

**men  
transforming  
men**

**BUILDING  
THE NEXT  
FIVE  
GENERATIONS  
OF AUSTRALIAN  
MEN**



December 2009

## The Initiates of 2009 Men's Rites of Passage



Back L to R. Tony Couper, Rob Jones, Max Dickman, Phil Francis, Bill Sweeny, Brian Langridge.  
Front L to R Ron Nix, Steve Freeman, Graham Endicott, Neil Roberts, Jim Bryan

**MROP Leadership Team**

# Rob Jones Reflects on 2009- Learning to hold the tension



**Dear Friends and Supporters,**

2009 has been the most productive year yet for MTM in terms of transformation and changed lives in the communities of people we have the privilege of serving across Australia. Groups of men are being raised up across our vast nation, all with the same calling to reach out and connect with the men of Australia. It is often said that men's work is not for the faint hearted because of the nature of the human story. Hurting people hurt other people, even the ones that are there to bring them love and support. What does this all mean in reality? As MTM continues to serve out its calling, there is an increasing need to train and equip local and national leadership. Men are experiencing various degrees of difficulty finding local mentorship, spiritual direction or even support from their local faith communities. Men are asking for a deeper spiritual journey, one that moves beyond simplistic fear based prescriptive solutions. A faith that allows men to mature beyond the black and white, to a faith that is able to offer unconditional love, where anyone can come and be accepted, just the way they are. (*Perfect love casts out all fear*). Judging, critiquing and feeling morally superior, just kills men's work. The sad thing about all of this is that those that are doing the judging are lovely people, and I am sure they mean no harm. It's just that they are blind to their projections. I am finding that there are large numbers of "churched" men, that no longer attend church. Many of these men have been led to seek help on their spiritual walk outside the church and are maturing into beautiful men of wisdom. The journey back to church for these men is a difficult one. True maturity is always a Both /And philosophy. Somehow we need to hold onto our faith roots while learning to move forward. The moment one says they are right and where they came from is wrong, polarization occurs and yet another reactionary movement is born.

How does one hold the tension in all this? How does one keep perspective and have the wisdom to see through these challenges? Welcome to the world of MTM and the disciplines of Prayer and Letting Go.

**My Father must be more and I must be less.**

On behalf of the board of directors of MTM, I would like to thank you all personally for your love and support for MTM over the last year. 2010 has many challenges ahead, including finding a new home for MTM by May!

Happy Christmas and a wonderful transformative New Year to you all.

Peace  
Rob Jones  
CEO  
MTM Australia



# MTM Seminars at Brisbane Convention Centre

MTM recently held two back to back seminars with over 400 attendees, 70 came from interstate. Richard Rohr OFM was our guest speaker from the Centre of Action and Contemplation in the USA. The first seminar was a two day workshop on men's ministry formation and the second was a combined men and women's seminar on Contemplative Prayer. Excellent feedback was received for both events. A big thankyou to the many volunteers who billeted our visitors and worked tirelessly to make this event a success. Thank you also to local artist Kym Barrett who painted a back drop for Silence in the City.



Richard Rohr OFM



# MTM Counselling and Spiritual Direction Team

MTM Australia continues to be blessed with mature male counsellors who have a real heart for journeying with other men and their families. These men are fully committed to the journey of maturity and are professionally accredited and supervised. The greatest testimony we receive from those benefiting from the ministry of MTM, are comments about the counselling team's obvious love for one another and their love for people. Men are travelling long distances locally and interstate to attend our centre because of what we offer.

*"Thank you for your acceptance, encouragement, mentoring and knowledge and for showing me that there is always hope and help."*

*"If I hadn't found MTM, when I did, I would not be here today"*

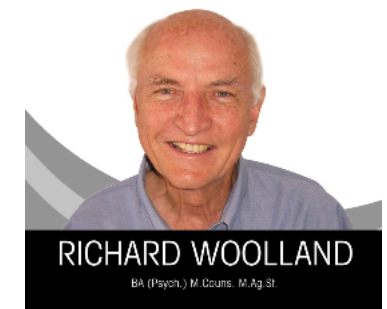
*"Thank you for not putting me back together and allowing me to find my true self"*

Major trends in counselling are:-

- Supervision of counsellors from other organisations
- Mentorship and training of trainee counsellors who want to be trained in men's work.
- Mentorship, spiritual direction and counselling of ministers of religion across the denominations
- Equipping of leaders of men's work to walk closely with other men.

MTM counselling load is continuing to grow with much of our work coming from referrals .

A typical man's journey on coming to MTM would involve one-on-one session work and then an introduction to a facilitated men's group, followed by invitations to men's camps, MROP or community breakfasts. Our counselling Centre at Taringa is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. Sessions cost \$88 for singles and \$99 for married couples. Concessions are available on request.



# MTM Facilitated Men's Groups at Brookfield



On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of December we had our last Monday night meeting for 2009. Approximately 30 men gathered at the Brookfield Centre and took the opportunity to come together, reflect and celebrate the year and the experiences and learning that we have shared. The evening started with nibbles, cakes and ice cream that the men brought along, and even a home man-made fruit cake!

Later in the evening we moved out to the grassed area at the rear of the house to enjoy the cool breeze and the beautiful night. Sitting 'in circle' out the back of the Brookfield Centre, men took the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about what 2009 had been like for them; their victories, trials, joys and disappointments. Men talked of relationships, changes at work, changes and growth they feel in themselves and what they have observed in other men. There was a very strong feeling of affirmation and support within the group.

It was great to hear the different stories from men who have developed and learnt so much about themselves during 2009. Whether it be through the M.A.L.E.S. group, Contemplative Prayer group, or Mens Rite Of Passage it is clear that something very positive and transformative is happening to us as individuals and as a body of men. We are not the same men we were this time last year. In many different yet similar ways we are all on the 'Journey'. Perhaps this is best summed up by one man who on Monday shared that for him during this year "Nothing has changed, and yet everything has changed."

Whilst sitting in circle listening to men share, I couldn't help but think how many men in all sorts of different places and times have sat and shared this way. We are continuing a great and honourable tradition, where men sit in circle with honesty and strength to share their lives. When this happens a sacred space is created.

The M.A.L.E.S. group for 2010 commences on Monday 8 February with a meet and greet and no doubt some nice goodies as well. We might even find ourselves out the back of the old house, sitting in a circle under the stars, sharing our Christmas and New Year experiences. Have a wonderful Christmas and all the best for 2010. I am looking forward to continuing to share the journey with you.



Graham Legg  
Facilitator - MALES group.

# MTM-menAlive-DirectionsTas-Mens Weekend Tasmania-A Man's Journey

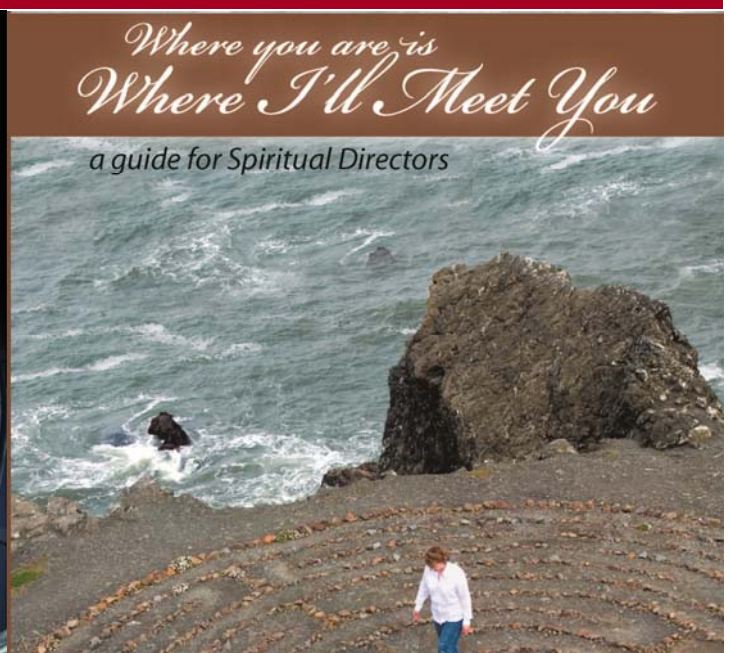
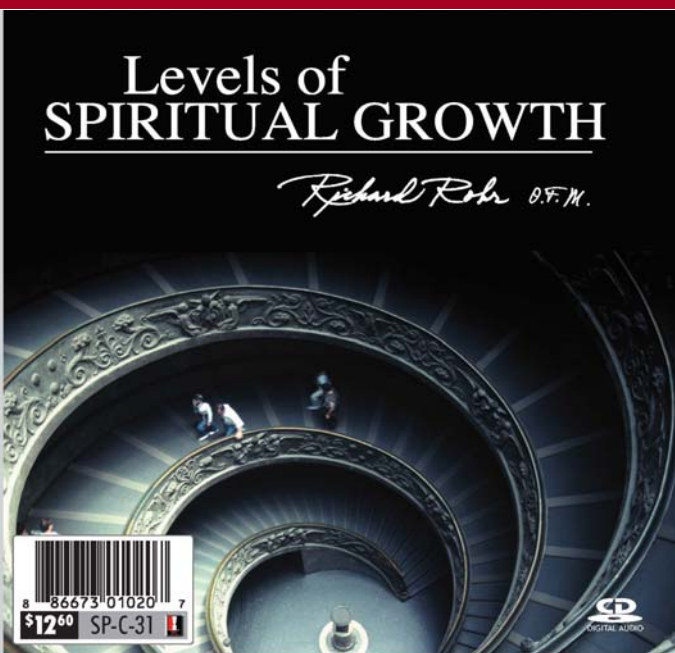


In November MTM, menAlive and DirectionsTas jointly ran a men's event in Orford Tasmania. This is the third year that MTM has been involved and we are hoping to take this event interstate to South Australia next year. These three Christian Men's organisations represented, come from different denominational backgrounds and even different theological underpinning, yet were united in the cause of transforming men. What a joy to work together – what a beautiful message for the men.



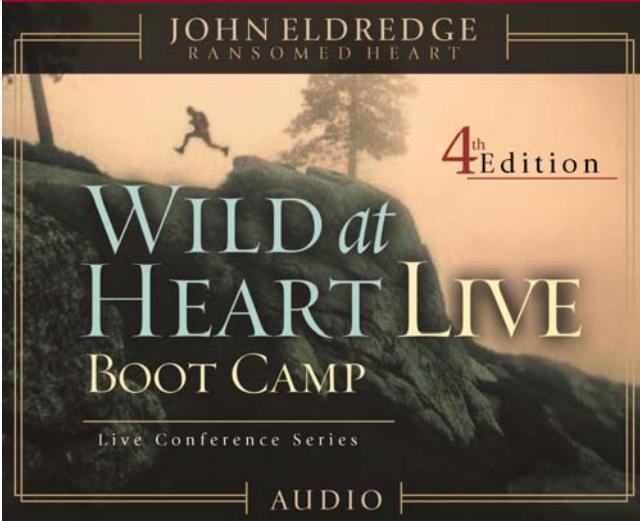
L to R Geoff Madden, Robert Falzon, Rob Jones, Glenn Ferguson and Phil Harback

## Tasman Leadership Team

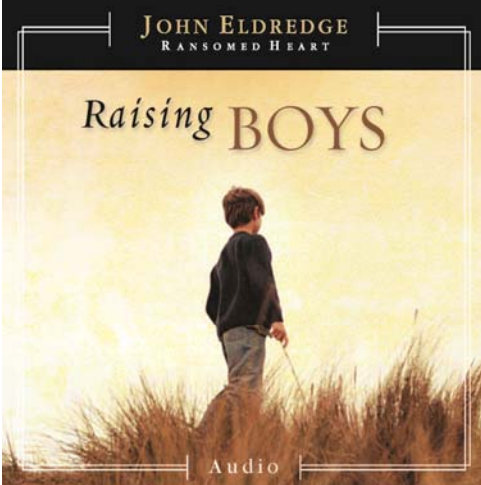


Purchase MTM Resources and help fund the work

# MTM has a new resource partner -John Eldredge of Ransomed Heart Ministries



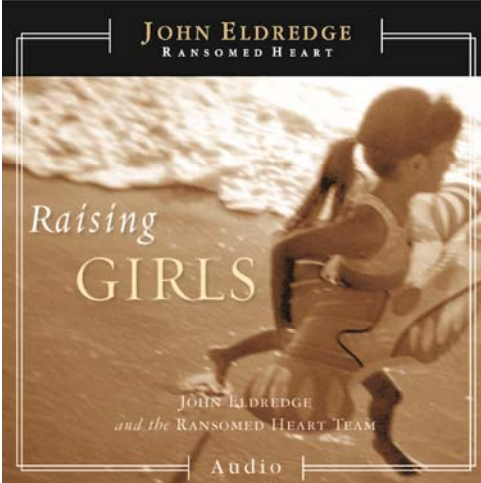
**THE NEXT  
BUILDING  
FIVE  
GENERATIONS  
AUSTRALIAN  
WOMEN**



MTM Australia now manufactures and markets most of John Eldredge –Ransomed Heart Ministries resources for Australia and New Zealand. John's teaching began with helping men to rediscover the true and Godly meaning of masculinity, and how to exercise it in a wholesome and righteous manner.

This led to further books and CD's on relating to women, sexuality, marriage, parenting, etc.

And, in more recent times, the team at Ransomed Heart has also published works on topics such as "The Utter Relief of Holiness", "The Hope of Prayer" and "The Work of Christ".

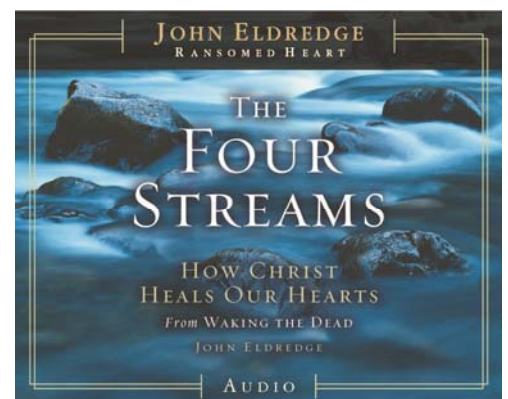
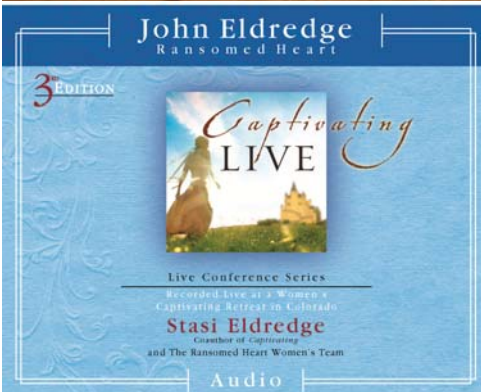


Here at MTM Australia, we believe that as we minister to men, we help not only them but their marriages and their families, and hence our society. So, the Ransomed Heart materials have been a valued resource for us and one that we have used extensively over the years in our counselling, training centre courses, men's groups and in mentoring.

It is, therefore, a great thrill and a privileged to be appointed as the distributor for Australia and New Zealand with exclusive rights to reproduce locally the CD's and DVD's in Ransomed Heart's extensive body of work.

This represents a major addition to our current range of materials from such wonderful teachers as Richard Rohr and Gordon Dalbey.

(You can check out our full list on [www.mtmaustralia.org.au](http://www.mtmaustralia.org.au)).



## 2010 Calendar

men  
transforming  
men

| Date          | Event  |
|---------------|--|
| January 15-17 | Soularize 2010 International MROP , N.M USA            |
| January 17    | MTM Supporters Luncheon (Rob & Sharon Jones' New Home) |
| Feb 8         | M.A.L.E's Groups start Mondays (Brookfield Centre)     |
| Feb 20        | Men's Breakfast (Rob & Sharon Jones' New Home)         |
| March 14      | MTM Supporters Luncheon                                |
| May 15        | Men's Breakfast (Brookfield)                           |
| June 13       | MTM Supporters Luncheon                                |
| July          | Men's Camp Adelaide                                    |
| August 17-21  | Men's Rites of Passage Camp Somerset                   |
| Oct 10        | MTM Supporters Luncheon                                |

BUILDING  
THE NEXT  
FIVE  
GENERATIONS  
OF AUSTRALIAN  
MEN



MROP 2009



### MTM Australia

Suite 5A, 1 Swann Road, Taringa, Qld  
4068  
P.O Box 85, Indooroopilly Qld 4068  
Phone: 07 3876 8710  
Fax: 07 3876 8712  
Email: [admin@mtmaustralia.org.au](mailto:admin@mtmaustralia.org.au)  
Web: [www.mtmaustralia.org.au](http://www.mtmaustralia.org.au)

### Donations to MTM Australia Commonwealth Bank

ABN 46 109 382 809  
BSB :064 178  
Account No.10208798

MTM is a Registered Charitable Institution.  
Certificate Number: CH 1532