

MEN MEETING THE CHALLENGE CONFERENCE |

Men for Christ
MINISTRIES

SATURDAY
25TH MARCH 2023

THE BATTLE

Perseverance and Resilience
In Trying Times

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



FOR MORE INFO
www.menforchrist.asn.au

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THE BATTLE

A message from the Chairman

Welcome

The aim of this conference is to allow God's mighty Word to transform men from the inside out as we hear the Bible taught. Our prayer and our goal is to see men equipped for the service of God, his people and the world through knowing Jesus and understanding what it is to be a man, who belongs to Him in this modern world today.

So we're keen to see in our talks:

- God's truth powerfully proclaimed.
- Implications for our lives clearly explored.
- Alternative false views identified, brought down and distractions/obstacles removed.

Richard Bolton

Chairman & Conference Convenor
Men For Christ Ministries

What the conference will address

- Getting a Biblical perspective on the many issues that have arisen during recent times that have impacted men's lives, resulting in many struggling to make sense of reality and feeling increasingly isolated and redundant; and
- Encouraging and supporting men to work together in unity and fellowship with renewed vision, perseverance and resilience to face with confidence and hope, these trying times.

Foundational Passages

Matthew 10 and Hebrews 12

PROGRAM

8:15	WELCOME & CUPPA	
8:50	PRE-CONFERENCE WORSHIP	
9:00	OPENING SESSION	
<i>1st Keynote Speaker</i> Dominic Steele	Perspective on the Battle: <i>Men Fix your Eyes on Jesus</i>	<i>Auditorium</i>
10:05	MORNING TEA	
10:35	MORNING SESSION	
<i>2nd Keynote Speaker</i> Toby Neal	Perseverance for the Battle	<i>Auditorium</i>
11:45	BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
Richard Morrison	The Battle Within: <i>When I Doubt Myself</i>	<i>Auditorium</i>
Mark Tough	The Battle for Religious Freedom	<i>Room 1</i>
Philip Edney	The Battle for the Family	<i>Room 2</i>
12:30	LUNCH	
1:20	BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
Adrian Russell	The Battle to Redefine Reality: <i>An Ancient Battle</i>	<i>Auditorium</i>
Andrew Beddoe	The Battle in the Workplace	<i>Room 1</i>
Simon Graham	The Battle with Materialism	<i>Room 2</i>
2:05	FINAL SESSION	
<i>3rd Keynote Speaker</i> Al Stewart	Resilience to Endure in the Battle: <i>The Power of Just Turning Up</i>	<i>Auditorium</i>
3:40	CLOSE	

OUR SPEAKERS



DOMINIC STEELE | KEYNOTE

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.



TOBY NEAL | KEYNOTE

Toby Neal is the founding pastor of Vine Church (Surry Hills) and has a passion to see people connected to the life, love and freedom Jesus offers. Toby lives in Redfern with his wife and three kids. He has recently given up long course triathlons to return to his teenage passion for surfing.



AL STEWART | KEYNOTE

Al Stewart has been in Christian ministry for close to 40 years. He is married and has 3 daughters and a son, and enjoys being a grandad. Al's mission in life is to help men in Australia know and follow the greatest man, in fact the God/man - Jesus Christ.



RICHARD MORRISON

Richard is a counsellor in private practice and an independent supervisor of pastors and clergy. He was a Baptist minister for over 20 years. His work experience has also included cross-cultural work, community development, suicide prevention, disability service assurance and government funding in the not-for-profit sector. His PhD is in the mental health of men who retire early.



MARK TOUGH

In recent years, Mark has been actively engaged in speaking with politicians about the need for religious freedom to be protected. In 2019, he organised the Free2BMe Religious Freedom event in Blacktown which was attended by around 500 people.



PHILIP EDNEY

Philip has been married for 27 years and he and his wife have six children aged between 13 and 25. He holds a degree in theology, a Masters in Education and hosts a Doctor Who podcast. Philip is passionate about family and is always trying to do that little bit better.



ADRIAN RUSSELL

Adrian is married and has four adult children who love and serve Jesus. He is the senior minister at Northmead Anglican Church and is passionate about taking God's word seriously.



ANDREW BEDDOE

At 15, I was convicted to share the incredible news of God's amazing love for us in Jesus. Since then I have worked hard to share Jesus at school with my peers, with work colleagues, with neighbours, through Scripture Union missions, on University campuses and for the last 13 years training others to share their hope in Jesus through Vocational Bible College.



SIMON GRAHAM

Simon is a student at Moore Theological College and a student minister at Minto Anglican Church. He particularly loves sharing the good news of Jesus with kids and youth alongside his wife, as they raise their two children. When Simon's not studying, he works as a high school history teacher in Western Sydney and a postdoctoral researcher focused on Cold War era intelligence and security policy.

THE BATTLE

Passage: Hebrews 12

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Dominic Steele

Perspective on the Battle: Men Fix your eyes on Jesus



What my talk is about: Gaining an informed Biblical point of view regarding the conflict and nature of the Battle facing Christian men; the issues and the challenges today that may lead to men experiencing discouragement, distraction and disengagement in the Spiritual battle during the difficult days before Christ's Return.

1. Us and Ken Elliott

2. Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses ...1a

3. Let us ... 1b-c

a. Lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares 1b

b. Run with endurance the race before us 1c

4. Eyes on Jesus 2-4

- a. Pioneer and perfecter of our faith 2a
- b. He endured the cross 2b
- c. He sat down at the right hand of God 2c
- d. He endured such hostility from sinners 3a
- e. So that you won't grow weary 3b-4

5. Don't take the Lord's discipline lightly 5-14

- a. The Lord disciplines the one he loves 6
- b. Endure suffering as discipline 7-8
- c. Our human fathers disciplined us 9-10
- d. Discipline is painful, but yields the fruit of righteousness 11-14

6. Make sure 15-21

- a. No one falls short of the grace of God 15
- b. There isn't any immoral person like Esau among you 16-21

7. You have come to Mount Zion 22-25

THE BATTLE

Passage: 2 Samuel 23

Toby Neal

Perseverance for the Battle



What my talk is about: Toby will be speaking on three dangers all men face: compromise, coolness and cowardice. He will take us to the example of King David's fighting men in 2 Samuel 23 and how God is calling us to serve King Jesus with stability, loyalty and bravery.

1. Stand firm, don't compromise

2. Stay loyal, don't remain cool

3. Serve fearlessly, don't act like a coward

Recommended Readings:

Al Stewart, *The Manual*

John Piper, *Desiring God*

Tim Keller, *The Prodigal God*

Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity*

JC Ryle, *Thoughts for Young Men*

David Powlison, *Safe and Sound: Standing Firm in Spiritual Battles*

Rebecca McLaughlin, *The Secular Creed: Engaging Five Contemporary Claims*

THE BATTLE

Passage: Colossians 1:11-12

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Al Stewart

Resilience to Endure in the Battle: The Power of Just Turning Up



What my talk is about: We're told the Christian life for men is an adventure, but very often life is boring or just stressful or both. How do you serve Jesus for the long run when life seems more like 'ground hog day' than 'D' day?

Recommended Readings:

Al Stewart (Matthias Media 2022), The Manual – Getting Masculinity Right
Brant Hanse (Baker Books 2022), The Men we Need

ONLINE TALKS

Talks will be provided progressively at www.menforchrist.asn.au/talks.



ENTER SEARCH TERMS



ALL YEARS



ALL TYPES



ALL SPEAKERS



ALL THEMES



RESET FILTERS

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hope 103.2 |

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 2017, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.

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? Yes / No (Please circle your answer)

If "no" please comment?

6. Next Year's Conference 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?

7. Will you come to next year's conference? Yes / No (Please circle your answer). If "No" would you be willing to provide us with your reason for not coming?

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

8. 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: _____

Phone Number: _____

QR CODES

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SURVEY



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AM Breakout Speaker - Richard Morrison

The Battle Within – When I doubt myself



What my talk is about: The secret fear many of us have is that we are not good enough, not strong enough, not patient enough, not godly enough, not popular enough, and not likeable enough There are just so many ways that “not ... enough” creeps into our thinking and creates a battlefield in our minds. My talk reminds us of Jesus’ weakness, of the miracle of the resurrection, and that jars of clay are good enough in trying times!

1. A Large, but Largely Hidden Battle

2. The Up-side of Self-Doubt

... and the Down

3. Dealing with Sin

4. Dealing with Self-Doubt

"Consider yourselves ..."

"God who raises the dead!"

"Our adequacy is from God!"

"We all ... are being transformed!"

"We have this treasure in earthen containers ..."

"God, who comforts the discouraged, comforted us ..."

"You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ..."

"Power is perfected in weakness!"

5. Three Helps for the Battle:

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-

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AM Breakout Speaker - Mark Tough

The Battle for Religious Freedom



What my talk is about: Even though religious freedom potentially provides false religions with the opportunity to spread their lies, I will be speaking about why Christians should be engaged in helping to protect religious freedom at a time when it is under threat.

1. What is religious freedom?

Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

2. How is religious freedom under threat at present in Australia?

3. Why is religious freedom under threat in Australia?

4. Is 'religious' freedom something we should battle for?

5. How should we go about battling for religious freedom?

Resources for further information:

Australia Watch - australiawatch.com.au

Freedom for Faith – freedomforfaith.org.au

Human Rights Law Alliance - www.hrla.org.au

Institute for Civil Society – www.i4cs.com.au

John Anderson's Conversations – johnanderson.net

Law and Religion Australia Blog – lawandreligionaustralia.blog

AM Breakout Speaker - Philip Edney

The Battle for the Family



What my talk is about: Family is a central concept in the Bible and a chief way that God chooses to relate to his creation. But the concept and goodness of the Biblical model of family is under attack like at no other time. I aim to address why the model is good, how to deal when the model is broken due to a fallen world and why family is facing so much opposition.

- Biblical background of family
- The fall and consequences for the family
- Dealing with the pain of family
- What are the unique challenges being faced today?

- How do we face the challenges

- The good news

Resources for further information:

Douglas Wilson

- Reforming Marriage
- Standing in the Promises
- Future Men
- Father Hunger

Henry Cloud, John Townsend

- Boundaries with Marriage
- Boundaries with Kids
- Raising Great Kids

James Dobson

- Preparing for Adolescence

David Martin

- Rewriting Gender?

Mark Yarhouse

- Understanding Gender Dysphoria

Vaugh Roberts

- Transgender

Mark Thompson (Ed)

- Human Sexuality and the “same sex marriage” debate

THE BATTLE

PM Breakout Speaker - Adrian Russell

The Battle to Redefine Reality: An Ancient Battle



What my talk is about: It feels like the modern world has gone crazy in letting ideology and feelings fly in the face of reality itself, but it's nothing new. Humans have been battling it out with God over who gets to define truth and right and wrong since Adam and Eve. We'll explore how God's word sets us free from captive worldviews to know the truth and to live God's new reality in Christ.

1. Genesis 1-3 - the 4 lies of Satan

2. What is truth? John 18:38

3. They gave up knowledge - Romans 1

God's word > reality

Ultimate authority

Reason	Tradition
Experience	Bible

A 5th element?

A Procrustean Bed

Science's blinkers

Philosophy's presumptions

Christ's reign

PM Breakout Speaker - Andrew Beddoe

The Battle in the Workplace



What my talk is about: 'Secret agent' or 'shining light' in the workplace: Strategies to win the war in the workplace.

What makes it difficult to talk to others about Jesus in our workplace/world?

Satan's strategy to silence us in the workplace/world

God's Provision

- Ephesians 6:10-20

Our response:

- 1 Peter 2:12
- 1 Peter 3:15
- 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Resources for further information:

John Chapman, Know and Tell the Gospel
Two Ways to Live (Matthias Media – Tract)

PM Breakout Speaker - Simon Graham

The Battle with Materialism



What my talk is about: Materialism – living for stuff – is the disastrous consequence of our inability to rightly relate to the prosperity that God has blessed us with in Australia. This is something that we all battle with to one degree or another so let's take some time to understand the problem, explore the solutions that scripture offers and learn to put the mission of the Gospel first.

Guys and Their Stuff

Planes, Trains and Automobiles

Men, the Material and Materialism

What would it hurt to give up?

Stuff Isn't Bad

Created by God (Genesis 1)

Beneficial for Us (Psalm 104:14–15)

Useful for Serving God (2 Corinthians 11:5–11)

Stuff Isn't Good

A Second Master? (Matthew 6:24–30)

Deceptive and Distracting (Titus 3:1–11)

Temptation to Serve Self (Luke 12:13–21)

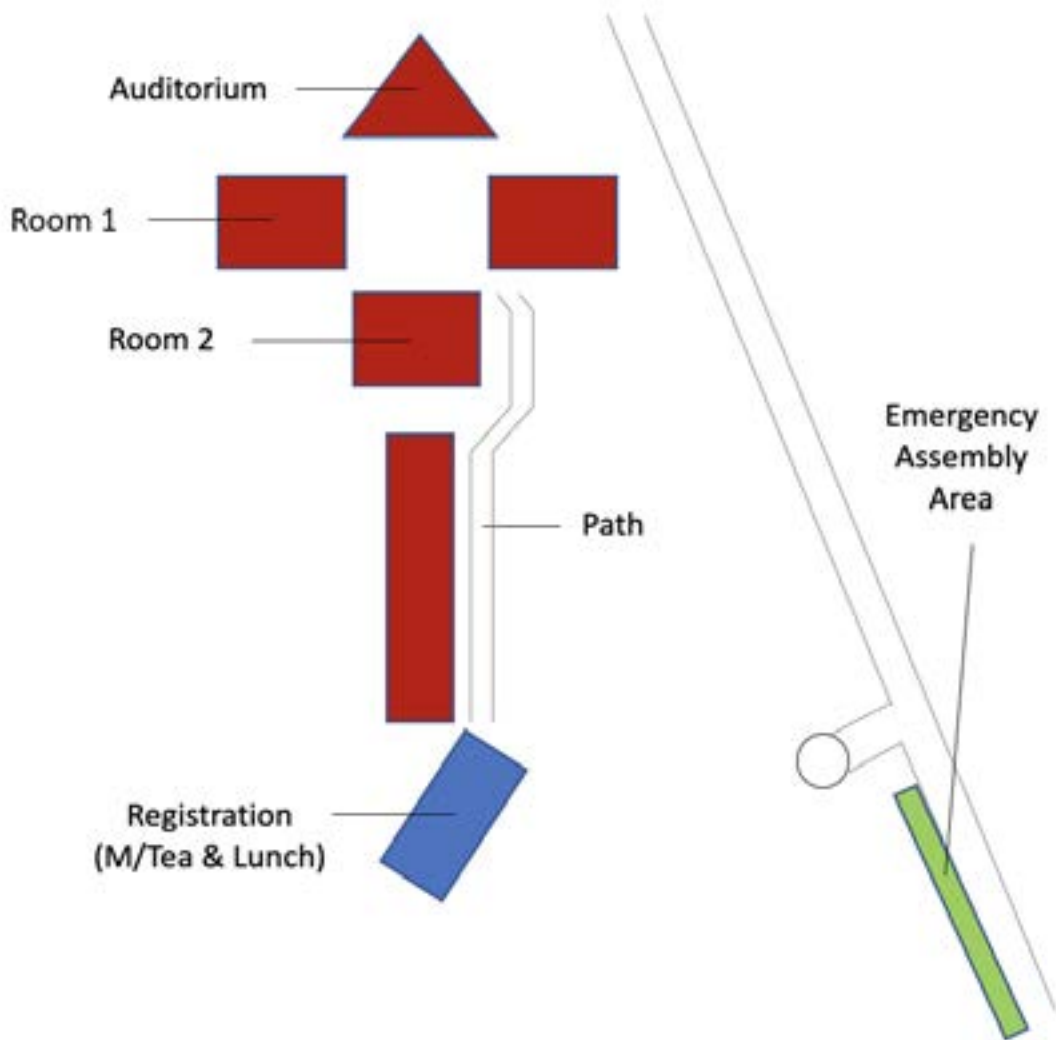
Stuff is Just Stuff

Means not End (2 Corinthians 9:6–15)

Stewardship not Ownership (Luke 16:1–13)

Temporary not Eternal (1 Corinthians 7:29–31)

LOCATION MAP





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