

## FFWPU USA Blessing and Family Ministry: In Memory of Anthony La Hogue

Carina Mendez  
February 6, 2024



### **Anthony La Hogue**

Spouse: Maria La Hogue

Children: Michael, Alisha

Birthdate: March 20, 1953

Blessing: January 12, 1989

Ascension: January 4, 2024

Seonghwa Ceremony: February 10, 2024

Anthony Roy La Hogue was born on March 20, 1953, in Wanganui New Zealand to Raphael Roy and Annie Margaret La Hogue. He was one of five children - Rae, Elizabeth (died in early adulthood), Peter (died in infancy), Tony, and David. After graduating high school, he worked in a bank in NZ for one year and a bank in London for three, then

worked in Australia cleaning huge trucks used in mines, and in a meat-processing plant back in NZ. Tony's M.O. was working to save enough to travel, and then traveling until he needed to work again.

Tony met the Unification Church in April 1979 in Berkeley, California, when he was approached at a bus station by Laurence Baer and a brother named Tony, also from NZ (Dr. and Mrs. Durst encouraged brothers and sisters to "find your second self" while witnessing, and that seems to have worked perfectly in this case). After hearing the Divine Principle, Tony La Hogue quickly joined and began working in a carpet cleaning company owned and run by church members, "Champion Services." Within two months of joining the church, he moved to Houston to help the Champion branch there and in 1981 moved with Champion again, this time to New York City. The coworkers at Champion were very close-knit and many lived together or close by one another.

Through the 1980s, Champion expanded their scope of the work to include interior contracting, woodworking, and refinishing. In addition to working as a crew boss and doing sales, Tony also took on responsibility for accounting, given his previous experience working in banks. In 1989, along with seven other members of the Champion family, Tony travelled to Korea for the Blessing.

On January 12, 1989, Tony was Blessed to Maria Mikl from Klagenfurt, Austria. After their Blessing in 1989, Tony and Ria found a small apartment in Queens near the Champion community there. Soon thereafter, Tony assumed management of Champion, into which he invested his heart and effort for another two decades.

In 1990, Tony and Ria received Romania as a mission country, and Tony went there three times to conduct missionary work. The first time, he had to race back to America as Ria was giving birth to their

first child weeks early, but unfortunately missed the birth due to a snowstorm over New York. Michael Seung Bok Peter was born on February 16, 1991. Parenting was tough but evidently not that bad, and Tony and Ria welcomed their second child, Alisha Sun Ae Gertrude, into the world on August 15, 1992.

Tony's love for traveling continued and grew with his family, and together they traveled to many parts of the world. Somehow, Tony's love of the exotic didn't extend to food, and he always seemed to want to eat a hamburger, whether in Germany, Greece, France, or Korea. Tony loved spending time with his family - going skiing with family friends, reading books together at bedtime, or enjoying a (big) bowl of ice cream while watching a movie or the latest episode of Survivor or the Amazing Race.

Tony was an active member in both his faith community and with a nonprofit called "The Mankind Project," which helps men heal, grow, and understand themselves. In the late 2000s and early 2010s, as a result of the Great Recession, Tony gave up Champion and eventually began working as a financial planner, life insurance salesman, and tax preparer. He was passionate about helping people, especially his brothers and sisters in the Church, do whatever possible to be financially healthy and often worked late into the night to accomplish this. He was also always generous to friends in need as well as relative strangers, donating regularly to Native American schools and church members in developing countries.

Mickey and Alisha had left New York by the mid to late-2010s, which gave Tony plenty of reasons to feed his love of travel. He and Ria attended Mickey's Marriage Blessing ceremony in Korea in 2017 as well as his civil wedding to Nicole (née Thurner), which Alisha officiated in Hawaii in 2018. Tony often visited Alisha in Hawaii and in South Carolina, where she married Carter Collins, a Marine Corps officer, in 2023. (Tony had flunked out of a student military training program as a teenager in NZ, but somehow both of his children became connected to the US military!) Tony became a grandfather in 2020, with the birth of Mickey's son, Elijah, and then again in 2022, when Colette was born - he loved playing with and doting on his grandkids, and they cherished "Pop pop."

Tony spent the last few years of his life working hard during tax season, then spending at least 3 months a year with Ria in her mother's home in Austria; and getting started on his dream of traveling around the world, with trips to Germany, Greece, the Dominican Republic, Croatia, Slovenia, and Egypt. In December 2023, Tony and Ria traveled to Barbados to spend a few weeks house sitting and enjoying the tropical beach life; however, just after Christmas, Tony contracted Dengue Fever and was hospitalized. A few days after being released, he was readmitted and passed away on January 4, 2024, at 8:20 pm, from a secondary infection that he had caught during his first hospitalization.

Tony is survived by his sister, Rae; his brother, David; David's children, Daniel and Annie; his wife, Ria; his son, Michael, daughter-in-law, Nicole, and their two children, Elijah and Colette; his daughter, Alisha, and son-in-law, Carter; and many dear friends.

### **Seonghwa Ceremony**

**Date:** Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 2:00 PM EST

**Location:** Manhattan Family Church (4 W 43rd Street New York, NY 10036)

To join the livestream of the ceremony [click here](#).

The family has created a [memorial fund for any donations](#) and requests that fund be used in lieu of sending flowers. Please share any memories or stories of Tony at his [memorial page](#).

# Anthony "Tony" La Hogue Memorial Fundraiser



\$580 raised of \$2,000 goal

6 donations

Share

Donate now

Michele DiGregorio Mercado \$50 - 10 hrs

Jamie Christian \$100 - 11 hrs

Hannah Fuller \$100 - 20 hrs

Carmen Thurner \$200 - 23 hrs

Annie Newton \$30 - 1 d

See all

Alisha La Hogue is organizing this fundraiser.

Created 2 d ago • Funerals & Memorials

Hello family and friends, brothers and sisters. Our beloved brother, husband, father, and grandfather, Anthony "Tony" La Hogue, passed to the next world on January 4, 2024. Please see <https://www.forevermissed.com/anthony-la-hogue> for details about his life and memorial service (to take place on February 10) and to share any memories you have of him.

We've heard from a few friends that they would like to contribute financially in some way to support and we sincerely appreciate the offers. We are fortunate to not require help to pay for the funeral costs, but any donations will be used in Tony's honor to improve the quality of life in a community in Bulacan, the Philippines, where he has been supporting over the past 3 years.

[Read more](#)

Donate

Share

## Organizer

Alisha La Hogue Organizer New York, NY

Contact

## Words of support

Please donate to share words of support.

[Redacted support message]

[Redacted support message]

[Redacted support message]

Report fundraiser

# Your easy, powerful, and trusted home for help



**Easy**  
Donate quickly and easily.



**Powerful**  
Send help right to the people and causes you care about.



**Trusted**  
Your donation is protected by the [GoFundMe Giving Guarantee](#).

## More ways to make a difference. Find fundraisers inspired by what you care about.

Nearby ▾



**farewell, sanity - student film**  
by Mills for Creative

\$1,900 raised



**Plan B - Student Film**  
by Abby for Education

\$1,683 raised



**With Liberty And Justice For All - Student Film**  
by Claudia for Creative

\$1,750 raised



**Urban Escape**  
by Quintavis for Community

\$330 raised



### Fundraise for

[Medical](#)  
[Emergency](#)  
[Memorial](#)  
[Education](#)  
[Nonprofit](#)  
[Crisis Relief](#)

### Learn more

[How GoFundMe Works](#)  
[Why GoFundMe](#)  
[Common questions](#)  
[Success stories](#)  
[Supported countries](#)  
[Charity fundraising](#)  
[Pricing](#)

### Resources

[Help center](#)  
[Blog](#)  
[GoFundMe Stories](#)  
[Newsroom](#)  
[Careers](#)  
[About](#)  
[More resources ▾](#)

United States · [English](#)

© 2010-2024 GoFundMe [Terms](#) [Privacy Notice](#) [Legal](#) [Accessibility Statement](#)





## Anthony Roy La Hogue 1953 - 2024

Invite Anthony's family and friends

TRIBUTES

LIFE

GALLERY

STORIES

“ Let Tony's memory be with us forever.

- 70 years old
- Born on March 20, 1953 in Wanganui, New Zealand
- Passed away on January 4, 2024 in Bridgetown, Saint Michael, Barbados

This memorial website was created in memory of our loved one, Anthony La Hogue, 70 years old, born on March 20, 1953, and passed away on January 4, 2024. We will remember him forever.

We would like to create a book of memories and stories of Tony for his grandchildren. Please feel free to share any specific stories: whether happy, sad, funny, or mundane, we want them all. You can share via a "Tribute" below, or using the "Stories" tab above if you would like to share pictures or videos as well.

The family has created a [memorial fund for any donations](#) and requests that fund be used in lieu of sending flowers.

### Seonghwa/Memorial Ceremony

Date: Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 2:00 PM EST

Location: Manhattan Family Church (4 W 43rd Street New York, NY 10036)

To join the livestream of the ceremony [click here](#).

## Recent Tributes

NEW



Ester Allen • Yesterday

All my memories with Uncle Tony are simple and sweet. Wether it be picking us kids up from church or an event or hanging out while he ironed in the living room with Alisha and Mickey, Uncle Tony always found a way to get you laughing. He... [read more](#)

Share



Dirk Anthonis • January 25

When I heard of Tony's passing, I was at first in disbelief, but when I found out the circumstances, it made me think that, like a soldier destined to die on the battlefield, perhaps Tony's destiny was to depart this life while traveling... [read more](#)

Share



James Allen • January 22

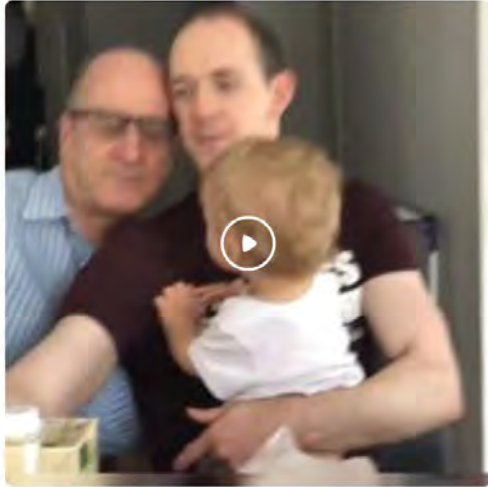
Uncle Tony was a memorable and warm presence in my childhood. He was close with my parents but also made an effort to get to know me and my siblings. He always had a funny joke or story and cared about how things were going with you.

As a... [read more](#)

[Share](#)

[View all 8 tributes](#)

## Gallery



[View all 60 items](#)

## His Life

January 11 • by [Michael La Hogue](#)

Anthony Roy La Hogue was born on March 20, 1953, in Wanganui New Zealand to Raphael Roy and Annie Margaret La Hogue. He was one of 5 children - Rae, Elizabeth (died in early adulthood), Peter (died in infancy), Tony, and David. After... [read more](#)

[Share](#)


## Recent stories

NEW

### Condolences

January 31 • by [Peter Sullivan](#)

I am saddened to hear of Tony's passing. I enjoyed my conversations with Tony as I got to know him better as a fellow warrior brother in the Mankind Project. Tony was also a member of the Unification Church and was especially instrumental... [read more](#)

 Share


NEW

### A Warrior Brothee

January 31 · by [Glenn Gordon](#)

Tony went through the New Warrior Training Adventure in September 1995, the second NY NWT. That's where I met him.

Tony had a huge impact on this community. It was thru his community that we rented Camp Sunrise and had trainings there... [read more](#)


 Share

NEW

### Warrior brother shares.

January 31 · by [Jonathan Cohen](#)

I knew Tony through an organization in which he participated strongly: The Mankind Project. Tony was generous with his time and energy and through a relationship with a different organization was able to help provide a venue (they are hard... [read more](#)

 Share

[View all 7 stories](#)

Invite others to Anthony's website:



Invite by email





Post to your timeline



Share in Messenger



Follow us:  

 [Contribute](#)