

Prayer of Confession - the Sexual Sins of the Church,

Prayed In the Great Hall of the Parliament of Australia on 08/08/08, a day remembering Australia as a nation of the Lord's making, marking New Beginnings, by Pastor Ron Brookman.

God of all Grace, Father of Mercy,

We come to You through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Saviour, who takes away the sin of the world. Hear our confession, forgive our sin, have mercy on Your Church, and on our nation, Australia. Lead us to life changing repentance.

As Your Church, Your light and witnesses to the people of our nation, whom You call out of darkness, into Your family, we confess that we have failed to reflect the purity of Your love in our relationships. We have not pursued Your will for us in sexual purity and sanctification. We have not abstained from sexual immorality, and have approved practices other than monogamy, heterosexuality and fidelity. We have presumed on the grace of Your covenant.

We have yielded to the power of sin by committing adultery in our hearts through lust, fantasies and day dreams. We have allowed impurity to pollute our souls through the dark focus of our eyes, in what we've read, watched, or the pornography we've leered at.

We have added to the stains and dark blots of Your beautiful bride through our adulteries, our homosexuality, and other sexual deviations, and through our acts of paedophilia.

Forgive us for the ways in which we have demeaned the dignity and freedom of others by using and abusing them for our base pleasure. Some of us have so idolized our need for sex that we've compromised our standards and values to obtain it at any cost. Because it has been easier than commitment to working out healthy heterosexual love, some of us have indulged our sexual obsession by acts with people we have not loved, people of our own gender, and some have even sought selfish pleasure through encounter with different kinds of flesh.

We have abandoned the brides and husbands of our youth by forsaking them for another, or we have not loved them well enough, leaving them vulnerable to seek love in another.

We have enthroned idols in our hearts and therefore in the temples of our bodies, grieving Your indwelling Holy Spirit. Some of these idols have been sexual fantasies or people whom we have made sexual objects. Others have been perverted forms of sexuality and sexual practice. Some of them have even been good things, like our ministries or careers, to which our over-commitment has left our spouses, pining for our love and vulnerable to others' seduction. In like manner we have failed to love our children well, causing them to seek the love they missed, in wrong places and wrong people, leaving their developing sexuality vulnerable to addictions, same sex attractions and other experimentations. Church leaders, and Christian parents have failed to teach, and model Godly standards of sexuality to their flocks and children, making them vulnerable to the world's sexual standards and practices.

We confess the ways in which we have judged people whose sexuality has deviated from Your purposes, driving them from us, rather than taking the time to love them, to come to understand them and the destructive forces to which they've been vulnerable. Confronting them with the Law which judges, we have failed to earn their trust to offer Your gospel of grace which transforms.

Forgive us, Your church, for our failure to walk in the holiness You have bestowed upon us. Have mercy on our nation for our abuse of the good gift of sexuality which You have given for the pleasure of marriage, the conception of children and, therefore for the heart of family and the security of society. Give us grace for true repentance. Purify us so that we can shine as Your light to our nation. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord, Amen.

Ron's comments on the day's events

The ministry of Living Waters made an impact in a national gathering in Australia recently. Christian leaders gathered from across Australia at the national Parliament House in Canberra on 08/08/08, in the presence of some parliamentarians. They conferenced together for a further 3 days. Friday the 8th of August this year was seen to be a significant day of New Beginnings. Ron Brookman, Director of Living Waters Australia was asked to participate, by leading a prayer of confession and repentance for the sexual sin of the nation, amid a variety of other confessions regarding many national and ecclesiastical shortcomings.

Later that day, on the grass of the Parliament's grounds, the youth proclaimed new beginnings, of radical obedience and discipleship to the Lord. The crowd, dressed in red, gathered in the shape of a Cross. Amid the proceedings Ron led a prayer binding the orphan spirit of the nation, from its convict beginnings through its frequently fatherless heritage, and spoke a prayer of the Father's blessing across the nation. He then called for a laying down of the many idols which have beset the church's and nation's heart. Crowds knelt at the foot of the Cross to do business with God. After this the red clothes were covered with white, and the 400 people moved away from the shape of the cross and towards the Parliament House as a symbol of the resurrection Life and blessing in which we now live.

The Day culminated in an extravagant and colourful Banquet in the Great Hall foreshadowing the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, in which the leaders acknowledged Australia as a nation of God's creating, under His sovereignty, and His New Covenant being freely available to its peoples.

By faith and prayer, a door was opened towards a greater fulfilment of the Australian Church's destiny, and therefore to a more glorious fulfilment of the nation's destiny! The new beginning was not merely prayed for and proclaimed. It was experienced!

The Spectacle of Worship

The colour, dance, flags, banners, pageantry, symbolism, extravagance, and foretasting of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in the Banquet meal, gave every aspect of the worship new, more penetrating significance. Bathed with rich significance and deep anointing, through Heavenly imagery and the creative symbolism of Jesus' work and Lordship, such worship has not been experienced nationally in Australia before. How fitting in the very heart of Governance!

Ron was asked to work with an Aboriginal leader, Pastor Peter Walker, to give the key note address at the conference on the Saturday night. Ron perceived that they were to acknowledge and celebrate the True Feminine, and the ways in which the Church has largely resisted her contributions through history.

In celebrating the prophetic action and blessing of 080808, acknowledgement needed to be given to a woman, Dr Hilary Moroney. Her faithfulness in prayer, her receiving of the vision, her unrelenting tenacity in fighting against great odds to bring it to fruition, and her leadership, opened a new door for the Church and for Australia on 080808! Her feminine leadership revealed aspects of God's heart which

the masculine mind often fails to perceive. Hilary had received much opposition from many leaders of the church when she approached for support. The symbolism, pageantry and extravagance she espoused was distinctly feminine, causing many men to think her vision to be too risky and insufficiently ordered!

But enough supported her to make the day a significant success.

Hilary's leadership was undergirded with the wisdom and support of men who did recognise and trust her gifting. She subjected her dreams and visions to them. They helped give them form, shape and language, to submit to Parliamentary authorities and church leaders, and came along side her in the establishment and execution of a plan. It was truly the ingenuity of the Godly feminine working with the sanctified masculine, the way that the Church is meant to operate, that brought forth such a powerfully prophetic day. Ron developed this insight on the Saturday night, teaching about both misogyny and mysandry.

The Gathering's Response

Following his exhortation the conference took time in silence to reflect about, then repent of judgements made against the other gender. Pastor Peter Walker, who had given some examples from his own culture, called the men to come forward to confess ways in which they had dishonoured women. The men repented aloud of the manner in which they have used and exploited women, despised their intercessory gifts, belittled, abused and abandoned them as fathers, husbands, boy friends, brothers, pastors. Then, from their seats, the women took time to confess their judgements of, and actions to control, hurt and despise men.

There was a further period of silence to recognise the deep pain that much of this abuse has caused, to allow the Holy Spirit to minister into the wounds, then to pray for healing. Ron stressed that because this is no light thing, but so deeply entrenched and wounding, the process of healing and restoration will take time.

With the Cross between the men and the women, each spoke forgiveness, women to men, then men to women. Finally both genders affirmed the other by speaking out the blessings that each gender had been, and is, to the other. Such a spirit of celebration and release filled the hall!



The 080808 Conference, Canberra ACT - 8th August, 2008