

**MEN MEETING THE CHALLENGE CONFERENCE | Men for Christ  
MINISTRIES**

SATURDAY

27th March 2021

# UNMASKING

the christian man

A conference equipping men with bible based truths and processes to enable them to rise up to be Men of God

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



FOR MORE INFO

[www.menforchrist.asn.au](http://www.menforchrist.asn.au)

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[www.facebook.com/MMCConference](https://www.facebook.com/MMCConference)



## A message from the Chairman

*Its just going to be a brilliant Day...*

I pray that you are excited about being challenged at this year's Men Meeting the Challenge Conference. Whether it be joining us at one of the 5 Live Conference Centres, or streaming live online with a group from church, or even solo from the comfort of your armchair.

Wherever you are, it's a great way to meet around God's Word, being practically taught by Aussie men about how each one of us can recognise our own masks and live as free, unmasked men in our world.

This year marks 17 years that this conference has been ministering to Christian men. Whilst COVID has challenge all of us, God has enabled this ministry to grow from a localised Western Sydney ministry to a worldwide online platform ministering to men across multiple conference centres.

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in putting together this year's conference; from the churches who have welcomed us into their homes, the teams working behind the scenes and all the volunteers that have given so much of their time. Praise be to God.

Your servant,

Richard Bolton  
*Chairman & Conference Convenor*  
*Men For Christ Ministries*

## What the conference will address

- **Recognising that we all live in a masked world.**

A world that that is attempting to live outside the authority of God.

- **Identifying the masks that we wear in our own lives.**

Masks that present a false identity and prevent us from finding our true identity in Christ and being a positive witness in our world.

- **Having the courage to live as free, unmasked men in our world.**

Encouraging and empowering men to rediscover their true sense of identity and purpose; to shine as light in this world in these end times before the return of Christ.

# PROGRAM

**8:30 WELCOME & CUPPA**

**9:00 OPENING SESSION**

<i>1st Keynote Speaker</i> Adrian Russell	<b>A Man Who...</b>	A man who is loyal to the Faith and lives without masks	Village Church Annandale
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**10:05 MORNING TEA**

**10:30 2ND SESSION**

<i>2nd Keynote Speaker</i> Phillip Colgan	<b>A Man Who...</b>	A man who is strong in the grace of God is freed from the captivity of a masked world	Village Church Annandale
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**11:15 AM BREAKOUT SESSION**

David Jensen	<b>The Mask of Fear</b>	Hiding our Christian Faith from the world	Northmead Anglican
Luther Symons	<b>The Identity Mask</b>	Vertical Self?	MBM Rooty Hill
Marshall Ballantine-Jones	<b>The Mask of Sin</b>	Hiding the things that we are ashamed of as Christians	Hurstville Grove Anglican
Michael Kellahan	<b>The Mask of Tolerance</b>	Is Religious freedom just a mask for bigotry?	NewLife Anglican Oran Park

**12:05 LUNCH**

**1:05 PM BREAKOUT SESSION**

Craig Schafer	<b>The Mask of Fear</b>	How to discard masks driven by fear	Northmead Anglican
Peter Kaldor	<b>The Identity Mask</b>	How to discard the masks of false identities	MBM Rooty Hill
Sam Wan	<b>The Mask of Sin</b>	How to discard masks hiding our sins	Hurstville Grove Anglican
David Robertson	<b>The Mask of Tolerance</b>	Light in the Darkness - Being a Tolerant Christian in an Intolerant World	NewLife Anglican Oran Park

**2:00 FINAL SESSION**

<i>3rd Keynote Speaker</i> David Cook	<b>A Man Who...</b>	A man who is prepared to walk unmasked in difficult times	Village Church Annandale
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**3:30 CLOSE**

*Please return your completed survey and Registration for next year.*

# ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



## **ADRIAN RUSSELL | KEYNOTE**

Adrian has had the enormous joy of knowing Jesus from infancy and is passionate about declaring God's powerful life giving word. He is married and they have a daughter and three sons who all love the Lord and serve his people.



## **PHILLIP COLGAN | KEYNOTE**

Phillip has served for the last 17 years at St George North Anglican Church where he loves to work with men to encourage them to live whole-heartedly for Christ. He is married and together they are raising three teenage children. Phillip enjoys watching any type of sport, reading crime novels and talking to people about Jesus.



## **DAVID COOK | KEYNOTE**

For 26 years David was Principal of SMBC, he now works as Director of the Expository Preaching Trust. With his wife of 50 years they have 5 adult children and 15 grandchildren. David attends Drummoyne Presbyterian Church.



## **DOMINIC STEELE**

Dominic is known for calling it as it is. He's a husband, dad, pastor of Village Church in Annandale & director of Christians in the Media.



## **DAVID JENSEN**

Dave Jensen works as a pastor at EV Church on the Central Coast of NSW. Prior to working in ministry he was in the Australian Army for the best part of a decade which is where someone told him the truth about Jesus and he became a Christian. Dave is married and they have 6 kids. He loves telling people about Jesus, Lebanese chicken and the Sydney Roosters



## **LUTHER SYMONS**

Luther has recently planted Hope Anglican Church in Leppington; situated in Sydney's fast growing South West. He has a passion to see men won for Christ. In doing so to see them align their passions, in fact their whole life to what Jesus is doing in the world. Both he and his wife are raising 3 children together. He loves cycling, golf and whatever his kids are into right now!



### **MARSHALL BALLANTINE-JONES**

Marshall is married to Rebecca and has four children. He is an ordained Anglican minister and has been Executive Director both for the NSW Council of Churches (2017-present) and CEP (2010-16). He completed his PhD in Medicine at Sydney Uni on Reducing the Negative Effects of Sexualised and Social Media on Young People.



### **MICHAEL KELLAHAN**

Michael is an Anglican Minister and former lawyer who led Freedom for Faith in making the case for freedom in the complex and contested intersections of belief, law and politics.



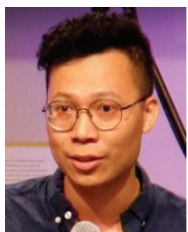
### **CRAIG SCHAFER**

Craig has been Senior Pastor at St Mark's Pennant Hills for the last 12 years after a number of years as a management consultant. He believes evangelism should be the heartbeat of every Christian life and every local church and has spent years working to build evangelistic culture in his own heart and that of others.



### **PETER KALDOR**

Peter worked in banking in Sydney and Switzerland before training for ministry. For the past 20 years he has been meeting up with men in the city to share the good news. Peter attends St Mark's Darling Point and works with City Bible Forum.



### **SAM WAN**

Sam serves as a pastoral worker at Springwood-Winmalee Presbyterian Churches and also as a ministry worker for Living Faith, a Sydney Anglican organisation that provides pastoral care for Christians who experience attraction to the same sex and gender incongruence. Throughout his week, Sam has the privilege of listening to many vulnerable stories and walking alongside brothers and sisters who desire to live godly lives.



### **DAVID ROBERTSON**

David Robertson is a Presbyterian minister from Scotland who is currently working with City Bible Forum as an Evangelist. He is a writer, blogger, preacher, public debater and a regular commentator on current affairs. For many years he has faced and engaged with the issue of tolerance and intolerance in his own culture.

# KEYNOTE 1

**Passage:** 2 Timothy 1

<b>A Man Who</b>	Is loyal to the faith and lives without masks
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## Adrian Russell



**What my talk is about:** In uncertain times, this passage is a powerful call to be on fire for God, not to be hiding ourselves or masking the truth to present an “acceptable” face to the community but rather to be unashamed and fearless in service of the Lord Jesus, and to be on guard in defence of sound doctrine and the saving truth of the gospel.

### The masks we wear

#### 1. Paul's clear conscience v3

Words of courage from a spiritual father

#### 2. A shared gift - vv4-6

- the joy of seeing each other
- Lois and Eunice
- rekindle the gift

#### 3. A shared Spirit - v7

- not of fear
- power
- love
- sound judgment
- don't be afraid

#### **4. A shared confidence - v8**

- the testimony of our Lord
- Paul in prison
- don't be ashamed

#### **5. A shared suffering - v8**

- for the gospel
- rely on the power of God

#### **6. A shared grace - vv9-10**

- saved us and called us
- not by works but by grace
- given in Christ before time
- grace made evident
- death abolished
- immortality revealed

#### **7. A shared goal - vv11-12**

- Paul's purpose
- Paul's pain
- Paul's persuasion
- Paul's promise
- follow my example

#### **8. A shared godliness vv13-14**

- the pattern of sound teaching
- the good deposit
- Onesiphorus
- hold on and take guard

# KEYNOTE 2

Passage: 2 Timothy 2

A Man Who	Is strong in the grace of God is freed from the captivity of a masked world
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## Phillip Colgan



**What my talk is about:** Knowing Christ and his grace to us enables us to not care what the world thinks of us and live wholeheartedly for Jesus. This life of service is never alone but instead we need others to train us and be trained by us. This will not be easy as we will face all sorts of opposition: from false teachers, suffering and even from our own sin. However, the grace we have in Christ is sufficient for us to fight the fight.

**Introduction:** The mystery of the useless Zorro mask

### 1. Be strong in the Gospel yourself (v1,v3-13)

Which means sharing in suffering

#### Three helpful pictures:

1. Single-minded like a soldier
2. Disciplined like an athlete
3. Hard working like a farmer



### **Three things we need:**

1. Remember the Gospel
2. Remember Paul's example
3. Remember God's faithfulness

### **2. Be strong in the Gospel for others (v2, v14-26)**

Passing the Gospel on to others

This is relevant to you!

### **The type of man we want to be**

1. The approved work-man Correctly handle God's word
2. Be an instrument that is useful to God-Holiness of life

### **Be strong in the Gospel!**

### ***Recommended Readings:***

- The Big Fight: Christian Men vs The World, Flesh and Devil Ed by Tim Thornborough & Richard Perkins
- One to One Bible Reading by David Helm.

# KEYNOTE 3

**Passage:** 2 Timothy 3&4

**A Man Who**

Is prepared to walk unmasked in difficult times

## David Cook



**What my talk is about:** These are the Apostle Paul's last words in the New Testament, he urges his young Pastor friend Timothy, though he will face many challenges, to never abandon the ministry and pattern of life that has been set down for him. All of this is driven by the conviction that Scripture is God's word, breathed out by Him, what the Bible says is what God says!

**3:1 Understand this...**

**3:5 Avoid...**

**3:10 You however...**

**3:14 But as for you...**

**4:5 As for you...**

**4:2 Preach the Word**

**3:16-17 'All Scripture is God breathed'.**

***Recommended Readings:***

Knowing God by JI Packer.

A Fresh Start by John Chapman.

Starting Strong Staying Strong by David Cook

# THE MASK OF FEAR

Passage: Luke 9:21-26

Masks Driven by Fear

Hiding our Christian faith from the world

## AM Breakout Speaker - David Jensen



**What my talk is about:** Being a Christian is tough: not only do we have our own struggles with sin, doubt and suffering - it is becoming increasingly difficult to stand for Jesus in a nation which is fleeing from its Christian roots. It's normal for us to be afraid: afraid of looking foolish, of conflict, of rejection. But we are not alone: Jesus told us that this is what would happen - and he has promised that he will always be with us. So what does it look like to authentically follow Jesus: even in the face of constant pressure and trial? What hope does Jesus give us?

### Talk Outline

1. The fear of man

2. Following

3. The Fear of God

# SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to help us better understand your needs for future conferences.

1. How did you find out about the conference? (You can tick more than one)

- |   |  |                                   |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minister           | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Ministry Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Website  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Poster     | <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend             | <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Brochure   |                                   |

2. Is this the first time you have attended the conference? YES / NO (Please circle your answer). If not the first time, circle which ones you have attended? Before 2015, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.

3. How old are you? Under 21, 21 – 30, 31 – 40, 41 – 50, 51 – 60, Over 60  
(Please circle your answer)

4. What is your relational status? (You can tick more than one)

- |                                  |                                   |                                      |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single  | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Married | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent   | <input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent |

5. Were the contents of the talks in line with the topic headings that you came to hear? Please circle your answer YES / NO  
If "no" please comment?

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6. Next Year's Conference (MMC22) will be looking at the challenge of telling others about the Gospel message and the difficult questions that are sometimes asked. Are there any particular topics that would be helpful for you?

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7. I will come to MMC22? YES / NO (Please circle your answer). If "No" would you be willing to provide us with your reason for not coming?

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If "Yes" would you be willing to pay for a mate who has never come before? YES / NO (Please circle your answer).

8. Can we email you details of next year's conference (MMC22)? YES / NO (Please circle your answer). If "Yes" please provide your current email:

Email:

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9. Are you willing to be a Group Co-ordinator for your church next year?  
YES / NO (Please circle your answer). If "Yes" please provide your name and phone number.

Full Name:

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Phone Number:

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# REGISTER FOR 2022

## REGISTER TODAY FOR MMC2022

GET A \$25 DISCOUNT ON THE STANDARD RATE ONLY PAY \$50 PER REGO

- ☐ Please tick to register for next year's conference  
**Full refund if conference does not proceed**
- ☐ Tick if vegetarian lunches are required. How many?
- ☐ Tick if gluten free lunches are required. How many?

### Contact Details

#### Name

FIRST NAME

FAMILY NAME

#### Address

Postcode

Phone HOME

WORK

#### Mobile

#### Email

#### Home Church

Insert No. of persons  
being registered x \$50 = \$

DONATION

\$

TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE

\$

### Payment details for 2022 Rego

☐ Make cheques payable to: Men for Christ Ministries  
or

☐ Debit the sum of \$ to my:  
☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa **Expiry Date\***

#### Card No\*

#### Name on Card\*

#### Signed\*

#### CCV No.\*

#### \*Mandatory information

The CCV number is the last three digits found on the signature panel on the reverse of the credit card (Mastercard & Visa only)

# ONLINE TALKS

Talks will be provided progressively at [www.menforchrist.asn.au/talks](http://www.menforchrist.asn.au/talks).



ENTER SEARCH TERMS 	ALL YEARS 	ALL TYPES 
ALL SPEAKERS 	ALL THEMES 	RESET FILTERS



# THE MASK OF FEAR

Masks Driven by Fear

How to discard masks driven by fear

## PM Breakout Speaker - Craig Schafer



**What my talk is about:** This session will focus on what it looks like in practice, in day-to day life, to put away fear so that we can be on mission for Jesus.

### Talk Outline

1. Reframed Expectations

2. Reordered Lives

# THE IDENTITY MASK

Passage : Phil 3:1-11

The Identity Mask

Vertical Self?

## AM Breakout Speaker - Luther Symons



**What my talk is about:** As men we need to run from the cult of criticism and comparison we sometimes find ourselves in, defining ourselves horizontally in comparison to others. It leads to confusion, pride or despair. In Jesus we soon discover our identity, security, joy and purpose from above. The vertically defined man knows who he is, why he is and where he's going.

### Talk Outline

#### '#self in a #selfie world'

"The more your sense of self is established in Jesus, the more joyful you will become"

1. 'The Horizontal Self' (2-8)
2. 'The Vertical Self' (vv.9-10)
3. 'The Vertical Self is your New Self' (vv.10-11)
4. You might need to 'Escape to Reality'

# THE IDENTITY MASK

**Passage:** : John 2:25 & Romans 8:29, 12:3

**Discarding the Mask of False Identity**

How to discard the masks of false identities

## PM Breakout Speaker - Peter Kaldor



**What my talk is about:** To some degree we all hide behind facades. There has only ever been one man whose inner self and the persona he portrayed were in perfect harmony. What can we learn from Jesus in this regard and what holds us back from 'closing the gap' between who we are and the persona we project?

### Talk Outline

1. Hiding behind facades
2. Jesus calls out our facade
3. Jesus our perfect example
4. Close the gap

# THE MASK OF SIN

Masking Our Sins

Hiding the things that we are ashamed of as Christians

## AM Breakout Speaker - Marshall Ballantine-Jones



**What my talk is about:** Many Christian men adapt clever facades to hide their struggles with sinful behaviours. This is often driven by the shame of exposure, the helplessness of addiction, or to indulge in the pleasures of those activities. Yes, Jesus sees through this, but out of love, he desires to make authentic, healthy Christians out of all who trust Him. Let's lose the mask, and let Him replace his image over, in, and through us.

### Talk Outline

1. What is wrong with controlling behaviours?
2. When it is unacceptable to tolerate a particular behaviour?
3. Where is God when we're enslaved to an unacceptable behaviour?
4. Steps to address and manage a controlling behaviour.

# THE MASK OF SIN

Masking Our Sins

How to discard masks hiding our sins

## PM Breakout Speaker - Sam Wan



**What my talk is about:** When it comes to parts of our lives that are most vulnerable, broken and shameful we put a mask on to protect ourselves from judgement, exclusion and hurt. But when we do that we also put up a mask to prevent discernment, embrace and healing. This seminar explores how continued godly vulnerability with Jesus and others breaks open our sinful masks and our masked sins.

### Talk Outline

1. The masks we wear
2. Why we don't want to discard these masks
3. 5 Postures on the path of healing

# THE MASK OF TOLERANCE

Masks of False Tolerance

Is Religious freedom just a mask for bigotry?

## AM Breakout Speaker - Michael Kellahan



**What my talk is about:** From Folau to Margaret Court to Victorian conversion therapy legislation, there are moves to silence christian talk on sexual orientation and gender identity. Beliefs which once were commonly held even outside the church are seen as harmful. Religious freedom claims are dismissed as a mask for bigotry. How should Christians act in a time like this? How do we live together well with different beliefs? How does the gospel go forward when it is seen as dangerous by increasing numbers of people?

### Talk Outline

1. The two ways God talk gets silenced
2. Is religious freedom a mask for bigotry?
3. Is pluralism a good thing or a bad thing?

### **Recommended Reading:**

*Being the Bad Guys*

*How to Live for Jesus in a World That Says You Shouldn't*

by Stephen McAlpine

[www.thegoodbook.com.au/being-the-bad-guys](http://www.thegoodbook.com.au/being-the-bad-guys)

# THE MASK OF TOLERANCE

Light in the Darkness

Being a Tolerant Christian in an Intolerant World

## PM Breakout Speaker - David Robertson



**What my talk is about:** We will look at when a Christian should be tolerant and where intolerance is required. How can we communicate the Gospel, live in this post-Christian world and communicate the Gospel without compromise? When should we be tolerant with non-Christians and Christians?

### Talk Outline

1. False Teaching in the Church is not to be Tolerated
2. Sinners are to be Tolerated
3. The Battle is Against Self, Society and Satan
4. Men Battle Through Prayer
5. Men Lead in the Church and Home
6. Men Watch Their Life and Doctrine Closely
7. Men Honour Women
8. Men Work Well
9. Men Don't Love Money
10. Men Flee, Fight and live in Faith

# OUR PARTNERS



SHORE DIGITAL





## EXTRA NOTES

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**Men for Christ**  
MINISTRIES