

## **MEET BISHOP PAUL ANDREWS:**

I was born in Christchurch one hour before HRH Prince Charles. The main differences between Charles & myself are that he has considerably more property, money, prestige & titles than myself. I did forget to mention that of course he has Camila, Duchess of Cornwall, and before I forget, he clearly has two solid legs. Needless to say, my emphasis on two legs indicated that I am deficient leg wise according to some. To me, I am an above knee amputee and in no way disabled. Although I am the last remaining member of my family, I am pleased to mention that I have a foster son whom I consider to be a dear and beloved SON to me. I am a 73-year-old priest of an international missionary Assembly ministering in some 104 countries. I spent 22 years in the Democratic Congo rainforest, as well as the Amazon rainforest setting up Mission Fields to aid the indigenous peoples in these and other countries. I was stationed in the Netherlands for 2 years and set in motion an International Linguistics College to cater for well-seasoned priests before they entered volatile and/or life-threatening countries in the capacity of forming "underground churches". I was ordained into the priesthood in 1974 and rose through the ranks to that of Archbishop and Apostolic Head of the Assembly. A challenge that I thought would never be challenged as character forming, no, perhaps life changing in ways that I would never have been capable of imagining.

In January 1986 I was visiting friends at Spencer Park in Ch-Ch and when coming out of their caravan, the stool collapsed & I damaged my leg which at that time was put down as a knee strain. Such was the pain, at the age of about 37 years, I underwent the first of the initial 2 total knee replacements which were followed in 1989 by an arthrodesis (fused) right leg. I should mention here, that it was 22 years before I was informed that the very first TKR was actually a faulty joint, this in no way humored me. This was followed by a number of surgical interventions as a result of infections including osteomyelitis (serious bone infection). I was in a knee brace on one occasion for about 18 months. Around about 30 years later because of chronic every day pain, an orthopaedic surgeon decided to take down the arthrodesis and total knee replacement number 3 was undertaken. I should mention here, that my "good" leg had also had 2 total knee replacement without any problems. Unfortunately, I experienced another fall, this time fracturing the newly operated on leg putting in jeopardy the fresh TKR implant resulting in very little movement in my complicated leg. The on-going chronic daily pain resulted in a surgeon suggesting that an amputation was necessary and then he smartly retired. However, another surgeon in 2019 also suggested an amputation was needed and about 2 weeks later I became a member of the Amputee Society. Emotionally I hit rock bottom and to quote a psychologist, "you are in burn out". I could find nothing to smile at, everything was a burden to carry. Good and close friends as well as the Amputee Society, the Limb Centre and others carried me through those dark waters. I may not be able to venture into the mission fields, however, I have officiated at funerals and marriages as well as ordaining young men into the priesthood. How difficult it was in the early days with a prosthetic leg to walk down the church isle of what seemed at the time to be the longest church isle any-where in the world. BUT I DID IT.

I still struggle with the prosthetic leg and often times I am far from steady on it, however, after more than 30 years of walking in so many different ways given about 20 surgical interventions on that leg, I am pleased, and even happy to know that I have beaten the odds and can walk even though it is for short and unsteady distances.

I thank all who helped me through such a trial of tribulation and encouraged me to look for light at the end of the tunnel. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

MY INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES THESE DAYS include.

- \* Ongoing support and encouragement to the missionary Assembly.

- \* Counselling and support for those incarcerated in New Zealand prisons as well as on-going support on a pen-friend basis for a number of inmates in Polunsky Death Row Unit in Texas, USA.

- \* A keen and supportive Life Member of the Outward-Bound Trust of New Zealand.

- \* I referee rugby (ok, from my couch) and obviously I support the All Blacks who have never lost a game, they win mostly and on occasions they come second.

BREAKFAST: To me, breakfast is a rather mundane meal of casual importance to me.

LUNCH: Cucumber and/or tomato sandwiches. Coupled these days with Continental Soap in a Cup delight, Dutch Curry.

DINNER: Where to start? Fresh vegetables are essential to any good meal other than when a meal dictates something like, noodles or rice. Meat is open for debate, I love lamb chops, Angus beef steak, stir fry, Silverside or Corned Beef, Cottage Pie and on the list goes.

Dessert, obviously nothing too sweet for me. To save others putting on excessive weight I will help them out by devouring their share of Pavlova, Ice Cream, anything with chocolate, Steam Puddings with plenty of cream. I will stop there because I don't want to embarrass anyone reading this dessert list and then creeping into the kitchen to fill a dessert plate with anything sweet with lashings of whipped cream. I am not guilty; however, I encourage you to enjoy to the fullest anything that helps keep you on two legs and happy.

God bless and much love and blessings to you all.

Kia kaha

*+ Paul Andrews DD*