

THE REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED
from
THE PANEL NOMINATED BY THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE
to
INQUIRE INTO CERTAIN ALLEGATIONS BEING MADE AGAINST TONY ANTHONY

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Pursuant to discussions between the Board of Directors of Avanti Ministries Limited ("the Board") and the Evangelical Alliance, whereby the Alliance nominated us, Robert Amess, Keith Civval and John Langlois (Chairman), to serve as a Panel of Inquiry ("the Panel"), the Board and the Panel signed an Agreement on 26th March 2013 to investigate certain allegations being made by third parties against Tony Anthony with a mandate to submit a written report to the Board by 26th June 2013.

PROCEDURE

In accordance with the terms of the Agreement we have investigated material containing allegations against Tony received from third parties and have perused material relevant to this Inquiry received from the Board and have given both the Board and third parties the opportunity of appearing before us to answer questions verbally. Accordingly we have 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 Board, namely David Duell, David West, Paul Salter and George Osborn,
- (d) on 21st May 2013 Bob Hadwen,
- (e) on 21st May 2013 Heather Crosskey (Robert Amess being absent) and
- (f) on 10th June 2013 Tony Anthony (Robert Amess being absent)

ASSESSMENT OF EVIDENCE

In the assessment of evidence we have followed the following principles:

1. The standard of proof to determine a particular fact or issue has been assessed on the balance of probabilities.
2. Particular weight has been given to third-party corroboration/verification, including documentary evidence.
3. We have reached conclusions solely on the evidence submitted to us.
4. We have required submission of evidence which is capable of verification, that is to say, we would not be satisfied with assertions which were either incapable of proof or have not been proved.

5. We made plain to the Board that Tony Anthony's approach to imitate Christ's example before His accusers by remaining silent as His own witness (John 8:12-20) was not one that we endorsed as we have been mandated to establish the truth. Jesus was the embodiment of truth. In this inquiry we are seeking to establish it by the evaluation of facts.
6. In our task we have followed the guidance provided by Jesus Christ Himself in John 5:31: *"If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not deemed true"*, a principle of the Mosaic law given by God set out in Deuteronomy 19:15 *"A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established."* This latter Mosaic principle is in respect to prosecution, not defence, but the principle remains applicable to the need for corroboration.

We sent to the Board a statement of these principles which we would follow in the conduct of the Inquiry as set out under Tab 17.

We thank those individuals who have assisted us in pursuing our inquiry.

TONY ANTHONY'S ASSERTIONS

Tony and the Board maintain that:

- (a) He was brought up in China,
- (b) He was an internationally famous Kung Fu champion,
- (c) He was convicted of offences in Cyprus and sentenced to a term of imprisonment,
- (d) In prison he met a missionary through whom he came to know Christ in 1990,
- (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 alleges that:

- (a) There is no evidence that Tony was brought up in China,
- (b) There is no evidence that Tony is a Kung Fu world champion,
- (c) In 2000 Tony denied being involved in the traffic accident until close to the court hearing fourteen months later and
- (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 TA: *"I regard you as a devious and manipulative man"*.

THE ISSUES

We identified six issues which are core to establishing the truth in this matter:

- A. The facts in relation to the traffic accident (“the accident”) and the 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 has plagiarised extracts of published works owned by third parties and appropriated them as his own without acknowledgement; and
- F. Tony’s honesty and integrity.

In relation to all the above, the question of honesty and credibility has been in the forefront of our minds. We have carefully considered all evidence submitted to us.

A. THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

We have considered the evidence presented to us in relation to the Accident and have set out the evidence and our conclusions under Tab 3.

B. THE TRIAL AND RELATED MATTERS

We have considered the evidence presented to us in relation to inconsistencies in Tony’s date of birth and have set out the evidence and our conclusions under Tab 4.

C. TONY ANTHONY’S IDENTITY AND EARLY YEARS

We have considered the evidence presented to us in relation to whether Tony ever lived in China in his youth, and have set out the evidence and our conclusions under Tab 5.

D. THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CONTENTS OF *TAMING THE TIGER*

We have considered the evidence presented to us in relation to whether Tony ever lived in China in his youth, and have set out the evidence and our conclusions under Tab 6.

E. TONY ANTHONY’S ACHIEVEMENTS IN KUNG FU

We have considered the evidence presented to us as to whether Tony was ever “a” or “the” world Kung Fu champion and have set out the evidence and our conclusions under Tab 7.

F. PLAGIARISM BY TONY ANTHONY

We have considered the evidence presented to us in relation to whether or not Tony has plagiarised the works of third parties and have set out the evidence and our conclusions under Tab 8.

G. TONY ANTHONY'S CREDIBILITY

We have considered the evidence regarding Tony's credibility and have set out the evidence and our conclusions under Tab 9.

H. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN AVANTI MINISTRIES

We have considered the evidence regarding the level of corporate governance within Avanti Ministries and have set out the evidence and our conclusions under Tab 18.

OUR GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

As this whole inquiry has as its essential feature the establishment of truth by credible evidence we believe that each of our separate conclusions on the above seven headings at the end of each of Schedules 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 should be considered. Having carefully considered each of our separate conclusions our general conclusion is as follows.

The task assigned to us has been a challenging one inasmuch as Tony is a devout Christian and a brother in the Lord, who has devoted himself to spreading the Gospel, yet much of the evidence which he has submitted to us, both in writing through the Avanti board and orally, does not accord with the evidence of third party witnesses (that is, witnesses and representors who are not members of the board of directors of Avanti).

Tony seems to implicitly believe his life story, including his childhood years in China and his exploits in Kung Fu and close protection. However, we have been given no evidence at all that he spent his childhood years in China or has had any involvement in Kung Fu or close protection. Indeed, Tony has refused to give us any proof of these events and has refused to give us any information whereby we could ascertain the truth, allegedly because of security issues. In this respect a meeting with his mother would have been crucial to establish the truth without any security issues. Tony informed us that his relationship with his mother has now been restored but he was not willing for us to contact her. We have noted that as recently as 6 June 2013, Mandy, the undertaker who had undertaken Tony's father's funeral, told one of the representors (who is NOT one of the research Group) that relations were not good between mother and son and that a lot of lies had deeply upset Tony's mother.

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 we turned our attention to the tragic traffic accident in Berkshire as one event where third party evidence is available. We have noted that all the evidence submitted to us by third parties is consistent with each other but it is inconsistent with what Tony either told us orally, or as contained in written answers or as recorded in *Taming the Tiger*. We have found all the third party evidence to be persuasive in convincing us that the third parties' accounts of the accident and its subsequent events are true and the evidence submitted to us by Tony is not factual. We were saddened and somewhat taken aback in our meetings with directors of Avanti that they were

unwilling to countenance as credible any of the evidence presented to us by very credible third party representatives and information that is a matter of public record. Indeed, one board member, Dr Crosskey, told us "I don't believe what's written in newspapers". In our experience reports of judicial proceeds are generally well reported as journalists have to merely report word-for-word what was said in court. We have been disappointed that the Avanti board have been reluctant to engage with us in our onerous task, to the point of obstruction. This applies not only to oral answers in meetings but also to our requests for answers to written questions where the replies were minimalist.

We have applied our minds as to a possible reason for these inconsistencies. We have wondered if it is possible that Tony may have undergone some trauma in childhood, possibly lasting from the ages of three or four until he was about twelve, as a result of which, for whatever reason, he has substituted his story of a childhood in China and Kung Fu for his actual childhood experiences and has denied some of the elements of the accident.

Tony was born in 1971. From 1972 to 1975 an American TV series about Kung Fu was televised starring David Carradine as a mixed race American boy being brought up in China who becomes a Kung Fu master and returns to the America in the Wild West era because he has upset his mentors back home, going around righting wrongs with a few Kung Fu moves. It is just possible that Tony has adopted this superhero into his own experience to exclude some trauma which he experienced in childhood.

This may have been due to some trauma which his parents may have experienced as a result of his father having to give up work at an early age when he contracted multiple sclerosis, which would possibly have caused the family to get into financial distress and his parents possibly at the end of their tether. It is possible that as Tony slept at night he dreamt of an alternative to the distress that he and his family were experiencing and substituted a mythical grandfather in the place of his parents who took him to China.

From the evidence it would appear that for some reason or other Tony may have dropped out of secondary school at about the age of fifteen and found himself in Cyprus, where his father had roots, (having already thought deeply about his maternal roots in China). Be that as it may, for whatever reason Tony got into big trouble in Cyprus and found himself in prison where he was converted to Christ.

Since leaving prison in the UK he has picked himself up and done a great work in building up Avanti, for which we applaud him. The work is undoubtedly being greatly blessed by God. However, Tony may still be living in an unreal world, which he believes is 100% true, yet is not factual.

We perceived in our meeting with Tony that he has a huge appreciation of God's grace and the breadth and length and height and depth of God's love that enfolds him, but we think he needs help. He has built up a story about himself which through the book, *Taming the Tiger*, as been read by millions, yet in our view does not accord with fact. We think he needs to come to terms with a past which is not factual.

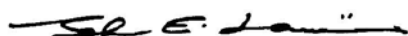
OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Under Clause 2(d) of the Inquiry Agreement we are mandated to make recommendations to the Avanti board. There are clearly issues that have to be addressed as a matter of urgency by the board of Avanti Ministries. We recommend that the Board seeks specialist advice on how to manage the conclusions of the Panel as and when they appear in the public domain so that all communications are handled in such a way that the news does not inflict needless damage on Avanti Ministries and its evangelists. Both Tony and the Board have been keen to stress that Avanti is more than Tony Anthony and the Board has told us that they have succession plans in prospect already, so they should do all they can to enable Avanti Ministries to continue.

Tony clearly needs advice and counsel. He stressed to us that his long-term mentor is George Verwer. As mentor we contacted George early in the process to invite him to make representations to us if he so wished. George has expressed his profound commitment to continue to mentor Tony. We recommend the Board enters into discussions with George to provide Tony with the support that he needs.

We also recommend that the Board address the role of Authentic and any other publishers, who clearly did not exercise sufficient due diligence before publishing *Taming the Tiger*. They have been the financial beneficiaries of the sales success of the book. We recommend that the Board instructs Authentic and any other publishers to recall all unsold copies of *Taming the Tiger* (both the book and the DVD) and *Cry of the Tiger*. These should be purchased back from retailers at *retail* price and pulped. There will be financial cost to Authentic for this but it will be far less than the profits they have made from sales of the past ten years. The situation with regard to *Passion* is not so clear cut. The Board will need to take a view on that when a resolution has been achieved between Avanti and *Training To Proclaim*.

The findings of the report are clearly very significant and therefore both the Board and the Evangelical Alliance need to manage communications carefully lest they inflict undue collateral damage, not least to the Gospel. The Avanti Board communicated to the outside world in February that the Evangelical Alliance was engaged in an inquiry, so there will be those who are patiently waiting for the conclusions of the report to appear. We recommend that the Evangelical Alliance and the Board have a deadline of two weeks from 26th June 2013 to agree the terms of an appropriate mutually agreed communication, failing which the Board and the Alliance will be free to make whatever separate news release they may wish to make.



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John E Langlois, OBE

Chairman

For and on behalf of the Panel

Date: 24th June 2013

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THE PANEL NOMINATED BY THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO A WIDER AUDIENCE

Under Clause 2(e) of the Inquiry Agreement the Panel is mandated to draft “a separate diplomatically discreet executive summary of the Panel’s findings which shall be suitable and appropriate to be made available to a wider audience by agreement between the Ministry [Avanti] and the Committee [the Membership Committee of the Evangelical Alliance].” This is that executive summary.

On 26th March 2013 the Board of Directors of Avanti Ministries Limited and a Panel of three members nominated by the Evangelical Alliance signed an Agreement to investigate certain allegations being made by third parties against Tony Anthony with a mandate to submit a written report to the Board with a copy to the Evangelical Alliance by 26th June 2013. The members of the Panel have now completed their inquiry and have reported to the Board.

The principal allegations were that there is no evidence that Tony Anthony was brought up in China or that he was involved in Kung Fu at all, let alone becoming a world champion. In addition the panel investigated allegations connected with Tony Anthony’s true identity and around the circumstances surrounding the court proceedings in Berkshire.

After very careful scrutiny of all the written evidence presented to the Panel and questioning of witnesses who appeared before the Panel in person, the members of the Panel have come to the unanimous conclusion that there is no evidence that Tony was brought up in China or that he was ever involved in Kung Fu.

The members of the Panel do not doubt that Tony is a devout Christian and a brother in the Lord, who has devoted himself to spreading the Gospel, yet much of the evidence which he has submitted to us, both in writing and orally, does not accord with the credible evidence of third party witnesses.

We have presented our conclusions to the Board of Avanti Ministries who are considering the implications of our conclusions.

We wish to thank all those who have helped us in our mandate. Our prayers will remain with Tony and with the whole of the Avanti Board as they consider the future of the ministry.

22nd June 2013

INDEX OF SCHEDULES

- 1. THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT**
- 2. THE TRIAL AND ISSUES ARISING FROM THE ACCIDENT**
- 3. TONY ANTHONY'S IDENTITY AND EARLY YEARS**
- 4. THE ASSERTION THAT THE FACTS IN *TAMING THE TIGER* ARE TRUE**
- 5. TONY'S ALLEGED ACHIEVEMENTS IN KUNG FU**
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- 7. TONY'S HONESTY AND INTEGRITY**
- 8. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN AVANTI MINISTRIES LIMITED**

SCHEDULE I

THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

A major issue for the Panel in this Inquiry has been 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 by reason of the fact that much of his evidence was not capable of corroboration by third parties.

We therefore decided to commence our 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 contains the evidence of credible, independent third parties who by reason of their position, namely a policeman and a judge, are bound professionally to adhere to the highest standards of impartiality and truth in promoting justice and the evidence can be checked against reports in the public domain as well as the evidence of witnesses who were cognisant of the facts.

We have carefully scrutinised the evidence of the Research Group and third parties which has been submitted to us. We have concluded that the evidence is well researched. We therefore quote from it extensively, together with our own comments and conclusions. In this section of our report we have not re-stated the sources which have been quoted by *The Research Group*. Reference can be made to them under Tab 10 in this report.

The Research Group's allegations

The allegation by *The Research Group* in respect of the accident in the village of Hurst is that the account of the accident in *Taming the Tiger* is deceptive and does not accord with fact. They allege seven key discrepancies between their findings and what is stated to be true in *Taming the Tiger*, and we quote:

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. *"Tom" 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*". On page 203 we read that 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 record 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 that it was a 500cc Kawasaki, not a small machine (see photo under Tab 10, page 60). It is alleged that in *Passion* (introduction, page xiv), Tony has 'watered down' this incident to: *"I knocked a lady from her bike"*.

A report in a local newspaper states: *"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 is alleged that visibility at the junction is unobstructed and there are no bushes near the spot where the body would have lain (see Google photos under Tab 10, page 59). *The Research Group* allege 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* have 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"*. Tony omits to mention in *Taming the Tiger* 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 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 is 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* allege 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. 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 is alleged that Tony's claim that he stopped and looked and that two other motorists stopped does not tally with the absence of any witnesses coming forward. The indications are 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 allege that no forensic evidence is 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. 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 state 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 shows 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 allege that this only makes sense if Tony knew he was implicated. Moreover, other factors would have made it impossible not to know about the accident. It is alleged that a local who still lives close to the scene recalls 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 is 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 is 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 allege that they have spoken to "Tom" and his recollection is 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.

"Tom" recalls 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.

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 allege that they have examined all local newspapers and none of them state this. They unanimously record that the victim was found in the road.

The Research Group allege 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 is striking.

7. Tony says 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 allege 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 at the inquest: "*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 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 allege that Tony clearly states in *Taming the Tiger* that they 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 allege 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. 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.*" Tony attributed shock in the courtroom to the severity of the sentence. The Research Group allege 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 make the point that it is shocking that Tony tries to create sympathy for himself at the expense of the pain and grief of the victim's orphaned sons and relatives.

They make 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 allege is 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 is alleged that Tony creates 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 states: "*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 continues '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 conclusion

The Research Group's conclusions are as follow: "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 Leslie Steele

The Revd. Leslie Steel has 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 nor 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 your 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

pervverting 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

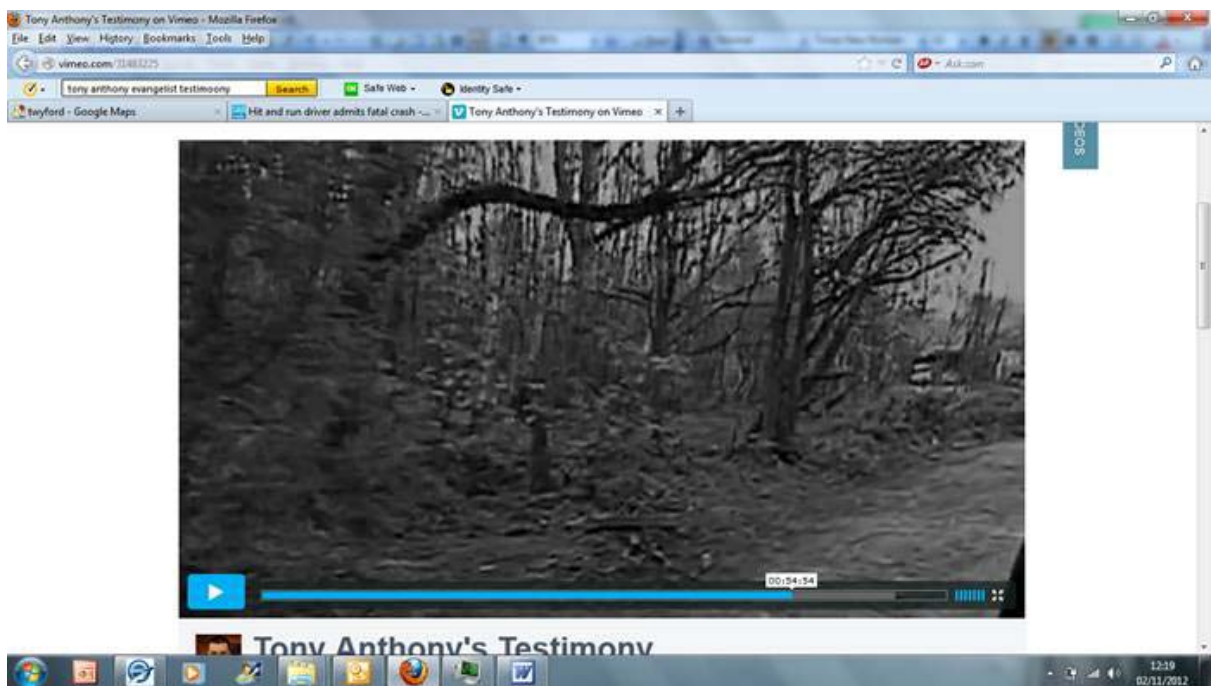
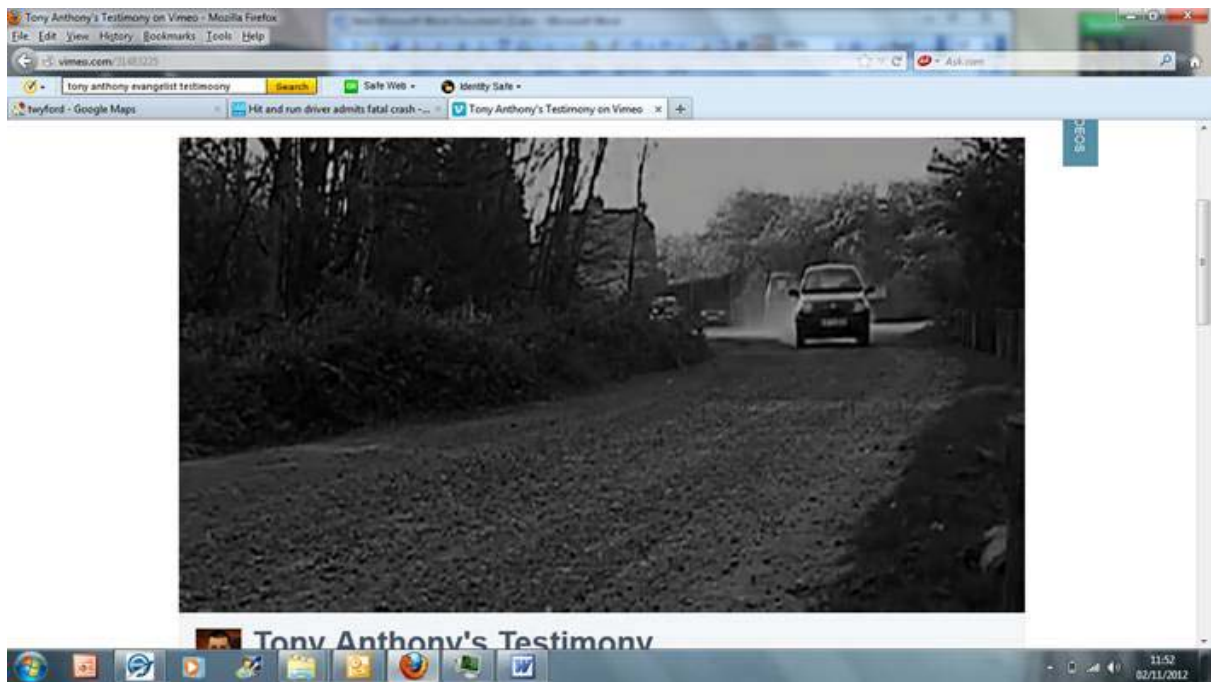
“In connection with this accident I listened to Tony Anthony's acknowledgement of this ‘accident’ on his spoken testimony on the Avanti website but something troubled me about it. As he tells of the collision which he says he was unaware of being of [sic] a motorcyclist a video is played over of a car 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.

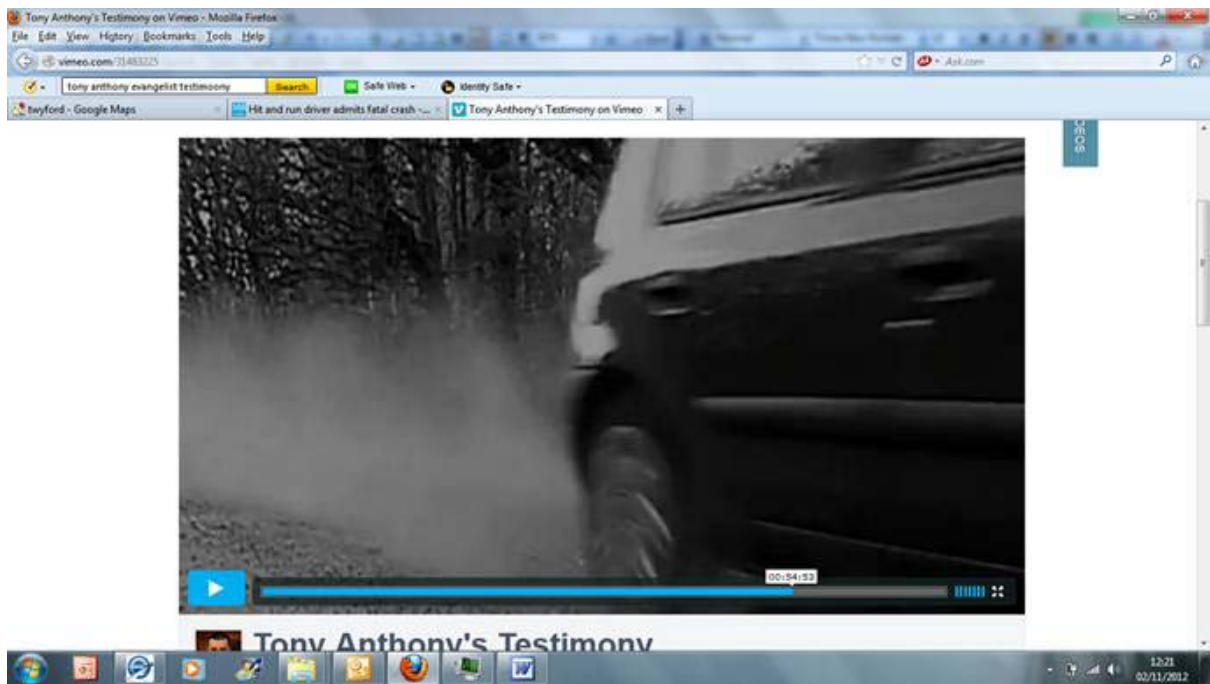
“If these two things weren't enough the silence from Mr Anthony or his organisation in dealing with these things made me frustrated and feeling very suspicious and others who I have contacted have shared the same experience. I found out that Mr Julian Batchelor in New Zealand had known Tony and on contacting 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.

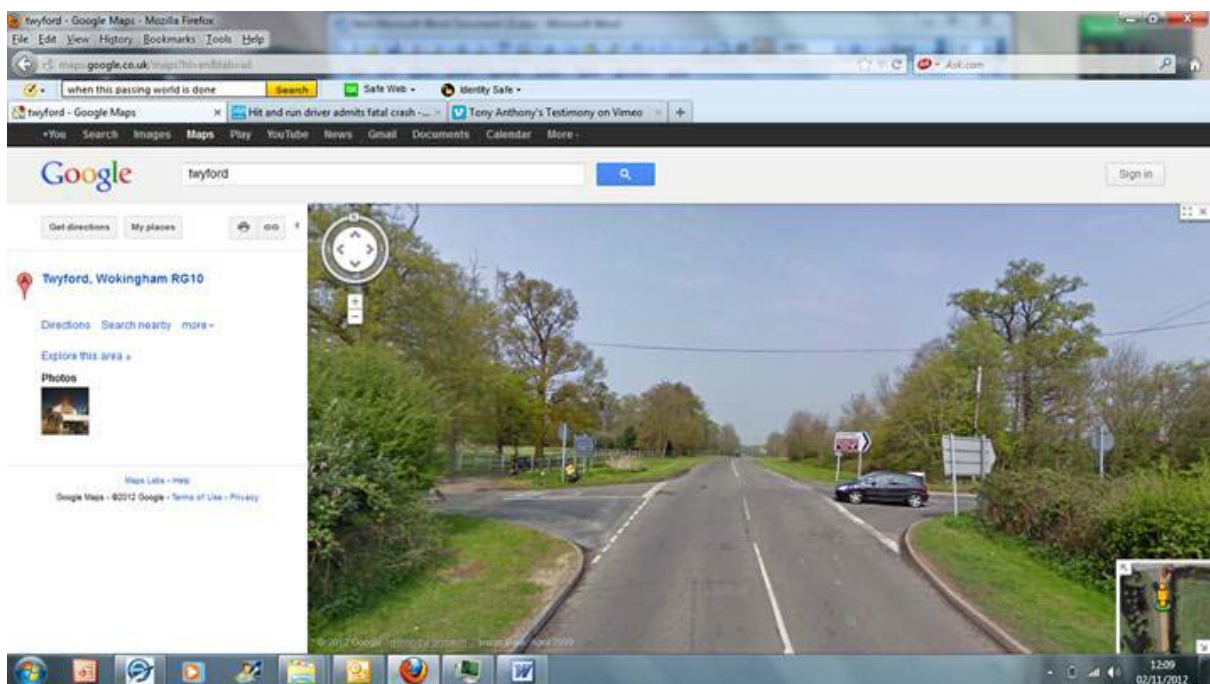
Leslie Steele, 1st April 2013”

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





PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE JUNCTION WHERE THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED





Submission from 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 has 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 as significant.”

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

The Panel put various written questions to the Board shown in **red** below. The Board’s responses are shown in **green**. Statements are shown in black. The Panel’s comments are shown in **blue**.

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?** (G34)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Yes, this is true.

PANEL’S COMMENT: Third party evidence suggests that it is untrue.

2. On page 204 Tony states that he took another route home. **Which route did he take?** (G35)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony states “There were three potential routes for me to get home from the point of the accident. I took one of those routes that seemed easiest to me at the time”.

PANEL’S COMMENT: This response is not credible. An eight mile detour is not one that normally “seems easiest”. We have concluded that he took an alternative way home to avoid detection.

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?** (G38)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Yes, this is true.

PANEL’S COMMENT: This is not true. Police evidence was that one headlight and the front grille of the car was left at the scene.

4. **At which garage (name and address) was the damage repaired?** (G39)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Cannot recall. This will be available in the Police Record.

PANEL’S COMMENT: We consider this response is untrue.

5. Page 207 also states that the roads were wet and the lady had no lights on her motorbike. **Is this the truth?** (G37)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Yes, this is true.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This response is untrue. As stated above, 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. 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. PC Spiller would have observed at the scene whether the light switch was or was not in the on or off position.

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?** (G40)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Yes, this is true.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This is untrue. "Tom" has been contacted and has confirmed that he was not into radio communications and/or police activity. "Tom" is not his real name. His name is James Moreland.

7. Page 205 states that Tony and Sara read in the newspaper that the body was found in the bushes. **Is this true?** (G41)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Yes, this is true.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We do not accept this as true. None of the newspaper cuttings which have been submitted to us say this. All the evidence we have seen states that the victim was in the middle of the road, and still alive, when found. Indeed even if she had been in bushes the motorbike would not have been.

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?** (G42)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony responds – "Yes, this is true – and yet the paragraph extracted does not communicate enough, neither does it do so in context either. As I made it very clear that I lied to the police during the enquiry to cover my skin so to speak. "

PANEL'S COMMENT: We do not accept this as true. We note it is claimed that "neither does it do so in context" yet no explanation is given as to what the true context is. Although Tony lied to the police to save his skin Tony states in Taming the Tiger *"We couldn't tell our story fast enough. No more lies. We were both desperate to spill out the details of this dreadful accident."* This contradicts the police evidence .

9. Did Tony admit liability when the police arrived? (G43)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony responds – “Yes and no. It was not that simple! In any case, we did not admit anything at the house. It does not work that way. They took me to the police station, which is where we were questioned and we made a number of statements. As soon as the lawyers got involved (defence & prosecution) we found ourselves experiencing plea bargaining – i.e. if we admit such and such, then we will get such and such sentence, regardless of whether it happened or not. Happy to explain more if that does not make sense.”

PANEL’S COMMENT: One of the Panellists, John Langlois, a practising lawyer, regards this as a complete fabrication which seeks to weave procedure at the final stage with what happens at the beginning of an investigation. Plea bargaining may very occasionally take place at a far later stage when the charges have been established. Before a person is charged the sole task of the police is to establish the facts. All the evidence suggests that Tony did not admit liability. If he had done, the police investigation would have proceeded very differently.

10. Did the police have dogs with them? (G44)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Yes Tony believes so.

PANEL’S COMMENT: We do not believe this statement. PC Spiller has confirmed that there were no dogs.

11. Page 207 states “Forensic evidence proved I was travelling well below the speed limit.” Please provide us with details of the forensic evidence. (G36)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This evidence is with the police files, however the obvious point is that Tony was charged with “death by careless driving” and not “death by dangerous driving”, which indicates the difference in the manner and speed of his driving that the forensics verified.

PANEL’S COMMENT: We asked for details of the forensic evidence. This answer fails to give it. We accept, however, in the absence of such evidence before us, that there is no evidence either way.

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? (G45)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We suspect they gasped for many reasons, hard to know why exactly.

PANEL’S COMMENT: The newspaper reports indicate that there were gasps that the sentence was so lenient.

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

David West said that he was personally concerned about the information about the accident. There had been allegations made that the lady had been on a bicycle. It worried him if someone said that it was a bicycle not a motor cycle. That was misinformation. Information had to be absolutely correct and in writing. When the truth was twisted it made him think that there was a campaign against Tony.

PANEL'S COMMENT: [We note that David West is](#) worried if someone has said that it was a bicycle not a motor cycle. He correctly makes the point that information has to be absolutely correct and in writing. We suspect that David West may have read page xiv of the introduction of *Passion* where Tony himself has written "*I knocked a lady from her bike*". We suspect that he has mistaken Tony for another person and has concluded that the truth has been twisted by a third party and it made him think that there was a campaign against Tony.

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

John asked Heather if she had seen the reports of the accident in Berkshire. She said she did not believe things that were written in newspapers.

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

All the questions regarding the traffic accident asked at the meeting on 10th June 2013 were asked in relation to the statements made in *Taming the Tiger* and appear in Schedule D to this Report.

The Panel's conclusion

The Panel has noted the clear discrepancies between the answers given by the Avanti board and Tony 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.

We note that the major concern of the Avanti board is not about the discrepancy between their evidence and the evidence of third parties and the evidence produced in court but the false allegations that are being made about Tony having crashed into a bicycle, namely, "It worried him if someone said that it was a bicycle not a motor cycle. That was misinformation. Information had to be absolutely correct and in writing. When the truth was twisted it made him think that there was a campaign against Tony."

The Panel has come to the conclusion that the responses of the Avanti board are inconsistent with the truth and 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 report, which deals with the traffic incident, the Research Group consider that a major issue for the Panel is 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 by reason of the fact that much of his evidence is not capable of corroboration by third parties.

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

In this section of our report we have not re-stated the sources which have been quoted by *The Research Group*. Reference can be made to them under Tab 10 in this report.

The Research Group investigated when and where Tony Anthony appeared in court and secured copies of the related certificates of conviction. They allege that this research revealed that *Taming the Tiger* grossly misrepresents Tony Anthony's court appearances to his advantage, and, much more seriously, 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. *The Research Group* have based this research on certificates of conviction obtained from the courts in question.

1. Court appearances

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

The Research Group's researches show 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 is 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 make the following points that they allege run 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 allege that all three certificates of conviction give the name of the defendant as Tony Anthony and state that his date of birth is August 7, 1969 (whereas it has been established that he was born on July 30, 1971). They allege 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 allege that another troubling detail is that Tony's age as supplied on his wedding certificate is 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 Board's responses are shown in **green**. Statements are shown in black. The Panel's comments are shown in **blue**.

1. **For what charge or charges was Tony sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment?** (G46)

AVANTI RESPONSE: OFFENCE: Harrassment - Put in fear of violence

OFFENCE: Commit act / series of acts with intent to pervert the course of justice

OFFENCE: Pursued a course of conduct which amounted to harassment

OFFENCE: Pursued a course of conduct which amounted to harassment

OFFENCE: Pursued a course of conduct which amounted to harassment

OFFENCE: Driving without due care and attention

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted. We note from ACPO Policy Certificate that there are two additional charges (1) failing to stop and (2) failing to report the accident both contrary to s.170(4) RTA. We further note that he pleaded guilty to all these charges.

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?** (G47)

AVANTI RESPONSE: There were two issues going on at the same time (1) car accident and (2) harassment charges. So in actual fact there were way more than two court appearances, as the case was not concluded easily.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

3. Where does Sara come into this? Why was she in court? (G48)

AVANTI RESPONSE: involved by association.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We do not regard this as a truthful reply. Third party evidence shows that Sara was in court on a charge of doing acts tending and intending to pervert the course of public justice, for which she was convicted and sentenced to 120 hours of community service.

4. What date of birth did Tony give when he was charged, 7 August 1969 or 30 July 1971? (G49)

AVANTI RESPONSE: DOB as seen on passport.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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? (M5)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We understand that Tony shared the full account with the couple that initially interviewed Sara and Tony when being considered for membership, and Tony even shared it as a part of his testimony at LRBC. Many people remember hearing this. Steven Hembery in fact wrote to Tony while he was in prison in HMP Bullingdon, and Sara attended LRBC during Tony's sentence and was in fact supported by them.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This reply does not answer our question. We asked whether Tony was wholly truthful when giving an account of the accident to the church meeting when he was received into membership, not the initial interview with a couple.

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 was 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? (M6)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We believe the timing of the question is not correct with the order of events. Tony had not gone to prison until after moving to Essex, by which time he had attended LRBC on just a few occasions. Also, Tony was not the "Youth Worker" at Didcot. Tony had, however organised an independent youth ministry at the time in the local region, but this was separate to Didcot Baptist Church. Tony would most certainly agree that immediately after the accident, he had not wanted to

discuss or share the accident with anyone as a topic of conversation, and so there would be several people that would not have heard about the matter until after he had gone to prison. Tony did share some of the bare facts with the Pastor at Didcot.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This reply completely contradicts what the pastor at Didcot told Steve Currell.

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? (M7)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We believe that neither Tony nor Sara spoke at the trial as they had pleaded guilty. Tony is unable to remember the context of what was said at the court hearing. We believe that this statement is a safe assumption, that a church would be concerned with someone going to prison, particularly one of its members.

PANEL'S COMMENT: It seems strange to us that a court report would mention it if it had not in fact been said in court.

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? (M8)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We believe it is a large leap to assume that Tony didn't discuss the issue with anyone. However the whole matter was certainly something that Tony was wrongly keeping very close to his chest at the time, a period he is neither proud of nor happy. This whole period was a very dark time for Tony and he had not wanted to openly discuss the matter with all and sundry. The court hearings were not a simple ordeal by any stretch of the imagination – and this was largely due to the fact that Tony had been dishonest with the Police in the first place, that someone had died as a result of the accident, and all the other factors.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We need to decide whether Tony has told the truth or whether the pastor of the church has told the truth.

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? (M9)

AVANTI RESPONSE: There was a lot of dispute regarding the conversation that took place in the conversation with the police constable at the school that day. It was Tony that falsely stated to the police constable that the damage to the car took place in a supermarket in Essex.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This is contrary to the police evidence.

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*. (M10)

AVANTI RESPONSE: It does not say in *Taming the Tiger* that the motorbike was not roadworthy. Tony did, however, mention that her head lights were found to be off. This information was given to Tony at the time of the court hearings by his solicitor.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This is at variance with the police evidence.

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. (M11)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This information has already been provided. It may be helpful to know that this whole issue came about when Tony was attempting to make a reservation at a restaurant for the company that he was working for. The restaurateur upset Tony to such a point that he became very rude, aggressive and threatening towards him. They had numerous conversations; the whole episode resulted in Tony being charged for an offence of harassment. Again this is something he is neither proud of nor unrepentant of.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This information has not already been provided. This response does not answer the question. Additionally we cannot see how Tony could have received a sentence of nine months imprisonment merely as a result of an altercation on the telephone. The suggestion that putting someone in fear of violence as a result of a telephone conversation is unlikely. It appears to us that for someone to be in fear of violence there has to be physical proximity. We note that there were four charges relating to different dates, two of which carried a sentence of nine months".

11. **REQUEST:** Please let us have details of Tony's girlfriend who died tragically in an accident - referred to in *Taming the Tiger* (M12).

AVANTI RESPONSE: We are not able to provide any additional information regarding her beyond what has already been provided in *Taming the Tiger*.

PANEL'S COMMENT: It is strange that no further information is available even though they were close friends for three years.

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

"Robert said that he wanted to move on to the hit and run situation, the 18 months sentence of imprisonment and the judge's summing up. He suggested that there was a flaw in this man

somewhere, such as the charge of harassment, the evidence that was produced and the way his wife was asked to lie. David Duell said yes, that is part of the story of the book, because of his fraudulent nature.”

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

“Tony then handed over various documents such as his birth certificate and a medical certificate. He showed the panel his driving licence (non-photograph) counterpart and explained that since the accident he could not drive until he had passed his driving test again. Keith asked why the driving licence had a different date of birth, 7th August 1969. Tony said that this must be a mistake. Keith asked “a mistake by whom?” to which he replied “not by me”. Keith asked Tony if he had his plastic driving licence, to which he replied “no I don’t”.

“Tony then handed over ACPO Police Certificate for Immigration Purposes, which he obtained to enable him to enter New Zealand. The panel noted that the certificate contained his correct date of birth (1971) and convictions at Reading Crown Court and Kingston-on-Thames Crown Court. This was followed by his marriage certificate which showed an incorrect age (25 years instead of 23). Keith said “your marriage certificate shows you two years older than your wife” to which Tony replied “we can only put that down to a mistake again”. Keith asked “by whom” to which the reply was “not by me, I have only had my two passports to show to people.”

“Keith said that on a form he had shown Tony the date of birth was 30 July 1971, two years later than the records at Companies House in 2005 and 2006 which showed it to be 30 July 1969. He asked if Tony knew why that was. Tony replied “no not at all. I have left it to the directors to deal with it. I know that at the end of 2012 my name was taken off”.

“Keith said that it remained unchanged in 2007 and 2008 in Companies House. He asked whether David Coleman believed Tony was two years older than his daughter rather than two weeks. Tony replied “I have no idea why he would have believed that”.

“Keith said that the things that confused him on the Companies House records were that the correct date of birth appeared on the 2004 return and it was changed in 2005 and 2006 and carried on incorrectly but consistently until 2007 and 2008. His name did not appear as a director on the 2009 return. He noted that the wrong date of birth remained until 2012. Keith said that in 2005 David Coleman deleted the correct date of birth and inserted the wrong date of birth and then David Duell omitted Tony’s name altogether in 2009 and 2010.

“John asked “What date of birth did you give when you were charged, 7 August 1969 or 30 July 1971?” Tony replied “30 July 1971, as in the passport. I don’t know where 7.8.69 came from.”

The Panel’s conclusion

The Panel has been mystified since an early date in the Inquiry as to why the extreme secrecy as to Tony’s identity was necessary. The Panel have noted the allegation (which the members of the

Avanti board have refuted) that the members of the Avanti board were sworn to secrecy having been shown Tony's birth certificate and passport. The Panel were also mystified by the fact that David West had sworn an affidavit stating that he had utilised the services of qualified individuals including a solicitor to establish that Tony was who he said he was yet failed to state his place and date of birth in the affidavit, which information is public knowledge as it is registered on public records and is clearly stated on everyone's passport.

The Panel has noted that there are separate and unrelated instances where an incorrect date of birth has 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. 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 seem implausible. We therefore decided to pursue further investigations.

We 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. They sent us a scanned copy of his birth certificate (Tab 12, page 59). As we were aware that Tony had already been convicted of forgery and had spent time in prison for the offence we decided to seek primary evidence of the birth of this other Tony Antoni. We 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 (Tab 12, page 59a). Upon establishing this fact we had to establish how the various mistakes could have happened. We concluded that it was not credible that they had happened by chance.

We therefore have pursued the hypothesis that during his time in Cyprus or subsequently Tony tried to establish for himself a new persona which would allow him to evade his criminal past and make a fresh start, albeit a fraudulent one. In reply to the written question "What date of birth did Tony give when he was charged, 7 August 1969 or 30 July 1971?" the Avanti board responded to us "DOB as seen on passport".

If Tony knowingly gave a false date of birth to the police at the time he was charged for the traffic offence that 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 David Coleman saw in order to file a false return with Companies House. Indeed in answer to a question as to whether his father-in-law would have believed Tony to be two years older than his daughter, rather than two weeks, Tony replied "I have no idea why he would have believed that".

Also we question what documents were scrutinised by the "qualified individuals including a genealogist who is also a practising solicitor to verify the accuracy of the familial details provided by Mr Anthony" referred to in David West's sworn affidavit. Indeed, the most reasonable and normal

course of action from a legal perspective at the time would have been for the genealogist/practising solicitor to have sworn the affidavit himself as an independent impartial third party professional, not for David West to have sworn it.

If (and we repeat **if**) the position is as we have concluded (although we cannot envisage a set of other circumstances where the chances of it happening are not thousands to one), we suggest that the Avanti board seek legal advice to ensure that they are not accomplices in committing the offence of doing acts tending and intending to pervert the course of public justice by concealing facts which have to come to their attention, for which the penalty may be a term of imprisonment.

If (and we repeat **if**) the position is as we have concluded, we consider that Tony is guilty of a further as yet undisclosed series of acts tending to the perversion of justice and suggest that the Avanti board obtain legal advice.

SCHEDULE 3

TONY ANTHONY'S IDENTITY AND EARLY YEARS

We have noted that until members of the Research 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. At a late date (10th June 2013, just one day before we commenced drafting this report) Tony gave us proof of his identity and the issue of his birth and family identity is no longer disputed. However, we are setting out the full extent of the Research Group's investigations and what it uncovered. The allegations referred to below predate 10th June 2013.

The Research Group's allegations

The Research Group allege that prior to the closing stages of this Inquiry (10th June 2013) Tony has consistently gone to great lengths to conceal his true identity, even from those closest to him. A common pretext is that he is in danger from Triad gangs due to having renounced his Kung Fu lineage passed on from his grandfather. They allege that their findings help to explain why this threat is non-existent and why Tony has sought to conceal his identity – and just as importantly, his age.

They state 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

They allege 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

- 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

Athanasίου, 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 certificate²⁴ reveals 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

- 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 Anthonys 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

From the above it can 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 leads 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 169-160 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."*

TA has given assurances, 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*

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 claim (subsequent to their findings) 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 (see below).

6. Tony Anthony's true identity and its concealment

The Research Group allege that the key to all the above evidence was Tony's birth certificate, without which nothing else could be established. Tony has got away with his deception by consistently refusing to reveal his birth certificate even to his own pastor. The Research Group allege that those directors of Avanti who have had access to his birth certificate have been sworn to secrecy to prevent them from revealing what they know, thus obstructing others from checking Tony's claims. The argument for secrecy has 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 allege that in addition Tony claims not to have seen his parents between his imprisonment in Cyprus and his father's death in 2011. He can 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*

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 allege that there is a clear discrepancy between *Tony's* testimony as advertised and the evidence. His actual age is incompatible with his story prior to imprisonment in Cyprus. Moreover, not a single piece of evidence has been supplied to support his account.

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

The Research Group allege 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 allege 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 indicates that they have 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 allege that following this admission, the challenge then becomes 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 is 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 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 allege that If Tony was born in 1971, as now appears 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 allege that the Avanti board’s statement says that *Taming the Tiger* is “as accurate as Tony could have made it at the time of writing”. 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.

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 cannot 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”. This is demonstrably untrue, and conceals the fact that Tony is 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 are 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 Board's responses are shown in **green**. Statements are shown in black. The Panel's comments are shown in **blue**.

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. 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. (B6)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony will be supplying you with these documents on his visit to you on the 10th June 2013.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have received a copy of Tony's birth certificate which gives details of his legal birth name and date of birth. Tony refuses to supply any information regarding the actual Chinese give name that he went by in the early part of his life.

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. (F1)

AVANTI RESPONSE: As mentioned in other questions we simply don't have airline tickets or photographic evidence.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have noted the lack of evidence.

3. Please let us have proof of the dates when and the places where Tony was raised in China. (B3)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We are not sure what proof we would be able to supply. If you are hoping to have travel tickets, pictures or other records we do not have these. We are looking into trying to provide an absence of evidence file, i.e. that there are not records here in the UK for Tony while he was in China in the belief this will corroborate and support his testimony.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have noted the lack of evidence.

4. Please let us have proof of the dates when and the places where Tony was raised in China. (G3)

AVANTI RESPONSE: [There was no response]

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have noted the lack of response.

5. We 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?* (G18)

AVANTI RESPONSE: No, this is not true. This sounds a little dramatic and clandestine. We do feel that the Directors have observed a duty of care as well as confidentiality to protect private information. We do not recollect anyone swearing any oaths of silence.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have noted that the directors have not been sworn to secrecy on oath, which is different from agreeing not to divulge information.

6. [Tony] *"allowed me to inspect and scan copies of a range of documents including, inter alia, his birth certificate, current passport, family papers and photographs to enable me to confirm the accuracy of the same against external sources."* **Comment:** Please let us have copies of these documents. (E1)

AVANTI RESPONSE: These will be supplied on the 10th June 2013.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have now received copies of these documents.

7. *"Mr Anthony was born in Britain and that all the details on his Birth Certificate conform fully with the General Register Office's index of Births for England and Wales."* **Comment:** Please let us have a copy of the birth certificate. (E2)

AVANTI RESPONSE: These will be supplied on the 10th June 2013.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have received a copy of the birth certificate.

8. *"I further confirm that it was possible to reconstruct Mr Anthony's genealogy directly from the parental information contained in his birth certificate including the maiden name of his mother."* **Comment:** 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). (E3)

AVANTI RESPONSE: DAVID WEST TO SUPPLY.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have not received the requested details from Mr West – despite a reminder that this has not been forthcoming.

9. *"The aforesaid genealogical reconstruction via the General Register Office's Births, Marriages and Deaths indexes and duplicate certificates confirm that Mr Anthony's mother was wholly of Chinese ethnic origin."* Comment: Please let us have the factual details from the Register that proved that Mr Anthony's mother was wholly of Chinese ethnic origin. (E4)

AVANTI RESPONSE: DAVID WEST TO SUPPLY.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have not received the requested details from Mr West – despite a reminder that this has not been forthcoming.

10. *"I also confirm that the sequence of family photographs provided by Mr Anthony are entirely consistent between the dates of the key familial events, the age of the subjects appearing in the photographs and the vintage of the photographs themselves."* Comment: Please let us have copies of these family photographs. (E5)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony Anthony will bring these to you on the 10th June 2013.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have received copies of photographs.

11. *"The only factor that may prevent them from doing so is the variation between Mr Anthony's adopted name and his registered birth name and the precise quarter and year in which his birth was registered which I will not disclose out of respect for the request of confidentiality from Mr Anthony and the preservation of the privacy of his family."* Comment: As the inquiry is entirely confidential 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. (E6)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony Anthony will bring these to the meeting on the 10th June.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have received copies of these documents.

12. *"We have already provided the Panel with an affidavit signed by a Director of Avanti and, in view of the circumstances; we do not believe it advisable to send personal documents to you over the internet."* REQUEST: We need proof separately from the affidavit. We 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 we meet. We need to study them beforehand in order to ask informed questions. (J27)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This is hard to do as Tony travels so much, perhaps it is possible to hand these over at the meeting so that you are able to make photocopies on the day?

REQUEST: Tony is back in the UK in a few days time. He is seeing George Verwer on 6th May. Please send these documents to the above address by 13th May. The director who swore the affidavit has

seen them so they must be available.

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony will have these with you when he meets on the 10th June 2013.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have received copies of these documents. Unfortunately we did not receive them by 13th May, which would have assisted us greatly.

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. (A3)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This is correct. Tony still referred to 'Lowsi' as his grandfather, we think he probably always will. When Tony has a longer time period with which to share his story that he is not his biological grandfather. It is worth mentioning again here that this information has only recently come to light.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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. (C2)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We are not able to supply this.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have noted the complete absence of any evidence.

15. *"The only evidence that can be offered to verify that he travelled to China as a child is Tony's own memory and testimony. We do not have any documentation to prove when and where Tony was raised in China."* REQUEST: Please get this information as this quote is of no probative value. (J10)

AVANTI RESPONSE: As stated above, this information is simply not available. We would love it to be but it is simply not there. An absence of information is not evidence that this didn't happen but we believe it is evidence of the nature of Tony's life.

COMMENT: This is completely unacceptable. Virtually all human beings have some evidence of their first fifteen years of life. Anyway, Tony's mother can give evidence when we see her. We shall ask her for other people who can corroborate what she says.

AVANTI RESPONSE: As above we simply do not have this information.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have noted the complete absence of any evidence.

15A. *QUESTION*: At what age (did) he next see his mother? (J15a).

AVANTI RESPONSE: From memory, Tony believes that it was in 1979 when he next saw his mother when he would have been 8 years old.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

16. As Mr Anthony spent his formative years in China, like any child he must be able to speak Chinese like a native. **REQUEST:** Please let us know which dialects he is able to speak and/or understand. (F2)

AVANTI RESPONSE: He is not able to speak Chinese fluently. He is able to remember some words but mainly communicated through grunts and sign language.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This response is not credible.

17. *"Tony returned to the UK on an annual basis from 1979 until 1983 when he remained in the UK"*. **REQUEST:** Please let us have the names and addresses of the schools in the UK and the dates he attended. (J8)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony will try and dig out as much information as possible on this. Perhaps this is something that can be discussed when you meet.

AVANTI FURTHER RESPONSE: This information has already been provided, however part of the information that will not be disclosed here is to remain Private & Confidential and will therefore not be disclosed to the panel.

PANEL'S COMMENT: The information has not already been provided. We have noted the complete absence of any evidence provided.

18. *"Tony's mother did not travel with him to China."* **QUESTION:** How did his mother communicate with him during his years in China? (J9)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Unfortunately due to the damaged relationship Tony's mother did not contact him when he was away. This goes some way to explaining answers to other questions.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This is an absurd response from the Avanti board. Although it is probably possible for a four-year-old child, an only child, to have a 'damaged relationship' with his mother but it seems inconsistent with the assertion that he came home from China at Christmas at least once and received presents.

19. *"Tony does not speak Chinese like a native"*. **QUESTION:** What language did he speak when he was in China? (J11)

AVANTI RESPONSE: A "Pigeon" Chinese dialect with a combination of grunts and sign language.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This is an absurd response from the Avanti board. It is just not credible that a four-year-old child did not pick up language like children of that age do all over China today – and around the world. Any four-year-old picks up language.

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

AVANTI RESPONSE: English only.

PANEL'S COMMENT: It is difficult to understand how his knowledge of the English language had progressed in the absence of anyone to converse with him in English while in China.

20. *"The language was very hard to learn from people that did not speak any English whatsoever."* **QUESTION:** What language did he speak when he attended school in China? (J12)

AVANTI RESPONSE: A "Pigeon" Chinese dialect with a combination of grunts and sign language.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This is an absurd response from the Avanti board. It is just not credible that a four-year-old child did not pick up language in school like children of that age do around the world.

QUESTION: In what language did his teachers teach lessons in school?

AVANTI RESPONSE: [There was no response to this question]

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted. This is a significant non-response.

20A. *"The language was very hard to learn from people that did not speak any English whatsoever."*

QUESTION: How did he communicate with people who did not speak any English whatsoever? (J13)

AVANTI RESPONSE: A "Pigeon" Chinese dialect with a combination of grunts and sign language.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This is an absurd response from the Avanti board. It is just not credible that a four-year-old child did not pick up language like children of that age do around the world.

QUESTION: In what region of China is this Pigeon Chinese dialect spoken today?

AVANTI RESPONSE: [There was no response to this question]

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted. This is a significant non-response.

21. *“Although he was brought up by people that spoke a Chinese dialect (Cantonese), he spent a minimum of 8 hours a day practicing Kung Fu, and there was no time to study the Chinese language.”*

QUESTION: How did he communicate with his Kung Fu instructors? (J14)

AVANTI RESPONSE: A “Pigeon” Chinese dialect with a combination of grunts and sign language.

PANEL’S COMMENT: This is an absurd response from the Avanti board. It is just not credible that a four-year-old child did not pick up enough language in four years to communicate with his instructors like children of that age would do around the world.

QUESTION: How did his (non-biological) grandfather and the officials of the world federation feel at having a Kung Fu world champion who could only speak in a Pigeon Chinese dialect with a combination of grunts and sign language?

AVANTI RESPONSE: Difficult to speculate on how they felt. There are however people who practise martial arts and Kung Fu from across the world in a variety of languages so don’t feel it would have been too much of an issue.

PANEL’S COMMENT: This is an absurd response from the Avanti board. In normal circumstances officials of a world federation would be ashamed that their world champion could only communicate in grunts and sign language.

22. *“Since then, his recollection of the Cantonese dialect is very poor, but he is able to speak a little”.* **QUESTION:** Can he read Chinese script? (J15)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony is able some years later to read some Chinese script but this would not qualify for being able to read the language.

PANEL’S COMMENT: Noted.

QUESTION: On page 133 of *Taming the Tiger* we read that Tony was writing calligraphy name plates. In what language was he writing them?

AVANTI RESPONSE: English.

PANEL’S COMMENT: Noted.

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?** (G27)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Shanghainese was the vernacular (spoken) language for ordinary people in Shanghai, and Mandarin only became more dominant later in the 1990s when Shanghainese was discouraged in schools. Further, as Tony’s book records on the very next page (p.28), the “Shanghai

boys" were "visiting the local family", and seemed to be there frequently in the coming years. It would not be inconsistent to imagine that the Shanghai boys were able to, and were in fact speaking Cantonese when they bullied Tony, given their close, frequent associations with family in Canton.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

24. We read that while in prison in Cyprus, he was still writing calligraphy nameplates (p133). **Can Tony still write Chinese characters (even with elementary proficiency)?** (G28)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Yes, Tony can actually write elementary calligraphy nameplates. Tony does mention writing calligraphy nameplates in prison but it does not suggest that he was writing in Chinese calligraphy, as Tony is able to write in Western / Romanized script. Tony mentioned this in passing, amongst activities to earn cigarettes in prison - it would have been quite odd that those in Nicosia Prison would have wanted Chinese Calligraphy name plates in any case.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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?** (G29)

AVANTI RESPONSE: If Tony had been taught Chinese script by his relations in China in the mid-1970s, it is almost certain that he would have been taught traditional letters, which have many more strokes and appear quite different, even to someone who is actively writing today, much less trying to recall a 30 year-old memory. Tony's relations, a product of a much older generation, would likely only have known traditional script. Chinese characters were simplified over many rounds and did not stabilize until generations later. There was much confusion in the 1960s and 1970s and usage of different sets would depend on what that generation was exposed to. Today - in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and most overseas Chinese communities the traditional script is used, but in China, Singapore and Malaysia, and if one learned writing from a teacher originating from these countries, then the present version of simplified script would more likely be used. It is also quite unreasonable to assume that being trained to an exemplary standard in Kung Fu automatically meant that Tony should have learnt how to speak fluently Chinese. The focus on Kung Fu is actually greater evidence that Tony did not do much else with his time except train in martial arts.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted. It is difficult to understand how Tony could write Chinese script not knowing a Chinese spoken language.

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?** (G22)

AVANTI RESPONSE: French; German; Italian; Arabic; Greek. In no way fluently but he has kept some

basic understanding of these languages.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted. It seems strange that at age 8 he was being tutored in the world's major languages yet could only communicate with Chinese with groans and signs. It also seems strange that in China he could be tutored in the world's major languages with tutors communicating with him in a "Pigeon" Chinese dialect with a combination of grunts and sign language.

27. *"Tony Anthony" is not the name that Tony went by in China or in any of the competitions. It should be noted that due to a risk to his family, for security reasons there are a few key details from Tony's personal life story that he will continue to keep private & confidential, and he will not disclose to anyone; these include Tony's Chinese given name (this is the name that Tony was given in China and this is the name that he fought under in South East Asia)."* **QUESTION:** What was the name that Tony went by in China? (Reminder: this Inquiry is confidential as is your response just submitted). (J19)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Unable to answer this question for reasons already explained.

REQUEST: This response is complete unacceptable. What was the name that Tony went by in China? (Reminder: this Inquiry is confidential as is your response just submitted).

AVANTI RESPONSE: [no further response]

PANEL'S COMMENT: A telling response.

For the sake of clarity it should be noted that due to a risk to his family, for security reasons there are a few key details from Tony's personal life story that will continue to keep private & confidential, and he will not disclose to anyone:

- A. Tony's Chinese given name (this is the name that Tony was given in China and this is the name that he fought under in South East Asia);
- B. The full name of the Martial Arts organizations that Tony worked for;
- C. Any of the pseudonyms that Tony used while working in the close protection security industry.

COMMENT/REQUEST: This is completely unacceptable in the context of a confidential inquiry set up by the Evangelical Alliance and yourselves to establish the truth. Please let have this information. (Reminder: this Inquiry is confidential as is your response just submitted). (J28)

AVANTI RESPONSE: If your Panel find this unacceptable, and vital for the progress of the inquiry then we may have to consider amending your team's terms of reference, to allow you to progress with the inquiry on the basis of the information that you already have in your possession. We are happy to discuss this issue with you when we meet.

COMMENT SENT TO AVANTI: This is vital for the progress of the inquiry. We require this information.

It is not within your gift to amend the Panel's terms of reference. The terms of reference were agreed between the Evangelical Alliance and the Avanti board. This is not up for discussion.

AVANTI RESPONSE: [no response]

PANEL'S COMMENT: A telling response.

28. In your letter you state that "Tony Anthony" is not the name that he went by in China nor in any of the competitions. 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). (C1)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This is to remain Private & Confidential and will therefore not be disclosed to the panel.

PANEL'S COMMENT: A telling response.

29. How far does Tony's Kung Fu lineage go back? (G4)

AVANTI RESPONSE: The Kung Fu lineage in the family of Cheung Ling Soo went back over 500 years.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

30. In which city/town/village/location were/are the Triad gangs? (G1)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Shanghai / Guangzhou / Hong Kong / many other places across China and South East Asia.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

31. Are they still there? (G2)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Highly probable, but this is speculation.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

31A. What names do they go by today? (G3)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Unable to answer this, as we do not know.

PANEL'S COMMENT: A strange response in view of the fact that they are still a security threat to Tony and his family. He must know the names of those who are still a threat to him.

32. What was Tony's father's date and place of birth? (G6)

AVANTI RESPONSE: 06.12.43 / Ayia Marina, Cyprus (a Maronite village).

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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?** (G11)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Yes, although they are not 100% the cause of death was MS.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

34. **How old was Tony when his father developed Multiple Sclerosis?** (G7)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We believe that his father contracted MS just before he was born.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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.

AVANTI RESPONSE: That is correct. He steadily progressed to a wheelchair over Tony's early years.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

35A. **NEW QUESTION:** Please let us know what age Tony was when his father was first confined to a wheelchair. (A2)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony's Father got progressively worse in his illness, moving from one walking stick, to two walking sticks, and then to a wheel chair. We believe that he used a wheel chair at one point at the same time as having walking sticks. Tony cannot recall at what month or year that would have been.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

36. **What was the date and place of his father's funeral (e.g. name of church, crematorium, etc.)** (G8)

AVANTI RESPONSE: died on the 29.09.11, buried at Haverhill Cemetery (copy of eulogy sent to EA)

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted. Receipt of eulogy confirmed (Tab 11, page 36).

37. Please let us have details of the significance of the death of Tony's dad last year. (G2)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Significant in that it afforded Tony contact with his family which he had lost somewhat over the years. It also allowed Tony to spend some time with his Mother and support her in addition to learning more details about his life.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

38. *"Tony's biological grandparents (Gong and Ahtu So / not mentioned in Taming the Tiger) had arranged for his mother to marry a much older man in China called Cheung Ling Soo (as referred to in Taming the Tiger) that would have brought financial stability to the family. Tony now understands that Cheung Ling Soo wanted a male offspring to pass on the family heritage of Kung Fu. Tony's mother (UK based at the time) was rebellious to this, and married Tony's father, an Italian / Maronite. This action of hers caused a lot of upset to the family, as it was viewed as an act of great disobedience bringing shame to the family - hence she was cut off from the family (this is the major cause of the wider family rifts)"* **QUESTION:** Which was Tony's father's mother tongue? (J22)

AVANTI RESPONSE: He spoke Greek and Italian.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

QUESTION: We repeat. Which was Tony's father's mother tongue?

AVANTI RESPONSE: Greek and Italian spoken interchangeably.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

COMMENT: We have other questions about this which we hope will be elucidated when we interview Tony's mother. (J22)

AVANTI RESPONSE: No, this would damage the already difficult relationship with Tony's non-Christian mother.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This is completely unacceptable seeing that we are trying to establish truth.

COMMENT: Surely any mother would want to help a son in difficulty.

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony comments – "No, I do not believe that to be the case with my mother. The circumstances in our relationship are extreme and unusual to the normal. Such a situation would create permanent harm to an already damaged relationship. Although, now, I at least have a slim opportunity to share the Gospel with her as she is not a Christian."

PANEL'S COMMENT: This is an unacceptable response.

39. Is Tony his Chinese grandfather's sole male descendant? (G5)

AVANTI RESPONSE: No. This has been explained in a previous response. Tony was raised to believe that his Mother did not have any brothers. He has since discovered that she had a brother that he never knew about until getting back in contact with his Mother.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

40. "I'm half Chinese and half Italian". **COMMENT:** It would appear to us, prima facie, that Tony's father was Cypriot not Italian.

AVANTI RESPONSE: This information has been supplied already in other documents. For the sake of clarity, Tony's Father was born in Cyprus to Maronite and Italian parents. Tony's Father was born in Cyprus.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted. It is noted that the family name is Greek, not Italian.

NEW REQUEST: Please provide us with proof that Tony's father was Italian not Cypriot. (A1)

AVANTI RESPONSE: These docs will be provided.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted. These have not been provided.

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?

AVANTI RESPONSE: (1) Andreas Athanasiou, (2) Yes, (3) Cyprus and (4) We believe so, as he was married to an Italian.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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? (G12)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We are led to believe that Tony's biological grandfather died in Bristol before he was born. However, it was a cousin that informed him that Cheung Ling Soo died at the age of 95.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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? (G14)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We believe so. Although as Tony had no contact with this family we are not able to complete[ly] verify these details. From what we have seen this seems accurate.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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?** (G15)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We believe so. Although as Tony had no contact with this family we are not able to complete verify these details. From what we have seen this seems accurate.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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?** (G9)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Yes.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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?** (K2)

AVANTI RESPONSE: At the moment we understand that an error may have been made on an Avanti Companies House return some 10 years ago, and the incorrect date of birth may have been quoted. We believe that the correct date was given to the Charities Commission regarding Avanti and the correct date to Companies House re "Taming The Tiger Publications Ltd". We have spoken to both the Charities Commission and the Companies House and as Tony is no longer a Director/Trustee they both don't require any amending documentation and the Charities Commission don't keep records of past trustees.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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?** (G10)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This was human error and shouldn't have been in the book.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

47. *“Tony's relationship with his mother is still very strained and unfortunately has been damaged through the conduct of others who have, we believe, approached her on a number of occasions to elicit personal family information.”* **REQUEST:** We are in a different position from these “others”. **Please let us have contact details to enable us to interview Tony's mother.** (J21)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We are afraid this would seriously damage Tony's already difficult relationship with his non-Christian mother. We don't want to appear difficult but feel it important to remember these are real live relationships with real consequences. We have had in the past for example somebody contacting Tony's Mother pretending to be the local doctors' surgery.

PANEL'S COMMENT: From time to time it has been inferred that the “somebody” who allegedly contacted Tony's Mother pretending to be the local doctors' surgery was a member of the Research Group and more particularly Carl Chambers. We therefore sought to establish whether this was true. We tried to contact Carl Chambers but were unsuccessful but have received the following reply from David Buick on **21st June 2013**, as this report is being finalised:

“I have managed to reach Carl by phone (he is abroad for the summer). Carl confirms that he has never phoned Janet in any capacity, including by impersonating any third party, as this would be immoral and unethical. Carl does not know Janet's phone number or indeed whether it is a landline or a mobile number, and as far as I know neither does anyone else in the research group. Carl contacted Janet by letter on behalf of the research group (although we have no confirmation that this letter ever reached her). When he met the funeral director, she phoned Janet and asked whether Carl could speak to her. Janet initially refused, then called back the funeral director asking for more information, subsequent to which she repeated her refusal. As you know various other people have been investigating Tony Anthony independently of the research group, especially since the Avanti statement in February placing the issue in the public domain, and it is always possible that one of them did something, but it was certainly not Carl.”

David telephoned a member of the Panel on 22 June 2013 to say that had contacted all the members of the Research Group and none of them had ever contacted Tony's mother.

REQUEST: This is a completely unacceptable response. You do not appear to realise that Tony's future ministry is at stake. 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.**

AVANTI RESPONSE: We simply don't feel this is possible. It would be difficult enough for Tony to be able to gain information from her let alone an independent inquiry. She is not a Christian and would not understand the implications here. We would love her to be more forthcoming or able.

PANEL'S COMMENT: In the context of this inquiry this is a completely unacceptable response.

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.** (G1)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This is particularly around Tony's biological family details. It has been shown that Tony's biological grandfather was somebody else. The person who Tony was trained and raised by in China he was led to believe was his grandfather. We now understand this not to be the case.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

49. "For the sake of clarity it should be noted that due to a risk to his family, for security reasons there are a few key details from Tony's personal life story that will continue to keep private & confidential, and he will not disclose to anyone: (A) Tony's Chinese given name (this is the name that Tony was given in China and this is the name that he fought under in South East Asia); (B) The full name of the Martial Arts organizations that Tony worked for; (C) Any of the pseudonyms that Tony used while working in the close protection security industry. **COMMENT/REQUEST:** This is completely unacceptable in the context of a confidential inquiry set up by the Evangelical Alliance and yourselves to establish the truth. Please let have this information. (Reminder: this Inquiry is confidential as is your response just submitted). (J28)

AVANTI RESPONSE: [no response received]

PANEL'S COMMENT: A telling non-response.

50. For what offence was Tony imprisoned in Cyprus? (G16)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Burglary, Robbery, Fraud, Grievous Bodily Harm.

PANEL'S COMMENT: It is noted that forgery is not mentioned (and not mentioned in *Taming the Tiger* either).

51. What age was Tony when he was in prison in Cyprus? (G17)

AVANTI RESPONSE: 19

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

52. "When I went to prison the first thing I learned was who my friends were because nobody wanted to write to me or even see me. But one day I got this letter from a stranger. His name was Michael Wright from Northern Ireland. He saw my picture in a newspaper. He decided to write to say hello. He told me he was a Christian missionary. His name was Michael Wright and he said he was concerned about me. Well, anyway, he offered to visit me". **COMMENT:** The claim that Michael Wright was a stranger appears to be inconsistent with page 110 of *Taming the Tiger* where Tony says that he had already heard of Mr Wright prior to his imprisonment from members of his church's youth group who told him: "You must come round and meet Michael Wright... He's from Northern Ireland but he lives here now. You two would really get on." Then on page 135 of *Taming the Tiger* a fellow prisoner called Andy says he should get in touch with Wright. Here on the programme in Guatemala, less than four weeks' ago, Tony says he got an unsolicited letter from a stranger who

had seen his picture in the newspaper and wanted to say “hello”. On his part Mr Wright appears to have said that Tony contacted him first: “The first thing I knew about Tony Anthony was when I got a visiting card in the post box.”

AVANTI RESPONSE: We are not sure of the inconsistency here? Michael was a stranger to Tony at the time of the visit. Tony still has the letter that Michael wrote to him and this can be provided if needed. There seems to be some confusion here as in other requests the panel have indicated they are satisfied with this area of the testimony.

PANEL’S COMMENT: Noted.

52A. NEW QUESTION: When was Tony first aware of a person called Michael Wright? (A8)

AVANTI RESPONSE: The name Michael Wright was mentioned to Tony prior to being in prison in Nicosia. However he remained a stranger until the first visit inside the prison. This piece of the jigsaw only started dawning some time after the visits that his name had been mentioned before. Perhaps the book could do a better job at explaining this point, and we will endeavour to correct that when we produce a revision. The fact remains that Michael was a complete stranger to Tony when he wrote to him and after several visits from him, until they reached that point that we started to get to know each other. Tony will often not share every detail that is in the book on a live audience particularly when there is only a few minutes

COMMENT: We are **not** confused, nor have we previously indicated that we are satisfied with this area of the testimony. What we have said is that we are satisfied with Michael Wright’s testimony (evidence). What we have been mandated to investigate in this inquiry is Tony Anthony’s testimony. On page 110 of *Taming the Tiger Tony* (not Michael) says that he had already heard of Michael Wright prior to his imprisonment from members of his church’s youth group who told him: “*You must come round and meet Michael Wright... He’s from Northern Ireland but he lives here now. You two would really get on.*” Then on page 135 of *Taming the Tiger* a fellow prisoner called Andy says he should get in touch with Michael Wright.

AVANTI RESPONSE: As above.

PANEL’S COMMENT: Noted.

52B. QUESTION: Is Tony’s story on pages 110 and 135 of *Taming the Tiger* true?

AVANTI RESPONSE: Yes

PANEL’S COMMENT: Noted.

“Michael Wright’s testimony may well be of interest as part of the verification process. videos: <http://www.tonyanthony.co.uk/videos/> COMMENT: I have watched Michael Wright’s testimony. It is interesting but it is of no interest as part of the verification process as there is nothing in his

testimony which is disputed by anyone as far as we are aware. It corroborates those facts which no one disputes. (J29) Michael Wright's testimony may well be of interest as part of the verification process. videos: <http://www.tonyanthony.co.uk/videos/>

COMMENT: We have watched Michael Wright's testimony. It is interesting but it is of no interest as part of the verification process as there is nothing in his testimony which is disputed by anyone as far as we are aware. It corroborates those facts which no one disputes. (J29)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Thank you, anything else here do let us know.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

COMMENT: There is much above for you to work on. Please let us have the information as soon as possible as time is passing.

AVANTI RESPONSE: All the information we have has been supplied.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted, although some questions have not been answered.

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

"Keith asked what things had changed in the past two years. Paul Salter said, for example, the identity of *Tony's* grandfather, the presentation of information about his immediate family and his perceptions; he was told that Lowsi was not his biological grandfather. Tony would tell the Panel that in the recent past with the passing of his father he had been successful in building bridges with his mother and his mother had shared more information with him and Tony was so grateful to rebuild the relationship.

"George Osborn said that the relationship between Tony and his mother prior to his father dying was difficult. The death of his father had resulted in the first contact he had had with his mother. He said that Tony could not give the Panel any proof that he had gone to China as a child.

David West said that there had been a funeral and his mother was there. David Duell said that the eulogy was useful as it enabled Tony to find out things from the past.

"Paul Salter said that they struggled with the fact that if it were proven that certain things did not happen they would have to accept it as fact. Robert asked what would tip the scale, that one thing too much. George Osborn replied "that he never went to China and that his training in Kung Fu was not true". Paul Salter said "That he was somewhere else" and David West said "a primary school and attendance register and could prove it sufficiently". If he had gone to a school and signed in then that would start to make them think but they were not going to start looking.

"David West said that what would be helpful to the panel to and to the board would be if they could come up with some evidence that would nail it the whole matter. John said that Tony's primary

school records would do it to which David West said "What else?" to which John responded "photographs". David West said there was no reason for this. Paul Salter said Tony being in close protection, he would have purged his past, just as the SAS do as they are sent in, in isolation.

"David West asked if the Panel wanted to know Tony's movements between 4 and 12 years. John asked for the primary school records. David West asked "So where was he?". David West said he would look into this, but it is almost as if it was proving a negative. Paul Salter asked what would happen if the records were ambiguous or the authorities refused to show the records.

"Paul Salter said that here was a person subjected to childhood abuse, continued abuse, not a predictable path into criminality and then preaching the gospel. He said that if one speaks to psychologists these things speak to an obvious past and then off to a nice provincial school and he happily did that and then into awful ways. Those stories did not line up. He found it very credible that Tony did what he did.

"George Osborn said that if someone could prove that Tony was not in China they would support the Panel and they would all stick to that. David West said that in all walks of life we had to look at the evidence. He asked "If for example it were proved that Tony's testimony was false and he stepped down from Avanti what would the Research Group do?"

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

"She had no evidence that Tony was in Kung Fu or went to China. She said that Tony was coming to see the Panel in June and would bring documents with him.

"She understood that Tony's his mother is Chinese and his father is Italian who lived in Cyprus. She remembers seeing a photograph of Tony at about 2 or 3 years of age with mother. His mother was made up cosmetically very much as an English woman in the Western style.

"She understood that Tony's father had had multiple sclerosis from the time of Tony's birth.

"She was sure that he did not have any documents when he was a four year old child in China. She said she would like to say that one of the questions was with regard to language and Tony being understood. She said she had had a patient who could not speak English whose mother tongue was Cantonese. She arranged to have a translator to translate but the translator and the patient could not understand each other."

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

"Keith asked Tony what real threats he had had received. Tony said that he relied on his own personal testimony (honesty) and his other witness was God. The person who had been known to him as his grandfather told him of underground societies and organisations and Tony was involved in gambling competitions and he used to fight and some of the fights were to the knockout, similar to

triad organisations and they would gamble. Then Tony had gone into the security industry until he went into Christian work and he had received death threats since.

“Keith had just a few questions arising from it. On the first page he talked about an annual trip to the UK to visit his parents. How did he remember that in 1981 he visited them in December. Tony replied that he supposed it was Christmas presents.

“Keith asked regarding his permanent return to the UK, he thought in August, he started attending secondary school, what school was that. Tony replied “Christ’s College, Finchley”. He said he had lines of enquiry to his geography teacher, Mr Tucker, and they were trying to find an admissions record and the odd way that he left the school after two years. He said he had a photo of him going to Christ’s College and he hoped Mr Tucker would be able to write a letter to him to verify that they did not have any admission records at all after 1983 and the London Borough of Barnet did not keep the records that long. Keith asked why he had left abruptly in 1985. Tony said that he left to instruct instructors in Switzerland and was sponsored by the IKFF to train in Switzerland. Keith asked what he meant by sponsored. Tony said that this included travel, upkeep and equipment. Keith commented that it seemed a very strange procedure for an underground organisation. Tony said that there were many other people of his age who were not doing what he was doing.

“John asked “You say you are half Chinese and half Italian”. It would appear to us, prima facie, that your father was Cypriot, not Italian. Which passport did your father have when he was young?” Tony replied: “Imagine it would be Cypriot” John asked “Where was your father born?” Tony replied “Ayia Marina in Cyprus”. John asked “What was your father’s family name on his birth certificate?” Tony replied that he should look at the naturalisation certificate. John asked “Did your father speak any Italian?” Tony replied “yes”. John asked “Was your paternal grandfather born in Italy or Cyprus?” Tony replied “In Cyprus, his mother was born in Naples”. John asked “Did your paternal grandfather speak any Italian?” to which Tony replied “I never met him I can only assume he did.”

“John asked “When did you first know that you were going to be sent to your grandparents in China?” to which Tony responded “When I was 4 years old, there was a man speaking to my mum and dad.” John asked “What language did Lowsi speak?” Tony replied “No idea”. John asked “In what language did you communicate with your mother?” the answer being “English only”. John asked “What passport did you have to travel to China?” He replied “Don’t know how it worked”.

“John asked “You say your grandfather had an arrangement with the International Kung Fu Federation in Switzerland”. What arrangement was that?” Tony replied “My grandfather developed a system and several sub-systems in Kung Fu, they sponsored me and put me in this arena of fighting and close protection.” John asked “Where was it based?” Tony replied “They were based in Switzerland at the time, in Geneva. John asked where they were based now. Tony replied that he would not be able to tell the panel, because they were involved in illegal work.

“John asked “By what name did you go under in China?” the reply being “Can’t tell you.”

“John asked “As you spent your formative years in China, like any child you must be able to speak Chinese like a native. Which Chinese dialects are you able to speak and/or understand?” Tony replied “I was raised listening to Cantonese and so that was the only dialect I got to grips with and perhaps a bit of mandarin; my spoken Chinese is awful. I do not understand Shanghainese. I speak in English in Hong Kong.”

“John asked “What were the locations in China where you trained in Kung Fu and the association or associations which awarded him his martial arts awards?” Tony replied “By the Loufu mountains in Guandong.” He added that he had also visited Nepal and Tibet.

“John asked “In which city/town/village/location were/are the Triad gangs you refer to in *Taming the Tiger*?” He replied “Guandong and Shanghai”. John asked “Are they still there?” He replied “Assume so.” John asked “What names do they go by today?” He replied “Can’t reveal”.

“John asked “It appears that your grandfather died at age 72 in Bristol, seven years before you were born, but you claim in *Taming the Tiger* that a cousin informed you whilst he was in prison in Nicosia that your grandfather had died at age 95. Which of these is true?” Tony replied “They are two different people.”

“John asked “We understand that those directors of Avanti who have had access to your birth certificate have been sworn to secrecy to prevent them from revealing what they know. Is this true?” Tony replied “All my private details are considered as private and confidential.”

“John asked “On page 27 you claim you can understand what the boys from Shanghai were saying (that is, Shanghainese, not Mandarin or your own language of Cantonese). When did you learn Shanghainese?” Tony said that he had picked up a few words of Shanghainese. John then spoke the Shanghainese word for “thank you” but Tony did not understand.

“John asked “We read that while in prison in Cyprus, you were still writing calligraphy nameplates. Can you still write Chinese characters (even with elementary proficiency)?” Tony replied “Yes I can”. John asked “You claim that you had eight years living in China, and five more returning for months at a time, during which time you were treated by a fierce grandfather, who drilled into you the Chinese language. You should have been thoroughly fluent at that time. The book gives the impression that by the age of ten you were writing all day with “a fine set of brass quills” (p43). Is that true? What is your present level of proficiency?” Tony replied “My calligraphy in Chinese is very bad. Calligraphy in Cyprus was in English”.

“John asked “We understand from Avanti that “Tony returned to the UK on an annual basis from 1979 until 1983 when he remained in the UK”. Is this true?” Tony replied “Yes, I find it very hard to answer how long; I don’t remember. I do not think that they were short. I just have a feeling that the time periods were a matter of months instead of weeks. I just can’t remember.”

“John asked “What are the names and addresses of the schools in the UK and the dates you attended? Tony replied “Christ’s College Secondary School Finchley. I would have been 12 to 14, –

1983 to 1985.

“John asked “We understand from Avanti that your mother did not travel with you to China” How did your mother communicate with you during your years in China? Tony replied “she didn’t.”

“John asked “In what language did your mother communicate with you the first time you returned to England? How old were you?” Tony replied “12, English.”

“John asked “What language did you speak when you were in China? Tony replied “in China they would only yell at me and dialogue and certain sounds with certain actions”.

“John asked “What language did you speak when you attended school in China?” Tony replied “I don’t remember how it all worked but my schooling was in Kung Fu – just the two of us, no school.”

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 has received satisfactory proof that Tony was born in London on 30th July 1971 Andonis Andreou Athanasiou and that his parents were Andreas and Janet. Apart from Tony's word we have received no evidence whatsoever, whether documentary, oral, direct, circumstantial, hearsay or otherwise that Tony ever went to China as a child. His lack of knowledge of the Chinese language would indicate that he was not brought up in a Chinese speaking environment in his youth. It is not credible that during his childhood he was only able to communicate with those around him with grunts and sign language and people yelling at him. The further information to be sent by Mr West, which may have answered all these issues, has not been received.

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.

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 alleges 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 already 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 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 state 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 Final 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 state 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*

(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 note that Tony does 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. He told the Research Group that every year he returned to China until the age of 17 (p51), 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 state 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, 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 Board's responses are shown in green. Statements are shown in black. The Panel's comments are shown in blue.

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...” (J1)
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 we need to establish which parts are fact and which are not. (D1)
3. I note that you say 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.** (B10)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This is in part because of expectation. We have found with the high level of scrutiny that *Taming the Tiger* has received that the reader has expected a certain process to have been followed in writing the book, a strong editorial team, a research journalist type approach. However this book has been written from Tony's memory with a ghost writer interpreting and allowing the narrative to flow. We do feel with hindsight and twenty twenty vision that a disclaimer in the front of the book would have squashed all these problems from the outset.

PANEL'S COMMENT: In our view the allegations made go to the core of whether the book is a work of fiction, not whether including a disclaimer would validate enhancements to allow the narrative to flow.

4. We 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?** (G23)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This is available in some new editions of foreign translations, including the new manuscript that has been written. Many of the names of people/places/organisations have been changed.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We note that the book is available "in some new editions". Tony told us that the disclaimer is in just one - the Hebrew translation. The statement "many of the names of people / places / organisations have been changed" appears to be a recent admission.

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 false in any way. **NEW QUESTION:** *Is Tony's testimony false in any way?* (D8)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Not in any way at the time of writing. As has been mentioned some details have come to light since the first writing of the story. In addition there have been some editorial mistakes in the book which could be interpreted by others as being false rather than innocent mistakes.

The below is how we see the controversy arising;

- Through the fact that the story was written based upon the knowledge that I had at the time of writing it. I recognise that there are elements that now need to be changed since finding this out from (1) the research group delving into my life, (2) my mum since my father's death.
- Through the change of names of people, places, organisations, etc;
- Through minor errors in the structure of the narrative, where a date is in the wrong place. Elements that we are working to revise;
- Through the issue (that was not the original point raised by the "Research Group") that 3 elements of Tony's testimony he has chosen to keep private and confidential.
- Through not adding / disclosing sufficient details in the book for those few that have set themselves up as "Myth Busters". We had not anticipated such a reaction from such a small handful of people and so we are keen to rectify the book to produce a newly revised edition

The above with hindsight we would have like to have been different and we are working now on future editions to incorporate these changes. We want to re-iterate that at no stage in our belief has Tony looked to mislead or lie about his life in *Taming the Tiger*.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We take as our starting point the firm stance taken by Tony, namely, *"I refute unequivocally the notion that my personal testimony is false in any way."* In our view the revelation that the person who took Tony to China and was known by Tony as his grandfather was not his biological grandfather is incidental to the question whether he went to China at all.

6. *"Please understand that I can only state what I know and cannot fabricate answers just to satisfy accusations."*

PANEL'S COMMENT: We entirely agree with this. (D6)

7. *"In reality, it appears that they are set upon trying, by any means, to prove me a fraud and a liar and to undermine the work of Avanti Ministries. So far the group has conducted an exercise of spreading negative and untrue rumours."*

PANEL'S COMMENT: As we understand it, the members of the Research Group are trying to prove Tony is a fraud and a liar, which is the reason why the Evangelical Alliance and the Board have set up this inquiry to establish the truth. (D9)

8. *"It is not written in the high literary style that one would expect from say an historical account i.e. a history text book where the reader would expect the detailed facts to be recorded in a strict linear time format."* **QUESTION:** Which parts of the book are not in strict linear time format? (J3)

AVANTI RESPONSE: The timeline Gantt Chart will reveal all of these items and should make this a lot clearer.

PANEL'S COMMENT: On 7th June 2013 the Panel received an embryonic Gantt chart which we understand is subject to revision and should be completed by December 2013. We did not received the Gantt chart which Paul Salter promised he would bring with him to the meeting on 21st May 2013.

9. The Avanti board have stated that *"Some people ... wrongly interpret that certain events occurred consecutively when in actual fact many of them ran concurrently"*. Which of the following events occurred concurrently?: (G21)

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).

AVANTI RESPONSE: We hope that the Time Line that we sent you will answer this question?

PANEL’S COMMENT: It has not yet done so.

10. “Tony was advised by the Publisher at the time to use this wording”. **REQUEST:** Please let us know what wording is referred to. We need to have written confirmation from the publisher. (J2)

AVANTI RESPONSE: The fact that Authentic Media Published the book speaks for itself, based on the very same information that was supplied to them at the time of publishing all of which has now been supplied to the EA panel.

COMMENT: Thank you. We shall now take this up with Authentic to verify its authenticity.

COMMENT BY JOHN LANGLOIS: I duly took this up with Steve Mitchell of Authentic who replied: “Dear John, Thanks for your email. I’ve spoken with our Publishing Manager, who commissioned and produced this title. He has no specific recollection either in writing or in memory of the phrase “*a truthful collection of memories*”, though it is close to ten years since the book was published and there will have been discussions about the wording used about the book. So that wording may or may not have been discussed, but looking at our previous marketing copy this has not been a phrase that we adopted or have used. When the book was commissioned, Tony signed a contract which stated that “the Work is original to him” and “all statements contained therein purporting to be facts are true”. Authentic was not supplied directly with verifiable evidence of Tony’s story. Rather the decision to publish was based on character references taken up from well-known and highly regarded Christian leaders as well as Tony’s warranty of truthfulness in the contract. Many thanks Steve.

11. 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?** (G13)

AVANTI RESPONSE: In writing the manuscript, the ghost-writer, Angela on many occasions needed to build the narrative construct of a particular time in Tony’s life, where he did not have too much information or description to offer her. When reading through the drafts, there was a lot that Tony was uncomfortable with at times. The process that they both used would be to work together to better explain / tone down / or completely rewrite certain elements to reach a point where Tony felt more comfortable in what was written. There are chunks of his life where he has very poor recollection in terms of what happened and often the sequence of events became quite confusing at times. It is in those situations where Angela would carve the narrative to flow more smoothly without losing the attention of the reader – and it is for this reason that a disclaimer that we are using says: *This book tells the true story of Tony Anthony. **Some scenes 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.*

PANEL’S COMMENT: This contradicts what Angela Little told us. We have not seen the disclaimer referred to above. Such a disclaimer which states that “some scenes have been dramatised with authentic though not necessarily actual dialogue” implies that the script is factually true albeit

dramatised. We have not been interested in normal dramatisation to portray truth. Our task is to establish whether the dramatised scenes are based on truth.

12. *"The Avanti Board know that Tony and his co-writer Angela Little went to great lengths to ensure that the scenes depicted and dialogue recorded were as true as they could have reasonably been able to make them, at the time of writing".* REQUEST/QUESTIONS: Please let us have Angela Little's contact details so that we can make arrangements to interview her. What "great lengths" did the Avanti board go to? What documentation did you see? (J4)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Angela Little's email address is: alittlecreative@me.com

The process with which the book was written spanned several months of interviews, communication and research. As mentioned in the above quote it was Angela and Tony who went to great lengths to research the story. As a board we were satisfied with the process that they went through.

PANEL'S COMMENT: In our meeting with Angela Little she indicated that she had gone to no lengths at all to research the story but simply wrote down what Tony told her. She had no documents on which to base the story. She wrote what Tony told her and dramatised scenes to portray a truthful reconstruction.

13. *"The Avanti Board know that Tony and his co-writer Angela Little went to great lengths to ensure that the scenes depicted and dialogue recorded were as true as they could have reasonably been able to make them, at the time of writing".* REQUEST/QUESTIONS: Please let us have Angela Little's contact details so that we can make arrangements to interview her. What "great lengths" did the Avanti board go to? What documentation did you see? (J4)

PANEL'S COMMENT: Angela Little told us that she had gone to no lengths at all to research the story.

14. I note that to protect the author, 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. Please confirm that subject to the changing of the names, places and minor details of the events all events are absolutely true in substance.(B8)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We can confirm this.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted. This is a crucial response from the Avanti board.

15. *"When asking questions to assist with the preparation of the eulogy, Tony learnt a number of new surprising facts relating to his past (and some things for which as a child he had been led to believe otherwise)".* REQUEST: Please let us have a list of these facts. (J20)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This has already been answered above, but information about the family background, his grandfather not being biological and the male cousins.

COMMENT: We now understand that “a number of new surprising facts” in fact means “just two surprising facts”. Is that correct?

AVANTI RESPONSE: Yes

PANEL’S COMMENT: We note that there were just two surprising facts.

16. **Quote:** “As a result of the group’s delving into my past – as well as an unexpected family reunion following the death of my father in 2011 – I have discovered some information about my family history of which I was unaware when I wrote *Taming the Tiger*. I now fully accept that there are a number of details that appear in the book that are not historically accurate.” **REQUEST:** Please let us know what details were discovered and which are not historically accurate. (H1)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This is particularly around Tony’s biological family details. It has been shown that Tony’s biological grandfather was somebody else. The person who Tony was trained and raised by in China he was led to believe was his grandfather. We now understand this not to be the case.

PANEL’S COMMENT: This response does not go to the core issues.

17. **“It may also be possible to incorporate some other family information that has come to light since the story was first written.” REQUEST:** Please let us have a list of the other family information that has come to light since the story was first written. (J7)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This has already been provided, however, in summary we are talking about the following:

- Tony’s grandfather not being his biological grandfather;
- Having male cousins from his mother’s side of the family;

QUESTION: Is that all, just two pieces of information?

AVANTI RESPONSE: The Year of the pig reference in addition to the above. As far as we are aware these are the only incorrect pieces of information. The reason that I was sent to China to be raised by Cheung Ling Soo, along with his identity and relationship with my mother – and this covers a whole host of issues. The way certain dates are introduced / explained within the narrative at various stages throughout the book, that currently come across in the wrong way or maybe an error.

PANEL’S COMMENT: We note that the sum total of incorrect pieces of information in *Taming the Tiger* are (1) the grandfather not being biological, (2) Tony had maternal male cousins and (3) the year of rooster should have been the year of the pig.

18. **“I must, however, stress my belief that these are inconsequential inaccuracies that in no way undermine the fundamental truth of my story. For example, as a very young boy I was raised to believe that the man in whose house I lived and who trained me in Kung Fu was my grandfather. It**

has since come to light that this individual was not my biological grandfather.” 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. (D3)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This is in the book. His name was: Cheung Ling Soo.

PANEL’S COMMENT: Noted.

19. *“I must, however, stress my belief that these are inconsequential inaccuracies that in no way undermine the fundamental truth of my story. For example, as a very young boy I was raised to believe that the man in whose house I lived and who trained me in Kung Fu was my grandfather. It has since come to light that this individual was not my biological grandfather.”* 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. (H2)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Lowsi was his name in the book *Taming the Tiger*. He lived in China and raised Tony from the age of four to around 12.

PANEL’S COMMENT: Noted.

20. *“I have, in confidence shown significant documents to senior personnel who are willing to validate the truth of my claims and delicate situation”.* Comment: Please let us have a copy of these significant documents. (D5)

AVANTI RESPONSE: These will be supplied on the 10th June 2013 at the EA offices. Items that have been provided have included: Passport / Birth Certificate / Change of name by Deed Poll / Father’s birth Certificate, an ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) certificate / testimonies of living witnesses that verify my testimony / people have met the person that led me to Christ + an accompanying letter of this / old photos / etc.

PANEL’S COMMENT: Tony handed these over to us when we met him on 10th June 2013.

21. *“We believe that subject to the changing of some names, places and minor details of the event’s all events are true in substance”* REQUEST: Please let us have a list of the names, places and details of the events that are not true. (J5)

AVANTI RESPONSE: It is safe to say that the majority of the names of people, places and organisations have been changed. There are in fact only a few names that have been kept the same.

PANEL’S COMMENT: This is quite different from the previous assurances.

22. The Avanti board stated on 5 February 2013: *“...there are some relatively minor anomalies in relation to dates and certain narrative structure in the original manuscript.”* Please supply us with a list of these anomalies. (G24)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This has been answered a few times above and hope you have enough information here. However things like Tony's grandfather not being biological related, year of the rooster instead of the pig. We are hoping having things laid out on paper might help to see things more clearly. We have produced a draft timeline and sent this to you.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

23. *"There are some innocent errors in the manuscript, these mistakes will be corrected and the intention is that a revised/more up to date edition of TAMING THE TIGER will be issued in due course."* **REQUEST:** Please let us have a list of the innocent errors in the manuscript to which you refer. (J6)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This can be provided when Tony returns to the UK at the beginning of May. We hope this gives you sufficient time.

COMMENT: The beginning of May is next Wednesday. We would request this information by Thursday 9th May.

AVANTI RESPONSE: Year of the Pig not rooster. My grandfather not being biological. This information is better explained at the meeting on 10th June, as it will need to unpack a lot of edits that already in hand that seek to reword narrative and align the overall manuscript to the timeline that we have structured.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

24. *"The Board have decided that it would be beneficial if a time line was produced to cover the book and perhaps Tony's life since the book was first issued. This is of course a huge and complex task and has not yet been completed by the responsible person".* **QUESTION:** Why is this task huge and complex as it is merely the biography of a living person? (J23)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We hope that as you will have already seen from the inquiry there is a large amount of information that people want, from languages spoken, when Tony moved from one place to another, collating this information as well as dealing with the running of a complex organisation and working other jobs full time means this is a huge task. We are trying to work flat out to deal with this project as well as many others. As with most of this inquiry, we are trying to collate information between parties, often between time zones and frequently while Tony is out of the country.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We cannot understand why this is a huge task it being merely based on one person's life story.

QUESTION: Which time zones?

AVANTI RESPONSE: Across the world from S. America, Asia, Europe etc.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

25. *"This is of course a huge and complex task and has not yet been completed by the responsible person".* QUESTION: Who is the responsible person? Please let us have details so that we can make arrangements to question him/her. (J24)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Paul Salter, one of our Directors.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted. We cannot understand why Tony is not compiling his own time line.

26. *"If you are particularly interested in this Time Line Gantt Chart, we will arrange for you to see a working copy when you meet with the Board."* COMMENT: When we meet please let us have a hard copy as we have to include it in our report. (J25)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Of course we can supply these, no problem.

COMMENT: We 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 we require documentary evidence in good time and at the very latest 15th June 2013.

AVANTI RESPONSE: This has now been supplied as of 31/05/13

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have received an embryonic document which we understand will be completed by December 2013. We have not received the document that was promised to us by 21st May 2013.

27. Please let us have a copy of the accurate time line (Gantt chart) to which you refer. (B9)

AVANTI RESPONSE: David Duell has supplied all the working materials of this in the draft format that we currently have it and this was sent to you on 1st June.

"PANEL'S COMMENT: We asked a question about concurrence. We did not ask for precise dates – or any dates at all. We asked which of the above thirteen events *"occurred concurrently?"*. We cannot see how it will take a further six months for Paul Salter to work this out with Tony. As we were promised a time line in time for our meeting with the Avanti board on 21 May 2013 we would have expected it to be a very simple exercise if the events were factual. At the meeting with members of the Avanti board we were disappointed when Paul Salter told us that Avanti *"were not going to let us have the Gantt chart. He said that he could not show the Gantt chart to John Langlois"*. He went on to say that *"there was no proof that TA had been to China"* and *"There were many dates and he had no proof of any of them"*. As we have stated above, we did not ask for dates, only concurrence."

28. The Avanti board have stated: *"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."* Please let us have physical copies of two of these editions in which the disclaimer is printed. (G25)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We believe Heather supplied one of these and we have provided the electronic version above - *This book tells the true story of Tony Anthony. Some scenes 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.*

PANEL'S COMMENT: "We saw non-English editions on 21st May 2013 but the Avanti board did not point out to us any disclaimers at the time. When Tony came to see us on 10th June 2013 he referred to the disclaimer in the Hebrew translation but did not bring a copy. We therefore could not check on the disclaimer when we had a copy before us."

29. I note that you say that an adequate disclaimer is scheduled to be included in future editions of *Taming the Tiger* which will state that: *"Some scenes depicted within this publication have been dramatized using authentic, though not necessarily actual dialogue. To protect the author, 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."* 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.(B7)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We can confirm this.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This is a very significant assurance on the part of the Avanti board.

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

"David West said that there could have been proper disclaimers. He said he knew Angela but in life there were certain questions as to veracity to come up and as per his affidavit he was surprised when he got evidence. To date there had been a few unanswered questions. There have been accusations that have been erroneous. He could as a director of Avanti see no justification in his mind that Tony should not be an evangelist with Avanti. Yes, there may have been dates and differences, there have been mistakes, little mistakes but nothing that Tony has fabricated on his testimony. He believed Tony's testimony was true. He could give examples, such as, there are instances where Tony had had to change names. Yes, one can be a young person in close protection and still be working for a Saudi ambassador. So whenever the Avanti board get an objection it does not mean that there is a problem down the line.

"David West said the Avanti board were thankful in a way that this has been brought to their attention. For the US market they had to have the right disclaimers in the book. They had a time line of Tony's life which would satisfy most people. They did not have the resources as a small organisation to have a counter strategy.

"John quoted one of the replies of the Avanti board to a question put by the Panel to them: *"The Avanti Board know that Tony and his co-writer Angela Little went to great lengths to ensure that the scenes depicted and dialogue recorded were as true as they could have reasonably been able to make them, at the time of writing"*. He asked "What great lengths did the Avanti board go to ensure that the scenes depicted and dialogue recorded were as true as they could have reasonably been?" David West replied "Ask Angela." David Duell said that he had written the answer. Paul Salter said that Tony was very reluctant to tell his story.

"John said that the panel had asked a question as to why it was stated on the front cover of Taming the Tiger that it was a true story to which the Panel had received the reply from Avanti: *"Tony was advised by the Publisher at the time to use this wording"*.

"John said that he had been in touch with the manager of Authentic, the publisher, Steve Mitchell, and that was not his recollection: Steve had replied to John "Thanks for your email. I've spoken with our Publishing Manager, who commissioned and produced this title. He has no specific recollection either in writing or in memory of the phrase *"a truthful collection of memories"*, though it is close to ten years since the book was published and there will have been discussions about the wording used about the book. So that wording may or may not have been discussed, but looking at our previous marketing copy this has not been a phrase that we adopted or have used. When the book was commissioned, Tony signed a contract which stated that "the Work is original to him" and "all statements contained therein purporting to be facts are true". Authentic was not supplied directly with verifiable evidence of Tony's story. Rather the decision to publish was based on character references taken up from well-known and highly regarded Christian leaders as well as Tony's warranty of truthfulness in the contract."

“Paul Salter said “Maybe no one can now remember”. George Osborn said that the Tony Anthony story was remarkable. David West said that people question the authenticity of the Bible and then evidence is discovered to prove its authenticity, such as archaeological evidence. He said that he had not heard anything that had convinced him to the contrary and in the same way the more he reads the Bible the more he thinks it is true.

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

“Angela said she took the story just as Tony told it and did not imagine that it would be necessary to question what he said. She said that Tony did not want write the book, it was George Verwer who suggested he write his story. She was reluctant to co-author *Taming the Tiger* as she had no experience. She was not into martial arts. He had just been in prison, so they met and he just told her a small part of his story and she was quite gripped by it. The first few meetings were just to “let us see”.

“Tony is now particular and passionate but he was different then, reticent and nervous. She had to pull the story out of him. She said that when he starts speaking about the gospel he gets going and when he speaks about himself he becomes reticent. She felt that he really suffered when he told “the childhood stuff”. She spent many hours going through it with him. She had to suggest various things that may have been and he had to say “yes” or “no”. She said that Avanti are now providing a time line as Tony could not do that. It was hard for him to remember the order of things. Tony suffered with dates and they did not pay too much attention to dates as they were dealing with episodes. Sometimes the ages didn’t quite fit and she would have to tease it out of him and he occasionally contradicted himself, as anyone would.

“Keith asked her how she set out to reconcile contradictions. She said “*we just did as he was so young*”. Tony had showed her a DVD about Shaolin monks to demonstrate how young children engaged in Kung Fu.

“Keith told Angela that the age at which Tony engaged in close protection was important. He said that it was difficult to understand that he had the emotional maturity to operate in a very high powered world at such a young age. She said she kept questioning him about it and raised it a lot.

“John asked what she had found out about Aija. She replied “*Nothing more than what he told me. He was very upset when he talked about her*”.

“Keith asked whether Angela suggested bits and he agreed with what she filled in. She replied “*That is definitely the case. He was always concerned to have my name on the book. It has been taken as this historical document of fact whereas it was never intended to be that.*”

“She said that in the new proposed American edition dates and places and names have been changed and more of Angela’s own suggested wording as to what was said in conversations. She said that the story is told as he remembered it.

“John asked whether she changed names in the book or did he do it. She replied “*A mixture*”. They made up a name for the Saudi ambassador. The name Aija was not made up. The name William

Black is made up. The name “Tom” is made up. She did not do research they just talked at length. Things like the Middle East trip bothered her. John asked her about the owner of the Empire State Building. She said that neither of the names “Peter Malkin” or “Laurence Wien” meant anything to her.

“She said Tony was very pained with it all. He felt horribly guilty about what he put Sara through in connection with the second accident. Angela said that she found Sarah to be a most normal Christian girl, strong and very trustworthy.

“John asked Angela whether she had found any proof that Tony went to China. She said *“I think I have seen a photograph of him and his mother. I may have seen a photo of Lowsi”*.

“John asked how she knew that Tony knew the Chinese language. She replied *“In a Chinese restaurant he will order in a particular way”*.

“Angela said *“I don’t think Taming the Tiger is factual but it is not lying. All the episodes happened but necessary in that order. We weren’t too worried about the timescales.”*

“She said that she had seen no proof that Tony was in close protection. Tony told her that he was not going to tell her the true identity of the IKFF. It was highly illegal and underground. She said she questioned why an illegal organization would protect such esteemed people. She said she doesn’t understand that world. John suggested that it sounded strange that such an organisation was in Geneva. She replied that he even told Angela the name of the road where it was situated.

“She said she found out the names of the schools Tony went to in the UK. One school was called Saint (someone). She made a note and said she will come back to us with the name, address and the dates when he attended the school. She said the details are stated in the second book.

“John asked how Tony’s mother communicated with him during his years in China. Angela thought she didn’t. John asked whether Angela could produce any evidence at all that Tony went to China. She said *“I can’t help. I have seen a photograph of his grandfather – but it could be anyone. The grandfather was so small.”* She said *“You can tell by the way Tony moves that he has Kung Fu in him. The way he moves his hands and body. You can see it in his body.”*

“John asked what language Tony spoke when he attended school in China. Angela replied *“They didn’t speak English but it was more about movement and placement than language.”* Tony did not tell her which language. She asked him if it was Cantonese that he spoke. He said he didn’t know. John asked *“Has he written Chinese characters for you?”* She replied *“I believe he can do it”*.

“John asked what threats Tony was subject to. She replied *“That’s what he told me. I do remember him saying about the Kung Fu. People now want him to do the Kung Fu but he promised never to do it again”*.

“John asked by what was the name that Tony went by in China. She replied *“He told me deliberately that he would not tell me his name in China.”*

“Angela said that she was not surprised that Tony will not allow the Panel to see his mother. He was devastated when he found out that Carl Chambers (?) got in touch with his mother. She was injured in a car accident and had a broken ankle. That was when his father went into a home. Tony and Sarah got his mother organised in flat and visited her for Christmas but she then she disappeared again and went off on a cruise. She just got up and left.

“In response to the question “*Which was Tony’s father’s mother tongue?*” she replied “*Italian as far as I know*”.

“She said that there were no photographs of Tony in Kung Fu competitions.

“Angela ended by saying “*There is nothing firm, only my belief. I just trust him that he telling the truth. There are a lot of question marks. But I think he has been involved in very shady stuff. He has been involved in much worse than lying.* “

Written submission from Michael Wright

I thank God that someone is looking into these matters, because I have felt for Tony and his family with all the allegations and angry witch-hunt that has been going on. I pray that your findings will be able to clarify things for God's glory.

I'm not sure what information will be of help to you, but am happy to provide you openly with anything you wish to know within the bounds of my memory!

It would be easier to meet face to face and be interviewed, but I don't envisage being in the UK again before June (I was in NI in Feb/Mar to visit my ailing Mum). Unless any of you are planning a holiday in Cyprus?!

As you would expect, I know nothing about Tony before he was in the Cyprus prison. I do not have any newspaper reports of Tony's arrest, conviction etc. I do not know any details about his crime. I don't even know when he went into prison. However, I do know roughly when I started visiting him. (This is at variance with the date of his conversion by one year, but I have told Tony about this and he accepts it and said he intended to change it in new editions of the book - I suppose he finds it awkward when so much is being queried, to admit to an error, which probably has no real consequence on his story - you can decide that!). I still have copies of our prayer-letters sent out at the time asking people to pray for Tony's Salvation, and then telling them that he had trusted the Lord.

My story with Tony starts when I tried to visit UK prisoners in the Cyprus prison. I started to enquire, write letters to names of people that I found through newspaper reports, were in prison. I started in September 1990 but was getting nowhere (I don't know if Tony was one of the ones I wrote to at that time). However, God works in marvellous ways. Our friends, Rodney and Ruby Johnson who were with OM, had befriended a young man called Andy, who worked in the British bases. They

were sharing the Gospel with him. Then, suddenly they told us that he had been sent to prison for writing other people's cheques! They told him that I would be willing to visit him if he sent a visiting card. He did, and I did. When visiting him he told me of another prisoner that might appreciate a visit - Tony. I wrote to Tony to ask if he wanted me to visit him and if so, to send me a visiting card. He did. My first visit with him would have been in February or March 1991. In May 1991 (not 1990) he trusted the Lord. It was obvious that the Lord had done an amazing work in him. His demeanour changed (although I was never actually aware of any animosity to me). He gobbled up the Emmaus Bible study booklets that I managed to get in to him. He got me visiting cards to many other prisoners - all very precious, although none of whom I or Tony have contact with now. I have pictures taken on the one day we were allowed a camera in for a seminar on the Bible in the prison library.

I don't know what else I can tell you except to say that the book gives an accurate account of what happened in my presence. I was thrilled to be asked to marry Tony and Sara some years later.

The only documentation I have is 1) our prayer-letters from that time, and 2) photographs in the library of the prison. I can scan and send to you if you would like.

Please feel free to ask me any questions that will help to clarify anything.

For me, the greatest evidence of Tony's life, is the remarkable change that God has made, his passion for God, his humility, and his genuineness of his call to share the Gospel.

I'll stop here. Hope some of this has been of help.

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

She said that she had read *Taming the Tiger* as a story, not fact, and to her it was not necessary to prove it all. In answer to a question from John referring to the fact that it was stated to be a "true story" she said that the fact that it is labelled as a "true story" was not a problem for her. She had looked up the dictionary to see what "story" meant and noted that it was a tale and could mean different things. She asked "true in what sense, true to Tony, true historically?" It was just a true story. What this had done for her had not made her consider Tony's story but accepted this as truth. She said that in the Bible we cannot give the names of the teachers of the law or the shepherds in Bethlehem we do not know the names of the apostle Paul's mother and father and there is so much that we don't know in the Bible but we still accept it as true.

She said that she has patients who tell her untruths and she accepts this. John said that in approaching this issue rather than looking up the word "story" in the dictionary she should look up the word "truth". Heather objected to this and thought the right word to look up was "true", not "truth" so he did so there and then. He quoted from the Collins dictionary on his computer that "true" meant "not false or fictional or illusory, factual or factually accurate, conforming with reality". Heather did not accept that this was necessary as the dictionary gave very many different meanings

of “true”. John said that obviously his own profession as a lawyer had a very different concept of truth than the medical profession. She did not demur from this.

Heather pleaded with the Panel to look at the repercussions on Tony, his family, the church and the Avanti board if their report were not supportive of Tony and his story. John asked “If we as a Panel come to the conclusion that the facts on China and Kung Fu are untrue do you want us as a Panel to tell lies to the Avanti board?”. Heather said she just wanted the Panel to be supportive of Tony.

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

Keith asked Tony why he was afraid as he had been in China under a different name. Keith said that if Tony had sold two million copies of a book maybe a birth certificate would not make any difference. Tony responded by saying that he had no way of knowing that the book would have such an impact. He admitted that there was certainly a risk in translating the book into simplified Chinese. It was actually his truthful story - as true as it was when he had remembered it, but other things had come out since.

John asked which other things, to which Tony responded that it had been discovered that his grandfather referred to in the book was not his biological grandfather, and his mother had a brother who had sons. It had been arranged that his mother would marry someone in China and she ended up marrying his father, who contracted multiple sclerosis as a result of which he was losing his home and there was this arrangement between his mother and this other man who wanted to have a son by his mother and that was the way he treated Tony as well. Tony said that a lot more falls into place. His mother said she could have had more money for letting him go to China. He had contacted his mother the previous week and the conversation was very strained. Also he guessed that getting out their plan of action regarding their resources and reworking things would make it clear.

John asked Tony what he now knows is not true in the book. Tony said that he has gone through the typescript and there are structural errors in it. The errors do not affect anyone in the public domain. An example is the reference on page 20 to a local Shaolin temple when it should have been a reference to a “temple”, not Shaolin. On page 31 it should say he was 7 years old, not 6, and on page 121 it was not Christmas Eve 1989, it was 1990, that was a huge error in his view. Michael Wright who led him to Christ always remembers the date of Tony’s conversation in 1991, so it was a wrong date that he had given to Angela and on page 140 it should be 3 May 1991 instead of 1990 and on page 206 there had been a query regarding the car accident and he thought people have been referred to him knocking someone off a bicycle; it was a motor cycle. On page 65 there is an error, in that the world championships were all in Hong Kong, not both in Hong Kong and Thailand. The timeframe structures on pages 65 and 68 are the wrong way round.

Keith asked Tony how much research did he had undertaken before working on the book with Angela. He said that there was no research beforehand. They worked on the book for six months and it was a case of him sitting down with her he telling his story to her and she delved deeper and deeper. She had to construct, as the ghost writer, the environment and the scenes which she then sent to him. He would read through the script and he would correct those elements that only he

would know and things that were not true. He said his key mistake was in relation to Michael Wright, which he had already referred to, that is the date when he gave his life to Christ. That was just a simple error.

On Page 198 (Chapter 14) it says *"From the early days of my conversion I imagined I would either go to China as a missionary or work in prisons with hardened criminals"*. John asked what qualifications or advantages Tony had to work in China. Tony said he did not feel that he had any qualification other than having Jesus as his Saviour but what one imagined did not always prevail. He supposed working with hardened criminals and China were part of his background. He was always inspired to work with Chinese. John asked about his knowledge of Chinese languages. It was established that Tony had little knowledge of Chinese languages. Asked about his knowledge of Chinese script Tony replied that he was able to do calligraphy but it needed a lot of work.

On page 203 regarding the accident in Berkshire, it says that *"The windscreen showed a light pitter-patter of rain...."*. John asked whether Tony had the windscreen wipers on. Tony replied that he did. John asked how sure he was that it was raining. Tony replied *"Absolutely sure, yes it was a rainy miserable countryside night"*.

"In the past few months I'd had a couple of minor road accidents". John asked what accidents he had had. Tony replied that there was one night he was up very late in Thatcham and he had young people from Berkshire and Essex in the car. He was left with the task of driving the children to Essex. He drove there and returned the next morning. He was burning the candle at both ends.

"I was driving along an unlit country road. At that time of year there were always lots of deer around." John asked whether he had his headlights on, full or dipped. Tony replied *"I can't say"*.

"Somehow, I must have missed the warning stop sign. ...the red sign loomed large in front of me and I slammed on my brakes. The wheels locked. The car kept moving forwards. Thankfully the main road was clear. There were no lights and no sign of any vehicles. The car skidded across to the other side of the road. What was that? As I drew to a halt, I felt something clip the front right hand side of the car. It was just a very small tap...." John asked how sure Tony was that the main road was clear. Tony replied *"because I did not see anything"*. John asked how sure he was that there were no lights to which he replied *"100%"*. He asked how sure he was that there was no sign of any vehicles to which he again replied *"100%"*.

John asked Tony to describe the small tap he had felt. He replied that it felt quite light, literally a tap. It felt like an animal. John asked why it felt like an animal to which he replied that it was because he could not see anything, it was definitely not a car. John asked if he heard the headlight smashing, to which he replied *"No"*.

"I got out to take a look. The headlight was broken, but there was no sign of anything else. I scanned the road behind. Maybe it had been a small deer or a fox that had limped back into the undergrowth". John asked Tony to describe how the headlight was broken. Tony said that he could not remember precisely, it was a little smashed and there was a little damage to the number plate.

He was relieved to see no blood. John asked how sure he was that nothing else was damaged. He replied "I was fairly sure. It was brief and quick".

"Getting back in the car, I reversed a few metres, back to the crossroads. There was still nothing to see, but I had a strange sense of panic. I sat for a moment, gripping the steering wheel. Two other cars pulled up, a little distance from the junction. No one got out. "Maybe they were stopped by the same animal" I reasoned. I did not know what to do." John asked Tony why he had a sense of panic. Tony replied that it was because he had had to stop so abruptly; it was the fear that he would hit something and the skid and the darkness of it. John asked why did the other two cars pull up when the road was clear. He replied "I do not know. I was always thinking because it was me and had heard the screeching." John asked whether when he had got out of his car, did he try to speak to the other drivers. He replied "No because I was not near them. I only saw the other cars when I went to the crossroads, they were not parked, only slowed down".

Page 204: *"Putting my foot down, I drove away, taking another route home. I thought nothing more of it."* John asked why he took another route home. Tony said it was because he was disorientated and startled; there was no logical reason really. John asked how far out of his way was the other route. Tony replied that it was a ridiculous route really, but then he had not given it any thought at all. John asked how sure he was that he thought nothing more of it. Tony replied "Other than what I have just said, just thinking what was going through my mind, such as having had a number of bumps previously."

"Hey, Tony, what happened to the car? asked Tom...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". John asked whether Tom was his real name. Tony said it was not, it was James Moreland. John asked Tony how sure he was that Tom was heavily into radio communications. Tony replied "Just one of the things he said". He asked how sure he was that Tom was always tuning into the police frequencies to which he replied "Nothing more than what he told me". He asked how sure he was that Tom was into digging up newspaper reports on detective work to which he replied that he was one of the older young people, that was the sort of person he was. John asked Tony when he had found this out to which he replied "I knew all this about him already".

"There was a hit and run accident on Monday night and a lady was killed." As he was talking, my blood ran cold...'On the Bracknell road, this woman was knocked off her motorbike. The driver didn't even stop. I felt sick". John asked Tony why his blood had run cold as he had got out of the car, he had found only a headlight broken and he had reversed and found nothing. Tony replied "It was one of those things. He spoke about the same time and place and the stark reality of it was that I was on the Bracknell road that night and so the two made sense. Yet but when there is a damaged number plate it seemed that although I did not see anything there, I did not stop to search the grounds. I felt I wanted to get them [the young people] out of here and find out what is wrong".

Page 205 *'But how do you know it was the same accident?' said Sara, trying to stay calm..."* John asked "Wasn't Sara absolutely right. It couldn't have been the same accident" to which Tony replied

"I do not see how it was different as it was the same day and the same road. I guess for me I gave it some thought."

"It had to be. It was the same time, the same place. Who else could it be?" Why didn't you tell me about it? 'Because I didn't think anything serious had happened...Just a small tap...See for yourself, there's only a bit of damage to the car.' John asked "Why did it have to be the same time? It could have been just one minute later? Nothing serious could have happened as you only felt a small tap." Tony replied "James did not say the time but I vaguely remember the same evening and the same day and the same road so for me James had located the location and I was there".

"'No!' I grabbed the paper, it was all there in black and white. A lady on a motor bike had passed the junction at around 9.30 p.m. on Monday night. She had been knocked into the bushes, where she later died...If I have killed this lady, that means a jail sentence, I said'". John asked why would a traffic accident resulting in a death mean a jail sentence when it had been proved by forensic evidence that he had not been speeding. Tony said "I can only speak as being a criminal previously, perhaps the narrative is in explaining it as a book. I did have a note on [my copy of] page 205 that my point is different but it was stupid stupid accident, we need a qualifier that there had to be remorse".

"But it was an accident, a stupid, stupid, accident said Sara'". John repeated "Wasn't she right?" to which Tony replied "She was, but if it is the accident she is talking about I should have gone to the police station".

"A woman is dead, I snapped. Accident or no accident I will still go to jail." John asked "Why? What had you done wrong apart from going through a stop sign?" to which Tony replied "By this point when I am looking at this news it is the high likelihood knowing the lady, not telling the police and I didn't".

Page 206 *"We made the decision to do nothing'".* John asked "Why did you make the decision to do nothing?". Tony replied "because the unknown was maybe more scary because we were not submitting to the Holy Spirit at all and it was a completely sinful decision".

"A few days later we took the car to be fixed. I lied to the mechanics, saying I'd found it damaged in a car park'". John asked "When you say 'we' do you mean Sara and you?" Tony replied "No, that should be 'I'". He asked "Where did you take the car to be fixed?". He replied "It was a garage in Essex." John asked "As only the headlight was broken did the garage repair it there and then?" Tony replied "No, they gave me another car to get away as I did not have the time to stop."

"It's in the garage being serviced, I said'". John asked "Why did you say that?" Tony replied "Cover my tracks lying".

"We needed a solicitor'". John asked "Why do you think you needed a solicitor when you thought you had just tapped an animal?" Tony replied "Not by this point as there was a policeman making enquiries so by this point I knew that I needed legal advice".

"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." John asked "How sure are you that there were six policemen?" to which Tony replied that he remembered a lot of policemen knocking around in two or three cars, going the house collecting things, maybe there were just four. John asked "How sure are you that they had dogs?" to which Tony replied "Very sure and so is my wife." John asked "Why would policemen investigating a traffic accident arrive with dogs?" He replied "because they were looking for someone who had killed a lady and there is evidence of perverting the course of justice as well".

Page 207 *"Once at the police station, we were kept apart and led into individual interview rooms. We couldn't tell our story fast enough. No more lies. We were both desperate to spill out the details of this dreadful accident"*. John said "You write "No more lies". What did you tell the police? Did you plead guilty or not guilty?" Tony replied "Guilty, and Sara being taken as well I would have said anything really. I shared all of it".

"The police were sympathetic. They realised the truth of the situation. 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". John asked "How sure were the police that the lady had no lights on her motorbike? What proof did they have?" Tony said "This I discovered from my solicitor, he told me this".

Keith said "I do understand that you were travelling at the speed limit when you were approaching the junction." Tony said "it was rainy and dark, I was not speeding. I had not seen the sign coming".

"[Sara] had been arrested because the car had been registered in her name". John asked "How sure are you that Sara was arrested solely because the car had been registered in her name?" to which he replied "Sure".

"Look this is a straightforward accident, said the sergeant, trying to be reassuring. All the evidence proves that. The Crown Prosecution Service will be lenient...The most you'll get from this will be a driving ban". John asked "As the Crown Prosecution Service is separate from the police how did the sergeant know that the CPS would be lenient?" to which Tony replied "That is what he said". John asked "Why was the sergeant so sure that all you would receive was a driving ban when you yourself thought you would be sent to prison?" to which he replied "I was worried because I had been arrested and whatever they were telling may not be true. There was an element of distrust".

"The weeks and months ahead were hellish. It was hard to talk to people about what had happened. We couldn't bear to keep going through the story. Even our closest friends know only some of what was going on. The hardest blow was from the church. We had been honest with them, but, at a time when we desperately needed their love and support, it was as though they turned their back on us. They put a 'caretaker' youth worker in my place to continue the work I had been doing". John asked "Normally traffic accident prosecutions go to court within days. Why did this go on for weeks and months?" to which Tony replied "Combined with this was the harassment charge, a time when I was having a spiritual and emotional breakdown and it was not that straight forward,. They were going to the court and debating all sorts of issues and collecting my records from Cyprus and trying to

verify that it was actually me in the car and not Sara and so it was not a simply court hearing at all and there was all this plea bargaining going on”.

John asked “You write *‘we couldn’t bear to keep going through the story’*. Who did you tell?” Tony replied “This was with people in the church as the police were doing enquiries at the church, the person I was counselling that night, general enquiries and so there was a discussion with each person, with the elders, the youth workers and next door neighbours.” John asked “You say that you had been honest with the church. What did you tell them?” He replied “Telling the church what had happened after I had killed someone and not stayed at the scene as a hit and run because I did not know I had hit anybody and then of course well I am nothing but guilty and the church were left to think what on earth is this. Now I do not blame them at all for being sceptical whereas at the time I felt we needed support. We were not thinking straight.”

Keith said “So although you realised at a pretty early stage that it was you who had the accident you persisted in covering it up for a very long time and that persistence included that it was not you?” Tony said “No, it is not saying that at all. I said nothing and lying about my broken number plate”.

“We persevered for almost six more months, before deciding to leave the area. We found a house in Didcot, but we didn’t stay there long either”. John asked “Why did you leave the area? What did you have to persevere with?” to which Tony responded “Because the way this church treated us, right now I sympathise with them, but at the time we felt nothing but rejection at every turn and it was a large pill to swallow with Christians with a big smile and the next thing removing us and putting a caretaker in”.

Keith suggested that Tony had not changed the story previously. Tony responded: “I went to see the elders of Norreys church, to apologise and explain what I am doing – after I came out of prison – I met up with them and told them about my ministry and apologised about the situation and saying what God had done in my life after I had left prison. That came about after I heard that people were making comments about it.” Keith asked “did they accept your apology?” Tony replied: “The meeting was pleasant. I am not sure” He continued “We have been pressing on with the ministry. I have been limited by what the publisher allowed me to do”.

“We moved back to Essex and I took on a role as youth pastor with a homeless organisation in Southend. The director Ron Wright showed good faith in me.” John asked “what was the name of the organisation to which Tony replied “New Start”.

Page 209 *“Each month seemed to bring a legal meeting or some new development in our case. We liaised regularly with our barristers. Sara found the meetings especially difficult. It came as no surprise to me, but she was shocked at the wheeling and dealing of the justice system. People involved were obviously lying and our barristers were encouraging us to say things that weren’t strictly true, to help our case. From defence to prosecution, everyone was bound up in plea bargaining and negotiating.”* John asked “As this was a simple accident why were there several new developments in the case?” Tony replied “I can’t remember what the plea bargaining was all about.” John asked “What were they offering?” He replied “I can’t remember the detail. It was the hit and

run element of it. Wanting to hit and run if I did not know. Or submit to all of this and basically look at a lot of different sentences.” John asked “What did you offer?” He replied “We go with the truth as I was wanting to state it, this is what happened.” Tony said that he pleaded guilty to all the charges.

John asked “Why did you employ barristers when you already had solicitors?” He replied “Haven’t got a clue; I do not know if we did. Maybe it is an incorrect word in the book. Don’t remember. John asked “What wheeling and dealing took place?” He replied “Can’t say for certain – I thought it was the CPS.” John asked “What lies did they tell?” the reply being “Around the whole thing – the whole thing was crazy – can’t remember”. John asked “What things did your barristers encourage you to say which were not true?” the reply being “Not for the sake accuracy I can’t say without speaking to Sara”.

“Why can’t we just tell the truth? Sara pleaded with her barrister. He smiled weakly at her naivety.” John asked “What did Sara mean by the truth? the reply being “About me saying that I did not see what I hit.”

Page 210 *“Tell me again”, I said to my barrister, “what exactly am I being charged with?” “The charge is death by dangerous driving and perverting the course of justice” he told me. “that’s because of your lie to the policeman” he said. “They’ll probably also add the charge of failing to stop and report an accident, but it’s fairly weak”* John asked “How sure are you that he told you that the charge was death by dangerous driving and perverting the course of justice?”. He replied “I am fairly sure that is true.” John asked “Why was the charge of failing to stop and report an accident fairly weak?” The reply was “I don’t know. It’s a dialogue in the book.” John asked “How could you be charged by death by careless driving when it had been proved by forensic evidence that you had not been driving dangerously?” The reply was “I am more convinced that my solicitor had told me this. It is a bit of a haze”.

“It’s a good charge, Tony, the best we could hope for” he said “It won’t carry a prison sentence, at least you’re not up for death by dangerous driving”. John asked “How could your barrister say “at least you’re not up for death by dangerous driving” when he had just told you that was what you were being charged with?” [reply not recorded]

Then Sara’s barrister spoke. “If you admit to lying to the policemen it will get her off the hook. I’m sure there’ll be no charge.” John asked “How was it that your barrister had just told you that you would be charged with perverting the course of justice “because of your lie to the policeman” when Sara’s barrister at the same meeting told her that if she admitted to lying there would be no charge at all?” He answered: “He is the same lawyer. One lawyer for both”.

“But that’s the truth anyway” I said in despair “It was me who lied, Sarah never said a word” I implored. The barristers consulted their notes. “It appears the policeman has given evidence to the contrary” one of them said. “He claims it was Sarah who lied to him about where the car was that morning.” Sara bit her bottom lip.” John asked “Why do you think the policeman gave evidence that Sara lied?” The answer was “I don’t know why but you know empathetically looking at this, this

Christian policeman, knows a person who has a car like that and whatever decisions he takes it is for him to answer.”

“Tony, there is something else, the other barrister said...I had been asked by one of my company’s top clients to arrange a meeting over a meal at a Greek restaurant in London. When I telephoned to make a booking I was confronted with a rude, arrogant man.” John asked “How sure are you that the interaction you had with the person at the Greek restaurant was on the telephone and not face to face?” the answer being “100% sure”

Keith asked why Sara was convicted and of what. Tony replied “that she had knowledge of the accident, by implication – being wrong not to report it.”

Page 211 *“Ah, you bloody idiot, you bother me with these stupid questions. I don’t need you here” he said, in a heated temper...I let out a torrid stream of abuse in Greek....Finally I slammed the phone down. Instantly it rang back... another stream of abuse...the next call I took was from the police. He had reported me”.* John asked “Did he report you for a telephone interaction or a face to face encounter?” Tony replied “Never seen him face to face”.

“My barrister handed me a document “You’re being charged with harassment on this one...a charge like this carries more weight than anything to do with the accident” John asked “Why do you think your barrister told you that a charge of using bad language on the telephone was worse than causing death by dangerous driving?”. He answered “That is just the way Angela and I decided to put this into the narrative.”

“We were called into court in early June 2001. Before entering the courtroom Sara and I attended a short briefing with our advisers. They were both confident but I felt sick and irritated. Don’t worry, my barrister stressed. “It’s looking good. The CPS are promising there won’t be anything more than a driving ban and some sort of community service, if not a suspended sentence.” John asked “What did your barrister mean when he stressed “It’s looking good”?” Tony replied “Maybe it is just Angela constructing the narrative”. John asked “How did he know that the CPS had promised there would be no more than a driving ban, community service or a suspended sentence?” to which the answer was “It is pretty much correct”.

“After an hour the judge began to sum up, but there was much conferring between him and the barristers...my sentencing would be postponed”. John asked “Did you plead guilty or not guilty?”, the reply being “guilty”. John asked “Why did the proceedings take an hour?” Tony replied “It could be shorter. It could be as the narrative is expressed”.

“Sara...The judge began speaking, telling her that she had been wrong not to report the incident as soon as she knew about it. She nodded....“120 hours community service” I looked accusingly at her barrister. He shook his head, as if in disbelief”. John asked “Why do you think her barrister was so filled with disbelief?” to which Tony replied “For all of us we thought “What has Sara got to do with all of this””.

"My barrister's defence completely galled me. He was only doing his job, but I hated the way he made me sound like an innocent victim, being wrongly persecuted". John asked "Why did he portray you as an innocent victim when you had pleaded guilty? What did he say?" Tony replied "He was defending me." John explained that it was a speech in mitigation so it was the lawyer's job to make it sound as good as possible.

"When the sentence finally came, there were several gasps in the courtroom. Fifteen months' imprisonment". John asked "Why do you think the people in the court room gasped?" to which the reply was "Haven't got a clue. If I were the son of the person who died I wanted to die for his sake."

John said "We note you say that "The book *Taming the Tiger* was not written as a historical account but as a memoir. Please explain to us the difference". Tony replied "the difference would be that a historical account is that you provide accurate month by month details simply to share a testimony as authentic to the story as possible, there are many incidents that are difficult to remember that is where I rely on my ghost writer to construct the story to ultimately put down the core facts of my testimony and since developing the timeline I would have hoped my publisher would have done this before the book was written."

John asked "In your email dated 2 April 2013 entitled "Response and rebuttal to false allegations made by Mr. Carl Chambers and his "Research Group" regarding the credibility of your personal testimony" dated 20 March 2013, you write: "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'". What do you mean by true story?" Tony replied "That the events actually happened and took place but I did not publicise enough at the beginning a disclaimer that some names and places were changed for people's protection".

Keith suggested "All the events occurred, only the names were changed?" to which Tony responded "There are narrative and structural issues that have to be changed, innocent natural errors, such as 1989 changed to 1990. All the events took place".

John asked "What information are you now aware of that you were not aware of when you wrote *Taming the Tiger*?" Tony replied that it was about Lowsi and cousins and an arranged marriage.

John asked "You wrote "I must, however, stress my belief that these are inconsequential inaccuracies that in no way undermine the fundamental truth of my story". What is the fundamental truth of your story?" Tony responded "The fact that Jesus Christ is alive and that He came to the world to die for my sins and on 3 May 1991 I came to know Christ".

John asked "You write: "I have, in confidence shown significant documents to senior personnel who are willing to validate the truth of my claims and delicate situation". Please let us have a copy of these significant documents." Tony replied "All the errors will be remedied."

John asked "You wrote: "I refute unequivocally the notion that my personal testimony is false in any way." How do you square this with what you have said regarding what you now know?" Tony replied "Apart from the three, all corrected."

John asked "We 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?" Tony responded "Events have always been factual, the majority of names have been changed."

John asked "The Avanti board have stated: "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." In which editions?" Tony answered "Hebrew".

John asked "The title page of *Taming the Tiger* states "The remarkable **true** story..." Avanti has told us that you were advised by the Publisher at the time to use this wording. What did the publisher advise?" Tony replied "For Angela and I to write the book and come up with a suggested title and that is when Malcolm said he would have a bit of a say as to what the book would say and also the spiel on the back cover. "The remarkable true story" is what the publisher came up with."

John asked "We understand from Avanti that "It is not written in the high literary style that one would expect from say an historical account i.e. a history text book where the reader would expect the detailed facts to be recorded in a strict linear time format." Which parts of the book are not in strict linear time format?" Tony replied "The first one would be referring to the time line, e.g. there are narrative problems on pages 65 and 68 – entering world championship for three years – a whole section which suggests that the events are happening concurrently."

John asked "We understand from Avanti that "The Avanti Board know that Tony and his co-writer Angela Little went to great lengths to ensure that the scenes depicted and dialogue recorded were as true as they could have reasonably been able to make them, at the time of writing". What "great lengths" did the Avanti board go to? What documentation did they give her?" Tony responded "All the material that is shown today they have been privy to, but nothing about China and Kung Fu. Elements I cannot divulge for everybody's security."

The Panel's conclusion

We have noted the Avanti board's assurance that all the content of the story behind *Taming the Tiger* is true except (1) the grandfather not being biological, (2) Tony having maternal male cousins, (3) the year of the rooster should have been the year of the pig and (4) the majority of names have been changed (this last point being a concession at a late date). We note Paul Salter's comment: "There are a million unanswerable questions. There will be on any subject. Who cares?" and Heather Crosskey's comments: "She said that she had read *Taming the Tiger* as a story, not fact, and to her it was not necessary to prove it all. In answer to a question from John referring to the fact that it was

stated to be a “true story” she said that the fact that it is labelled as a “true story” was not a problem for her.”

The Panel is concerned that two million copies of “*Taming the Tiger*” have 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” when the Avanti board now concede that the majority of names and places are fictitious. The members of the Board also claim that the co-writer undertook considerable research, adding “As a board we were satisfied with the process that they went through” whereas Angela Little told the Panel that she had undertaken no research at all. We are not satisfied that the directors of Avanti have told us the truth.

As a Panel we regard *Taming the Tiger* as a story which is largely fictitious with the latter chapters based on historical facts. We regard 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 title page of *Taming the Tiger* states “The remarkable true story of a Kung Fu World Champion”. There are two matters only 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 are dealt with elsewhere. It is the second question that is addressed here - do the ‘ends justify the means’? Is the desired furthering of the gospel nullified by the shortcomings of the messenger?

There is no doubt that Christian writers (and preachers too!) have on occasions been at least casual with the truth. But that is not the matter here. Here everything rests on the unambiguous, bald, unqualified assertion that this story is true. Because of that unequivocal claim of veracity any value to the reading of this book centres on that claim. Not whether names have been changed, or particular conversation has been invented, or colour added – these things are 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. Only that allows it to be a book worthy of the gospel.

The reason for this is 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.

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, imagines 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 alleges that there is no International Kung Fu Federation in Geneva. The onus is thus on Tony to specify exactly who his sponsoring body was. If the IKFF had world championships in the 1980s 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 says 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 alleges that online, Tony claims 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 contradicts 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 Hembury, and Steve Cullen, 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 are 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

Keith asked if they wanted to foster his skills at such an early age. Tony said yes they did, there were those who were both younger and older than him. He confirmed that the IKFF's office was at rue de la Confederation in Geneva.

Keith asked why he had been assigned a pseudonym and an incorrect age. Tony said that it was because he was too young to be engaged in assignments. He was young and small and yet he served as their best asset as a bodyguard. Keith asked at what age he was first assigned. He replied that he passed himself off as 17 or 18, 21 or 22. Keith asked why the people he was protecting never did any security checks. Tony said that the people he was protecting took it on trust.

Keith fast forwarded to Cyprus and asked how did he come to be in Cyprus. Tony said that he was working for Amin (not his real name) and they were travelling all over the Middle East but were based in Cyprus and his mother and father came with him as they wanted to leave England and they would come over to visit and that was how he came to be there. Keith asked in what activities he was engaged in Cyprus. Tony replied that he was guarding Amin and was involved in 'debt collection' and the execution of punishments to people on his behalf.

Keith asked for which crimes Tony had been convicted in Cyprus. He replied burglary, robbery, fraud and violence, breaking and entering, these types of crimes. Keith suggested "and forgery?" to which the reply was "yes, how did you know that?". Keith asked where the crimes were committed to which the reply was breaking into hotels and houses. Keith suggested that two years for that catalogue of crimes seemed light. Tony said that he agreed with that. He said that at one point he scraped his wrist against the handcuffs and his plan worked. He was taken to hospital and managed to escape as a result of which two policemen lost their jobs. Keith added that everything he said seemed to make it worse rather than better. Tony said that it had been the first time that he had gone off the rails. He had spent quite a lot of time in remand in the police station, probably a couple of months. Keith asked why he was released from prison early. Tony said that his time on remand was taken into consideration.

John asked "What Kung Fu world championships did you compete in?" Tony replied "taek shi kwon". John asked "In what countries?" Tony replied "Hong Kong, the only place where competitions are held." John asked "You say you held the world title for three years in your style. How old were you when you first got the world title?" Tony replied "sixteen". John asked "In what city and country did you get your first world title – and the second and the third?" Tony replied "All in Hong Kong." John asked "What evidence do you have of the world title?" to which Tony replied "Only my own testimony and God is my witness". John asked "In what street in Geneva is the International Kung Fu Federation?" Tony replied "Rue de la Confederation".

John asked "You say you worked for some interesting people like the owner of the Empire State building in Manhattan in New York. What was his name?" Tony replied "can't divulge". John suggested "It could only have been one of two people: Peter Malkin or Laurence Wien (Peter Wien's father-in-law), which was it?" the reply being "It wasn't those two".

John asked “You say you entered a world championship competition in the same year that you were working in close protection. What year was that?” Tony said “1987”. John asked “You say that there is no end to Kung Fu schools, organisations and federations around the world. What was the name of the one that you were associated with, which awarded you your titles?” to which Tony responded “IKFF – unrelated to the IKF. I cannot divulge”.

John asked “When did you last have a death threat?” the answer being “At the end of my prison sentence in Cyprus in 1992”.

John asked “Please let us have the authentic name of the sheikh with whom you did close protection”. Tony replied “I shall keep it private”.

John asked “You relate how you trained as a bodyguard and then worked for a number of clients before being hired by, ‘Amin’. Who was Amin? Where was he based? What was his position?” Tony replied “Diplomat in UK and in Italy and in Cyprus, highly illegal.”

John asked “Publicity for your testimony states that in your early twenties you 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?” Tony replied “Oddly that’s sort of funny wording, no I can’t say.”

John asked “In *Taming the Tiger* you claim that you were tutored in the basics of the world’s major languages. Which languages are referred to? Which languages are you now able to speak?” Tony replied “French, German, Greek, Italian.” John then asked questions of Tony in German and French but he could not understand.

John said “You have said that you 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.” Tony replied “That is a different person”. John asked “That is Amin and he wasn’t an ambassador?” Tony replied “I refer to him as a diplomat” Tony confirmed that he came from Saudi Arabia as in the book.

John asked “You state that your remarkable escape from Riyadh revolves around your working for an American businessman who had to go to Saudi Arabia to resolve a dispute over a hostile takeover. What was the name of the businessman, the name of his company and the name of the company which was the subject of the hostile takeover? Was it Amin?” Tony replied “no, I can’t give the name.” He confirmed that Amin was Caucasian. He could not say the name of the company.

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

The Panel put various questions to the Board shown in red below. The Board’s responses are shown in green. Statements are shown in black. The Panel’s comments are shown in blue.

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. (F3)

AVANTI RESPONSE: These details are in the book.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted. However, we have been shown no evidence of the location or details of the World Kung Fu Federation in Geneva, Switzerland.

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. I appreciate that you state that Tony did not enter full details but please let me have such information as is available regarding the competitions which I note are from the Gong So lineage from the Manchu Dynasty. (C3)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We do not have that information.

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence supplied.

3. *"I continued training, developed my own technique, entered competitions and the world championships. I held the world title for three years in my style. And I was already working as an instructor actually"* **COMMENT:** As previously requested we look forward to receiving evidence of the award of the world title. The statement that Tony was an instructor prior to becoming a bodyguard at the time when he won the world championships appears to contract the statement on the Avanti website in February.(A5)

AVANTI RESPONSE: An answer to this question has already been supplied. However it is worth mentioning that the competitions and tournaments that Tony entered are generally not the sort to receive photo framed certificates and belts.

COMMENT: That is incorrect. An answer to this question has not already been supplied. Please supply it. Irrespective of whether the sort of competitions and tournaments that Tony entered are generally not the sort to receive photo framed certificates and belts, we would remind you that these were world championships and so there must have been some evidence of recognition from the federation in Geneva.

AVANTI RESPONSE: Unfortunately there is not the sort of evidence that we believe you are seeking, namely certificates and pictures. These were illegal and underground competitions. The only evidence we have is Tony's testimony.

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence supplied.

4. Please let us have proof regarding Tony's martial arts career. I note you say that much of what Tony was involved in was of an underground and illegal nature, the details of which could potentially put many people in danger. Our Agreement with you has been specifically drafted to be of a confidential nature so that you can divulge confidential information to the three panellists and

to the Membership Committee of the Evangelical Alliance without a problem. If some of these underground events actually led to Tony's later incarceration in Nicosia Central Prison they will be a matter of public record. **Please let us have this information.** (B4)

AVANTI RESPONSE: [There has been no response from Avanti]

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have noted that there has been no response from Avanti.

I note that Tony entered a world championship competition in the same year that he was working in close protection. **What year was that?** (G11).

AVANTI RESPONSE: end of 1986 into early 1987

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

5. *"The time line will make it clear for example that 1987 was the year that Tony entered a world championship competition and he was also working in close protection.":* **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. We would expect photographs of the world championship competition in which Tony participated even though they may have been secretive and illegal. (Reminder: this Inquiry is confidential as is your response just submitted). (J26)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We are unable to provide this information, it is simply not available. Photographs and the like would be great but people were not able to photograph illegal competitions much less scatter this information.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have noted that no evidence has been supplied.

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.

AVANTI RESPONSE: It is simply not available.

PANEL'S COMMENT: new have noted that no evidence has been supplied.

7. *"My grandfather had an arrangement with the International Kung Fu Federation in Switzerland".* **COMMENT:** As previously requested, **please send us contact details of this organisation.** (A4)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony has declined to provide this information as he wants it to remain private

and confidential.

PANEL'S COMMENT: new have noted that no evidence has been supplied.

COMMENT: That is completely unacceptable in the context of a **confidential** inquiry set up by the Avanti Board and the Evangelical Alliance to inquire into the truth. Let us have that information.

AVANTI RESPONSE: The IKFF would probably like to remain as shadowy as possible. On being a Kung Fu champion: the IKFF is not the kind of organisation that advertises itself on Facebook and with Google Ads. Secrets are very rarely uncovered using an internet search, particularly when you are trying to unearth what are more or less secret societies and highly illegal, closed door fighting competitions. Most of the competitions were "underground" to the non-Kung Fu elites. The IKFF would probably like to remain as shadowy as possible. We are not able to provide this information, we are not withholding it we simply don't have it.

PANEL'S COMMENT: We have noted that no evidence has been supplied. It seems strange that a federation that wanted to be as shadowy as possible should choose to have its headquarters in a location as prestigious and prominent as la rue de la Confederation in Geneva.

8. On page 50 there is a reference to the International Kung Fu Federation in Geneva. **Please let us have the address of the Federation.** (G30)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This has been answered above. The name IKFF is not the actual organisation that Tony worked for, this was changed in the book to protect identity.

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence has been supplied.

9. **QUESTION:** **What is the name of the organisation?** (Reminder: this Inquiry is confidential as is your response just submitted). (J17)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We are not able to supply this information.

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence has been supplied.

10. *"In "Taming the Tiger" it is stated that the organisation that Tony worked with was called the International Kung Fu Federation" (IKFF). This name has been changed to protect the identity of those involved."* **QUESTION:** **What is the real name of the organisation? Is this organisation the one in Geneva?** (Reminder: this Inquiry is confidential as is your response just submitted). (J16)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Unfortunately Tony is not able to answer this question due to reasons already given. There is a real and perceived threat to his family and he would prefer to keep this information confidential.

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence supplied.

11. **QUESTION:** Leaving aside the “perceived” threat, what is the “real” threat to his family at the present time - from whom and why?

AVANTI RESPONSE: This can be explained on the 10th June.

PANEL’S COMMENT: On 10th June 2013 Tony told the Panel that the last threat he had received was 21 years ago.

12. *The organisation for which Tony worked was/is illegal and secret.”*

QUESTION: What is the name of the organisation? (Reminder: this Inquiry is confidential as is your response just submitted). (J17)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Unable to answer this question for reasons already explained.

PANEL’S COMMENT: No evidence supplied.

REQUEST: We need to know the name. Reminder: this Inquiry is confidential as is your response just submitted.

AVANTI RESPONSE: [The Panel has received no response from the Avanti board]

PANEL’S COMMENT: We have noted that that we have received no response from the Avanti board.

13. *“Many of these organisations are secretive and illegal and they often hold fights which others refer to as “underground” competitions. The “closed door” fighting competitions that Tony entered were of this nature and, as a consequence, no details of their activities were/are generally made known. The secrets of these organisations are very rarely uncovered using internet searches and understandably these organisations like to remain as shadowy as possible”.* **REQUEST:** Our researches suggest that Kung Fu is an integral element of 20th-century Chinese popular culture. Nowhere can we find a reference that “many of these organisations are secretive and illegal”. **Please direct us to material which backs up your assertion.** (J18)

AVANTI RESPONSE: I would recommend the group to extend their research on the vast history of Kung Fu, and the Kung fu that Tony was involved with was very different from what is deemed as “popular”. This is explained in great deal in *Taming the Tiger*. Authentic Kung Fu can be traced back before the birth of Christ, and has a great many variations to it. It is hard to produce material to back up the assertion that many of these organisations are secretive and illegal – however, it may be worth looking closer into Triad organisations.

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.

AVANTI RESPONSE: Sorry for confusion. I was referring to question 16 on the Avanti Response 22 04 13 to QUESTIONS RE *Taming the Tiger* document. I cut and paste the question below for ease, it might not go all the way to answering all but I had thought you might want some background information, if this is not useful do say and we can try again.

15. REQUEST: The answer is not really useful. We need answers to these specific questions: In which city/town/village/location were/are the Triad gangs? (Question G1)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Shanghai / Guangzhou / Hong Kong / many other places across China and South East Asia.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

16. What names do they go by today? (Question G3)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Unable to answer this, as we do not know.

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence supplied.

17. Please let us have proof regarding Tony's martial arts career. (Question B4).

AVANTI RESPONSE: [no response]

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence supplied.

18. The full name of the Martial Arts organizations that Tony worked for. (Question J28)
REMINDER, all these questions were asked above. Please let us have the answers. We have answered these at the top section of this document.

AVANTI RESPONSE: [no response]

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence supplied.

19. I note you state that there is no end to Kung Fu schools, organisations and federations around the world. Please let us know the name and address of the one that Tony was associated with which awarded him his titles. (C4)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We are not able to supply that information. The name of the IKFF in the book has been changed to protect identity.

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence supplied.

20. "Actually you touch on a relevant point about age. I'm in my forties now but actually it's very common in China to become a master from the age of 14 or 13." COMMENT: Please provide us with

evidence that this is the case. We assume that the International Kung Fu Federation in Switzerland can confirm it. (A6)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Not sure we fully understand this question? Short of making some communication with people in China or elsewhere to establish who are masters and how old they are, does this really aid in the inquiry?

COMMENT: As you do not understand the question we shall try and simplify it. 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. It is for the Panel to decide whether this aids the inquiry or not.

AVANTI RESPONSE: (see response under Tab 11)

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted. See response under Tab 11.

21. On page 65 Tony refers to the IKFF world championships in the 1980s 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. (G31)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We are unable to answer this, and these items are not available. We are not trying to be difficult here; this information is simply not there.

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence has been supplied.

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. (G32)

AVANTI RESPONSE: See *Taming the Tiger* manuscript for a full description. In addition you might find some helpful background information here - <http://www.shaolin.com.au/animal-tiger.html>

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted but that is not what we wanted. We are looking for someone who can authenticate Tony's claims.

23. Quote: "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." As the present inquiry is entirely confidential please let us have details of the people Tony Anthony worked with in the close protection industry, the places and dates. (H3)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We have answered this question above and also on the timeline chart, the places and dates are in the book but the names have been changed. Tony is not able to supply those names.

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence has been supplied.

FURTHER AVANTI RESPONSE: Low level assignment with Diane in Switzerland (less than 1 month)
Close Protection assignment with William Black in the US (a little over 2 weeks)
Close Protection assignment with Amin in Europe (various places)
The details and names of organisations and people have been changed in the book.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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?** (Reminder: this inquiry is confidential). (G20)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony is not able to disclose this information.

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence supplied.

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?** (G19)

AVANTI RESPONSE: Tony is not able to disclose this information. This information has already been provided, however part of the information that will not be disclosed here is to remain Private & Confidential and will therefore not be disclosed to the panel.

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence supplied. This information has not already been provided.

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** (confidentially). (G33)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This query has been raised before regarding the Saudi experience and "Hostile Takeover". It has been suggested that the premise for this trip to Riyadh was "clearly false", since "Hostile takeovers began to take place in the 1970s and 1980s, yet were still rare in London and New York. The Saudi stock market was not even in existence in the early 1980s (link given). The Saudi stock market only opened to foreigners in 2011 (link given)". It does not actually say anywhere in *Taming the Tiger* that the companies in question were actually in Saudi Arabia, only that my client's business partners had their headquarters in Riyadh. The target company could have very well been

in Singapore, the US, Spain, anywhere that the Fahali brothers would have had their extensive investments. So this query comes about largely from assumptions. Just because someone may travel to their business associates' country of origin to discuss disputes with them, does not mean that the dispute relates to a something that happened at the place where they chose to meet. We all know how the rich Arabs have their fingers in many international pies - e.g. the Fayed brothers bought over Harrods in 1985 (and sold it to the Qataris a couple years back). This topic highlights the lack of knowledge of US corporation history - the 1980s were the height of hostile takeovers, not "still rare". The 1980s were when corporate raiders abounded.

PANEL'S COMMENT: This evades the question asked.

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.** (G26)

AVANTI RESPONSE: The name and details of this person were changed in the book.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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.** (A7)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This information is private and confidential.

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence supplied.

COMMENT: That is completely unacceptable in the context of a **confidential** inquiry set up by the Avanti Board and the Evangelical Alliance to inquire into the truth. Let us have that information. We would point out that the ownership of the Empire State Building on a particular date will be a matter of public record. All we need is the date when that particular person was owner and we shall check the public records in New York.

29. **QUESTION AND COMMENT MADE BY JOHN LANGLOIS TO GEORGE OSBORN ON 14 MAY 2013:** **Please let us know the name of the person referred to with third party confirmation.** (A7) 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)?**

AVANTI RESPONSE: There are a great many owners / share holders of the Empire State Building in New York. Tony is not able to disclose the identity of the particular owner / share holder that he worked with. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire_State_Building)

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence supplied.

30. Please let us have the authentic name of the sheikh referred to in your letter.(C5)

AVANTI RESPONSE: This information has already been provided, however part of the information that will not be disclosed here is to remain Private & Confidential.

PANEL'S COMMENT: No evidence supplied.

31. (Request unrelated to Kung Fu) Please let us have details of the rigorous mentoring programme that enables you to validate the testimonies of your 178 evangelists. (THIS HAS NOW BEEN PROVIDED) (B5)

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

"Paul Salter said that they struggled with the fact that if it were proven that certain things did not happen they would have to accept it as fact. Robert asked what would tip the scale, that one thing too much. George Osborn replied "that he never went to China and that his training in **kung fu** was not true". Paul Salter said "That he was somewhere else" and David West said "a primary school and attendance register and could prove it sufficiently". If he had gone to a school and signed in then that would start to make them think but they were not going to start looking.

"David Duell said that they had drawn on accreditation of evangelists in the past and so it was a difficult decision. David West said that conversely if they could prove to the panel that there were certain dates in Tony's secondary education. Paul Salter said it would have to be contrary factual evidence, not conjecture. It would have to be an assertion that he could not possibly have done something. He said that he had thought of it as to how he had thought of **Kung Fu** if he saw it on television. If we all wanted to believe that the information that had been presented by Hollywood was true and if it did not tie into a legal world within 20 miles of this building that are illegal things taking place."

The Panel's conclusion

Neither the Avanti board nor Tony has provided any evidence at all that Tony has ever been involved in Kung Fu or close security, whether in the UK or abroad, to corroborate Tony's word. The nearest has been Tony's employment in Reliance Security, Chubb Security and Armour Security, for whom he worked in a marketing capacity.

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SCHEDULE 6

PLAGIARISM BY TONY ANTHONY

The Research Group's allegations

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

1. Plagiarism in *Passion*

The Research Group has been made aware of a claim that Tony's book *Passion* has 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 states: "*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 2 of the Research Group's Final Submission shows a comparison by the original author Julian Batchelor with *Passion*.

2. A recent example from the visit to Guatemala

The Research Group cites 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 Final submission under Tab 10. Deleted text is struck through; italicised text has been added.

The Research Group claims that it ascan be seen, it is no exaggeration to talk in terms of wholesale plagiarism. The only changes are the introductory phrase, the Anglicisation of a 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 understands that the Research Group did not carried out extensive research on the text of *Taming the Tiger* yet they claim 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 Final Submission. The text shown on the left has 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 suggests that other Kung Fu descriptions

in *Taming the Tiger* said to be taught by Low Si to Tony as part of the ancestral heritage were in existence on the same 'Shaolin' website by 2003. The Research Group state that research into further plagiarism in *Taming the Tiger* is ongoing.

4. Implications

The Research Group alleges that the extent of the plagiarism uncovered, particularly in *Passion* as shown in Appendix 2 of their Final submission, raises 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 are that the majority of the material published apart from *Taming the Tiger* and its counterpart for children has 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 Board's responses are shown in **green**. Statements are shown in black. The Panel's comments are shown in **blue**.

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:** "We have received allegations of plagiarism against Tony Anthony. I attach three attachments. I would be grateful if you would let me have your comments." (L1)

AVANTI RESPONSE:

1. *Passion*: We are awaiting some internal investigation into this and will provide a fuller response in due course.

2. ODB: This article was based on the ODB words, Tony had spoken to the head of ODB in Singapore and he was happy for him to use ODB material in the ministry. Unfortunately we do not have this in writing so the article has been removed.

3. The accusation that there have been parts of *Taming the Tiger* which have been plagiarised is we believe stretched. Angela Little, the co-author, will have done some research prior to writing the book and we are sure articles will have been read, books read, conversations had and this will have formed ideas and pictures that the authors may have used in the book. For example when preparing a sermon, one might read various commentaries and this thinking may shape and mould the sermon that is delivered on a Sunday. We agree where direct quotes or literature has been used it should be referenced and agreed. We know that for example Tony and Angela while writing "Passion" have endeavoured to do this across the quotes used in the book. Many of the references you have made here are common details in Kung Fu, what we mean by this is where one might describe boiling an egg in a cook book you might Google this paragraph and find it is in most cook books about boiling eggs. There will be some natural overlap.

AVANTI RESPONSE regarding question 1 above: [There has been no response]

PANEL'S COMMENT: Angela Little told us that she had not done any research into *Taming the Tiger*. We note the comment regarding Passion that in May Avanti were awaiting some internal investigation into this and would provide a fuller response to the Panel in due course. There has been no response from Avanti.

2. **QUESTION TO AVANTI ON 29 MAY 2013:** "At our meeting you said that Avanti had received permission from the owners of the copyrighted materials to use the materials. 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]

3. **QUESTION TO AVANTI ON 2 JUNE 2013:** "I am putting in some work on the alleged plagiarism. What is the latest communication you have had from Train to Proclaim and what does it say?

AVANTI RESPONSE: I refer to your email of 29 May and 2 June. This issue goes back some 10 years ago, and I was not involved in the matter at the time, but this is my current understanding of the position in case it helps.

All intellectual property produced by Julian Batchelor (JB) during his time with Proclaim the Gospel International Limited (PTGI) was owned by PTGI. When JB was dismissed from PTGI the intellectual property (IP) stayed with PTGI. At that time, the then Chairman of Avanti had numerous calls with the Chairman of PTGI and an agreement was struck where we would allow PTGI to use some of our ideas and in turn we could continue to use some PTGI material, or at least PTGI based* material. The agreement struck was not entirely satisfactory from the Avanti point of view as it resulted in us having to destroy a couple of boxes of tracts that we had produced, but in the interests of Christian unity we agreed. As far as I am aware no IP agreement was ever requested or signed it was just a mutual agreement between the 2 Chairmen. I also understand that shortly after the agreement was struck PTGI then sadly, because of JB situation, had to close down.

More recently we have had an approach from Train to Proclaim Ltd, (TTP) to say that they have purchased the IP from the now defunct PTGI. We don't have any objection at all (at our next reprint) to switching the PTGI logo to the TTP logo.

Again no IP agreement has been requested by TTP we are happy to just have their consent. In this respect the attached detailed letter from Train to Proclaim evidences that for a period (albeit now expired) we had their written permission. You will notice that at the time of the attached letter we did not have full agreement on all matters. We are currently bogged down with admin. work at present, but as soon as this investigation is over we will be able to continue our negotiations with TTP and are hopeful of reaching a resolution on all matters contained in the letter.

The Avanti view is that in proclaiming the Gospel others are free to use our presentations, work, tracts as long as they acknowledge where the work came from. We aim to ensure that if we use other peoples work we do the same. Most of our documentation and presentations are entirely our own. A very small percentage of our work carries logo's and copyright symbols of other organisations, and in some cases when we reprint we have been asked to ensure that the current logos and acknowledgements are shown. We are happy to do this where we have used other people's work.

Our only concern in this matter is that the Avanti Directors object to displaying a copyright symbol if the work is not other peoples as these individuals may at some future date withdraw their consent and that would harm the spreading of the Gospel. That is our primary concern, the spreading of the Gospel.

You mentioned in your email of 2 June "a 700 page" book. We presume that this must be the book that Julian tried to publish but we understand contained plagiarism and incorrect quotes as follows:

1. Quoting that Avanti UK was one of Julian's offices in the world.
2. Quoting George Verwer on issues that he disagreed with theologically and personally - such as the claim that Billy Graham never in fact preached the Gospel, etc.
3. Quoting Ray Comfort as a reference when in actual fact we understand that he has never given any reference to Julian whatsoever.

Unfortunately that is all I know about the book at the present time, but I am sure George Verwer can provide more information if required.

I trust the above is of assistance to you.

PANEL'S COMMENT: Noted.

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

"The subject moved on to the alleged plagiarism. David Duell said that Julian Batchelor was an evangelist introduced by George Verwer. Tony and JB had worked together and they produced some joint documents and Julian introduced some of the tracks that he was using and then there was a problem. Julian had fallen on a moral issue so the Avanti board had reviewed the situation and said that he could not continue as an Avanti evangelist. That was what they decided to do and then the chairman of "Proclaim the Gospel International" said that PTG held the copyright in a number of the documents published by Avanti. There was an ongoing discussion with PTG and an amicable agreement was going to be made. Then a situation blew up and JB was dismissed and the whole organisation closed down and they suddenly heard that a new company had got the intellectual property rights and they said they could then change the copyright from "X" to "Y" and Avanti were trying to see if they could do that.

“David West said that there were no rumblings about claims of plagiarism. There had been an individual line by line lifting of this and this.

“John asked “Tell me about the book *Passion*?” David West said that there was no agreement between Julian Batchelor and Avanti. Julian had been using some of Avanti material and vice versa. There had been a campaign against Tony evangelising in New Zealand. Someone had notified immigration at the airport to stop the authorities letting Tony in.”

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

“Keith moved on to the allegations of plagiarism. A lot of the complaints had come from Julian Batchelor. He asked Tony how he came to know him. Tony said that it had been George Verwer, who had been an inspiration to him through the years, and who had put Julian in contact with him and he found Julian to be an inspirational evangelist to work with and they funded his whole trip to come to the UK. They had started producing PowerPoint presentations together. They would get teams together and it was working very well. Julian had brought Tony over to New Zealand for a countrywide campaign but before he got to New Zealand Julian did not have the same profile as Tony and he always came across as asserting himself too much, and he had a problem with women.

“Another issue was that of charging for materials. He would charge for DVDs and tracts. Tony thought they should not sell things for money. They had issues in these areas and he felt that he always had to assert himself and particularly on stage and it was all the more if they were doing an event together. They were developing a teaching programme together. They got a manual together and they had each developed different sections but Julian wanted their separate logos on different pages. There were stumbling blocks about money. In New Zealand they had a seven week mission and included training events for evangelism. Tony was the link speaker and Julian struggled with that. Tony got a phone call from Julian one night “Can you come to my wedding tomorrow”, something he knew nothing about.

“Also during that trip they went to Queenstown. As Tony’s church background was brethren he was stricter than others. One evening there were three women and three men who were going out for a meal together. Julian and one woman decided to stay at the apartment while all the others went out. They took offence to that. Tony went out anyway and Tony found out that they were having an affair. The woman was called Michelle. Julian’s brother was blackmailing him to marry her and they could not speak to Julian about any of this. Tony was trying to be supportive and there are people in New Zealand who would verify this. Julian was asked to withdraw from ministry completely. There were attacks that came out against Tony in the years that followed. Julian’s former directors were debating copyrights. The debate was about a black book which they now no longer used. Everything he uses was what he had developed himself.

“In *Passion* pages 323 to 328 they were quoting all 21 chapters worth of where they got the material from. In Chapter 21, 5th column, they quote James Kennedy and they gave all the needed acknowledgements, so they have done that thoroughly. They suspect the timing of the present allegation by the Research Group, as the whole thing was started by Julian Batchelor. George Verwer

was concerned because Julian's book was full of teaching material and there are teaching points in the book that were not true according to allegations made by the Research Group. They are comfortable with what they have written.

"Tony said that the board of Avanti had agreed to put something on their website to thank *Train to Proclaim* for that part of the material that they had developed. Avanti just wanted to give due acknowledgement. Tony said that everything in *Passion* he had written himself. Everything that was not acknowledged he had written myself. It was a messy, ugly situation."

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"

TA 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 *Training to Proclaim* (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

This issue does not seem to have been addressed in a timely fashion by the Avanti board despite reminders from *Training to Proclaim* for three years. It is clearly essential that this is progressed as soon as possible. At the meeting on 21st May 2013 David West said that there had been no rumblings about claims of plagiarism but there had been an individual line by line lifting of this and this. That appears to us to be inconsistent with what Tony told us on 10th June 2013 and what has been communicated by *Train to Proclaim* and Stephen Currell. At the meeting on 10th June Tony told us that everything in *Passion* he had written himself and that everything that was not acknowledged he had written himself. He acknowledged that it was a messy, ugly situation. Be that as it may, it appears to be strange that there are two almost identical books by different authors. There are clearly major issues to be addressed.

ADDENDUM

As we were finalising our report today, 24th June 2013, we have just received this morning from the Revd. Leslie Steele an email which states 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 appears to be a continuing one so there are clearly are issues which have to be addressed with other publishers.

SCHEDULE 7

TONY ANTHONY'S HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

The Research Group's allegations

The Research Group allege that Tony is a liar as evidenced by his admission on 16 April 2013 that he had told lies all his life, 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*" (five 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

The Avanti board maintain that all Tony has written and said is true, but the names of some people, locations and organisations in *Taming the Tiger* have been changed.

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 Hembury 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 Hembery, 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 Hembery 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: 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? (M4)

AVANTI RESPONSE: We are not in agreement that Tony used delaying tactics. The work that Tony did with the youth at LRBC was minimal, and he was never asked to complete a CRB form. What delaying tactics are being spoken about here? We feel that Tony has been very open with everyone about his convictions from the outset including detailing it in a book.

PANEL'S COMMENT: The response from the Avanti board directly contradicts what Steve Currell recalls.

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

Robert asked George Osborn "You have been in contact with our friend the most on journeys, just examine of your heart and mind, has the mask slipped at all?" George replied "I have grown in my respect and admiration for Tony as serving Jesus Christ; if anyone has resembled Paul as a character it is Tony. I have seen him first thing in the morning and last think at night and he has been second to none. As I have gone round with him it has corroborated his story.

David Duell said “I certainly believe that his recollections in the book are as accurate as they could possibly be. I have seen the lifestyle of the evangelist and he is one of those people who is painfully honest and God is using him in a powerful way and as far as his testimony is concerned he has never changed it in any way”. John asked for one example. David Duell replied “I believe that it is not that simple about telling the truth straight away – it is not quite that simple. Some say that he heard it on the radio and others on the newspapers. He is suffering great hardship in spreading the gospel in Nigeria at the present time. Everything about him makes me believe that his recollections are true. Other people who no longer carry the Avanti mandate are different. David West said “When you are brought up by someone who doesn’t trust anyone, my grandfather trusted no one, and he has opened up to me. Tony told me I am going to preach the gospel.”

It was suggested that it was interesting about his mother to which Paul Salter replied “There are a million unanswerable questions. There will be on any subject. Who cares?”

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. Mike 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)

John asked what the Anglican chaplain spoke about in the services. Tony said that he was very weak and had a high church approach, very liturgical. The gospel was not preached. He went regularly to the church services on Sundays. It was very difficult indeed because as a prisoner one did not have a voice and he was not able to contribute.

John asked "It appears that at the time that you were a youth worker at Didcot Baptist Church the church only found out about the accident when you were 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 that you were in prison. It appears that the young people had talked to you about the accident at the time and expressed their upset about what had happened but you never said anything to anyone at the church. Apparently the fallout that your imprisonment caused at the church was significant. As a member and youth worker at Didcot Baptist Church why did you not tell the minister of your involvement in the accident?" Tony replied "I was never a youth worker at Didcot. I did share this

with the pastor, Keith. This was probably about Norreys. Norreys did not have a pastor, they were a Brethren assembly. There were some people who were fully aware of it and others shunning us.”

The Research Group’s conclusions

The Research Group’s conclusions are that Tony’s pre-conversion testimony relies on three key pillars, which he rigorously protects by adapting or changing details, which have proved to be wholly untrue or grossly distorted. Tony can hold to these three pillars confidently because he knows that they cannot be disproved without documentation, which either does not exist or is impossible to acquire. However their weakness is that they are mutually interdependent. If any one of them is proven untrue, his testimony collapses as a whole. These interdependent pillars are 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 we have 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 does exist has revealed a catalogue of distortions of truth, the evidence is that Tony’s word alone is not to be trusted.

Although no documentation exists to disprove these pillars facts abound:

1. Tony claims 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 Su had a son, and Tony had older male cousins.
2. In addition to this untruth, it has also been proven that Tony’s Chinese grandfather died in England 7 years before Tony was born; so he now claims 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 claims 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 is completely untenable. It is hardly plausible that Janet’s mother could even

communicate with Chinese relatives. In summary, the powerful Chinese influence that Tony describes 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, is untenable in the least.
5. In video interviews, Tony claims 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 is 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. In prison in Nicosia we are told 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". We believe 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 concerns us 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, Philip Derbyshire, Keith Nicholls, 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 (who is not a member of the Research Group) 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.

We therefore have 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.

SCHEDULE 8

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN AVANTI MINISTRIES

The Panel has heard oral evidence and received written regarding the level of corporate governance in Avanti Ministries Limited.

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

Keith said it would help his understanding if he could understand the relationship now between Tony and Avanti. David Duell said that Tony is an evangelist, the founder of Avanti, and in accordance with management succession they had people in charge so that Avanti can continue into the future. He said that Tony was not on the board but was invited to meetings and sometimes he was described as a director on the Avanti web site.

Keith asked when he ceased to be a director. David Duell said it was about September last year. It was established that he resigned according to the records at Companies House on 20th November 2012.

Keith said that Tony was not recorded in the Avanti annual report as a director since 2007 nor on the Companies House annual return for that period. David Duell said that they had had volunteers working for them and it took time for them to catch up. Keith said that he was absent from the list of directors when he should have been on the list. David Duell said that this was attributable to human error.

Keith asked why Tony resigned. David Duell said it was by mutual agreement. They had been deciding on succession for some while and he already had enough on his plate in the evangelism side of things. Paul Salter said that Tony wanted to cease "being Avanti", he wanted to be part of Avanti not Avanti itself, like Richard Branson in Virgin. So they had tried to find a structure that would be more accurate. Tony was founding director and senior evangelist. David West said that because of the way in which this whole investigation was proceeding they wanted to ensure that Avanti and Tony were separate. Paul Salter said it was mainly a tidying up exercise.

Keith asked who was the management of Avanti. He asked whether they acted as executive directors. Paul Salter said they had staff in the office and they had volunteers. He had recently negotiated a new broadband contract. They were all multitasking. George said that he was a full time volunteer and had more contact with the office staff. David Duell said that they all had had to lick stamps.

Keith referred to the letter dated 12 February 2013 signed the Avanti board of trustees and management committee. He asked who were on the management committee. Paul Salter said that at that time they felt that as a group they did not have enough free time so they looked to other people to take on responsibilities, namely Terry Taylor and David Maskell. Paul Salter said the management team consisted of three of them – David Duell or Paul Salter and the other two. It was a matter of finding a vaguely corporate structure. They liked to have a management group that reported to the board.

Keith said "You don't have any employees?" Paul Salter said "correct, we spend money either operationally or to support the evangelistic work or resources, plus travel, usually we pay for volunteers to travel, malaria tablets and visas". Keith asked whether Avanti paid for Tony's travel. Paul Salter said they did.

Keith asked whether Avanti carried out CRB checks seeing that they were working with vulnerable adults. David Duell said that CRB checks were carried out on those who were doing children's work. In the past those who had been involved as street pastors had checks in the same way but not vulnerable adults unless the organisation involved wanted one. Paul Salter said CRB checks got pushed to one side as they did not have the manpower. David Duell said that the Baptist Union had a useful course on "safe to grow" which Avanti people used.

Keith asked "Do you have a CRB check on Tony Anthony?" to which Paul Salter replied "We have seen his criminal record". Keith said "CRB checks can show up other things". David Duell said "We do not have a current one".

Keith asked "What can you tell us about Taming the Tiger Productions?" David Duell replied "This is a separate shell company. It is not a charitable company, it is just a shell. Its purpose is that if the book is ever made into a film that is the vehicle that it would go through. The publication of a film is risky and we would not want it to bring down Avanti."

David West said that there had been a screen play and it was all going towards that when the allegations were made and everything had to stop. Keith asked if there was a director of the company called Adonis Anthony". David Duell replied that he had registered the name and that was the name on his passport. Keith suggested that this was not his name for his registration on the company records. David Duell agreed and said he subsequently came off and ceased to be a director. That was a mismatch between his name on Avanti and on the other company's records.

David West said that there had been discussions about rights with two lots of film makers and when they were about to make a \$20m film they had to deal with the allegations. Paul Salter said that it was very much seen as a commercial organisation. David Duell said that a few directors had come to them with commercial objectives but Avanti were concentrating on preaching the gospel. He said that Tony only wanted the profits to go into evangelism but the producers wanted to keep the profits.

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

Keith asked Heather to tell of her experience on the Avanti board. She replied that the board held meetings approximately monthly, particularly since all this has come up. Previously they met every three or four months. Now they meet on a Monday or Tuesday evening. It had changed as there are new members on the board. Paul Salter had changed things a lot since he joined the board. The financial side of things was now in order. Financially the whole situation had improved. They had gone through a difficult situation recently. A weekend had been planned in Scotland by Tina and unfortunately a lot of unauthorised money (£27,000) had been committed and they had to ask her to leave. A lot of time had been spent on that. At the meetings Tony gives updates as to what is

happening with regard to his books. She was concerned that many translations of books were coming out without board scrutiny.

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

Keith said that looking at the Avanti reports and accounts for the past three years Tony was not listed as a director in the report and accounts. Keith said that he could understand that Tony would not necessarily see the Companies House annual return but he would find it hard to believe that Tony did not read the accounts and notice that his name was not listed on the inside front cover of the 2011 report. Tony said that he did not look for his name but just signed on the dotted line. He looked for the key elements and would query them.

The Panel's conclusions

All charities registered with the Charity Commissioners in England and Wales have to adhere to principles of good corporate governance advocated by the Commission. The panel has formed the conclusion that the level of corporate governance at Avanti Ministries Limited falls short of what is required.

We have noted David Duell's statement that he is not chairman of Avanti Ministries Limited but is the Company Secretary. It is not clear to us who serves as chairman.

It is also unclear as to what Tony's role is within Avanti. Apparently he is perceived by the general public as "being" Avanti yet he is not on the board and is not an employee, indeed he appears to have no formal role within the organisation at all, although he is referred to, incorrectly, on the website as being a director. This needs to be clarified to the outside world.

It is not clear to us as to the real reason why Tony resigned from the board. David Duell said it was by mutual agreement for the purposes of developing a succession plan and finding a structure that would be more accurate moving forward. Paul Salter said it was mainly a tidying up exercise. Doubts remain in our mind as to the real reason for the resignation. The succession plan was not readily understood by us.

We asked the members of the board who attended before us about the management structure of Avanti. We were told that the whole board active in executive capacities in addition to other executive staff, such as Terry Taylor and David Maskell.

We understand from Heather Crosskey that the Avanti board meets approximately once a month, particularly since the current issues came up, and previously they met every three or four months.