

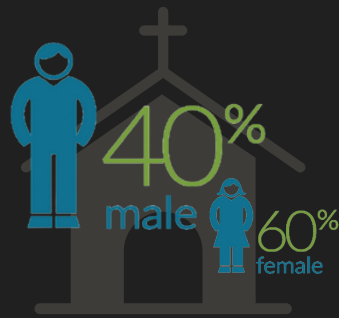
Why

# MEN'S CONVENTION?

MTCC  
**MEN'S**  
CONVENTION  
2024

**60% OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH ATTENDERS IDENTIFY AS FEMALE AND 40% AS MALE. IN EVERY DENOMINATION, IN EVERY AGE GROUPING, WOMEN OUTNUMBER MEN**

(National Church Life Survey)



**OF THE 46% OF AUSTRALIANS THAT IDENTIFY AS CHRISTIANS, ONLY 16 PERCENT ATTEND A CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT LEAST MONTHLY, AND JUST 6 PERCENT SAY THEY ARE "EXTREMELY INVOLVED" WITH PRACTICING THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH.**

(Christianity Today)

**LONELINESS WAS NOTABLY ASSOCIATED WITH EXPERIENCES OF DEPRESSION AND SUICIDALITY AMONG AUSTRALIAN MEN, SIGNIFICANTLY MORE SO THAN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE AND UNEMPLOYMENT.**

(Australian Institute of Family Studies)



**MEN MAKE UP MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS OF SUICIDAL DEATHS IN AUSTRALIA. THE HIGHEST RATES OF SUICIDE ARE AMONG THOSE MEN AGED 30-59 YEARS.**

(Australian Institute of Family Studies)



*Why Men's Ministry?*

Why a ministry for men and men alone? And why do we encourage men to do stuff on their own as groups of guys? Are we sexist? Are we encouraging gender division? First let's think statistics; Over the last 20 years 38% of believing men left the church. In fact for men aged under 30, nearly 50% left in the same period of time. Now that's believing men deciding they don't want to go to church anymore! So we are facing a crisis before we even think about reaching men who aren't yet believers. The decline is pretty terminal. In 30 years time there could be zero men left in church communities in the UK.

Of course, women are leaving church too. But no-where near as fast as men. As a pastor I was often vexed by the lack of young men in church. We had these great young girls who really wanted to find Godly husbands and yet there were no men. That's a concern for me as a father to two daughters! In fact across the UK the official statistic is 60% women to 40% men. Anecdotally the ratio is often 70:30. Not good. So what do we do? Men aren't good at small talk. They don't form trusting relationships as fast and as easily as women. In fact, you might say that when a woman walks into a room she looks for people to talk with and relate to. When a man walks into a room he is plotting his escape strategy and looking for the exit door! So men need a forum and a place to forge good strong friendships which over time will become open enough for conversation about stuff other than what they do for work or the football etc. If this isn't encouraged most men will go into a default "loner" mode.

Church culture can also be quite feminine and therefore difficult for many men to get to grips with. Think of church décor. Lots of children's pictures, flowers and banners. Then there is the worship. Songs are often about feelings and subjective. Teaching is often generic and talks about concepts rather than every day practicalities. Volunteer jobs in the church can also tend towards the more feminine aspects of character; loving, sharing, nurture, compassion. Men seek adventure and challenge and whilst love and compassion are important traits for men, the wild and adventurous aspects of their personalities can be completely starved in church. So we need to create an environment that makes the Christian faith accessible to the average UK man and church a place worth hauling themselves out of bed for.

We are working hard to equip the church with tools and resources that will make church a great place for your husbands, future husbands, sons and friends. Simple as that.

We don't want a church dominated by men or male characteristics nor do we want to make church a "men's club". Just a place where men can be gripped and excited by Jesus.

*- Carl Beech*

President of Christian Vision for Men

*Why*

# MEN'S CONVENTION?



Dear Christian Brothers,

Mt Tamborine Convention (now marketing as Mt Tamborine Conference Centre-MTCC) has history of Bible teaching spanning over 65 years. We are excited to share the news of our upcoming Men's Convention scheduled for May 17-19, marking the first of its kind in over a decade.

Intentionally named 'The Gathering Mt Tamborine', this event celebrates the unity of men gathering to delve deeper into understanding the living God of the Bible, with a special focus on the theme, "Facing Life's Storms."

Christian Vision for Men (CVM), a widely respected UK organisation with over 30 years of experience, excels in introducing men to the truths of Jesus. We are delighted to bring Carl Beech and Steve Martin from CVM to Mt Tamborine for this event. As well as Carl and Steve, MTCC's former CEO Dave Allan, a highly respected pastor and Christian business coach, will be sharing 2 messages.

You can find the program, additional details about the speakers, and a brief video here:

<https://www.mtcc.org.au/events/the-gathering-mt-tamborine-mens-convention/>

It is our hope to gather men from a variety of denominations to unite around the gospel of Jesus. Christian believers and 'yet to become believers' are welcome at this event.

The MTCC Statement of Faith and other core documents can be viewed here. I would welcome the opportunity to clarify any questions that you might have about the ministry of MTCC:

<https://www.mtcc.org.au/statement-of-faith/>

For those of you who are unfamiliar with MTCC – we work under the guidance of the MTC Reference Council – some of whom you may be familiar with.

The list of members are:

Brian Allbutt (Retired WEC missionary, MTC Heritage member), Dr. Elizabeth (Betsy) Cunningham, (Cross Cultural Missions Mobiliser), Rev. Mark Fairhurst (Executive Director of Church Missionary Society Qld/Nthn NSW), Rev. Dr. Peter Francis (Principal, Malyon Theological College), Wendy Francis (National Director of Politics, Australian Christian Lobby), Rev. Dr. Richard Gibson (Principal, Brisbane School of Theology), Rev. Dr. Gary Millar (Principal, Qld Theological College), David Pitt (Director, Brisbane City Bible Forum; Co-Chair, The Gospel Coalition Queensland), Jim and Grace Vine (Retired OAC missionaries), Gary Williams (CEO, Christian Management Australia (CMA)), Rev. Dr. Bruce Winter (Retired QTC Principal; retired warden Tyndale House, Cambridge)

We sincerely hope you can share this important event with your church community and eagerly anticipate the pleasure of welcoming you to Mt Tamborine in May. Your presence would truly add to the spirit of 'The Gathering.'

Yours in Christ,

*Bill Vine*

Chair – Mount Tamborine Convention