



2008 – A Year of Impact

2008 – Looking back over this year we seemed to have covered a lot of ground with men's retreats/events facilitated in three states of Australia. The mission of menALIVE has continued to grow with new menALIVE teams now established in Adelaide and Tasmania. Both teams have now run two weekends each, making an impact in the hearts of men of local parishes.

In summary, we conducted retreat weekends in Hobart x2, Adelaide x2, and Townsville and Toowong in Queensland. In July we ran a men's event at the Youth Arise conference attended by 150 young men and then hosted MAD08 at World Youth Day attended by around 900 men. We also ran our annual menALIVE 2 the MAX 08 live-in weekend in February as well as a number of regional men's breakfasts throughout the year. In December we will be pioneering a new event called menALIVE Moreton aimed at the under 30s age group. This has been a year of impact and growth.

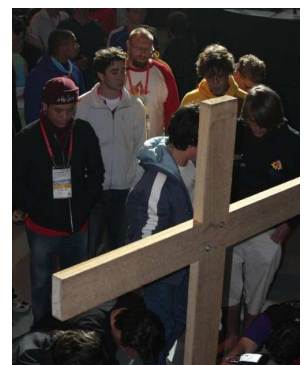


This year the Core Team has been blessed with some volunteer workers including Michael Bennett two days per week, Peter Gabauer and Clive Hamlin one day and Robert Falzon three days respectively. Also John Bowskill has volunteered to assist us with our Website management. If you would like to be a volunteer and to contribute to the work of menALIVE, call Robert on 0412 745 734 to discuss opportunities for service.

One Man's Story...

"I'm Ken - Just want to keep in touch with you and to say THANKYOU for an awesome weekend menALIVE retreat. If you have to save one soul last weekend, I had to say that's mine! Thanks...

Different people get touched by the Holy Spirit in different ways, place or time. I have definitely been renewed over the menALIVE weekend retreat. The Holy Spirit came and touched me. I go to confession with my family every month BUT was never honest to myself. I kept these horrible sins within my darkest room for 17 years and this was what prevented me from loving God and felt that God doesn't love me. I asked people to pray for me to have faith in God but not until last weekend did anything happen. I didn't know why but I felt that there was a voice telling me that I need to make peace with God, I need to confess all my sins truthfully and honestly to God so that he can reveal himself to me.



I did it! (with God's help) and you know what? I have never experienced this feeling for all these years after been baptised. I feel so light now (let go of my burdens gave it all to the lord). Thank you Lord for giving me Jesus as my friend, who I can talk to daily and ask for advice to go about in my daily living. I am now ALIVE and living with a sense of purpose in life. Thankyou for the Scripture journal, with this I am now able to talk to God everyday. I get a chance to read God's words (Scriptures), be with him via Observations and able to Pray and ask God to help me to Apply his teaching to my daily life. Truly I am Alive now!

I ask you, the menALIVE Team, to pray for me to keep up with the Scripture journal (SOAP) and to shield me from the evil that always lurking around and tempting me. Thank you everyone in the menALIVE team.

Weekend Feedback...

"There are so many things I appreciated about the weekend – it was accessible in its format, time frame, and financial cost. It meets a need where there is a vacuum in the area of ministry to men" Kevin – Toowong.

"Thankyou for a much needed refocus on my spiritual journey" Tony – Mt Gravatt

"I feared the weekend would just be happy clappers – it was great and down to earth and I did some clapping too!" Jock – Toowong

"I had not been to confession for nearly 30 years – I feel a freedom now that I did not think possible" – Bruce, Toowong

menALIVE 2 the MAX 09

Book and get the early bird discount! See promotion Leaflet with this email.

MAD08 – a World Youth Day Experience

900 men gathered at the Hordern Pavilion and were rocked by Robbie Curtis and the Emmanuel Worship Band. 5 five minute talks were presented on key topics for young men by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Shayne Bennett, Henry Cappello, Paul Nannes, Paul Hayes

and Fr Chris Ryan. These talks and a DVD of the night will be available in January /February.



Keep an eye on the menALIVE website.

New Plans for 2009

- Quarterly support breakfast for sharing group leaders
- More materials/resources for growth
- Mentoring and Discipleship course in Brisbane
- Team development in NSW and WA
- Small Group starter Kit
- menALIVE weekend work book



Townsville 2008
menALIVE
participants

Event Calender 2009

2009 is filling fast – if you are looking to host a menALIVE weekend in your parish please let us know soon.

February 20/21/22	menALIVE 2 the MAX 09 Will be bigger than ever. See info included.
March 14/15	Daisy Hill
March 20/21/22	Sydney
May 8/9/10	Perth
May 15/16/17	Geraldton
May 29/30/31	Wollongong
June 13/14	Townsville
June 19/20/21	NEW EVENT - “Sons of the Father”
Other	There are also weekends in Jubilee, Canberra, Mackay, Cairns, Enoggera, Indooroopilly, Bellbowrie, Melbourne, Coffs Harbour, Adelaide and Tasmania in 09.

FOR A COMPLETE LOOK AT THE 09 CALENDAR GO TO our website www.menalive.org.au

Reflection *inspired by Richard Rhor*

Three things like nails to hold us to the truth this Christmas---

Prepare the Way for the Lord— *John the Baptist was always pointing away from himself to the Christ, He was amazingly free from himself, his heart was like the desert bare and cleared , empty of motives and disguises. Waiting and prepared.*

Gratitude --- *Why is it that we want God to come, to heal, to forgive, to take away the pain. He is already here and already done what you have asked for . Receive and be grateful and experience the transformation.*

Rejoice --- *Stop long enough and let your inner being proclaim the greatness of God, let your spirit rejoice in your saviour for he does not look on your sin and lowliness . For unto us a Son is given to rescue all Sons.*

Things to do this season

- Read a book that will change your life
- Take time to pray, fast and reflect
- Take time to say thank you—be grateful
- Give things away-- be generous.
- Laugh wildly and unrestrained—express joy – rejoice

IF...

- you have received this newsletter in the mail that means we do not have your email address? SO – can you send us your email address to mail@menalive.org.au
- you do not wish to receive any more of our information let us know and we will take you off the lists. Email mail@menalive.org.au with the word “unsubscribe” in the subject
- you have not yet considered attending the menALIVE2 the MAX 09 event in February NOW is the time to start talking to GOD about it.

A final thought...

We remember the meaning of Advent

Advent is a word that means “coming” or “visit”. In the Christian season of Advent we prepare for the “advent” of Christ at Christmas. Our preparation includes many things:

- We remember Israel’s hope for the coming of God’s Messiah to save, to forgive, and to restore them.
- We remember our hope for the second coming of Jesus.
- We remember our need for a Saviour to save us from our sins.
- We prepare to welcome Christ at Christmas into our world . . . and into our hearts.

*May God visit you this Christmas
and bring you life*

Blessings from the **men** **ALIVE** *team*