

WHITEBOARD

www.c3monash.org.au/ministries/realmen

August 2013

HERE WE ARE...

It's August already and time for another installment of Whiteboard - the monthly newsletter of REALMEN Monash. This month we have great contributions from the men in our church, along with more news and events.

When you hear the word 'relationship', what do you think of? Family, friends, God? Relationships is the topic of focus for our church through August, so there'll be time in church to talk and hear about what relationships mean to us as Christian men.

This month we get an insight into the life of one of C3 Monash's men, with a strong testimony and some encouraging words that we can apply in our own lives.

Last month's men's breakfast with Pastor Greg French was a great morning, with lots of guys getting along to hear from the founder of REALMEN and be inspired by his wisdom. Check out the recap of the morning on page 2.

Your contribution and feedback is always welcome, so remember to contact John Gallagher if you have something to share. Enjoy the August Whiteboard.



WHAT'S ON THIS AUGUST

Men's Network Group

Saturday 3 August 2013

7:00am at McDonald's Tuggeranong

Come along and catch up with John G over breakfast and a coffee.

"Let us not give up meeting together...but let us encourage one another..." (Hebrews 10:25)

Indonesia debrief from Pastor Steve

August 2013

C3 Church Monash (or on the street)

OK, so this is not an 'official' August event, but the next time you see Steve, ask him about Indonesia. He and Pastor Deb took a team from our church, including Matt D'Aquino, to Indonesia in July. They spent time in Solo sowing into the church and its leaders there, and were generally blessed to be blessings to the lives of others. Their stories and testimonies will be an encouragement to us all and inspire us to 'lift up our eyes' beyond the day-to-day.

Everywoman Winter Warmer with Bernie Kelsey

Saturday 17 August 2013

7:00pm at C3 Church Monash

Cost: \$20

Our role as men should be to support and encourage our wives and daughters to attend this great Everywoman event.



BREAKFAST WRAP

Men's breakfast with Ps Greg French,
C3 Monash, Saturday, 6 July 2013



The men's breakfast in July was a huge success. It was great to see the men of the church gathering together to share a meal and be inspired by the words of Pastor Greg French, Executive Director and Founder of REALMEN. Forty-one guys were there to hear Greg share about the importance of REALMEN. He talked about why he was chosen to lead the ministry, the struggles he encountered trying to get it off the ground in his own strength, and then realising that it takes prayer! In God's strength, the REALMEN conference has grown in ten years from 350 to more than 2000 attendees.

More generally, Pastor Greg talked about the importance of being punctual, especially in getting

to church. It sounds simple but, as he said, punctuality shows strength of character and respect for the worship team and pastors. He also highlighted how vital it is for us, as men, to be looking after ourselves physically through exercise, eating right and getting plenty of rest. Tired guys make bad choices. We need to stay vigilant, know our weaknesses and the desires of the flesh, learn to control our behaviour and gather good, godly men around us to do the journey together.

Finally, he challenged us with some priorities we should be setting for ourselves:

1. Personal prayer and worship, including being in the Word
2. Being in a prayer group with other men
3. Being in a connect group with other men
4. Attending men's breakfasts
5. Attending men's conferences

SCRIPTURE

For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.

As a newly married man, Aaron Gallagher is encouraged by the importance of...

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7, 13 (NIV)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Chris 'Juicy' Justice, one of the younger guys currently in C3 Bible College, is inspired by...

Psalms 5:12 (NIV)

Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

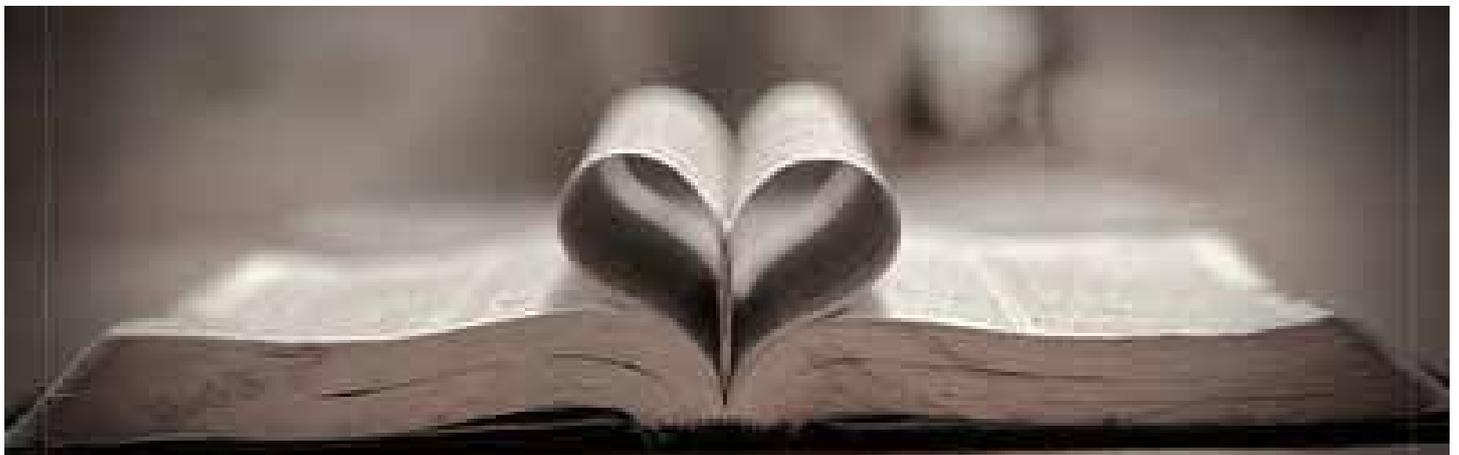
Do you have a scripture that particularly motivates or inspires you? Send it in so we can publish it in Whiteboard to encourage others. johng@c3monash.org.au

"DRINKING BEER IS
EASY. TRASHING
YOUR HOTEL ROOM IS
EASY. BUT BEING A
CHRISTIAN, THAT'S
A TOUGH CALL.
THAT'S REBELLION."

- ALICE COOPER



Greg Brazel sent us this great pic of Alice Cooper with a quote that must come from experience. The old-school rocker is a born-again Christian who believes every word of the Bible is true. Awesome. Thanks Greg!



AMAZING LOVE

Life has thrown plenty at Mark Westcott. But through the good and the bad, it's been God's amazing love that has remained constant. Mark shares his story with us this month.

...You have had a major stroke and will be in full time care for 2 years, and you will probably need home care into the future. It is also probable that you will never walk again...

Those words slammed into me like a sledgehammer. I was only 49 and, to my mind, I wasn't meant to be going through something like this for at least another 30 years, if ever!

I was living a life many would consider successful: I'd climbed the corporate ladder, achieved a six figure salary, was building a luxurious dream home, and I had lots of 'friends'. So why – in all the rush of living this 'great' life – had I left the important things behind as irrelevant?

Let me go back a few years. I was raised in a REAL Christian home. Dad was a Methodist Minister, mum was the dutiful minister's wife and my four sisters and I were

the preacher's kids. As soon as I reached my teens, I decided to be the rebellious preacher's kid! Music became a passion in my life, along with sport, and I soon found myself immersed in these things.

“Yet again, despite my weakness, Jesus made me strong!”

Now fast forward a few years (well, decades actually). I had drifted further away from Christianity than ever. I had lived a hectic life - rock 'n' roll bands, drugs, alcohol, good jobs. I was also married with three kids and had started the 'grandfather' stage of my life. LIFE WAS GOOD! I had been a heavy smoker and drinker for 30 years and I can even remember thinking, on the 3rd of April 2009, I was so healthy and fit that nothing, including my life-style, could ever hurt me. In fact, I remember thinking that even

though I smoked and did everything contrary to a healthy lifestyle, I had survived this long and had at least another 40 years ahead to enjoy my success.

Then on the 4th of April 2009 reality kicked in. I suffered a massive stroke to the thalamus region of my brain and was air-lifted to Royal Melbourne Hospital in a serious condition. The stroke left me with paralysis to my left side and I was completely unable to walk. I'd been given a fairly ordinary prognosis for the future too.

My, how the mighty had fallen! All of my comforts and self-earned rewards were stripped from me in an instant. My self-esteem also took a hammering as I had become totally dependent on others to do the basics in life for me, such as shower and feed me. Yet again, despite my weakness, Jesus made me strong! I didn't

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recognise that at first, of course. I thought it was all me! But after being told that I may never walk again, and that hospitals and nursing homes could be my home from then on, the endless prayers of my wife and family were answered when I walked (with a stick) out of the care facility and went home! God is so good. BUT he wasn't finished with me yet.

After years of running and avoiding Jesus, I accepted him into my life again in 2010 and immediately His grace began to change me from within. My physical healing had started; the mental and emotional healing was on its way. The stroke had left me with a cognitive deficit, so I had to

learn how to communicate all over again. God changed that too. Before, when I needed success in the world, I was impatient and angry. He made me empathetic and calm. My life used to be centred on me, with family and friends just a side benefit. In time, I learned to love my wife and family in the way I should have – I've been blessed with a new relationship with them.

Sure, there were times of doubt and self-pity, but through it all, Jesus never failed me. Many times the easy way would have been to sit around and feel sorry for myself. But He has lifted me from the depths of despair and depression and shown me His blessings. And

He has never let go of the rope that connects me to Him, nor wavered in His grace and love for me. Since moving back to Canberra, God's grace and provision has been displayed to me in quantities I cannot fathom.

To finish, I'd like to quote a Charles Wesley hymn that has been with me my whole life and means so much to me now.

"Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose went forth and followed thee.
Amazing Love, how can it be,
that thou my God shouldst die for me!"

WE NEED YOU

Whiteboard exists for the men of C3 Monash. It's not just a newsletter - it's a platform for us to share what's been going on in our lives, encourage others in our experiences and generally get to know each other better. If you have a story, scripture or something else you'd like to see published, let us know. We'll also include 'for sale' and 'wanted' items if you have them. Contact John Gallagher on the details below for any contributions you may have. And, of course, we welcome your suggestions and feedback.

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Connect: Graham & Pat Cumming - Ph: 6154 0482



TRADING POST

Free to a good home: 1 red fabric two-seater lounge and 2 single matching chairs. To be given away as a set. If you're interested in this furniture, contact Michael Pierce.



Car for sale: 2006 Toyota Corolla. 1.8L, manual transmission, power steering, air conditioning. Excellent condition with 7 months rego still on it. This would be a neat first car for someone starting out or a reliable second car for a family or couple. \$8,500 negotiable. Contact Tom Hall on 0433 015 819.

