyone, even though he was working in a church setting and setting an example to young people as a youth leader and having such a major problem in his life and all the anguish of the trial and the possibility of being sent to prison? [answer expunged]

8. After the accident, according to the police, the police constable looked at the cars at the school, spoke to Sara and asked where her car was. Allegedly he stated they had had an accident in Essex in a supermarket car park. The police later found the car parts and identified the car. Police said Sara had lied, at the time that Tony was working in a church as a youth worker. **QUESTION: Was Tony aware that his wife had lied to the police? [answer expunged]**

9. According to the Police and to Paul Bracewell, the brother of the woman killed in the accident, the motorbike was roadworthy. **COMMENT: this appears to be at variance with what is written in *Taming the Tiger*. [response expunged]**

10. **REQUEST: Please let us have details of the Racially Aggravated Harassment charge for which Tony received a sentence of nine months' imprisonment, including the date of the incident, the main facts of it and the name of the court which convicted and sentenced him. [response expunged]**

11. **REQUEST: Please let us have details of Tony's girlfriend who died tragically in an accident - referred to in *Taming the Tiger*. [response expunged]**

The Avanti Board's oral representations made at a meeting with the Panel on 21st May 2013
(extracts from the minutes)

THESE HAVE BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS REPORT DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMED BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED

Tony Anthony's oral representations made at a meeting with the Panel on 10th June 2013 (extracts from the minutes)

THESE HAVE BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS REPORT DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMED BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED

The Panel's conclusion

The Panel was mystified since an early date in the Inquiry as to why the extreme secrecy as to Tony's identity was necessary as this information is public knowledge as it is registered on public records and is clearly stated on everyone's passport. The Panel noted the allegation by the Research Group that the members of the Avanti board were sworn to secrecy having been shown Tony's birth certificate and passport.

The Research Group noted that there were separate and unrelated instances where an incorrect date of birth had been stated, such as on (1) the court records, (2) the records at Companies House and (3) also an incorrect age on Tony's marriage certificate. They alleged that one clerical error would be understandable, or even three clerical errors which were unrelated, but unrelated references to a consistent birth date in 1969 put down to clerical errors seemed implausible. The Panel therefore decided to pursue further investigations.

The Panel followed this up by obtaining copies of Avanti's company returns from Companies House, which showed the following: (1) Tony's correct date of birth was shown on his appointment as a director in 2003 (Appendix, section 48), (2) his correct date of birth is shown in the 2004 annual return (Appendix, section 49) and (3) his correct date of birth was amended in manuscript to an incorrect date of birth in both the 2005 and 2006 annual returns (Appendix, sections 50 and 51)

The Panel ascertained from the Research Group that they had discovered a person who was born in Hendon on 7 August 1969 whose name just happened to resemble that of Tony, namely, Tony Antoni. The Research Group sent the Panel a scanned copy of Tony's birth certificate (see Appendix 35). As the Panel were aware that Tony had already been convicted of forgery and had spent time in prison for that offence the Panel decided to seek primary evidence of the birth of this other Tony Antoni. The Panel applied to the Registrar of Births and Deaths for a certified copy of the entry of birth of this other person and duly received a copy upon payment of the requisite fee (see Appendix 35). Upon establishing this fact the Panel had to establish how the various mistakes could have happened. The Panel concluded that it was not credible that they had happened by chance.

Knowingly giving a false date of birth to the police at the time he was charged for the traffic offence would give some validity to the allegation of the Research Group that "it suggests that even as he was being sentenced for perverting the course of justice, unbeknownst to the authorities or the court, Tony was again perverting the course of justice by using a false identity".

As far as Tony's age on his marriage certificate is concerned it begs the question as to whether Sara still thinks that Tony is two years older than she is. It also begs the question as to what evidence Avanti staff saw in order to file a false return with Companies House.

SCHEDULE 3

TONY ANTHONY'S IDENTITY AND EARLY YEARS

The Research Group alleged that until members of the Group probed the facts behind Tony's claims the Avanti board were extremely secretive as to Tony's identity and he consistently refused to show his birth certificate even to his own pastor. As a result the Research Group painstakingly set out to research Tony's identity.

The Research Group's allegations

The Research Group alleged that prior to the closing stages of the Inquiry Tony had consistently gone to great lengths to conceal his true identity, even from those closest to him. A common pretext was that he was in danger from Triad gangs due to his having renounced his Kung Fu lineage passed on from his grandfather. They alleged that their findings helped to explain why this threat was non-existent and why Tony sought to conceal his identity – and, just as importantly, his age.

The Research Group stated that most of the evidence for the information referred to below takes the form of UK birth, marriage and death certificates, plus documents available to the public from Companies House.

1. Statements by Tony Anthony according to the Research Group

The Research Group alleged that *Taming the Tiger*, various videos about his story and press reports of interviews that Tony has given provide the following information:

- Tony lived in London until the age of four.
- His parents' Christian names are Andrew and Janet.
- His mother was of Chinese origin and had a distant ancestor named Gong So.
- His father was an Italian born in England.
- Tony's father was a television engineer, who developed Multiple Sclerosis when Tony was a small child.
- Tony 'recently' re-established contact with his mother after his father's death, and attended his father's funeral.
- In *Taming the Tiger*, Tony's grandmother tells him he was born in the 'year of the rooster'.

2. Details of Andonis Anthony (Tony Anthony) according to the Research Group

- An Andonis Anthony, born 30 July 1971, is listed with Companies House as a former director of Taming the Tiger Productions Limited. The recorded surname of this Andonis is Athanasiou, a Cypriot name.
- Only one male child was born in England and Wales in 1971 with the first name Andonis.
- The birth certificate of Andonis Athanasiou, born in London on July 30, 1971, records that (1)

His father was a television engineer, (2) his father's name is Andreas Athanasiou (Andreas is the Greek form of Andrew), born in Cyprus and his mother's name is Janet Athanasiou née Soo, born in England.

- The marriage certificate between Janet Audrey Soo and Andreas Athanasiou records that: (1) they were married in February 1971, (2) the marriage was registered in the same St. Pancras registry office as Andonis' birth registration five months later and (3) Andreas was an electronics engineer, consistent with being a television engineer.
- Andreas' father was called Andonis (naming a son after one's father is standard practice in Greece and Cyprus).
- Janet's father was a café proprietor in Streatham named Gong Soo.
- Janet's father (i.e. Andonis' Chinese grandfather) was deceased at the time of the marriage (examination of Gong Soo's death certificate revealed that he died in 1964, seven years before Andonis' birth).
- Andonis' father, Andreas Athanasiou's, death certificate records that: (1) he died in care on 29 September 2011; Multiple Sclerosis is recorded as a cause of death. The certificate records his name as Andrew Anthony formerly Andreas Athanasiou, born on 6 December 1943 in Cyprus, married to Janet Audrey Anthony.

3. Additional information according to the Research Group

- Tony's wedding certificate records his father's name as Andrew Anthony. However, it wrongly records Tony's age at the time as 25; this is consistent with the alleged 'year of the rooster' birth date of 1969-1970 mentioned in *Taming the Tiger*.
- Contacted by telephone in Cyprus, the best man at Janet and Andrew's wedding, Andonakis Bartellas, confirmed the Anthony's had a young son when he left London in 1973.
- Steve Currell, former Church Secretary of Leigh Road Baptist church, confirmed to Tony Pancaldi in March 2011 that Tony Anthony's passport recorded his place and date of birth as London, July 30, 1971.
- No records have been found of any other children born to Janet and Andrew Anthony.
- No other individual has been identified as the former Director of Taming the Tiger Productions Ltd.

4. Tony Anthony's birth name is Andonis Athanasiou according to the Research Group

The Research Group alleged that from the above it could be deduced that:

- Tony Anthony was born Andonis Athanasiou in London on July 30, 1971.
- Contrary to his claims in the 'true' story of his life, Tony's father was not an Italian born and bred in England, but a Cypriot born in Cyprus. This led to the obvious conclusion that Tony lied about his father's ethnicity in order to conceal his family connections in Cyprus.
- Tony never knew the grandmaster Kung Fu grandfather who purportedly trained Tony in China to become a three times world champion and elite bodyguard to the rich and famous,

since his grandfather died at age 72, seven years before Tony was born. Tony claims in *Taming the Tiger* that a cousin informed him whilst he was in prison in Nicosia that his grandfather had died at age 95.

Pages 169-170 of *Taming the Tiger* state as follows: *"I knew that it was time to tell my Chinese family of my decision to follow Christ. I wrote to my grandfather, knowing full well the severity of my words, In turning my back on martial arts, I was destroying his legacy, denying my heritage, and breaking the sacred vows to preserve the ancient way of Kung Fu. I hoped that when I told Lowsi of my new life-saving faith, he would come to a gracious understanding...Weeks passed by before I received a letter from my cousin Si Kwon... She told me that my grandfather had died. He was 95...the letter went on to demand that I deny my Christian faith. As the only male descendant of Cheung Lin Soo, our family's honour lay solely on my shoulders... The news of Lowsi's death shook me. I didn't know how I should feel. I had hated him for most of my life, yet he had left his mark on me. He had given me an identity. I knew that in his death something of me was also gone forever. It was likely that the family would hire triads to come after me. Yet my new life, my faith and God's protection were so real and more powerful than anything my grandfather had taught me. There would be no going back. I pictured my Grandfather's face, and tried to remember the better times we had together, and the respect I had for him in later years. I remained emotionally numb."*

Tony has given assurances publicly, on a number of occasions, that *Taming the Tiger* contains no dramatic enhancement by his ghost-writer, Angela Little (*"My testimony is true, and God is my witness"*).

5. Additional family details that contradict *Taming the Tiger* according to the Research Group

Further birth and death certificates reveal that:

- Tony's Chinese grandfather, real name Gong Soo (sometimes spelled So), spent at least a good part of his life in the UK.
- Gong Soo's wife was Margaret Ahtoo, born in Liverpool in 1909 of a mother also called Margaret who, according to the 1911 census, was a British subject by parentage.
- Before owning a café in Streatham, Tony's Chinese grandfather worked in a laundry in Cardiff. He had other children: Iris, born in 1927 and who is the witness on Janet and Andreas' wedding certificate, Arthur, born in 1934, and Ruby, born c. 1929.
- Janet's brother, Arthur, had one son and one daughter; her sister, Iris, had two sons. Details of Ruby's family have not been researched.
- Gong Soo died in Bristol in 1964. Arthur, Tony's uncle, is witness on Soo's death certificate.
- Janet's sister, Iris, registered their mother, Margaret Soo's, death in Wales in 1999.

Records prove conclusively that:

- Contrary to Tony's claims, in his Chinese family line he has an uncle and three male cousins – all of whom are older than him. In *Taming the Tiger*, he says he was trained in the ancestral

art of Kung Fu because he was his grandfather's sole male descendant. He was not, so the reasoning for this training collapses.

- Contrary to the impression given in *Taming the Tiger* of an all-Chinese grandmother in China, Tony's grandmother was at the least a second-generation, thoroughly British subject.
- Tony's mother was the daughter of Gong Soo and sister of Arthur Soo, who registered their father's death. She was also the sister of Iris, who was a witness at her wedding and registered the death of their mother Margaret.
- There can be no doubt that the Gong Soo who lived and died in the UK before Tony's birth was Tony's maternal Chinese grandfather.

The Research Group are also in possession of a copy of Tony Anthony's deportation certificate. This gives his name as Andonis Anthony, the place and date of birth as London, July 30, 1971 and his deportation date as November 11, 1992 (corresponding to the date given in *Taming the Tiger*). The document also indicates that Tony was imprisoned for forgery, a crime not mentioned in *Taming the Tiger*. This counters Avanti's recent public claim that "*Tony's personal testimony is as accurate as Tony could have made it at the time of writing*". When he wrote *Taming the Tiger*, Tony knew his true age, which is not consistent with his age in the book.

The Research Group allege that records also indicate that Tony has supplied conflicting birth dates (1971 and 1969) to Companies House, misled people about his age on official documents, including his marriage certificate, misled the police when arrested for the hit and run accident, and misled the public on advertising material that claims he was in his early twenties when a bodyguard. The reason for this falsification is no doubt that his true birth date renders his story impossible because he was too young.

6. Tony Anthony's true identity and its concealment according to the Research Group

The Research Group alleged that the key to all the above evidence was Tony's birth certificate, without which nothing else could be established. Tony had got away with his deception by consistently refusing to reveal his birth certificate even to his own pastor. The Research Group alleged that those directors of Avanti who had access to his birth certificate were sworn to secrecy to prevent them from revealing what they know, thus obstructing others from checking Tony's claims. The argument for secrecy had always been the danger of physical harm to Tony and his family from his Chinese family for rejecting his heritage. The above facts show that this danger never existed.

The Research Group alleged that in addition Tony claimed not to have seen his parents between his imprisonment in Cyprus and his father's death in 2011. He could be seen in online videos stating that he hated his parents. It is now apparent that Tony left his mother to cope with his invalid father for all these years. There is of course an obvious benefit for Tony in not having contact with his family. They, like his birth certificate, could reveal the truth of his past.

7. Tony's true age and the timeline of *Taming the Tiger* according to the Research Group

The Research Group allege that the issue of *Tony's* age (as revealed by his true identity) is crucial when considering whether *Taming the Tiger* can be described, as advertised extensively and unreservedly, as a "true story".

Taming the Tiger relates how, due to his acclaimed prowess in martial arts, Tony is invited to train as a bodyguard and then work for a number of clients, rising through the ranks of the profession before being hired by his final client, 'Amin'. During leave from this final client, he meets his girlfriend and embarks on a relationship said to last several years. It is after her untimely death that he enters a downward spiral (said to last several months), before being imprisoned in Cyprus in December 1989.

The Research Group allege that the information provided here offers proof beyond reasonable doubt that Tony was born in July 1971. To date, this has been neither denied nor refuted. If born in 1971, Tony was only 18 when he went to prison – and the events described above, lasting several years at least, would have had to have taken place when he was younger still.

Publicity for Tony's testimony, available for sale on Avanti's website as of the time of writing, describes it as a "true story" and states that "in his early twenties Tony worked as an elite body guard, travelling the world protecting some of the world's richest, most powerful people".

The Research Group alleged that there was a clear discrepancy between Tony's testimony as advertised and the evidence. His actual age was incompatible with his story prior to imprisonment in Cyprus. Moreover, not a single piece of evidence had been supplied to support his account.

8. Initial response of Avanti Board to the Research Group's findings according to the Research Group

The Research Group alleged that on February 5, 2013, the Avanti Board published a statement on its website in response to the claims made by the Research Group in its presentation of November 5, 2012. In particular, the statement addressed the issue of Tony Anthony's grandfather and the timeline of *Taming the Tiger*.

(a) Tony Anthony's grandfather

The Research Group alleged that the statement made an astounding admission: "*The man that raised Tony in China was not his biological grandfather*". The fact that Avanti felt the need to make this admission indicated that they had tacitly (but not explicitly) admitted Tony Anthony's true identity as detailed above, presumably in view of the overwhelming weight of the evidence.

(b) The timeline of *Taming the Tiger*

The Research Group alleged that following this admission, the challenge then became that of explaining the incompatibility of Tony's age with the *Taming the Tiger* narrative. The strategy

adopted by the Avanti Board in this respect was made clear by the following part of the same document:

“Some people (...) wrongly interpret that certain events occurred consecutively when in actual fact many of them ran concurrently”. The Research Group states that the problem here is that even if this is accepted (against all indications in the narrative), there are some events related that cannot be concurrent because they require previous events to have occurred (for instance, Tony must have gone through bodyguard training before embarking on his close protection assignments).

Amid many, many other episodes, *Taming the Tiger* relates a series of twelve events stretching from Tony’s commencement of combat training with Lowsi to imprisonment in Nicosia which must have occurred consecutively, because each depends chronologically on the previous one.

These events are presented below:

1. Begins real life combat training (said to be aged 17) (p51),
2. Fights in Nanching, Pakistan, teaching at Mr Chang’s school, IKFF competitions (p52-64)
3. Invited to work directly for IKFF (p66)
4. Extensive bodyguard training (p66-68)
5. Bodyguard’s oath (p68)
6. Assignment with Winston, Switzerland (p69)
7. Assignment with William Black, various countries including Saudi Arabia (p72)
8. Assignment with Amin, Saudi Arabian Ambassador (p90ff)
9. Leave from Amin; meets Aiya (p91)
10. Three-year relationship with Aiya (p94)
11. Aiya killed, downward spiral (p96ff)
12. Imprisonment in Nicosia, Christmas Eve 1989 (p121).

The Research Group alleged that If Tony was born in 1971, as now appeared to be beyond reasonable doubt, he was aged 18 when he went to prison in Cyprus, and all of these events must have occurred when he was younger still. This would make him just 15 at the start of his three-year relationship with Aiya. This relationship begins after he has “risen through the ranks”, which in turn is after him following his initial training. The latter included weapons handling and “courses in protective driving, surveillance, alarms, para-medicine, international criminal law, anti-terrorism, communications and explosives among many others” as well as tutoring “in the basics of the world’s major languages”.

The Research Group stated that the Avanti board had made a public statement that *Taming the Tiger* was “as accurate as Tony could have made it at the time of writing”. They make the point that at that time Tony must have already been aware of his real date of birth, having acquired official travel documentation from British consular services to leave Cyprus in 1992 – over a decade before the book was written.

The Research Group made the point that aside from the plausibility (in the absence of any evidence whatsoever) of so many events in such a short space of time at such a young age, Tony's real age could not be made to square with the claim, regularly made in Avanti's advertising for his evangelistic meetings until at least January 2013, that *"in his early twenties Tony worked as an elite body guard [sic], travelling the world protecting some of the world's richest, most powerful people"*. They alleged that this was demonstrably untrue, and concealed the fact that Tony was far too young to have engaged in the activities he describes prior to his imprisonment in Cyprus aged 18.

The Research Group's conclusion

The Research Group's conclusions were that Tony did not spend time in China in his youth and was not involved in Kung Fu.

Written questions/requests put to the Avanti Board and their responses

The Panel put various questions to the Board shown in red below.

THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS REPORT DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMED BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED

1. Please let us have details of Tony's legal birth name and date of birth and the actual Chinese given name that he went by in the early part of his life [response expunged]. I note that an internal investigation into these allegations resulted in Avanti Trustees witnessing both legal documentation as well as photographic support. Please let us have copies of these materials. [response expunged]
2. TA writes at length about his time in China. Please let us have proof that he went to China at the age of four and the date when he left China. Please let us know whether his mother accompanied him in China. [response expunged]
3. Please let us have proof of the dates when and the places where Tony was raised in China. [response expunged]
4. Please let us have proof of the dates when and the places where Tony was raised in China. [response expunged]
5. The Panel understand that those directors of Avanti who have had access to Tony's birth certificate have been sworn to secrecy to prevent them from revealing what they know. Is this true? [answer expunged]
6. Please let us have copies of these documents. [response expunged]
7. Please let us have a copy of the birth certificate. [response expunged]

8. Please let us have details of the genealogical reconstruction that it was possible to make from the birth certificate (apart from the name of his mother and father). [response expunged]
9. Please let us have the factual details from the Register that proved that Mr Anthony's mother was wholly of Chinese ethnic origin. [response expunged]
10. Please let us have copies of these family photographs. [response expunged]
11. Please let us have copies of the documents referred to – the birth certificate (already requested above) and the Deed Poll changing Mr Anthony's name. [response expunged]
12. REQUEST: The Panel need proof separately from the affidavit. The Panel agree that it is inadvisable to send personal documents to us over the internet. Please send them to me by Recorded Delivery to the following address: "Mr J E Langlois, Les Emrais de Bas, Castel, Guernsey, GY5 7YF. It is not sufficient that you show us these documents when The Panel meet. The Panel need to study them beforehand in order to ask informed questions. [response expunged]
13. "*When I was four years old I was sent to my grandparents in China*". COMMENT: This is consistent with *Taming the Tiger* but it contradicts the statement on the Avanti website in February that it was not in fact his grandfather and grandmother. [response expunged]
14. Please send us evidence of the dates when and the places where he resided in China. I note from your letter that you have seen authentic letters written to him and by him from the Greek prison, including photos of that time. [response expunged]
15. REQUEST: Please get this information as this quote is of no probative value. [response expunged]
- COMMENT: Virtually all human beings have some evidence of their first fifteen years of life. Anyway, Tony's mother can give evidence when The Panel see her. The Panel shall ask her for other people who can corroborate what she says. [response expunged]
- 15A. QUESTION: At what age (did) he next see his mother? [response expunged]
16. As Mr Anthony spent his formative years in China, like any child he must be able to speak Chinese like a native. Please let us know which dialects he is able to speak and/or understand. [response expunged]
17. REQUEST: Please let us have the names and addresses of the schools in the UK and the dates he attended. [response expunged]

18. QUESTION: How did his mother communicate with him during his years in China? [response expunged]

19. QUESTION: What language did he speak when he was in China? [response expunged]

QUESTION: In what language did Tony's mother communicate with him the first time he returned to England when he was 12 years old? [response expunged]

20. QUESTION: What language did he speak when he attended school in China? [response expunged]

QUESTION: In what language did his teachers teach lessons in school? [response expunged]

QUESTION: How did he communicate with people who did not speak any English whatsoever? [response expunged]

QUESTION: In what region of China is this Chinese dialect spoken today? [response expunged]

21. How did he communicate with his Kung Fu instructors? [response expunged]

22. QUESTION: Can he read Chinese script? [response expunged]

QUESTION: On page 133 of *Taming the Tiger* The Panel read that Tony was writing calligraphy name plates. In what language was he writing them? [response expunged]

23. On page 27 Tony claims he can understand what the boys from Shanghai were saying (that is, Shanghainese, not Mandarin or his own language of Cantonese). **When did he learn Shanghainese?** [response expunged]

24. The Panel read that while in prison in Cyprus, he was still writing calligraphy nameplates (p133). **Can Tony still write Chinese characters (even with elementary proficiency)?** [response expunged]

25. Tony claims that he had eight years living in China, and five more returning for months at a time, during which time he was treated by a fierce grandfather, who drilled into him the Chinese language. Tony should have been thoroughly fluent at that time. The book gives the impression that by the age of ten he was writing all day with "a fine set of brass quills" (p43). **What is his present level of proficiency?** [response expunged]

26. In *Taming the Tiger* Tony claims that he was tutored in the basics of the world's major languages. **Which languages are referred to? Which languages is he now able to speak?** [response expunged]

27. QUESTION: What was the name that Tony went by in China? [response expunged]
- (SECOND) REQUEST: What was the name that Tony went by in China? [response expunged]
- COMMENT/REQUEST: Please let have this information. [response expunged]
- COMMENT SENT TO AVANTI: This is vital for the progress of the inquiry. [response expunged]
28. FURTHER REQUEST: Please let us know the name that he went by in China, both generally and in the kung-fu competitions he participated in. The name can be either in Mandarin or in Roman script (either pinyin or westernised). [response expunged]
29. How far does Tony's Kung Fu lineage go back? [response expunged]
30. In which city/town/village/location were/are the Triad gangs? [response expunged]
31. Are they still there? [response expunged]
- 31A. What names do they go by today? [response expunged]
32. What was Tony's father's date and place of birth? [response expunged]
33. Andonis' father Andreas Athanasiou's death certificate records that he died on 29 September 2011 of Multiple Sclerosis and records his name as Andrew Anthony formerly Andreas Athanasiou, born on 6 December 1943 in Cyprus, married to Janet Audrey Anthony. Can you confirm that this is true? [response expunged]
34. How old was Tony when his father developed Multiple Sclerosis? [response expunged]
35. "My father was paralysed when I was born". COMMENT: It appears from *Taming the Tiger* that his father was not confined to a wheelchair until he returned from China at the age of 12.
- 35A. NEW QUESTION: Please let us know what age Tony was when his father was first confined to a wheelchair. [response expunged]
36. What was the date and place of his father's funeral (e.g. name of church, crematorium, etc.) [response expunged]
37. Please let us have details of the significance of the death of Tony's dad last year. [response expunged]
38. QUESTION: Which was Tony's father's mother tongue? [response expunged]

QUESTION: Which was Tony's father's mother tongue? [response expunged]

COMMENT: The Panel have other questions about this which The Panel hope will be elucidated when The Panel interview Tony's mother.

39. **Is Tony his Chinese grandfather's sole male descendant?** [response expunged]

40. **COMMENT:** It would appear to us, prima facie, that Tony's father was Cypriot not Italian. **NEW REQUEST:** Please provide us with proof that Tony's father was Italian not Cypriot. [response expunged]

FURTHER QUESTIONS: (1) What was Tony's father's family name on his birth certificate? (2) Did his father speak any Italian? (3) Was his paternal grandfather born in Italy or Cyprus? (4) Did his paternal grandfather speak any Italian? [responses expunged]

41. It appears that Tony's grandfather died at age 72 in Bristol, seven years before Tony was born, but he claims in *Taming the Tiger* that a cousin informed him whilst he was in prison in Nicosia that his grandfather had died at age 95. **Which of these is true?** [response expunged]

42. It appears that Tony's Chinese grandfather spent at least a good part of his life in the UK and that his wife was Margaret Ahtoo, born in Liverpool in 1909 of a mother also called Margaret who, according to the 1911 census, was a British subject by parentage **Is this true?** [response expunged]

43. It would appear that before owning a café in Streatham, Tony's Chinese grandfather worked in a laundry in Cardiff and had other children, namely, Iris, born in 1927 (and who is the witness on Janet and Andreas' wedding certificate), Arthur, born in 1934 and Ruby, born c. 1929. **Can you confirm that this is true?** [response expunged]

44. An Andonis Anthony, born 30 July 1971, is listed with Companies House as a former director of Taming the Tiger Productions Limited. **Is it the same person as Tony?** [response expunged]

45. It would appear that Tony Anthony's date of birth is July 30, 1971. **What is the origin of the date August 7, 1969 which appears on some documents? Where does that date come from?** [response expunged]

46. In *Taming the Tiger*, Tony's grandmother tells him he was born in the 'year of the rooster' (17/2/69-5/2/70). **Can you explain the discrepancy?** [response expunged]

47. **REQUEST:** The Panel are in a different position from these "others". **Please let us have contact details to enable us to interview Tony's mother.** [response expunged]

REQUEST: Surely if Tony asks his mother to help him she will do so. **Please let us have contact details to enable us to interview Tony's mother.** [response expunged]

48. Please let us know what information has now come to light through recent independent research that as a young child Tony had been misinformed about his ancestry. [response expunged]

49. COMMENT/REQUEST: Please let have this information. [response expunged]

50. For what offence was Tony imprisoned in Cyprus? [response expunged]

51. What age was Tony when he was in prison in Cyprus? [response expunged]

52. NEW QUESTION: When was Tony first aware of a person called Michael Wright? [response expunged]

52A. QUESTION: Is Tony's story on pages 110 and 135 of *Taming the Tiger* true? [response expunged]

The Avanti Board's oral representations made to the Panel on 21st May 2013 (extracts from the minutes)

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Oral representations made by Heather Crosskey to the Panel on 21st May 2013 (extracts from the minutes)

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Oral representations made by Tony Anthony to the Panel on 10th June 2013 (extracts from the minutes)

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Representations made by others

Submission made to John Langlois by his pastor who submitted the following article from a New Zealand website.

<http://halfdone.wordpress.com/2012/08/22/a-plea-for-christian-common-sense-and-healthy-skepticism/>

"A Plea for Christian Common Sense and Healthy Skepticism

I have long been of the opinion that Christians need to be led by their spiritual leaders into a default attitude of healthy skepticism regarding wild claims of supernatural occurrences. I think non-Christians also need to be educated to exercise a certain amount of common sense skepticism about things that seem blatantly doubtful such as alien abductions.

There was a very popular book about Satanism by an evangelical Christian who claimed he had become a high priest of a Satanic cult and that Satanism was rampant in America. My students were reading the book and passing it around. When I taught my course the subject of that book always came up. When I spoke in churches about cults I was constantly being pressed to comment on it. I read the book and didn't believe a word of it. Never did. It had the "ring" of untruth. My internal nonsense detector rang loudly as I read it. I told people about my disbelief in the man and his story and his claims and was called a skeptic (in a bad sense) and unspiritual. It was, as the saying goes, *déjà vu* all over again. Fortunately for me, the book was exposed as false later. But not one of those people who called me unspiritual for disbelieving it ever came back to tell me "You were right and I was wrong."

I was given a book a few years ago, by a guy called Tony Anthony. It's called *Taming the Tiger*. He made some claims that are rather easy to verify, and I did so. Well, it's a complete hoax. It's also doing damage.

Tony Anthony is currently an evangelist, who claims to have won Kung-Fu world championship four times. He has written a book about his past called *Taming the Tiger*. He claims his grandfather took him to China by the age of 4, and was trained to master all the arts of Kung-Fu. He trained up to the age of 20, became a professional bodyguard for influential people, but when his fiancée died, he began a life of crime in his rage and depression. He beat up and killed several people and ended up in a jail, where a man called Michael Wright, a Christian, visited him and taught him about Jesus and God. Tony became a Christian, and has been an evangelist ever since.

I have read the book, and I actually thought his story was true, until I heard his story has no evidence or sources indicating it was true at all. No evidence about him ever being a Kung-Fu world champion, and no evidence of his crimes. We all know that evangelists aren't really honest people, so it's obvious that Anthony just fabricated his story just to gain money. I'm pretty sure the liar doesn't even believe in God.

I guess it makes sense that he lied about his story. He made some pretty ridiculous claims about his Kung-Fu skills in the book. He said that it was possible to kill a person within a second by pinching from certain points in their bodies. I wonder if Anthony could still do this if he was asked? I guess it would be un-Christian if he did, so there's no use demanding him to show his incredible Kung-Fu skills again...

Anthony's Wikipedia page has been deleted due to a lack of citation of his claims.

Among my observations:

- He spoke Cantonese, but in spite of the fact he spoke it every day he only remembers Mandarin words
- His training read like parts of it had been copped from Bruce Lee's Wikipedia page
- His claim to have 3 world titles got gradually modified as people questioned him – the forum I was reading suggested he was now saying they were small, illegal competitions held in a garage somewhere.
- He repeatedly offers excuses instead of real answers to questions about his background – even months later, his promise to put details on a specific page on his web site was unfilled
- His parents disappeared while he was in prison and he says nothing more about them. If my parents disappeared in mysterious circumstances, I'd be tearing the country apart!

Here's another list from a forum that discusses [fake martial artists](#).

1. There are no traces of the organizations under which Tony became World Kung Fu Champion although he names them. When this was pointed out Tony more recently said it he gave incorrect names to protect his identity from his Chinese family although he is publishing the book in China. He also said the organization was small, illegal and unknown and that is why he calls himself a 3 times World Champion. Is this a World Champion?

2. The Publisher and co-author co-operated with questions admit no facts were checked. The publisher, after consulting Tony, said Tony had promised him that he would post a Q&A on Tony's website www.avantiministries.com with answers to people's questions. Years later this has not happened.

3. The impressive teaching materials Tony uses and says he wrote appear to have been plagiarised. Their frustrated author appears on the thread.

4. There are multiple discrepancies. Although the book describes Tony as having a Chinese mother and growing up and training in China Tony, when questioned, speaks almost no Chinese. There has never been a Saudi Ambassador to Cyprus while Tony describes being his bodyguard. Tony avoids questions about these and many others. Martial Arts proponents have followed up a surprising number of facts on an international scale. These can be followed on the thread.

5. Martial Arts proponents note the almost exact similarities in the tests Tony passed to the opening sequences of the 'Kung Fu' TV series starring David Caradine.

6. Unusually for a Christian Leader Tony describes his policy to have no contact with his parents for the last fifteen years. This is very unusual. Tony speaks fluent Greek but not Chinese. He was in prison in Cyprus. There is record of an Antonio Anthony, born to a Greek Cypriot mother in North London. No one of his associates gets to meet his mother. This is probably the key place to confirm or disprove Tony's story – a polite visit to his roots.

7. The Time Line of Tony's life, which someone on the thread has produced causes major questions.

8. In the UK, in 2000 Tony was sentenced to 15 months in prison for perverting the course of justice. His car had hit a cyclist at night, killing her, but he had not stayed at the scene and later denied it to police.

2002 released from prison. 2004 published *Taming the Tiger*. This is a newspaper article at the time: http://www.getreading.co.uk/news/s/5...ut_death_crash. What are the 'other unrelated charges' in another Court that the article mentions?

9. Tony has offered a CD that answers people's misgivings and a Q&A on his website that responds to the questions from non Christian Martial Artists and concerned Christians. He also says he responds to respectful emailed questions. In practice he is evasive and misleading here. The promised Q&A only has questions about God. Tony told a visitor to his offices that, 'the decision was taken to focus on Jesus rather than myself'. The CD has little on it. You are welcome to see what response you get to emailed questions.

10. Tony describes several incidents where he killed terrorists who attacked the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the UK and Cyprus. These would have been major International scandals of course (related to which Country was behind them) but there is no record of any such attacks and killings is there?

It does no credit to anyone to have this fraud going around – or to spread stupid stories.

The Panel's conclusion

The Panel received satisfactory proof that Tony was born in London on 30th July **1971** Andonis Andreou Athanasiou and that his parents were Andreas and Janet. The Panel received no evidence whatsoever, whether documentary, oral, direct, circumstantial, hearsay or otherwise that Tony ever went to China as a child.

Tony Anthony's true identity makes his life trajectory (as told in *Taming the Tiger*, related testimony and event advertising) implausible and irreconcilable with known facts.

From the known evidence there is every reason to believe that Tony Anthony had a normal childhood in the London area, attending Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, Eagans Close, Market Place, East Finchley, London N2 8GA as a child, followed by secondary education at Christ's College, Finchley.

SCHEDULE 4

THE ASSERTION THAT THE FACTS IN TAMING THE TIGER ARE TRUE

The Research Group's allegations

1. Basic claims about *Taming the Tiger*

The Research Group alleged that in all English language editions available, to the best of their knowledge, *Taming the Tiger* is subtitled "The remarkable true story of a Kung Fu World Champion." The back cover says:

"This fast-paced, compelling and at times, chilling account is Tony's deeply moving true story. More extraordinary than fantasy, more remarkable than fiction, this blockbusting read almost defies belief."

It goes on to say that the book "documents" a personal tragedy.

Nowhere at all, in any edition of the book that the Research Group has found, is there any form of disclaimer stating that names, places or events have been in any way altered.

The book won the Christian Booksellers' Convention Award in 2005 and a UK Christian Book Award in 2006 in the "biography" category. The purpose of these awards is described as "to promote what is best in Christian writing in the UK". Publicity put out by Avanti claims there are "over 1.5 million copies in distribution in over 30 foreign translations".

From all this it may be naturally and legitimately assumed that the narrative is true as told, and indeed this claim is undoubtedly a major contributing factor to the success of the book.

The Research Group have seen how this claim cannot be true given the identity of Tony's grandfather, Tony's real age and the ensuing timeline difficulties. Before examining further problems with the book, the issue of how challenges have been dealt with by Tony and Avanti must be addressed.

2. Deflecting challenges

To the Research Group in the minds of many, *Taming the Tiger* does not merely "almost" defy belief – it does. Many people have sought to confront Tony about perceived inconsistencies and impossibilities in the book (over and above the timeline and ancestry issues discussed above). Tony has responded to these challenges in a number of ways, and it is important to understand these.

(1) Claims that names and places have been changed

Below are some typical statements by Avanti and Tony Anthony following such challenges:

“A number of the events and details in the book have been altered to protect these identities”.

“...many of the identifying details and descriptions in the book have been changed to protect the identity of certain people and groups portrayed within his story.”

Despite these assertions, no disclaimer to this effect appears in any edition of the book.

(2) Admission of errors and inaccuracies

Another frequent excuse is to blame editorial errors. Thus Avanti states:

“...there are some relatively minor anomalies in relation to dates and certain narrative structure in the original manuscript. However, these will be corrected when a revised edition of the book is released later in the year.”

The difficulty with this is that the excuse of amendments in later editions has been used since at least 2010 – and the book has been re-edited twice since then. In an e-mail to Aaron Petersen (a member of the research Group) dated January 20, 2010, Tony Anthony wrote:

“We did not enter my full details in the book, as there are sensitive issue [sic] involved whereby I have had a death threat from my family in China for ending quite a long family tradition. We will be adding a disclaimer in future editions of Taming the Tiger to explain this.”

It would appear that the aim is to mollify questioners by assuring them that disclaimers, corrections and so on will appear in later editions – but in fact they never have done.

(3) The disclaimer that never comes

In the first version of the document referenced above, published on February 5, 2013 in the wake of the Research Group’s initial allegations, Avanti went so far as to claim that this disclaimer already existed:

“An adequate disclaimer has already been provided in more recent editions of Taming the Tiger to state that some scenes within the manuscript have been dramatized with authentic, though not necessarily actual dialogue, and to protect the author and his family, and the rights of those whose paths he has crossed - some of the names, places, and details of the events have been altered.”

When it was pointed out to Avanti by the Research Group that this appeared not to be the case, the document was removed; the replacement document reads: *“An adequate disclaimer is also scheduled to be included in subsequent editions of Taming the Tiger...”*

(4) Watering down the story

The Research Group state that finally, when confronted, Tony Anthony has frequently played down the more exotic claims in his book. For instance, with regard to the *Taming the Tiger* back cover claim “Three-times Kung Fu World Champion, on his website he states:

“There are no end to Kung Fu schools, organisations and federations around the world, and they would each subscribe to a different Kung Fu world championship, which makes things very confusing – although each one would try to say that theirs was the ultimate one. This was one of the points that Tony Anthony tried to communicate in the book, as Tony Anthony did not feel that Tony Anthony was the best by any stretch of the imagination, as there were so many advanced students and grandmasters that never entered the strand of competitions that Tony Anthony entered in, and they were at a much higher standard than me by far.”

The Research Group stated that rather like a Russian doll, the claim to be a “Three-times Kung Fu World Champion” becomes smaller and smaller, eventually disappearing into a maze of competitions, many of which were at a higher level than Tony Anthony’s fights. The assertion that all this is “very confusing” is often repeated in such ‘explanations’, although it is not made clear what the actual source of this confusion is.

This ‘watering down’ approach is also evident in the alterations to Tony Anthony’s story as told on his website following the Research Group’s initial allegations (presented to Avanti in November 2012).

Under the heading “Tony’s Story”, this section formerly corresponded to the narrative of *Taming the Tiger*. The table in the Research Group’s Submission shows excerpts, highlighting some of the changes made to the text between February 1st, 2013 and February 11, 2013, with comments to the right. Text deleted in that period is shown struck through; text added is shown in italics.

(5) The challenge of disproof

The Research Group stated that when examining the details of *Taming the Tiger*, it is important to bear in mind the dissonance between the claims made in the actual book (an unreservedly “true story” with no disclaimer of any kind) and the tapestry of disinformation woven by Tony when challenged. Tony invokes errors, disclaimers that never materialise, alterations to names, dates and places – and misunderstandings on the part of poorly informed readers about his complicated life.

The timeline issue illustrates this dissonance, too. If the story were true as told, setting out the timeline should be straightforward. In fact it is complicated to the point of impossibility – simply because the story cannot be true as told.

There is much talk of confusion, but in fact the claims of the book itself are plain. All the confusion has been generated by Tony to divert attention from this, and discourage further investigations. The

fact remains that Tony has never supplied proof of any aspect whatsoever of the truth of his narrative prior to his imprisonment in Cyprus. Moreover, when challenged he cannot or will not point to any part of his story that can be checked independently.

The issue of Tony's grandfather is similarly obfuscated by talk of "a complex family arrangement".

In the meantime, the public stance of Tony and his publisher has been to assert that the story is true – whilst continuing to sell books on this basis.

It is with these explanations in mind that four examples of difficulties with regard to *Taming the Tiger* are submitted by the Research Group.

3. Difficulties with *Taming the Tiger* according to the Research Group

(1) The Saudi Arabian ambassador

On April 21, 2012, Research Group member Carl Chambers challenged Tony about a number of aspects of his story. Here is how Carl records the conversation about this ambassador:

"I then raised the issue of the Saudi ambassador – asking whether [TA] really worked for him in those three places at the same time. He insisted he did work for him, but that the Saudi ambassador was first in London, then Italy, then Cyprus. That explains the movements. This is crucial. Because Tony has confirmed to me that he definitely did work for the ambassador. I consider that his integrity now rests on that. There was no hint of saying 'actually it was another person but I used writers' license'. He insisted the man was moving jobs, and Tony followed."

Carl subsequently found the obituary of the Saudi Arabian ambassador at the time. This records that London was his final posting, after having been ambassador to Japan, Sweden and Spain. There is no mention of Cyprus or Italy.

During his meeting with Tony Pancaldi in the presence of two witnesses, on March 15, 2011, Tony took a different line, stating that in fact the country in question was not Saudi Arabia.

(2) Speaking Cantonese

The Research Group noted that Tony did not comment on how he learned Chinese (to be specific, Cantonese, p45). On p27 (age 6) he can understand what the boys from Shanghai are saying, even though they are laughing at him for not speaking their language properly (they speak Shanghainese in Shanghai, he speaks Cantonese). By age 8 (p35) he is studying "calligraphy, languages, history", and by age 10 (p43) he is writing well (he says he can write from "early morning until late in the evening", p43). By the time he returned to the UK age 12 (p45), he struggled to speak and understand English, as Cantonese had quickly become his first language. On page 51 he says that every year he returned to China until the age of 17, at which point he could still read the Chinese

characters and was still speaking Chinese (Cantonese, presumably – though he goes to Shanghai) fluently. Even in prison in Cyprus, he is still “writing calligraphy nameplates” (p133).

The Research Group stated that Tony therefore claims that he had eight years living in China, and five more returning for months at a time, during which time he was treated by a fierce grandfather, who not only drilled into him world-class Kung Fu, but also the Chinese language. These are explicit claims in his book. If his grandfather was as harsh when it came to Tony learning the Chinese writing as he was when teaching Kung Fu, then Tony should have been thoroughly fluent. He certainly gives that impression by the age of ten, writing all day (with “a fine set of brass quills”, p43).

On Saturday 20th April 2012, Tony was presented by Carl Chambers (a member of the research Group), in person, with two sentences in Chinese. He could not read any of it. He claimed to be able to make out some characters, but was unable to identify any specifically. On this occasion, Tony could not identify the Chinese characters for Kung Fu, when the whole *raison d'être* of his being in China from the age of four was to continue the family tradition of Kung Fu.

The Research Group's conclusion

The Research Group's conclusions are that *Taming the Tiger* is largely a work of fiction.

Written questions/requests put to the Avanti Board and their responses

The Panel put various questions to the Board shown in red below.

THE ANSWERS HAVE BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS REPORT DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMED BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED

1. “The book *Taming the Tiger*” was documented as a truthful collection of memories”.
COMMENT: This ties in with the title page “The remarkable **true** story...”

2. “*Taming the Tiger* is intended to be the ‘story’ of my early life. It never set out to be a strict historical account of each and every event with supporting minutiae. As such, it remains a ‘true story’”. Comment: As Tony continues to contend that this is a true story The Panel need to establish which parts are fact and which are not.

3. I note that you say [in public documents] that “The book *Taming the Tiger*, was not written as a historical account but as a memoir”. **Please explain why it is stated to be the true story of Tony.**
[response expunged]

4. The Panel can find no form of disclaimer in *Taming the Tiger* stating that names, places or events have been in any way altered. **Can you confirm that all the names, places and events in the book are factual and true?** [response expunged]

5. *"I refute unequivocally the notion that my personal testimony is false in any way."* Comment: This is the crux of our inquiry as Tony Anthony continues to assert unequivocally that his personal testimony is not false in any way. NEW QUESTION: Is Tony's testimony false in any way? [response expunged]

6. QUESTION: Which parts of the book are not in strict linear time format? [response expunged]

7. Which of the following events occurred concurrently? [response expunged]

1. Begins real life combat training (said to be aged 17) (p51)
2. Fights in Nanching, Pakistan, teaching at Mr Chang's school (p52-64)
3. IKFF competitions (p52-64)
4. Invited to work directly for IKFF (p66)
5. Extensive bodyguard training (p66-68)
6. Bodyguard's oath (p68)
7. Assignment with Winston, Switzerland (p69)
8. Assignment with William Black, various countries including Saudi Arabia (p72)
9. Assignment with Amin, Saudi Arabian Ambassador (p90ff)60
10. Leave from Amin; meets Aiya (p91)61
11. Three-year relationship with Aiya (p94)
12. Aiya killed, downward spiral (p96ff)
13. Imprisonment in Nicosia, Christmas Eve 1989 (p121).

8. Tony has given assurances on a number of occasions that *Taming the Tiger* contains no dramatic enhancement by his ghost-writer, Angela Little). Is this true? [response expunged]

9. Please confirm that subject to the changing of the names, places and minor details of the events all events are absolutely true in substance. [response expunged]

COMMENT: The Panel now understand that "a number of new surprising facts" in fact means "just two surprising facts". Is that correct? [response expunged]

10. REQUEST: Please let us know what details were discovered and which are not historically accurate. [response expunged]

11. REQUEST: Please let us have a list of the other family information that has come to light since the story was first written. [response expunged]

12. Comment: Please let us know the name of the person referred to above who was not his biological grandfather, the place where he lived and the dates. [response expunged]

13. Please let us know the name of the person referred to above who was not his biological grandfather, the place where he lived and the dates. [response expunged]
14. Comment: Please let us have a copy of these significant documents. [response expunged]
15. REQUEST: Please let us have a list of the names, places and details of the events that are not true. [response expunged]
16. Please supply us with a list of these anomalies. [response expunged]
17. REQUEST: Please let us have a list of the innocent errors in the manuscript to which you refer. [response expunged]
18. QUESTION: Why is this task huge and complex as it is merely the biography of a living person? [response expunged]
19. QUESTION: Who is the responsible person? Please let us have details so that the Panel can make arrangements to question him/her. [response expunged]
20. COMMENT: When the Panel meet please let us have a hard copy as the Panel have to include it in our report. [response expunged]
- COMMENT: The Panel would like this when we meet on 21st May. The Panel have to report back in writing to the Avanti board by 26th June 2013 so The Panel require documentary evidence in good time and at the very latest 15th June 2013.
21. Please let us have a copy of the accurate time line (Gantt chart) to which you refer. [response expunged]
22. Please let us have physical copies of two of these editions in which the disclaimer is printed. [response expunged]
23. Please confirm to us that (a) all scenes depicted within the publication will be absolutely true, although dramatized, and that all the dialogue will be absolutely true in substance, albeit using authentic, though not necessarily actual dialogue. [response expunged]

The Avanti Board's oral representations made to the Panel on 21st May 2013 (extracts from the minutes)

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Angela Little's oral representations made to the Panel (extracts from the minutes)

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Written submission from Michael Wright

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Heather Crosskey's oral representations made to the Panel on 21st May 2013 (extracts from the minutes)

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Tony Anthony's oral representations made to the Panel on 10th June 2013 (extracts from the minutes)

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The Panel's conclusion

The Panel was concerned that two million copies of "*Taming the Tiger*" had gone out in the name of Tony Anthony, and by close implication Avanti Ministries Limited, bearing the words on its title page "The remarkable true story of a Kung Fu World Champion".

The Panel regarded *Taming the Tiger* as a story which is largely fictitious with the latter chapters based on historical facts. The Panel regarded the chapters about (1) *Tony's* time in China and his involvement in Kung Fu and close protection as wholly fictitious, (2) the accident in Berkshire as being a distortion of historical facts and (3) *Tony's* time in prison in Cyprus and his conversion there to be true but the script to be unsubstantiated.

The Panel considered that there were two matters to be addressed here. Firstly, "is this story indeed true?" and, "if not, is it still a suitable vehicle for the gospel?" The veracity of the story or otherwise, along with other matters of considerable concern were dealt with elsewhere in the report. The Panel addressed the second question - do the 'ends justify the means'? Is the desired furthering of the gospel nullified by the shortcomings of the messenger?

The Panel was in no doubt that Christian writers (and preachers too) have on occasions been at least casual with the truth. But that was not the matter here. Here everything rested on the unambiguous, bald, unqualified assertion that this story was true. Because of that unequivocal claim of veracity any value to the reading of this book centred on that claim. Not whether names have been changed, or particular conversation has been invented, or colour added – these things were

acceptable to a degree within the context of the narrative - but rather that the story in its claims, time-line and substance are what in fact took place. The Panel considered only that to allow it to be a book worthy of the gospel.

The reason for this was that the gospel is true and that everything is dependent on that. The Apostle Paul states 'We put no stumbling block in anyone's path' drawing attention to 'truthful speech'. 2 Cor. 6:3 & 7. Twice at least he writes of the 'word of truth' that his readers had heard of the gospel of salvation. Eph. 1:13, Col. 1:5. Paul writes to Timothy that he must be a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15.

The Apostle John in his first epistle speaks of what he has seen, heard and touched. He seeks to establish the historicity of his testimony considering the *Logos*, the Word of Life. John 1:1-2. He builds his teaching on this firm foundation. In the prologue to his Gospel he describes the incarnate Word as full of *grace and truth*. Jesus says of himself 'I am truth' John 14:6 and it behoves his disciples to be the same.

Nobody, the Panel included, imagined for a moment that *Taming the Tiger* is Gospel in the New Testament sense. Of course not. And the grace of which John speaks should make us hesitant to condemn. But it is *grace and truth* that should mark any authentic ministry for the gospel. The concern is not gloss or atmosphere, but the claim of the author that the story is true in its essentials. If it is true in its fundamental claims of authenticity then *Taming the Tiger* is a remarkable story of the grace of God in a man's life and worthy of dissemination. But if not, this book is unacceptable despite its Christian claims, and the author **and** the Board of Avanti **and** the publishers must know where their responsibility lies and the radical actions they must take.

SCHEDULE 5

TONY ANTHONY'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN KUNG FU

The Research Group's allegations

The Research Group alleged that there is and never has been an International Kung Fu Federation in Geneva. The onus was thus on Tony to specify exactly who his sponsoring body was. If the IKFF had world championships in the 1980's at which they gave £10,000 of prize money, then presumably they are (or were) a major player. People would remember them, and there would be a list of world champions. £10,000 in those days – assuming paid in US dollars – would be worth about £25-50,000 today. Given that Tony said he competed once in Thailand and twice in Hong Kong (p.65), he is indicating that this was a serious world body.

The Research Group alleged that online Tony claimed to have been the world champion for three years in a row “from 1987 to 1989”, and that *after* this he began to work for the IKFF training and only thereafter as a bodyguard. Aside from the timeline difficulties already referred to, this contradicted his assertion that he met Aiya in 1987 or 1985 (depending on the edition of *Taming the Tiger*) and the claim by Avanti that “Tony entered a world championship competition in the same year that he was working in Close Protection”.

In March 2011, Tony Pancaldi met Tony Anthony at Avanti Headquarters in Southend-on-Sea in the presence of Anthony's pastor, Steve Hembery, and Steve Currell, then Church Secretary. During the course of this meeting Tony Anthony stated that his three world championship Titles in Kung Fu were in the “Tiger Claw” style. Tony Pancaldi then sought out the foremost exponent of Tiger Claw that he could find, Bob Fermor, and sent him details of Tony Anthony accompanied by a photo.

Fermor's website states that “Bob Fermor and his wife Joanne...were very much in the public eye of the Martial Arts world between 1984 and 1995, when they were well renowned on the tournament circuit” – precisely when Tony Anthony claims to have been winning Kung Fu World Championships.

Fermor's response was: “Sorry never heard of him.” Other Kung Fu experts contacted by Tony Pancaldi returned similar responses.

The Research Group's conclusion

The Research Group's conclusions were that there is no evidence whatever that Tony was involved in Kung Fu in any way.

Oral evidence given by Tony Anthony to the Panel on 10th June 2013

THE EVIDENCE HAS BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS REPORT DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMED BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED

Written questions/requests put to the Avanti Board and their responses

The Panel put various questions to the Board shown in red below.

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1. Please let us know the locations in China where he trained in Kung Fu and the association or associations which awarded him his martial arts awards. [response expunged]
2. Please send us evidence of his having entered in the Kung Fu competitions and evidence of the titles he won and the dates, such as from contemporary newspaper articles and photographs. [response expunged]
3. COMMENT: As previously requested The Panel look forward to receiving evidence of the award of the world title. [response expunged]
4. Please let us have proof regarding Tony's martial arts career. Please let us have this information. [response expunged]

I note that Tony entered a world championship competition in the same year that he was working in close protection. What year was that? [response expunged]

5. COMMENT: Separately from the time line we need proof (1) that 1987 was the year that Tony entered a world championship competition, (2) that he was also working in close protection, (3) of the world championship competition referred to and (4) the name of the organisation involved in the close protection. The Panel would expect photographs of the world championship competition in which Tony participated even though they may have been secretive and illegal. [response expunged]
6. COMMENT: If photographs and the like are unavailable we need some other proof (1) that 1987 was the year that Tony entered a world championship competition, (2) that he was also working in close protection, (3) of the world championship competition referred to and (4) the name of the organisation involved in the close protection. [response expunged]
6. [*International Kung Fu Federation in Switzerland*]. COMMENT: As previously requested, please send us contact details of this organisation. [response expunged]

[Second request] Let us have that information. [response expunged]

7. On page 50 there is a reference to the International Kung Fu Federation in Geneva. **Please let us have the address of the Federation.** [response expunged]

8. **QUESTION:** What is the name of the organisation? [response expunged]

9. **QUESTION:** What is the real name of the organisation? Is this organisation the one in Geneva? [response expunged]

12. **QUESTION:** What is the name of the organisation? [response expunged]

REQUEST: The Panel need to know the name. [response expunged]

13. **REQUEST:** Our researches suggest that Kung Fu is an integral element of 20th-century Chinese popular culture. **Please direct us to material which backs up your assertion.** [response expunged]

14. **REQUEST:** It is not for the Panel to scour the annals of Kung Fu history to find some bit that fits in with the story told in *Taming the Tiger*. It is for you to provide us with evidence. Please do so. [response expunged]

15. **REQUEST:** The answer is not really useful. In which city/town/village/location were/are the Triad gangs? [response expunged]

16. What names do they go by today? [response expunged]

17. Please let us have proof regarding Tony's martial arts career. [response expunged]

18. The full name of the Martial Arts organizations that Tony worked for. [response expunged]

19. Please let us know the name and address of the one that Tony was associated with which awarded him his titles. [response expunged]

20. **COMMENT:** Please provide us with evidence that this is the case. We assume that the International Kung Fu Federation in Switzerland can confirm it. [response expunged]

COMMENT: Please provide us with evidence that in China it is very common to become a master of Kung Fu from the age of 14 or 13. If you cannot do that please provide us with the name and address of an international Kung Fu organisation which we can contact to provide the answer to this question. [response expunged]

21. On page 65 Tony refers to the IKFF world championships in the 1980's at which they gave £10,000 of prize money and that he competed once in Thailand and twice in Hong Kong and

furthermore he was the world champion for three years in a row from 1987 to 1989. Please provide us with proof (such as certificates, newspaper reports, IKFF reports and photographs) to authenticate these claims. [response expunged]

22. Tony claims that his three world championship titles in Kung Fu were in the “Tiger Claw” style. Please clarify what the “Tiger Claw” style of Kung Fu is and give us the name and address of someone in this area of Kung Fu who can authenticate the claims. [response expunged]

23. [Quote from Tony Anthony letter to Carl Chambers 20 March 2013]: “As well as disputing my training in Kung Fu the group contests my claims to have worked in the close protection industry and has gone to some lengths to try to undermine my story, again using false line of enquiry and circumstantial evidence. On this matter I am bound by the nature of the work, as I had to sign various Confidentiality Agreements in order to undertake the contracted tasks.” Please let us have details of the people Tony Anthony worked with in the close protection industry, the places and dates. [response expunged]

24. Publicity for Tony’s testimony states that in his early twenties Tony worked as an elite body guard, travelling the world protecting some of the world’s richest, most powerful people. What are the names and positions of these people? [response expunged]

25. Tony relates how he trained as a bodyguard and then work for a number of clients before being hired by, ‘Amin’. Who was Amin? Where was he based? What was his position? [response expunged]

26. Tony states that his remarkable escape from Riyadh revolves around his working for an American businessman who had to go to Saudi Arabia to resolve a dispute over a hostile takeover. Please let us have the name of the businessman, the name of his company and the name of the company which was the subject of the hostile takeover. [response expunged]

27. Tony has said that he worked for the Saudi ambassador first in London, then Italy, then Cyprus. The obituary of the Saudi Arabian ambassador at the time states that London was his final posting, after having been ambassador to Japan, Sweden and Spain. There is no mention of Cyprus or Italy. Please explain this inconsistency. [response expunged]

28. “I worked for some interesting people like the owner of the Empire State building in Manhattan in New York”. COMMENT: Please let us know the name of the person referred to with third party confirmation. [response expunged]

COMMENT: Let us have that information. The Panel would point out that the ownership of the Empire State Building on a particular date will be a matter of public record. All the Panel need is the date when that particular person was owner and the Panel will check the public records in New York. [response expunged]

29. **Question and comment made by John Langlois to George Osborn on 14 May 2013:**

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Please let us know the name of the person referred to with third party confirmation [owners of the Empire State Building]. I have looked up the list of past owners (that is, the beneficial owners of the holding company) at the time when Tony was in close protection. Was the person whom Tony worked for in close protection Peter Malkin or Laurence Wien (Peter Wien's father-in-law)? [response expunged]

30. Please let us have the authentic name of the sheikh referred to in your letter. [response expunged]

The Avanti Board's oral comments made at the meeting with the Panel on 21st May 2013

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The Panel's conclusion

The Panel concluded that it had received no evidence whatever to corroborate the statements in *Taming the Tiger* that Tony was ever involved in Kung Fu or close security, whether in the UK or abroad.

PLAGIARISM BY TONY ANTHONY

The Research Group's allegations

The Research Group alleged that it had found extensive evidence that in *Taming the Tiger*, teaching materials and books, Tony repeatedly plagiarised the works of others with no acknowledgement of his original sources.

1. Plagiarism in *Passion*

The Research Group said it had been made aware of a claim that Tony's book *Passion* had been extensively plagiarised from a work by evangelist Julian Batchelor, *Evangelism: Strategies from Heaven in the War for Souls*.

In an e-mail to Mike Hancock, Julian Batchelor stated: "*Having read through Tony's book carefully, line by line, and cross referenced it with my own book, I would say that, conservatively, **upward of 75% of Tony's book has been plagiarised from my book.***"

Appendix 09, page 62 of the Research Group's Submission shows a comparison by the original author Julian Batchelor with the book entitled *Passion*.

2. A recent example from the visit to Guatemala

The Research Group cited one typical and recent example of plagiarism from Tony's ongoing teaching. In March 2013, Tony and a team visited Guatemala. Regular updates on the trip were posted to his blog by Avanti intern, Ryan Maze. On Monday, March 18, 2013 Ryan Maze posted an entry about how "Tony shared a powerful message about 'Breaking Free from Addiction'". The Research Group were quickly able to establish that the reported text was lifted wholesale from a piece by Dave Branon on the 'Our Daily Bread' website – where it was published in 1996. A comparison of the original and plagiarised texts is shown in the group's submission.

The Research Group claimed that, as can be seen, it is no exaggeration to talk in terms of wholesale plagiarism. The only changes are the introductory phrase, the Anglicisation of the spelling, the removal of an abbreviation for a book of the Bible, and deletion of some text towards the end.

3. Plagiarism in *Taming the Tiger*

The Panel understood that the Research Group had not carried out extensive research on the text of *Taming the Tiger* yet they claimed that the striking similarity between an explanation of a Kung Fu style in the book and a text on the Internet is shown in their submission. The text shown on the left had been in circulation on the Internet since at least 2002 and quite possibly earlier. *Taming the Tiger* was first published in August 2004. cursory research suggested that other Kung Fu descriptions in *Taming the Tiger* said to be taught by Lowsi to Tony as part of the ancestral heritage were in

existence on the same ‘Shaolin’ website by 2003. The Research Group stated that research into further plagiarism in *Taming the Tiger* was ongoing.

4. Implications

The Research Group alleged that the extent of the plagiarism uncovered, particularly in *Passion* as shown in Appendix 09, page 62ff, of their submission, raised serious ethical issues, as well as calling into question Tony’s ability to create original teaching or other material.

The Research Group’s conclusion

The Research Group’s conclusions were that the majority of the material published apart from *Taming the Tiger* and its counterpart for children had been plagiarised from other sources.

Written questions/requests put to the Avanti Board and their responses

The Panel put various questions to the Board shown in **red** below.

THE ANSWERS HAVE BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS REPORT DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMED BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED

1. Regarding allegations of plagiarism against Tony Anthony from Julian Batchelor in respect alleged plagiarism in each of (a) *Passion*, (b) *Our Daily Bread* and (c) *Taming the Tiger*: **REQUEST:** “The Panel have received allegations of plagiarism against Tony Anthony. I attach three attachments. I would be grateful if you would let me have your comments.” [response expunged]

2. QUESTION TO AVANTI ON 29 MAY 2013: I would be grateful if you would let me have a copy of the [permission given to use the*] intellectual property given by Julian Batchelor in respect of his large book (about 700 pages) and from *Train to Proclaim* in respect of the other materials. [*words inadvertently omitted] [response expunged]

3. QUESTION TO AVANTI ON 2 JUNE 2013: What is the latest communication you have had from *Train to Proclaim* and what does it say? [response expunged]

The Avanti Board’s oral representations made to the Panel on 21st May 2013 (extracts from the minutes)

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Tony Anthony’s oral representations made to the Panel on 10th June 2013 (extracts from the minutes)

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Submissions from Stephen Currell

On 25 March 2011 02:35 Steve Currell received an email from Julian Batchelor saying: "Hi Steve, I meant to say, Tony Anthony was NOT given permission by my board or anyone else to use the Power Point slides he calls 'Release'. Blessings Julian"

The following day, 26 March 2011 Steve sent Tony an email as follows: "Tony, Just to inform you that I received the below from Julian Batchelor. Steve"

On 28 March 2011 Tony replied: "Thank you for copying me in on the chain of email communication with Julian Batchelor. I am interested to find out on what basis this type of conversation came about. Can you fill me in a little more? A little more background will help me understand the motive, context and timing of this discussion. I look forward to hearing from you."

Steve replied on 30 March 2011 "Tony, The basis of the conversation was that I knew that there was a dispute between Julian and Avanti over copyright as this was on the internet. Tony Pancaldi had raised this as an issue and copied me into the thread from the relevant website before the 15th March meeting. The leadership at LRBC discussed this in advance of your speaking at LRBC in case it was an issue and we did not want to be embroiled in a copyright issue as it had been flagged to us as a possible issue. I therefore asked Julian by email the day before we had our conversation on 15th March whether he still felt there was an issue over Avanti using any materials without permission as you were due to speak at LRBC and we wanted his side of things. The text I sent you was his reply. Tony Pancaldi did not raise it as an issue at the conversation on the 15th March and you gave your side. What is unclear now following Julian's email - which I only received the day before you spoke at LRBC on 27th March - is whether there is still any issue over copyright with Avanti's material. That of course is an Avanti board issue but - as there is such a close relationship between LRBC and Avanti we would appreciate some clarity over the Avanti Board position. Julian Batchelor clearly still has issues (which even if you are sure about where you and Avanti stand) the fact that he is not happy could be argued should be addressed by your organisation. Hope this helps, regards, Steve"

Tony Anthony replied on 1 April 2011 "Thank you for the email, as sheds it a lot more light on the discussions leading up to your email. You see this is an issue that we were already aware of, and the timing of the email just appeared very strange to me.

"Julian knows that the elements that he contributed to the "Release Conference" (a course that Julian and I developed together) have now all been removed or rewritten, and what is now left is material that Avanti Ministries holds the legal copyright to. The copyright is in place to ensure that the teaching material is not manipulated in any way, however free usage as well as duplication of this material is encouraged as it is our intention to see people equipped with our material. As I highlighted at our last meeting in regard to Julian's book on evangelism that George Verwer, Ray

Comfort and I had all complained about, as he misquoted a lot of resource material as well as misquoting references for his ministry and certain number of discredits to people like Billy Graham (i.e. where he makes the comment that Billy Graham never actually shared the Gospel) which we were not prepared to tolerate. Additional to this Julian mentions in his book that Avanti Ministries is one of his offices based in the UK. He has also taken our newly designed multimedia Gospel presentation and now sells it on his website for \$10, while we provide our presentation to the public for free to download. Once again, we have no interest in doing anything to stop him, however he has not been very honest in the process. It may be well worth your while to speak to George Verwer to get his take on this matter as well. I somehow feel that he will be far more negative about Julian than I am prepared to be, if our last conversation on the matter is anything to go by.

“The Avanti Board of Directors have spent a great deal of time dealing with this matter and we feel that we reached a reasonable conclusion in regard to the Julian Batchelor issue. Our Chairman (Rob Land at the time) had lengthy discussions with the Chairman of Julian's organisation just before he was dismissed due to a moral fall, and agreements were made that Avanti Ministries have continued to be maintained. All parties were happy to agree and proceed, except for Julian, and a product of his grievance has included a personal attack on me and the ministry that I am involved with. Julian is a very complicated person, and he has not stopped playing games. A recent one is where he has approached several of our Avanti evangelists and attempted to poach them from our organisation to work for his new organisation. Once again, we have decided to not do anything against him, however our team members are all aware of Julian, and were able to deal with him appropriately. It seems that he will stop at nothing. We are monitoring his activity as he endeavours to interact with us - and we really consider the situation to be rather sad on a number of levels. In fact we continue to pray for Julian Batchelor.

“Thank you for your involvement in the matter, and please do let me know if there is anything else we can do to assist.”

Submission from *Train to Proclaim* (a ministry in Australia)

"We acknowledge your enquiry regarding the plagiarism of our evangelism resources by Tony Anthony and Avanti Ministries. Anyone in the world is allowed to use our resources for free provided that they keep to our Standard Terms and Conditions as per our website - i.e. nothing can be changed without permission and the copyright information must be clearly displayed. We are aware that Avanti is in breach of these conditions and we have been asking Tony to put this right for about 3 years now without success. Last year we sent an official letter to Avanti giving permission to use the resources provided the copyright and acknowledgments were appropriately displayed and a reasonable amount of time to arrange this. We are well after this deadline and nothing has been actioned and contact with us regarding this is being ignored."

The Panel's conclusion

The Panel considered it to be strange that there are two almost identical books by different authors

both of whom claimed originality. There were clearly major issues to be addressed.

ADDENDUM

As The Panel were finalising their report they received from the Revd. Leslie Steele an email which stated as follows:

"I don't want to become obsessive about this but with my thoughts returning to Tony Anthony I looked at his/Avanti's update blog and on finding the following piece about 'Does God exist?' I thought it looked rather scientific to come straight from the pen of Mr Anthony and had a look elsewhere finding the material exactly the same on an earlier Facebook web page under the title of Health Talks by Dr Burdernhorst. I don't know anything about that page but it struck me as I had heard that Tony had been engaged in plagiarism that this would be seen as similar non-acknowledged use of material not his own and therefore involving a slight measure of deceit. Of course I know that with the Internet these days many things are used as sources but if large chunks are taken it would be useful to acknowledge the borrowing. At any rate it seemed just another thing that makes me wary of the whole enterprise. I say this with regret because much of what I see of his and Avanti's work seems wholly unexceptional and indeed commendable but there just seems to be clay in the foot of the edifice and that is what troubles me."

The problem appeared to be a continuing one so there were clearly issues which had to be addressed with other publishers.

SCHEDULE 7

TONY ANTHONY'S HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

The Research Group's allegations

The Research Group alleged that Tony is a liar as evidenced by his public admission on 16 April 2013 at a meeting in Chiesa, Modena, Italy, in which he said "*I'm sorry but I've told lies all my life, so it's true I'm a liar*" and that he denied to the police for 18 months that he had been involved in the hit and run accident, that he was convicted in a British court of perverting the course of justice by telling lies, for which he was sentenced to a term of imprisonment, that the trial judge, an independent third party professional, who had heard all the evidence, said: "*I regard you as a devious and manipulative man*" (over ten years after Tony made a profession of faith) and that the stories about his early years in China and Kung Fu are complete fabrications.

The Avanti board's stance

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Statement by Carl Beech:

"I first met Tony over ten years ago when he applied to be youth pastor at the church where I was senior pastor. I asked him then if it was true that he was due in court for a hit and run accident. He told me that he wasn't. We of course now know this wasn't true."

Representations by Philip Derbyshire:

"I was the Chaplain at Her Majesty's Prison Bullingdon during which time Mr Tony Anthony was interned there. What I know of Tony Anthony can be summed up very briefly:

"I saw him on a Reception Interview and the impression which came across very definitely and rapidly was that he was a con man (my own Orderly was in for massive fraud so I was quite attuned).

"He never attended Chapel to my knowledge (I did services three Sundays out of four) except possibly on his first Sunday inside. I couldn't swear one way or the other.

"If he requested a Bible or any other legitimate religious literature/rosary etc. he would have been given it either by myself, or more likely a Chaplaincy volunteer. Certainly nobody was ever refused during my time there.

“No unofficial groups/meetings could have been held because discipline staff would always go through me/duty Chaplain, if for no other reason because of staffing implications but also because of a basic respect for the structures. The 'Pagan' priestess was in fact our Quaker Minister!

“I have never read Tony's book(s) as I've never been interested in reading around a subject I was so intimately involved in (other than proper studies and reports) ---the reality is always so much more interesting than the often sensationalized/fictionalized spin-offs.

Revd. Philip Derbyshire 25th April 2013.”

Representations by Stephen Currell:

“As time progressed I began to have concerns about Tony. I had to balance my worries with my professional hat on versus accepting that confessed sin is forgiven and people are entitled to a second chance having committed crimes and paid the penalty and been forgiven by God.

“I was advised by Priscilla SCOTT a youth leader of LRBC that Tony was appearing to be using delaying tactics over submitting a CRB check while he was working with our youth. I became aware of the nature of the case he was imprisoned for and saw the press articles referring to the court reports.

“I shared my concerns with Steven Hembery the minister that Tony had not been wholly truthful when giving an account to the church meeting when he was received into membership and how were we going to handle the balance regarding rehabilitation versus the truth of what had occurred regarding Tony and Sara's involvement regarding the accident. At no time did I make any professional checks into Tony and relied purely on what was in the public domain.

“Tony Anthony met with LRBC elders prior to 2004

“I was aware of the issues from Priscilla SCOTT about Tony's CRB form not being forthcoming and that co-workers felt Tony was not a team player.

“Prior to 2004 Tony Anthony approached the LRBC eldership and asked them to support his request to start a ministry. We asked him about his background and what training he had had. The elders felt that Tony should submit to the authority of an organisation and go through some form of training to equip him for such an important role and consider this and come back to us.

“He never returned and started Avanti and wrote the book *Taming The Tiger (Taming the Tiger)*. I read the book as soon as it was released and whilst I wanted to believe it, as it was written by a Christian, my instincts told me much of it may be too good to be true.

“Notes of meeting at Avanti offices Clarence Road Baptist Church 15th March 2011.

Present: - Rev. Steven Hembery minister of LRBC, Steve Currell - Church Secretary of LRBC, Tony Pancaldi and Tony Anthony.

“Rev Steven Hembery opened in prayer and I then explained the ground rules for the meeting.

“TP then outlined how he became concerned about Tony and Avanti.

“He had come with 12 prepared questions and he asked these in turn.

“TP: You co wrote the book *Taming the Tiger* and there was fundamental information in the book, is that true?

TA: “Yes”

TP: Can you tell me the time in prison in Cyprus what were the charges?

TA: “Burglaries, robberies, GBH. That’s all – hotel rooms, homes, etc.”

TP: Kung Fu – when you responded to the documents re Kung Fu champion – you say there are lots of different championships. What are you world champion of and where did it take place?

TA: “Kung Fu – different over 150 styles and sub styles. Tiger style. I hold world title in Tiger style”.

TP: “The world championship or “a” world championship”.

TA: “World champion gives a lot of credence. I am world champion of Ti Chi Quan. I cannot give you any corroboration. I contacted my family in China. They were offended that I’d stopped Kung Fu. It was a family custom. It was dishonourable to stop family culture.

TP: went back to question one about the writing of the book.

TA: “The events are correct. Names of people, locations and organisations have been changed.”

TP: “What names and locations and organisations have been changed.

TA: “Mine, family names, organisations – Int Kung Fu Fedn is not a name. Saudi Ambassador not correct. Country and first name correct”.

TP: “Who do the royalties go to?”

TA: “Royalties go to the publisher and pay for books to go into schools and are free. 3-5 payments came to me, all others to pay for books via the publisher. Four to five payments received to date total £5000 to date. Avanti will pay for books via fees into Avanti for speaking engagements. Avanti operates at a loss. We don’t own our house we rent it. I will show bank accounts in private if necessary.

TP: “I don’t consider you did it for the money”

TP: Charities Commission? When Avanti was first set up you were a director you have not been a director since 2007/8 why not?

TA: “I don’t know”.

TP: “When you preach you start off about life in England. Born in England - Father Italian and Mother Italian and taken to China by grandfather. Is that true?

TA: “All events are true.

TP: “About the hit and run. Did you drive back another way?

TA: “yes - west”

TP: “After the hit and run accident Monday evening did you go out – where? Up this road indicating to the map he’d drawn.

TA: "Yes"

TP: Talked about the book and the girlfriend who had died, the accident and the harassment charge.

TA: I was rude to the guy on the phone. It was all dealt with on same date and same court. I was charged with harassment and charged with the accident I can't remember what the sentences were for which."

He got six months and 9 months. Tony stated he "lost it" and was under stress at the time over the accident.

TP: The birth certificate. Companies House give two dates of birth. I have your wedding certificate, not birth certificate.

TA: "All official documents are in birth name. Known as Tony Anthony.

TA: agreed to show Steven Hembery his birth certificate and passport.

TP: Julian Bachelor?

TA: "We had a good ministry together. Some stuff Julian did some I did. It went pear shaped in New Zealand. There was a clash of character and ownership. Julian wanted money. He had had a moral fall and put out of ministry. His organisation gave us permission to use the material and on his website. Its Avanti's and we have copyright. He's behind BULLSIDO website.

TP summed his concerns up. He had contacted Ian Anstly from the Chinese Kung Fu Federation since 1981. Works for the sports council - a national governing body - and never heard of TA. TP stated he had contacted Nick Streemer USA - no one in Chinese martial arts community knows TA.

Re the accident, he had spoken to deceased's brother, police officer and man who lives at junction where accident took place. The facts do not tally with the account in the book.

TA stated the bike was fully functional and lights were off. He just caught the bike with a tap. Accepts the accident was merely a mistake when referred to in the book.

TP stated the court date was 2nd July 2001 and got 6 months for perverting the course of justice. He stated the judge told the court that Tony was half Greek and half Cypriot.

We asked Tony about the sentences and were they given on the same day and he said "Yes". Six months for the accident and 9 months for the Racial Harassment.

TP stated it was all fabrication.

My feeling over what took place was that Tony Anthony could not or would not answer some things that he would have known if they had been true. He also would not answer anything which may have incriminated him. He was evasive in my opinion." [END OF NOTES]

Below is a paper I presented to LRBC leadership meeting on update of meeting on 15th March 2011.

"TONY ANTHONY

Update following the meeting with Tony Pancaldi and Tony Anthony 15th March 2011

1. *Copyright issues over material. Tony P did not raise this as he received an email confirming that the leaders of Julian Bachelor's organisation had given Avanti permission to use the material. Tony A commented that Julian had had a moral fall and subsequently he was using Avanti material without permission. It therefore appears on the face of it that we are not at risk from the evangelism material side of things.*

2. *Regarding the bone-fides of Tony A and the story that Tony A has written in his book being factual and capable of corroboration I am more concerned following the meeting than I was previously. I think there are three concerns:-*

- *Tony's integrity*
- *His accountability framework and its effectiveness*
- *The relationship between Avanti and others including LRBC*

Integrity

1. *For years I had known that published court reports and the record in Tony's book differ in degree of detail in that the book contains only scant details of what happened in relation to the offences he was tried for, e.g. the road accident and the allegation of racial harassment.*

2. *In the court report published in the media Tony was recorded as having said in court that the church would be "bereft" if he was sent to prison – yet the first thing Rev Keith Nichols minister of Didcot Baptist Church where Tony A was the youth worker and the church at Didcot knew about the whole thing was when they were informed that Tony had been sent to prison. This caused some significant difficulty in the church pastorally with the youth as their leader had failed to inform the church of his court case and the gravity of it.*

3. *Tony stated at the meeting last week when asked were all the things in the book true? – "all the events in the book were true" but people's names, details of organisations including those he had competed for and worked for and some dates had been changed. E.g. Saudi Arabian Ambassador – was not ambassador and the country was not Saudi Arabia. Etc. etc. This is a not insignificant issue in that most of what has been written is not capable of corroboration and as a result, people who have over the years tried to check the validity of his claims have come up with nothing and therefore have published on the internet that they see him as a fraud. Tony admitted that he should have put a disclaimer on the book and omitted to do so and would do so in reprints.*

4. *Many of the parts that are not recorded in full in the book and have been the subject of questions – Tony A takes issue with them (e.g. police dogs). If so much has been changed or Tony argues with then this could leave the significant story that makes up Tony's testimony as not being so significant and much more mundane. Tony Pancaldi has many issues that are unanswered and he is more perturbed following the meeting. He is waiting for some details from Tony about his family and upbringing and will I think pursue an investigation into Tony's bone fides and the issues I have mentioned.*

Accountability

Whilst I accept most of these points are an issue for Avanti - the issues raised above have accountability questions.

1. *Tony came to the elders when I was on the eldership in the early 2000s and asked for LRBC to commission him in his work on evangelism. He was advised that he would need to be subjected to some independent authority and should consider undergoing some form of training. He declined to do this and he never approached us again on the subject. Avanti was formed and the rest is history.*
2. *I am concerned as to whether the board of Avanti are aware of what has been happening and what we know now? If a film is progressed as we understand it - the same authenticity issues are likely to be relevant to this.*
3. *Who advises Tony so that major mistakes are not made and appropriate challenge is made. He has not appeared to have addressed work life balance issues raised by Steven – his pastor. Is governance effective in Avanti?*

Relationship of Avanti and LRBC

Avanti is publicised on our prayer update, many of the Avanti board members are or have been LRBC members - the Chair is a member of LRBC and the family are in membership at LRBC. Fundraising involves a significant number of LRBC attenders. Many people will see Avanti as a ministry of LRBC. Do we need more blue water between the organisations? Accepting that any problem that occurs with Avanti will affect LRBC pastorally - does the leadership need to consider the relationship? I have no answers but am just concerned following all that has happened."

Meeting between LRBC leadership and Avanti Board arranged for June 2011.

Email sent from Tony Anthony to Steve Currell 12th April. It demonstrates that Tony Anthony's view of what he agreed at the meeting differed to everyone's else present and he was unhappy with how we had handled things.

Hi Steve, Grace & peace to you in the name of our wonderful Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Further to our meeting on 15th March 2011, I did make it clear that it would be sufficient if I showed Steven Hembery my passport for the simple purpose of demonstrating that the name on this document is different to the name that I used in my book. It was only two days after this meeting that I promptly took my passport in to show Steven, and he took a copy for his personal reference. I also requested that the details on my passport are to be kept in strictest confidence and are not to be shown or shared with any third party (i.e. Tony Pancaldi). Steven reassured me that the photocopy that he took will be kept in strict confidence, however I did not receive any response to my email request. I have already obtained a copy of my birth certificate, however before showing that to Steven Hembery I am first trying to get hold of a change of name deed pole that my parents made to

change their surname since my birth. I do not know how long it will take to obtain that document. Having said that, it is plain to see from my birth certificate that my mother is not Greek as Tony Pancaldi suggested. As soon as I obtain the change of name deed pole, I am very pleased to show that to Steven Hembery.

I think it is also worth mentioning to you that according to several of my colleagues that come with a great deal of legal experience that it is completely unnecessary for me to be providing any of the above to you, even in the manner in which we agreed. However, I am only prepared to do so as per our agreed arrangement (for the eyes of Steven Hembery only) and out of a heart to show willingness and courtesy. Also have quite a number of concerns regarding the way in which this matter has been handled. Perhaps these are two issues that we can discuss further when we meet up with David Duell and Steven Hembery. God bless you.

Keep on keeping on... Tony Anthony, Evangelist

----- Original Message -----

Subject:FW: Tony Anthony – Confidential

Date: Mon, 11 Apr 2011 22:31:03 +0100

From: Steve Currell <steve@currell86.freemove.co.uk>

To: Tony Anthony <tony@avantiministries.com>

CC: Steven Hembery <steven.hembery@lrbc.org.uk>

Tony,

Can you please update me regarding you obtaining your duplicate birth? certificate. We are now nearly a month down the road from the meeting. Do you have an expected date of arrival of the duplicate?

Many thanks

Steve Currell

-----Original Message-----

From: tpancaldi@hotmail.co.uk [<mailto:tpancaldi@hotmail.co.uk>]

Sent: 11 April 2011 19:16

To: Steve Currell

Subject: Re: Tony Anthony – Confidential

Hi Steve

Can you let me know what's happening regarding Tony's Birth Certificate? It started out within days, then two weeks and now it is much later. If it is not going to happen I would like to know

Regards

Tony

Letter from Steve Currell LRBC to Tony and Chair of Avanti inviting to meeting of Tony Anthony and Chair of Avanti Board with Minister of LRBC Steven Hembury, Outgoing Church Sec Steve Currell and Incoming Church Sec Bob Hadwen. 6th June 2011 at LRBC.

13th April 2011

Dear Tony,

We have been informed of a list of concerns from a concerned Christian - Tony Pancaldi (who approached Steven Hembury direct) of the validity of Tony Anthony's claims in the book Taming the Tiger and on his speaking tours. I believe these claims question;

- Tony's integrity
- His accountability framework and its effectiveness

Steven and I facilitated a meeting of Tony Pancaldi and Tony Anthony at Avanti's offices on 15th March 2011. The result of that meeting was that Tony Anthony agreed to provide certain information to corroborate and address some of the issues. Some of this has been provided by Tony Anthony. However, we believe that Tony Pancaldi is likely to mount an investigation into the truth of Tony Anthony's claims - especially as a film has been talked about. We therefore think that this issue is unlikely to go away in the near future.

As Avanti and LRBC are very closely linked:-

- Tony and his family are members
- The Anthony's attend a LRBC house group and the children attend LRBC activities
- Several LRBC members are on or have been on the board of Avanti
- A significant number of LRBCers support Avanti in many ways including funding and volunteering

The LRBC leadership feel that if there is any likelihood in Avanti suffering any damage this could have significant pastoral implications for LRBC. Therefore, the leadership have asked that I write to inform you of the situation and that Steven and I meet with you and Tony to discuss the position so the Avanti Board are aware of what is happening.

Whilst the leadership appreciates the sensitivities in raising this with you, we wish to ensure that you have an opportunity to discuss and consider the situation.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Currell

Church Secretary"

At the meeting the concerns listed in the above letter were discussed. David Duell the Chair of Avanti stated that Avanti had dealt with the copyright issue and it had been resolved. In relation to Tony's testimony they had had several emails concerning this and it was not new but they had no evidence that his story was not true. They were very supportive of Tony and felt that apart from publishing disclaimers in reprints of the book that there was nothing more than they could do.

I felt the Avanti board had not grasped the seriousness of the situation and whilst of course they should support Tony Anthony - the job of charity trustees is one of governance to make sure the charity is run correctly and appropriately and trustees should be objective and seek to gain assurance of any risk to the charity by triangulating information from various sources. My other concern was also what Tony was telling the board? An Avanti board member shared with me - when we explained about the 15th March meeting - that there had been an Avanti board meeting the day after and Tony had not shared the details of the meeting with LRBC with the Avanti Board. This was a serious error of judgement in my view, which appears to be one of many over the years by TA.

One Sunday around this time Tony Anthony approached me at coffee after church. He maintained an extremely aggressive stance as he approached me and his manner was confrontational and he invaded my personal space. He stated he really was not happy with the way LRBC had handled the matter. He stated did not have to show anything to anyone. I was most surprised about what he said and more importantly the way he said it

I stood down as church secretary at the end of May 2011 and handed over to the incoming secretary - Bob Hadwen and fully briefed him on the issues.

My concerns

1. I do not relish making this statement. But sometimes doing the right thing is neither pleasurable nor comfortable. I wish I had another option. I also wish the need for this statement did not exist.

2. Tony's book is a fantastic story and based on many apparent "facts".

My concerns are, taking into account what I have experienced over the last ten years, that many of these "facts" are conveniently incapable of corroboration and many of the details Tony Anthony admits have been changed for various reasons. This is a gross error of judgement in my view. If the book is not wholly true then Tony's testimony is no more remarkable to that of most people. If these changes were plainly known globally, it would be unlikely that he would be invited to speak all over the world and his ministry would be extremely limited. His ministry has been based on his fantastic story and the opportunities he has maximised follow from that.

3. As can be seen from my report back in April 2011 the LRBC leadership were concerned of the possible damage to reputation that could be done to LRBC by any exposé of Avanti and Tony Anthony's testimony not being all it was claimed to be and the resulting pastoral impact could be significant. Even two years on these issues are still live.

4. As a long serving police officer and having spent time working in the prosecutions unit quality assuring evidence files for a wide ranging spectrum of criminal charges and working closely with the Crown Prosecution Service, I believe I am ably qualified to discern how seriously charges are treated.

Tony and Sara were Christians when these events took place. Tony Anthony received a sentence of six months imprisonment for an accident, which I accept, could have happened to anyone. I am sure the aggravating factor was that he and Sara lied to cover it up.

What really concerns me is the nine months imprisonment sentence Tony received for a Racially Aggravated Harassment charge. This offence was committed after and quite separate to the hit and run. It could not have been an accident like the crash with the motorbike was and would not have carried such a heavy sentence were it not to have had an element of violence, intimidation or premeditation. None of the Christians I know would be likely to be convicted of such an offence and my concern is why Tony never spoke about this. He is happy to talk in testimonies about the tragic accident but never about the harassment and I didn't know about the gravity of the situation until we met Tony Anthony on 15th March 2011 and he spoke a little of the charge and how it arose and the sentence. My personal feeling is that I felt disappointed as a member of LRBC that this was never shared with us as something Tony had been sorry for and forgiven for when he approached the church to become a member and when he approached the eldership to be supported in ministry. For me it indicates a fundamental flaw in his character of him either demonstrating regular errors of judgement or not being open, truthful and honest starting with how he handled the accident and how he has handled his story hitherto. This is also evidenced by him agreeing to do one thing at the 15th March 2011 meeting and then changing it after the event. I think if he had told the full truth and circumstances about this offence in the book *Taming the Tiger* it would have changed the dynamics of the story and caused his story to be less remarkable as the offence happened after he came to Christ and while he was working in a church as a youth worker.

5. I am also concerned for Tony Anthony, Avanti, LRBC and the wider church that much information was collected in the four months from February 2011 to June 2011 and that some 23 months later we do not appear to be much further forward with resolving these concerns?

Steve Currell 2nd May 2013 [END]

If the eulogy was given at the funeral, we imagine that it must have been enormously distressing for Tony's mother. Tony had claimed in DVD interviews, and in fact personally in our church outreach that he'd had no contact with his parents for 15 years because he hated them. (I remember a non-Christian guest questioning him about his relationship with his parents). To have her son turn up and start praising his father having abandoned them both to cope with his father's disability alone for all those years, must have been difficult for her to take.

[END OF MATERIAL FROM STEVE CURRELL]

Question put to Avanti:

THE ANSWER HAS BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS REPORT DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMED BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED

When Tony was discharged from prison and started attending LRBC why did he use delaying tactics over submitting a CRB check while he was working with their youth? [response expunged]

Oral submissions made by Avanti to the Panel on 21st May 2013

THESE HAVE BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS REPORT DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMED BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED

Oral submissions made by Bob Hadwen to the Panel on 21st May 2013 (extracts from the minutes)

It was around that time that some of the concerns that have begun to surface started to come to the surface and it caused him some concern. He would try and check out some of those things. Steve Currell was a close friend of his and he spoke quite openly but fairly that what he had come to discover. A lot of it was in relation to the road accident. He was aware of the concerns of Keith Nicholls who was a former pastor at LRBC and had been a pastor of Tony's church. Steve said that Keith had had some involvement and would not go anywhere near him and having worked with Keith that in sense gave a lot of weight to what had been said. He respected Keith and Steve very much. His concerns related to the accident where Tony was involved in a hit and run accident. The thing that gravely concerned him was that he had seen police evidence that finally connected Tony to the accident and it was 18 months till Tony admitted to it. To him an evangelical Christian such as Tony working with young people caused him concern that he had lived a lie for 18 months. ‡ He could understand that if he had done something similar but within two or three days had realised this was wrong and come clean...

Another thing that concerned him was the large turnover of Avanti directors. As church secretary there were a couple of occasions when meetings were called between the church leadership and the Avanti board, including Tony. These were not officially LRBC meetings but to resolve issues that came up as to Tony's credibility. Bob was there and had a role in the church leadership and also as a former Avanti supporter. What sprung to mind was his passport which Tony was reluctant to show and they thought if they could see his passport they could see his date of birth and his name but he refused point blank or to confirm what his name was in his passport – that was about the autumn of 2011. This meeting caused him a lot of concern because he felt that here was someone who was purporting to be a world evangelist yet was sidestepping some of the key questions that people were asking and he was not willing to play ball. He was not willing to answer questions about himself. They were left still not knowing where to turn...

Robert asked whether his personal concerns continued. Bob replied that they did. There were two possibilities, one is that Tony is a bit of a Walter Mitty and as a great evangelist he has constructed a story around his background that he now firmly believes and the other is that he is an experienced confidence trickster. There were times that he thought from his background in HM Customs that this person can be clever - and Christians are trusting people...

Robert said that there were Christians who thought "there are fuzzy things but here is someone speaking about the Saviour so let's press on". Bob's response was that we have to get to the bottom

of this, especially with the book which explicitly states “This is a true story”. He said that we have to find out what the truth is because we may have someone going out giving a Christian testimony based on a lie...

Keith asked if it were true that Tony had had a painful upbringing, that he was a gangster, that he had had an accident and that he is preaching the gospel. Bob said that he could accept all those things but that Tony needed to come clean after years of telling about his upbringing, Kung Fu and things like that. Young people say that if what he says about his upbringing and Kung Fu is true then the gospel must be true. His gut feeling was that it does not hang together. What is in it for him is that he travels the world, has enough money to meet his needs and is doing quite well, and people are being blessed by his ministry, but at the end of the day he believed that a ministry that was built on lies is not a good one. This whole debacle had been difficult for Leigh Road. They had steered clear of condemning Tony but had not cleared him either.

Oral representations made by the Research Group to the Panel on 14th May 2013 (extracts from the minutes)

Keith asked what did a positive outcome look like. Mike replied: “When I started my focus was on Tony and his behaviour. When I looked at the next layer I saw deceptions and lies and I wanted Avanti to deal with Tony and have processes to evaluate all their evangelists. It is an ongoing line of deceit in that he continues to repeat lies”. Mike saw errors in Tony’s theology, in motivation in issues in the book *Passion*. A lot of this material was now Avanti’s and they used the materials; they needed to examine the details. The next layer of the onion was the Avanti directors. It is now no longer Tony and where he is. It is the Avanti board and he was not sure that one could separate them. His end game was for the Evangelical Alliance to help the Avanti board to get their act together. This could mean the resignation of some of the directors if the Avanti work could be saved. A lot of the other evangelists were lovely people with good testimonies. They had been hoodwinked. The Avanti board were compromised. They did not allow their minds to override their hearts.

Robert asked David how he felt. David said that Mike and he represent the two ends of the spectrum. David has never met TA. He approached the problem from a forensic angle. He did not know Tony’s story at all until Tony came to France. A few years later, in 2011, he heard that Tony was going to come back so he looked up the internet to do some research. What he read made him want to look more into it. He asked if he could be sent the identity documents Tony used in order to get into a prison [David is a prison chaplain]. Later after the visit the prison got back and said they did not have any documents but they made a note of his passport details. He then met the director of Avanti France and asked if he was aware. The director’s response was what did it matter as long as people were being saved. The story was not an issue to him at all. David carried on digging. A lot of Tony’s books were being distributed in prison. As a research group they decided they needed to have a Matthew 18 approach and then approached Tony’s church. Mike and Carl went to Leigh Road and they released the information to Steve Clifford at the Evangelical Alliance on 5 November 2012. It was David’s suggestion that they approach the EA and because Avanti was an EA member they would be in a position to do something about it.

Keith asked what did a successful outcome look like. David said that if Tony could be reconciled to the truth that would be great. He said that this was not about money. This was a pathology which had been encouraged by those around him and it did not do him any good to carry on like this. David said that in his experience not facing issues directly always led to bigger problems in the end. The truth can be either your best friend or your worst enemy. Tony would have to accept pastoral support and someone to give it to him. Those involved had nothing to lose by getting to know the truth. We needed to address the whole issue of verification of Christian testimony.

Keith asked if Tony was not reconciled to the truth, what was the second best. David said that he would like a clear statement from the Evangelical Alliance and expectations for other people's testimonies.

Robert said that there must be a remarkable credibility about this man, to take as an example George Verwer. What was it about him that was so convincing. Robert asked what caused these significant people to affirm Tony. David quoted Tony Pancaldi's experience an example of how persuasive Tony could be even with strong personalities. You can see how Tony has been able to deceive others all the time. There was a spiritual seduction there and the other aspect that he used was to preach the gospel and others like George Verwer looked at the preaching the gospel and overlooked everything else. The other subtle thing was his use of the Gospel as an endorsement of his testimony: "I am preaching the Gospel. The Gospel is true, I preach the Gospel and therefore my story is true."

Oral representations made by Tony Anthony to the Panel on 10th June 2013 (extracts from the minutes)

THE SUBMISSION HAS BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THIS REPORT DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMED BY THE DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED

The Research Group's conclusions

The Research Group's conclusions were that Tony's pre-conversion testimony relied on three key pillars, which he rigorously protected by adapting or changing details, which had proved to be wholly untrue or grossly distorted. Tony could hold to these three pillars confidently because he knew that they could not be disproved without documentation, which either does not exist or is impossible to acquire. However their weakness was that they were mutually interdependent. If any one of them was proven untrue, his testimony collapsed as a whole. These interdependent pillars were that:

- He was taken to China at the age of four
- In China he was trained in the art of Kung Fu enabling him to become a three times World champion at a young age
- These skills enabled him to pursue a career as a bodyguard to the rich and famous.

The bodyguard career was possible only as a result of exceptional expertise in Kung Fu and the expertise in Kung Fu had to be achieved somewhere where records would be unavailable to prove it.

To date the research had Tony's word alone to verify any of the above, for the simple reason that no documentation exists to prove them. Given that the documentation that did exist had revealed a catalogue of distortions of truth, the evidence was that Tony's word alone was not to be trusted.

Although no documentation exists to disprove these pillars facts abound:

1. Tony claimed that being the only male heir was the reason he was sent to China to carry on the ancient family art. All the family honour and tradition rested on him, but Gong So had a son, and Tony had older male cousins.
2. In addition to this untruth, it had also been proven that Tony's Chinese grandfather died in England 7 years before Tony was born; so he now claimed that he was trained by a relative, whom he formerly believed to be his grandfather, with his believed grandmother. This story is disproved by the existence of Tony's grandmother who lived all her life in the UK and died when Tony was 29. It is implausible that he had no knowledge of her existence.
3. Tony further claimed that his mother, Janet, was subjected to alienation from her family because she married 'an outsider', but his mother was born British and her Chinese father was long since dead when she was married. He died when Janet was just 13, by which time her parents were divorced; so Janet's father had no influence in her life at all by the time Tony was born. All Janet's remaining relatives in the UK were British by birth, and all married 'outsiders'. Janet was the youngest in the family. That Tony's divorced, also British grandmother, would alienate her youngest child because she did not marry someone of Chinese origin was completely untenable. It was hardly plausible that Janet's mother could even communicate with Chinese relatives. In summary, the powerful Chinese influence that Tony described was non-existent.
4. Given the above, Tony's account of his mother, with the acquiescence of her divorced mother, and with the willing agreement of his Greek Cypriot father, allowing a total stranger to take his first born son and only child to China to be reared by an unknown distant relative, knowing that alternatives existed in the form of an uncle and older nephews, was untenable in the least.
5. In video interviews, Tony claimed that he was sent away at 4 years old because his father was diagnosed with MS at that time and his mother was unable to care for him (this is different from the account in *Taming the Tiger*). If this were true, Tony was hardly likely to be sent out of the country, not only given the impact on the UK social services of a disappearing child, but also the emotional trauma caused to Janet and Andreas in receiving this devastating diagnosis and then completely losing close contact with their only child.
6. Tony is unable to read Cantonese. He maintains that he has forgotten it all, yet in his book he claims fluency in reading and writing up to the age of 18. We are told in prison in Nicosia

that he received a letter from a cousin in China who informed him of the death of his grandfather. We are told in *Taming the Tiger* that when in China Tony could communicate with no-one in English. This cousin therefore would not have written in English, nor would Tony have replied in English, yet he is able not only to read and understand her letter, but to write a reply with a powerful Christian witness, inviting the threat of Triads, which was the excuse that Tony used in refusing to reveal his birth certificate.

7. The discovery of Tony's birth certificate and concealed identity revealed that he had lied about his Father's ethnicity. Tony has relatives in Cyprus, mentioned nowhere in his story. The Saudi Ambassador that Tony claimed to have been employed by in Cyprus was fictitious, although Tony variously claims the ambassador was or was not Saudi Arabian. In summary, given Tony's need to conceal his Cypriot family, the conclusion must be that he was in Cyprus for family reasons, and not because he was employed as a high-flying play-boy bodyguard by an Ambassador at the tender age of 17 – 18.
8. Tony's true age, also concealed by withholding his birth certificate, reveals that he was only just 18 years old on arrest in Nicosia, which additionally renders his close protection career a fabrication. This is self-evident from the deception on his advertising materials, still in use, that claim his career was accomplished in his early twenties. Tony was in prison and then England in his early twenties. This self-evidence is compounded by his consistently reporting a fictitious birth year. He changed his birth date in Companies House records from 1971 to 1969, recorded a birth-date of 1969 on his marriage certificate, and supplied a birth-date of 1969 to the police for all his convictions in the UK. He needed the false birth date to make his story possible.
9. No police report exists detailing any convictions for physical violence by Tony as a result of his claimed Kung Fu and fire arms skills, whereas reports do exist, despite his claims of twice undergoing a profound experience of repentance, of a crime yet un- confessed, forgery, the real reason for his immediate deportation from Cyprus on release from prison in Nicosia. All these facts were formerly concealed because Tony refused to show his birth certificate to any-one who would not swear secrecy to what they had seen and because he gave the impression that Gong Su had no descendants in the UK other than Janet. In addition to this overwhelming evidence that Tony never went to China, is the consistency of **NO** documentary evidence or witness to prove the interdependent pillars.
10. **No evidence whatsoever** exists of an International Kung Fu Federation based in Geneva, or anywhere else in the 1980's. No evidence exists to substantiate the international body-guarding service it operated.
11. Tony catalogues an international career as an instructor in Kung Fu. **Leading UK practitioners of the Tiger Claw style of Kung Fu have never ever heard of Tony Anthony.** No verifiable record of his visits to Kung Fu schools around the world, have been found.

12. No evidence of the world championship tournaments that Tony claims is traceable. Tony now claims that these tournaments were small and unofficial, but no tournament offering 10,000 pounds prize money is small or unofficial.
13. The stated purpose for Tony's visit to Saudi Arabia as bodyguard support to William Blake has been proven untenable. Many of the detailed aspects of this episode in the narrative are inaccurate or implausible.
14. In addition to all the above facts is the historical and political reality of those times. Chinese nationals did not have, nor could obtain international passports in 1975, when Tony was four years of age. Journeys to and from China, a closed Communist country, were extremely rare, apart from diplomats, until the mid-1980's. No-one from China could realistically have come to Great Britain and taken Tony to China, yet Tony makes numerous trips, some as an unaccompanied minor. Records of any such trips will exist, because of the exceptional status of the traveller. Tony would be able to prove his story, if it were true. Of course it is always remotely possible that access to and from China was achieved through Hong Kong. But this has always been extremely difficult, hazardous and unreliable. If any aspect was true, his story would also necessarily describe either the exceptional circumstances under which his travel was permitted, or the adventure of illegally gaining ingress or egress.
15. In summary, formerly hidden facts about Tony Anthony's background disprove rather than confirm that Tony was trained in Kung Fu in China, a conclusion supported by the **total** absence of **any** documentation provided by Tony to prove the two other interdependent pillars of his story. These historical facts alone, even without the details of family background make it imperative that Tony prove his claims with verifiable evidence, and not just his word.
16. Tony's mother should be a key witness to vouch for his truthfulness, especially as he claims that he is now reconciled to her after being alienated for 15 years. She should be more than willing to defend the integrity and reputation of her only child against false allegations, but strangely this is not so. Tony's given reason for his alienation from his invalid father and mother, both of whom he abandoned to cope alone with his father's disability, was his hatred of them both, recorded in DVD interviews. This anomaly in his Christian witness has been overlooked with sympathy, because of his graphic accounts of vicious physical and emotional child abuse in China, but if Tony did not go to China, as is evident from the above facts, those accounts are a shameless fabrication.
17. Tony informs us himself in *Taming the Tiger* that if asked his mother would deny that he had been to China. Tony's relatives confirm this. They also ridiculed his claim to be trained by a Kung Fu Grandmaster Grandfather, or anyone else, in China. All that one relative knew of his Chinese Grandfather was that he owned a chip shop in Bristol, confirmed by another describing a history in catering, not Kung Fu.

18. Tony's three pillars are built on the foundation of his word alone, proven above to be dubious with absolutely no concrete evidence to support it.
19. Given the enormous combined weight of concealment, factual contraindication, family witness and absence of **any** confirmatory proof, there is no necessity of documentary evidence to disprove Tony's story. **The onus rests entirely and expeditiously on Tony to produce validate-able documentation to prove his claims, contradicted by facts and witnesses.**

The Panel's conclusion

Tony has stated publicly "I have told lies all my life". The Panel believed this statement to be true. It is understandable that before his conversion in Cyprus Tony had lived by lying, being convicted and sentenced to imprisonment in Cyprus for forgery, burglary, robbery, fraud, violence and breaking and entering. What concerned the Panel is that five years or so after his commitment to Christ he was involved in a perfectly understandable motor accident, which could have happened to anyone, and he decided to spin a web of lies to the police and everyone else for an extended time as a result of which he was imprisoned for perverting the course of justice. After time to reflect on his life while serving his sentence in HMP Bullingdon he could have amended his ways, yet upon his release he (commendably) resumed his life and picked up the pieces but yet according to the evidence of Leslie Steele, Keith Nicholls, Philip Derbyshire, Steve Currell, Carl Beech and Bob Hadwen continued to live a life marked by lying.

The stories about his early life in China and his prowess in Kung Fu could easily be addressed by speaking to his mother but this has been resisted throughout the inquiry and previously. One of the representors recently spoke to the person who was the undertaker at Tony's father's funeral. The undertaker told him that it was not possible to contact Tony's mother as **she did not want to be contacted as she did not like all the lies that Tony told.**

As has been said by the Research Group, Tony's mother is the definitive witness that Tony could bring forward to vouch for his truthfulness, especially as he claims that he is now reconciled to her, after being alienated for 15 years. If his reconciliation is genuine she will undoubtedly be more than willing to defend the integrity and reputation of her only child against false allegations, but strangely she is still unwilling to do so. Tony claims that his mother is unwilling to speak on his behalf because of harassment, but those who know her report that, contrary to Tony's claims, she is not reconciled to Tony.

The Panel therefore had no hesitation in concluding that Tony Anthony's life has been and continues to be dominated by lies and in particular his claims of spending his childhood in China and his prowess in Kung Fu are completely fictitious.