



Men Women and God

## *What happened to Men Women and God?*

Having not heard from us for a very long time you may be wondering what had happened to Men Women and God. You may have assumed that we had ceased to exist or to have been wound up and that would not be far from the truth!

MWG since its start in 1984 has always been a fragile organisation, it has benefited enormously from the energy, enthusiasm and input from some exceptional people. (Elaine Storkey Mary Evans, Veronica Zundel, Stewart and Carol Henderson and of course Kathy Keay plus many others in small and large ways). What these people have all had in common - in addition to the commitment to true Biblical equality and seeing it worked out inside and outside the Churches, - has been an existing busy life with considerable numbers of commitments. This has also been true of the planning group - an always small number of individuals - who have delivered mailings, organised events and supported networks.

In the summer of 2009, 2 of our planning group members announced that they were going to need to withdraw from the group due to changes in responsibilities elsewhere and the need to prioritise. They did not do so lightly and were clear that it did not indicate that they had ceased to feel that what MWG stood for was not important and that there was still work to be done.

Since then we have looked to see if there with others from the network who might be in a position to commit to the planning group to help maintain MWG in some shape or form - or whether we accepted that the time had come to pass the baton on to others. So far we have been unable to do so - so are approaching the full breadth of our network (and that's all of you) to get some idea of whether we can continue at all.

**We would like to hear from you in the next few weeks so that we can make a decision before the end of March 2011.**

We would love to hear from you if you have ideas for how we might go on with limited resources? We have recently organised ourselves via planning group meeting 2/3 times a year at a central London Location. However this is not necessarily the way things should continue. Could we convert to a "viral" network? MWG already has a Facebook group which you would be welcome to join.



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## *What have we contributed to the debate since 1985?*

- Commitment to the doctrinal basis of the Evangelical Alliance (of which we have been a member for part of our history)
- Growth in the early years - which could be called the "Kathy Keay years" (see below on Marion Osgood's book on Kathy issued just recently)
- First Conference with John Stott, Elaine Storkey and Valerie Griffiths as key note speakers leading to initial networks and the MWG book with contributions from a wide range of individuals with stories to tell
- Conferences in London and Road shows with Stewart and Carol Henderson; these were well attended in early years but of late we have failed to get attendance at any level that makes the events viable - or useful!
- Regional Networks supported by local champions
- Bulletin - Double Image with contributions again from the wide spectrum
- Partnerships with Mennonite Centre in London and with LICC and with smaller groups of young people also exploring their experience of biblical equality in today's confusing world.
- Resource pack and book list particularly for those starting on an exploration of the gender debate
- Individual support for those struggling in churches where their God given gifts are not appreciated or wanted
- Links to other groups through planning group members- Women Alive, Awesome, Christians for Biblical Equality, WATCH
- Re-launch of the Website - with forum ability - (although sadly no one uses it!)
- Books from members of the Network which have contributed to the debate

Changes in the world during this period have been considerable - inside the debate as well as in the world at large (just think mobile phones and the internet for 2 big ones!). There are many more resources available and considerably more has been written and debated that strengthens the arguments but also confuses them.



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*So what next?*

We believe strongly that there is still work to be done: -

- In the Evangelical churches and with those committed to biblical truth there is a continuing need for dialogue to talk through how gender and roles balance - and how and if women should exercise leadership
- The marks of true Christian leadership
- Roles within marriage - and the pressures inside marriage and in the bringing up of Children
- The conversations on Subordination in the Trinity are regularly applied to the role of women
- Will a commitment to Women Bishops split the Church of England and the Anglican Communion
- The need for dialogue within the church - not for polarisation
- Worldwide - poverty and injustice and violence against women

We would love to hear from you to find out what you think.

Our main contact point is the MWG email address ([mewatson@menwomenandgod.com](mailto:mewatson@menwomenandgod.com)).

MWG also has a number of Regional Representatives who you can contact for more information:

- East Midlands : Tim Woolley ([t.r.woolley.00@cantabgold.net](mailto:t.r.woolley.00@cantabgold.net))
- North West: Mark Watson ([mewatson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mewatson@tiscali.co.uk))
- South East: Angela Stride ([angelastride@hotmail.com](mailto:angelastride@hotmail.com))
- Elsewhere: Sue Barker ([sue.v.bob@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.v.bob@btinternet.com))