



# MTM Newsletter

April 2009



Up to 50 Men from many different denominations and backgrounds come together each week at the MTM Training School at Brookfield



The MTM training school for 2009 commenced on the 9th February with a meet and greet evening at the Brookfield Centre attended by approximately 50 men. The training school is running three groups on a Monday night. The first group, the Men as Learners and Elders (M.A.L.E.s) group, is a facilitated program looking at issues central to masculinity and male spirituality. The second group is for men who have undertaken the MALEs program focussing on developing practices on Contemplative Prayer, and the third group is self-led by experienced men within the MTM fellowship.

There are approximately 26 men in the M.A.L.E.s program which is progressing well. The M.A.L.E.s program is also designed to prepare men for the Men's Rites of Passage gathering, which is conducted by M.T.M. every year. The M.A.L.E.s group this year is continuing the good work done on the program since its commencement in 2006. The program is based around the work of influential writers in the areas of men's work and men's issues most specifically Richard Rohr and Gordon Dalbey.

The program looks at a wide range of issues and topics relevant to men in today's world. We focus on relationships between fathers and sons and the crucial part they play in making us the men we are; the mother son relationship and how it impacts on our masculinity and relationship with the feminine throughout a man's life, and spiritual issues relating to men and our place in the world. We also explore the traditional approach to male initiation and what it was designed to achieve, and how the positive elements of initiation may be able to be adopted in today's modern world.

We encourage men to read the relevant texts and handouts to ensure they have a good general understanding of the issues raised in the program. As much as possible the focus of the program is on discussing important issues as a respectful group of men.

The program focuses on assisting men to grow as people, in relationship with themselves, others and with God. This means understanding themselves better, what factors have made them the people they are today, and what challenges and opportunities this presents. In my experience one of the best ways to assist men to explore issues is through group work where men can sit 'in circle' with a group of other men to discuss issues and what is happening for them in their lives, and through small group work which gives the opportunity for sharing on specific issues. The program aims to give men the opportunity to be exposed to some new material and concepts on men's issues and male spirituality, and to meet other men to share their ideas and experiences. As a group we aim to explore the material so that we can make sense of it from our collective life experience, as this is often where the real benefit and learning is to be found. It is also a great opportunity to learn from each other and integrate the material in a group environment.

Graham Legg

## MTM growing– and we need your help



Rob and Sharon Jones at Rob's recent Masters graduation ceremony

### Dear Friends and Supporters,

MTM is off to a busy start this year with increased requests for counselling at the Taringa Counselling Centre and up to 50 men at the MTM Brookfield training school. This together with our major international, interstate and local events, will be MTM's biggest year since our beginning 5 years ago.

We continue to be humbled by how God has provided and continues to lead us in new and challenging areas. One thing we have learnt is that you can't stay where you are and follow God. As I reflect on even the last 5 years, we have been constantly lead beyond our normal comfort zones into uncharted territories in terms of our abilities, facilities and finances. We are continuing to learn to journey with the greater church and especially those outside. All this at times can feel like living on the edge. Initially this felt very uncomfortable even vulnerable, but we are beginning to accept our place on the edge because it is the very place where Jesus spent most of his time. So once again, we give thanks!

Some interesting trends are emerging at MTM:-

- Increased Counselling/spiritual direction with pastors, priests and ministers.
- Mentoring and supervision of student counsellors who want to work with men. We have 4 this year.
- Partnering with other men's organisations– there is no need to compete– we are all one
- Men travelling large distances to take part in spiritual direction and counselling at the Taringa Centre
- More requests to begin intern programs to train/ equip/mentor men's workers from interstate and regional Australia.
- The coming together of many gifted men and women from many denominations who are feeling called to the work of MTM.
- Increased demand for materials from our resource centre.

To an outsider all this may leave them with the view that MTM is well funded. The reality is we just scrape through each month. Sometimes our personal MasterCard gets loaded to the max to cover things till the next donation comes in. I guess what I am saying is we need your help urgently in the following ways:

- Regular financial donations
- Donation of significant lump sums to begin work on a permanent home for MTM to grow and develop residential intern programs for workers.
- The giving of time and talents

As the Australian economy faces its greatest challenge since the depression, not for profit charities like MTM are already experiencing lower giving. Demands for the ministry of MTM is greater now than ever before and we see this increasing as the recession continues to bite.

Please help us if you are able. Thank you to all those who already support us in so many ways.  
Peace

Rob Jones  
CEO MTM Australia



An Australian, an Englishman and a Texan (Baptist, Anglican and Southern Baptist/ Catholic Contemplative) at the recent International Men's Rites of Passage in USA

# MTM and menALIVE ministering together



Robert Falzon Co-founder menALIVE



How do two men from completely different walks of life, backgrounds and denominational faiths end up partnering in ministering to men in Australia?

In 2003 two men in their late 40's, one a Catholic called Robert and the other a Baptist called Rob, one an AFL fanatic and the other a car fanatic, both had in one way or another crashed into the wall of life--- completely independently and separately decided to try to answer the question—Where are all the men? Stopping is a valuable process in a busy life and completely necessary to reflect on these questions-What is the male journey about? What is being missed by the main stream and is leaving men disengaged in their faith journey?

In seeking answers to these questions--

Rob Jones founded MTM (Men Transforming Men) which specifically aims to TRANSFORM men through: counselling, mentorship, spiritual direction, providing resources, training and internships.

And Robert Falzon co-founded menALIVE which aims to bring men together in events and weekends to renew their faith and relationship with God and encourage them to become and ALIVE and ACTIVE force of renewal in their marriages, family and church.

Both men and ministries discovered each other in 2005 and immediately realized that there was so much synergy and compatibility that they made commitments to support and encourage the works of the ministries. In the beginning this support was mostly in the form of encouragement and mutual respect. This then lead to invitations to speak at each other's events and now in numerous practical shared and joint ventures. Some of these include---

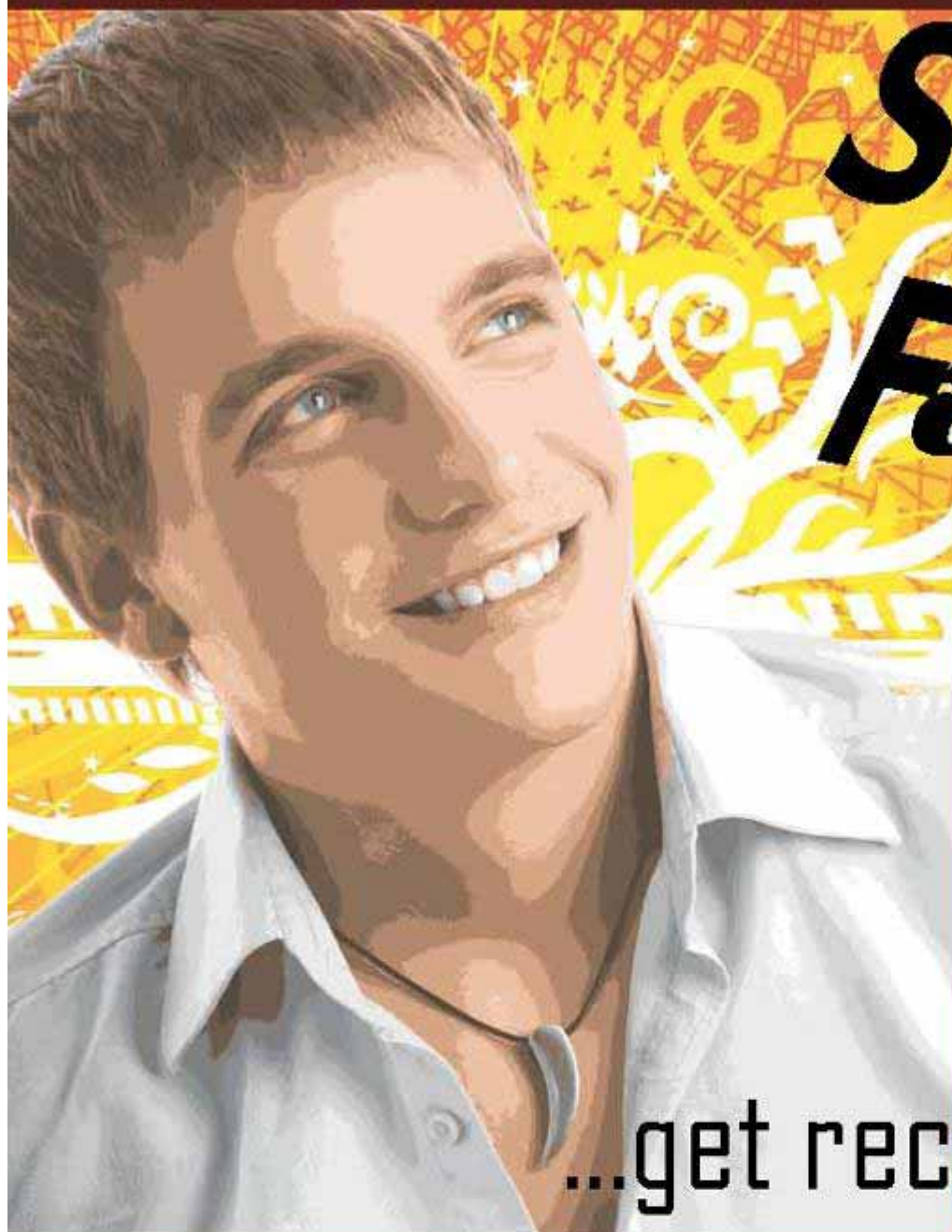
- Promotions--- actively supporting and promoting each other's activities and events. Have a look at the websites and you will see many common offerings—[www.menalive.org.au](http://www.menalive.org.au) and [www.mtmaustralia.org.au](http://www.mtmaustralia.org.au).
- MROP—Men's Rite of Passage—MTM run this highly successful event that has been attended by many in the menALIVE Leadership Team and is now held in conjunction with menALIVE.
- Resources—menALIVE recognise the importance of putting good resources into the hands of men. Rather than reinvent the wheel menALIVE use and promote many of the resources available from MTM.

It is only EGO that drives one to do things on ones own. The need to start something and to own it and to keep it and to defend it and to compete with others and so on is not the way of JESUS. MTM and menALIVE are striving towards a different and hopefully better way of working in ministry together. Whilst recognising and appreciating the different styles and activities we have , we are called to the same outcome—facilitating the restoration and transformation of the hearts of men so that they become all that God made them to be.

It is often said between the two ministries “what's mine is yours”. And of course we recognise it's always HIS—we never need to compete. There has been great joy and freedom in working together and re-finding the unity and complementarily of the Body. We rejoice and celebrate each other's victories.

Robert Falzon- menALIVE

The journey to manhood should not be taken alone!



# Sons of the Father

an opportunity  
for dads & their  
teenage sons  
to...

...get reconnected!

'Sons of the Father' is a unique opportunity for dads and their teenage sons to embark on a quest of discovery. A son's relationship with his father can be a powerful guiding force as he wrestles with the questions of what kind of man he is becoming. The most important ingredient in this relationship is time. Take time out together to get reconnected in an environment which fosters honesty, mutual respect and a hunger for more out of life.

'Sons of the Father'  
is a weekend for dads  
and their teenage sons  
(13-17 years)

#### Enquiries:

Robert - 0412 745 734

Peter - 0409 479 373

Des - 0433 683 135

**REGISTER NOW!** (Spaces are limited on a first in basis.)

GOD IS GLORIFIED WHEN MEN ARE FULLY ALIVE

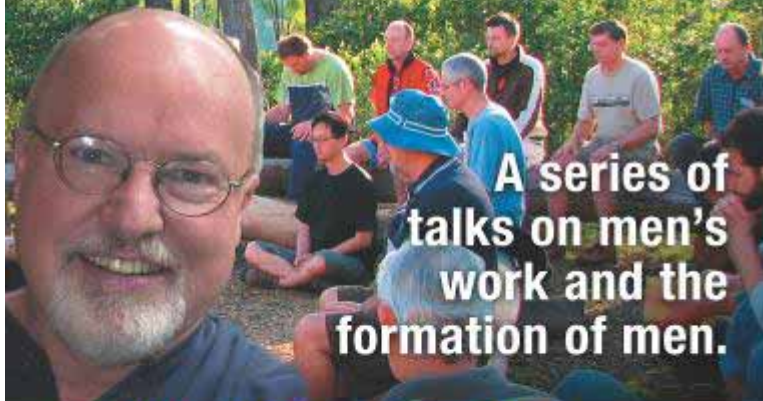
St Irenaeus

**5 - 7 June 09**

[www.menalive.org.au](http://www.menalive.org.au)

men  
**ALIVE**

# MEN TRANSFORMING MEN



A series of talks on men's work and the formation of men.

With **Richard Rohr OFM**

FRIDAY 17th & SATURDAY 18th JULY 2009

Sessions start at 9am and conclude at 4pm.

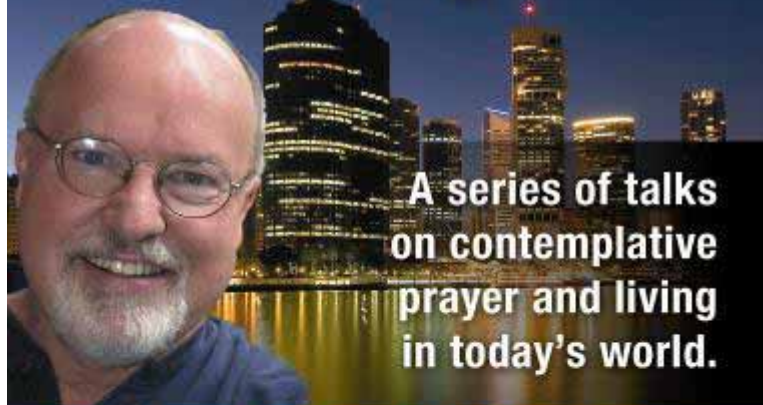
For more information please contact MTM Australia  
Phone: 07 3876 8710 E-mail: [admin@mtmaustralia.org.au](mailto:admin@mtmaustralia.org.au)



[www.mtmaustralia.org.au](http://www.mtmaustralia.org.au)



# Silence in the City



A series of talks on contemplative prayer and living in today's world.

With **Richard Rohr OFM**

SUNDAY JULY 19TH 2009

Sessions start at 9am and conclude at 4pm.

For more information please contact MTM Australia  
Phone: 07 3876 8710 E-mail: [admin@mtmaustralia.org.au](mailto:admin@mtmaustralia.org.au)



[www.mtmaustralia.org.au](http://www.mtmaustralia.org.au)



## Men As Learners and Elders

But no sign will be given, except  
the sign of Jonah. *Luke 11:29*



### Men's Rites Of Passage



25-29 August 2009

Camp Somerset,  
Stanley Pocket Road via Esk.  
Queensland, 4312



RUN IN CONJUNCTION WITH

men  
**ALIVE**

- **Men's Rites of Passage**  
Brothers it is time to start sending in your MROP applications for the 2009 initiation ceremony. Many are already in for consideration by the MALES team elders and we are expecting this to be our biggest group yet. Please don't leave it to the last moment as numbers are limited to 70. Application forms and more details are on the web site [www.mtmaustralia.org.au](http://www.mtmaustralia.org.au).
- **Silent Prayer Days at Brookfield**  
This year there are two silent prayer days held at the Brookfield Centre: 2nd May and the 10th October. This is a great time to get away for the day and be quiet with God. Morning tea provided, just bring your lunch. Starts at 8am and finishes 3.30pm. For more info call MTM office. Cost \$15 and booking is essential.

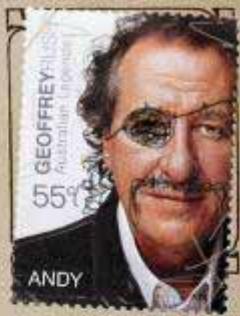


Some of the 20 strong Contemplative prayer group

# THANK YOU POST CARD

This side for the Message

PHOTO  
This side for the Address

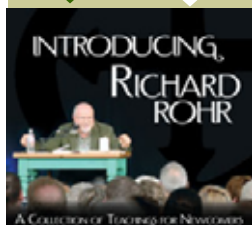


To the mighty MTM guys,  
 Thanks for the support you've shown us since Joe had his accident, you really have been amazing friends. Some of you have helped us financially, some of you visited Joe in hospital, some of you prayed for us and one bloke nicknamed Joe "Crash" and sent him a whole lot of very funny sms messages.  
 When times are tough we need to stick together. Thanks for being there when we needed you. You've made us feel very welcome.  
 Remember, things always work out for good in the end. If they're not working out, then it's not the end yet. We just need to keep going, things will work out.  
 Thanks for all your support.  
 God Bless  
 Joe & Sarah Thorley



## Resources recently received from Richard Rohr

Please phone for postage rates. 07 38708822



New  
2009

This set of teachings and homilies by Fr. Richard Rohr is a **perfect introduction** to his fresh way of looking at Scripture, society, and life.

**The newcomer to Fr. Richard's teachings will find this set a real treasure.** The six CD's include the following list of talks:

CD #1 **Two Major Tasks of the Spiritual Life** -- Much personal and pastoral confusion can be overcome when we realize that in the first half of life we have to master self control, and in the second half of life we must give up control. Length: 74 min.

CD #2 **The Little Way: A Spirituality of Imperfection** -- Fr. Richard shares the insights of St. Therese of Lisieux, which show imperfection as the organizing principle of spiritual reality. This is a great introduction to the healing ministry of addiction and recovery. Length: 65 minutes.

CD #3 **Spiral of Violence: the World, the Flesh, & the Devil** -- Fr. Richard looks at the traditionally labeled sources of evil: the world, the flesh, and the devil. He offers a tool for discerning evil on all levels so that we might make appropriate responses before we are caught up in an uncontrollable spiral. 59 Minutes.

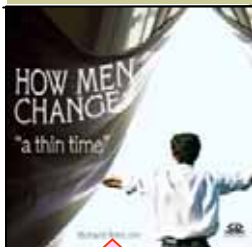
CD #4 **Beloved Sons** set This CD offers you Richard Rohr's two basic talks on masculine spirituality. Each talk: about 35 minutes  
**Masculine Spirituality** -- Fr. Richard shows the need for real masculine spirituality, one that speaks to man's true core. **Why Males Need Initiation** -- Fr. Richard addresses the reality that if men are not led through an inner journey of powerlessness, they will inevitably misunderstand and abuse power.

CD #5 **Francis - Turning the World on its Head: Subverting the Honour/Shame System**  
Fr. Richard shares insight into the life, vision, and vocation of St. Francis, as seen through the lens of Jesus' teachings in the Gospel of Matthew. Length: 79 minutes

CD #6 **Collection of Homilies** - Gospel readings and homilies by Fr. Richard at Holy Family Parish, Albuquerque, in 2008

Author: Richard Rohr  
Price: 55.00  
Order: ST-C-21  
Media: 6 CD

### Introducing Richard Rohr



New  
2009

During this February 1 webcast, Fr. Richard explores the issue of change: why and how men resist it. "How do men change?" he asks. "They don't - unless they have to!" He gives insight into the mechanisms that strengthen our resistance to change.

Fr. Richard shares insight on how men (and women) can change - through willingness to live in the light and the dark at the same time, in the shadowland, where both are embraced and held in the tension of daily life.

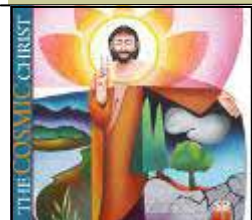
Through questions from webcast viewers, Fr. Richard responds with some very sound, practical advice which can help open us all to the transformative path that leads to fullness of life and love.

Author: Richard Rohr  
Price: \$12.60  
Order: MW-C-16  
Media: 1 CD (Approx 80 mins)

Author: Richard Rohr  
Price: \$23.60  
Order: MW-D-16  
Media: 1 DVD (Approx 80

Almost  
ready

### How Men Change "a thin time"



New  
2009

In this teaching Fr. Richard gives a profound insight into the nature of the historical Jesus and what the resurrected Christ really means.

We are reminded that the material and spiritual worlds are part of the same universal reality. As the Body of Christ we are all called to participate in relationship with the Divine Trinity. Fr. Richard uses plain language to make this life-changing view accessible:

*"You were created in the image and likeness of God. This dignity from God is never taken back from God's side. It's an eternal covenant.*

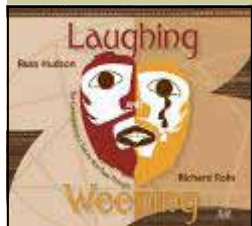
*The anointing that has been given to Christ has been given to you. That's why Jesus said, "Follow me". We have to walk the same journey.*

When you say that you believe in Jesus Christ, you include absolutely everything, including yourself. *Only the Spirit can teach you that this is true.*"

This presentation was a week-end conference held in Houston, December 2008.

Author: Richard Rohr  
Price: \$42.45  
Order: SP-C-28  
Media: 3CD's (Approx 191 mins)

### The Cosmic Christ



New  
2009

Over the 2009 New Year holiday, Richard Rohr and Russ Hudson presented a teaching of the Enneagram to over 600 people in Albuquerque, NM.

The depth of the teachings offered in this conference goes far beyond the identification of the nine Enneagram types. The Enneagram is presented as a serious spiritual tool, a tool of remembrance, a pathway to open ourselves to the gift of Presence.

The serious, deep study of the Enneagram shows the importance of Grace and the awakening of the soul. Gaining clear self-knowledge is a crucial step in this process of becoming fully human. The Enneagram helps us in this journey.

**Russ Hudson** is one of the principal scholars and innovative thinkers in the Enneagram world today. He is Co-Founder of The Enneagram Institute, and is a Founding Director of the International Enneagram Association. He is also co-author (with Don Riso) of The Wisdom Of The Enneagram and many other Enneagram books.

**Fr. Richard Rohr** is a Franciscan of the New Mexico Province and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation. Fr. Richard's gift is articulating to our minds what we already know in our hearts. He considers the proclamation of the Gospel to be his primary call, and uses many different platforms to communicate that message.

Author: Richard Rohr & Russ Hudson  
Price: \$78.60  
Order: EN-C-04  
Media: 7 CD's (7.5 hrs)

Author: Richard Rohr & Russ Hudson  
Price: \$94.30  
Order: EN-D-04  
Media: 4 DVD (7.5 hrs)

### Laughing and Weeping: The Enneagram as a tool for non dual thought

# Men Transforming Men

## MTM Australia

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## Donations to MTM Australia

### Commonwealth Bank

ABN 46 109 382 809

BSB :064 178

Account No.10208798

MTM is a Registered Charitable Institution.

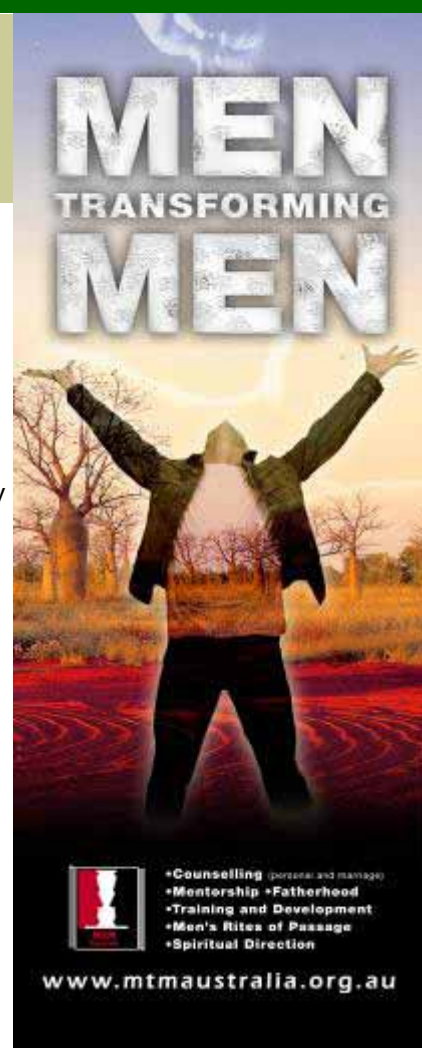
Certificate Number: CH 1532

♥ If you are making a new will please  
consider gifting to MTM Australia



## MTM Australia 2009 Calendar

Date	Event
Saturday 2 May 09	Silent Prayer Day
Sunday 24th May 09	Supporters Luncheon
Friday 6th and Saturday 7th June	Son's of the Father
Saturday 13th June 09	Men's Community Breakfast
Fri 17 and Sat 18th Jul 09	Richard Rohr Men's Conference
Sunday 19th July 09	Richard Rohr General Admission: Silence in the City
Monday 20th July 09	Men's Rites of Passage Leadership Training (Closed)
Sunday 9th August 09	Supporters Luncheon
Tues 25 - Sat 29 August 09	Men's Rites of Passage 5 day retreat
Saturday 12th September 09	Men's Community Breakfast
Saturday 10th October 09	Silent Prayer Day
Sunday 1st November 09	Supporters Luncheon
Fri 13-Sun 15 November 09	Tasmanian Men's Retreat: A Journey into Manhood
Saturday 5th December 09	Men's Community Breakfast



# MTM Australia

## on the wisdom journey