

WHITEBOARD

www.c3monash.org.au/ministries/realmen

July 2013

THIS MONTH...

The July issue of Whiteboard delivers what you need to know this month in and around RealMen Monash. You might have noticed a few changes since last month's edition, but don't let that throw you. Take some time out, sit back and enjoy this month's read.

Beyond Missions is the focus of our church throughout July. Pastor Steve's messages will deliberately challenge us to look beyond our needs to meet the needs of others. Speaking of Steve, he encourages to make a difference, as The Journey continues on page 2.

Remember to mark the dates in your diary this month for REALMEN Conference 2013 and breakfast with Pastor Greg French - both of these events should not be missed. [Pst...check the last page for an extra incentive to register for the Men's Breakfast.]

We also get a few insights from some of the men of our church, so keep reading for that. And don't forget, this is your newsletter. If you have anything to share or tell everyone about - get in touch!



WHAT'S ON THIS JULY

REALMEN Conference

26th & 27th July 2013

C3 Church Oxford Falls

Guest Speakers: Ps Phil Pringle, Ps Greg French and Paul Scanlon

Registration: \$65.00

Register online:

<http://www2.myc3church.net/category/realmen-conference-2013>

Men's Breakfast with Ps Greg French

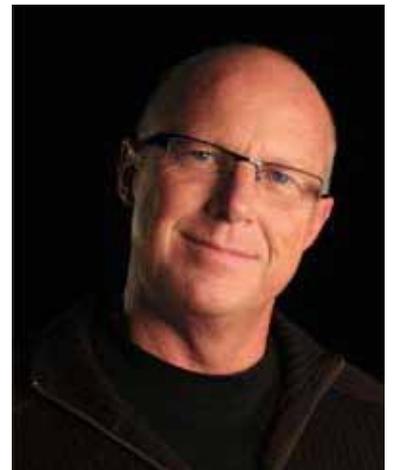
6th July 2013

C3 Church Monash

8.00am – 9.30am

Come for a hearty breakfast, great company and to hear from the heart of Pastor Greg French, Executive Director and Founder, REALMEN.

The \$20 for breakfast buys you juice, fruit, pastry, a hot beef roll with gravy and real barista-brewed coffee.





THE JOURNEY

This month Pastor Steve challenges us to look at ourselves, show courage and ask, 'what sort of difference will I make?'

Imagine coming to the end of your life on earth to find that your epitaph reads: "...No one was sorry when he died..." This happened to a King called Jehoram, the grandson of one of the most famous characters in the bible, David. In fact, one translation puts it this way: "...There were no tears shed when he died—it was good riddance!"

2 Chronicles 21:20 (Mess). Our days on earth are so short in the light of eternity, we need to do all within our power to make them count. We as Christian men "...whose strength comes from the Lord, who have set their minds on a pilgrimage..." are here to make a difference. We live beyond ourselves, fulfilling a God-ordained mission, the way we navigate the journey makes an impact.

You may be reading this with a degree of scepticism. What difference am I really making? I'm flat out holding it together for myself, let alone living beyond myself. Scepticism can be a good and healthy thing.

Be sceptical and ask the hard, tough questions. But don't drift into cynicism. Cynicism is a spiritually dangerous thing because it is a buffer against personal commitment. Becoming so cynical that we don't believe any change is possible allows us to step back, protect ourselves, grab for more security,

and avoid taking any risks. If things can't change, why should I be the one to show courage, take chances, and make strong personal commitments?

Why? Because we are agents of change. We, as Christian men,

influence for the common good. And we do make a difference. The question will always be, 'what sort of difference will I make?' I wholeheartedly believe it is worth the effort to make a positive difference. If nothing else, I would like to be remembered as someone who 'gave it his best shot!'

With you on the journey

Steve

“We, as Christian men, influence for the common good. And we do make a difference.”

SCRIPTURE

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

Greg Brazil is encouraged by

Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.

And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Chris Brightwell likes

Matthew 22:37 (NIV)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Ben Rundle is inspired by

Ecclesiastes 12:1 (NIV)

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come, and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"...

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

johnng@c3monash.org.au



The North Face 100 is a gruelling journey through the NSW Blue Mountains. Andrew 'Kingo' Kingston took it on and he tells us about the experience.

Over the last few years I've been running in incrementally longer offroad events: 21km, 30km, 42km and 63km. The North Face 100 was the next challenge. I was pretty sure that I would be able to complete 100km but I guess I had to prove it to myself.

But it was more challenging than I expected - the course is brutal. Not only is it 100km long, it's up and down cliffs the whole time. From my training I was expecting to get to about 60km before starting to feel it, but I underestimated the terrain and I was wrecked after only 20km. This meant I had an enormous mental battle from there on: I still had 80km to go, further than I'd ever run before. I basically had to break it down into one stage at a time: "just get to the next check point".

It's hard to say whether I enjoyed the event or not, but it was an amazing experience. You really see what you are made of. There was also some great camaraderie between everyone out there doing it as tough as you. It was a beautiful day out in the Blue Mountains too (if not a little cold - below zero at night) and we ran through some magnificent scenery with fantastic views.

When I crossed the finish line I was relieved and felt pretty satisfied that I had conquered one of the toughest 100km runs around. From the 1050 starters, only about 700 of us finished. It took me 18h18m (finishing around 1am) which was about the average time.

Now that I know I can do it, I have no real desire to have another go at the North Face 100. However, there is a 100km run around Canberra in September to celebrate the centenary - I am tempted to have a crack at that.

Nice work, Andrew. We look forward to your next race report!

A FINAL THOUGHT



Beyond the mission of being a man is fatherhood.

We grow to be men from birth but fatherhood is by choice. There are times in every man's life when he feels he has fallen short of what it takes to be a good husband or father. The question we often ask ourselves is, 'would my life pass kingdom judgement'.

Some of us grew up watching The Bill Cosby Show on TV and try to model our lives on Bill's examples. He portrayed the laid back, relaxed father with wisdom to have a solution for every problem. He had a wife who adored him and kids who thought he was the coolest dude on the planet. As real-life husbands and fathers there is no script. What prepares us for the challenges and complexities ahead? As Christian men the coolest

thing we have received is salvation, from which flows an understanding of our kingdom birth right. We take on the responsibility of spiritual leadership in our homes. We know that a personal relationship with God is what we want for our family. For them to hear His voice and to feel His embrace would be pretty cool!

We all experience seasons of want and seasons of plenty. Different seasons transform our hearts into relying on God's strength to see us through any circumstance – good and bad. It is when we are tested that we show our true character, forged in the fires of suffering.

Many of us have been at the crossroads in our lives. How have you fared? Have you taken the path to retreat or have you taken the path to battle? I know that I choose to make a stand and fight. The cost of retreat is too great a price to pay. The absent father is a generational debt.

It is through scripture that God is growing us to take on the extra responsibilities of being the best fathers we can be. All it takes is to just keep showing up with love, compassion, forgiveness, mercy and grace in your heart. You don't have to be Superman or Bill Cosby...just be you!

Let's see what God has to say about being a father:

'Hear, o sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, for I give you good

precepts; do not forsake my teaching. When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me and said to me: 'Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth'. (Proverbs 4:1-9)

'The righteous who walks in his integrity – blessed are his children after him!' (Proverbs 20:7)

'A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous'. (Proverbs 13:22)

'Fathers don't provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord'. (Ephesians 6:4)

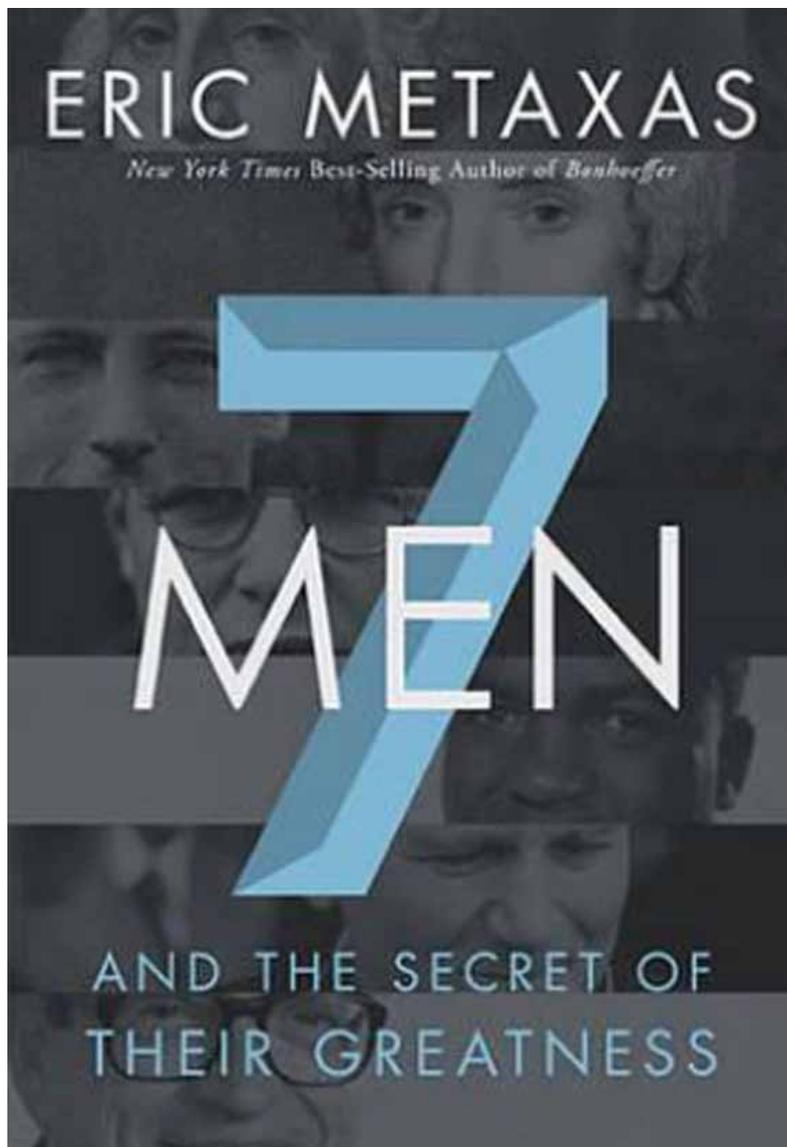
Fatherhood is not for the soft, lukewarm, 'she'll be right' type of bloke. Being a dad is an adventure, a cause, a call to arms to do battle. It takes all your strength, courage, resources, hard work, honesty, and then some. It's for life not just for when it suits you.

God made man in his own image. That scripture really speaks to me. To be born a man is a privilege – embrace fatherhood and know God is the Father of all.

- John Gallagher

But wait...here's that incentive to register for breakfast.

FREE BOOKS!



We have 30 books titled *7 Men and the secret of their greatness*, written by Eric Metaxas, to give away to the first 30 men to register for the Men's Breakfast this month. The books have been generously donated to REALMEN C3Monash by John Barilaro.

7 Men offers answers in the captivating stories of some of the greatest men who have ever lived. Seven historical figures, including George Washington, William Wilberforce and Pope John Paul II, come to life as real people who experienced struggles and challenges that probably would have destroyed the resolve of most other men. What was their secret?

Register for breakfast, grab the book and find out!

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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