

WHITEBOARD

DECEMBER 2015



A Christmas message from John

Let us remember that Christmas is a time for giving and of abundant generosity to those less fortunate. It is a time to display our giving hearts, to think of others first before ourselves.

The birth of Jesus was the greatest display of generosity – what a gift. It is the ultimate present, valuable but inexpensive, long lasting but can fade in an instant, easy to give but hard to receive.

Jesus gave us the gift of 'Love' to heal the broken, sick and sinful world. Love will transform hearts through grace and mercy. Love will conquer all things.

Therefore as you wrap up your gifts for loved ones, friends, family and maybe even strangers, remember underneath the wrapping is your beating heart for Christ our saviour, born to set us free.

So I challenge you. If you do not feel the beating heart of Christmas – the heart of generosity – then it may not be Christmas at all, but an outward display of tinsel, decorations, presents and over indulgence.

I pray that the warmth that comes from the loving relationships, from the heart of men, will return to you this Christmas and your generous portion of love will spread joy to all.

Thank you for your continued support of the men's ministry. You will never know how much your support blesses the Realmen team. On behalf of the Realmen team, I would like to wish you a Christmas to enjoy and if you are travelling please drive carefully and drink responsibly.

On behalf of our Senior Pastor Steve White, we would also like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy your special time with family and friends over the holiday season.

Merry Christmas, God Bless

and a couple of words from Tom...

I compile and edit each edition of Whiteboard and John asked me to share on how it's matured throughout 2015 and what expectations I'd have for 2016. First of all, it's a privilege to be able to edit Whiteboard – I treat it as an opportunity to serve in a practical and hands-on way. Whiteboard has had some really good issues this year, with lots of quite deep testimonies from many of the guys in church. It's a privilege to have Pastor Steve share his Journey with us each issue, and the 'Man Up' section is always interesting too. We've again had a broad spread of guys contributing, which is great. I think the stuff that's published in Whiteboard, especially the personal perspectives and contributions, provides a great opportunity to find out what makes people tick, what they're passionate about, what they've been through in life. From my perspective compiling all of the content, I've seen Whiteboard mature throughout 2015 in its range of articles and contributors.

For 2016, it would be great to see even more contributors writing about a wider range of topics – in other words, going beyond the personal testimonies to hear what people's perspectives are on different things. Or messages they've heard that have stuck with them in life. If anyone out there has the urge to write an article or two that would build others up, chat with Steve or John about it and send it in!

C3 Church Monash: 184 Clive Steele Ave, Monash, ACT - Ph: 6298 5900

RealMen: John Gallagher - Ph: 0409 125 021, johng@c3monash.org.au



Up on a mountain

*I look up to the mountains -
does my help come from there?
My help comes from the Lord
who made heaven and earth!
Psalm 121:1-2*

Walking played an essential role in Jesus life having conversations with his disciples and others along the way to his destinations.

With this in mind the Realmen activity for November 2015 was to walk and talk along the trail to Booroomba Rocks situated within the Namadgi National Park in the ACT.

It was an easy 30 minute drive from our meeting point at C3Monash. We reached the carpark at Booroomba Rocks where another member of our church community was sitting on a log and waiting for us to join him. We were all pumped to finally be starting our ascent up the many stairs on this moderate climb for the fit and hard for the physically under prepared.

The trail up to the rocky outlier known as Booroomba Rocks put some of us to the physical test with a short break half way up to catch our breath. One of the guys is so fit that he inspired the rest of us retirees to push on to the top.



At the summit we were treated to clear skies and magnificent 360 degree views overlooking the Australian Alps and down towards the valley we could feast our eyes on the Tuggeranong and Canberra environs. It truly is a birds eye view. The wattle was in full bloom giving us a magic yellow carpet to wade through.

Booroomba Rocks are made up of granite and are well known as a popular spot for abseiling although we didn't see any action the day we were there.

As we took time to rest, reflect and replenish, we were reminded that ancient cultures climbed the highest mountains to be closer to their Gods. We were so high up that we felt closer to the clouds than to Canberra.

Spiritually we sat on the highest craggy granite outcrop and prayed. We prayed for our city, the church, families, friends, the unsaved, healing, finances, dreams to come true, other mighty men etc. You could say we left no stone unturned when it came to prayer.



We lingered for a long while until it was time to make our way home. The walk back down the trail to the carpark was easier and we talked about a sense of achievement which was felt by all. We left one of our party to further bush walk along the Mount Tennant trail. The drive home was full of optimism and we finished off with a well-deserved, well-made coffee and completed our final conversations before saying our good byes.

We are planning our next bushwalk for the new year as the guys were inspired by nature and God's creations. For me, what a treat to spend some quality time with some quality guys.

- John Gallagher



JOHN'S REALMEN REV-UP...

So, what happened in 2015?

- In January we supported the youth camp.
- We formed a new and vibrant Realmen Ministry Team.
- In February we held our most successful Canberra Realmen Gathering, and who could ever forget the catch cry *Say Geronimo*.
- In April we established a men's connect group on Monday morning at Macca's Tuggeranong.
- Whiteboard continued to grow into a quality publication thanks to the high standard of testimonies and stories provided by you the reader. Whiteboard continued to challenge and inspire us.
- We helped several guys move house and backed up with working bees on the church grounds.
- We continued our Bar Mitzvah breakfasts.
- We presented several topics on OneWayFm radio thanks in part to Michael Clarke and Colin Webster.
- We provided security and first aid support for the young adults *Fuse* conference in October.
- We financially helped out guys who needed to just get over the hump.
- A group of guys visited St Matthews and gathered around the big screen to suffer through 3 games of state of origin [go the blues please!!] whilst sharing hot pies with guys from other churches in the local area.
- We attended the Realmen gathering at Oxford Falls in August.
- We celebrated Father's Day with a BBQ at Kambah Adventure Playground.
- Some guys recently completed a bushwalk to Booroomba Rocks, in Namadgi National Park.
- Personally I had so many catch ups with different guys throughout 2015 that my blood has changed to the colour of coffee!

Realmen Canberra Gathering 2016
Saturday 19 March
C3Belconnen