

Media Release
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DARKNESS OVER PARADISE AT THE WAYSIDE

Next Tuesday, 16 September 2008, the Wayside Chapel will host a free public event with a journalist from Sierra Leone telling of the difficulties faced by African refugees in our community, as part of its free public *Wayside Speaks* event series.

At this event, Edmondson Sonny Cole, photojournalist in exile from Sierra Leone will present his heart-wrenching, thought provoking documentary '*Darkness over Paradise*' that recounts the horrors of the civil war in Sierra Leone. He will discuss where the country is three years from its release. This will help the community understand the difficulties refugees have when attempting to navigate Australian society after leaving their war-torn homes.

'*Darkness over Paradise*' will be screened at The Wayside Chapel, Hughes Street, Kings Cross from 6.30pm followed by question time with the producer, Sonny Cole. Subsequent events will follow until December 4, 2008.

What: *Wayside Speaks* 'Darkness over Paradise' screening (Free public event)
When: 6.30pm, Tuesday 16 September 2008
Where: The Wayside Chapel, Hughes Street, Kings Cross
Who: Sonny Cole, journalist from Sierra Leone (producer of '*Darkness over Paradise*' film)

More information about the film can be obtained from
<http://darknessoverparadise.squarespace.com/home/>.

Wayside Speaks is a series of debates and events about issues affecting the community. With a focus on social justice and welfare issues, the series will branch out to foster other community issues such as arts, theology and urban planning.

Other events include *Kaleidoscope Festival: Innovative Models of Mental Health Care* (October 7), *Conference: Justice Peace and the Integrity of Creation* (October 18-19), *Voices of Youth* (October 30), *107 Projects Augurs Well* (November 15), *Alternative Public Housing* (November 20) and *Urban Neighbours of Hope* (December 4). For a full program visit www.thewaysidechapel.com.

For further media information contact Katrina Mathieson at
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The Wayside Chapel is a well known Sydney Icon that provides unconditional love, care and support for people on and around the streets of Kings Cross. It has a long history of being at the forefront of social justice issues. Wayside pioneered Australia's first 24 hour crisis centre, the first Drug Referral Centre, co-founded the Aboriginal Affairs Foundation and started Life Education Australia. In the 60's and 70's it was also considered a first-class arts establishment.