

Guest Speaker, Mr Kerry Harmanis

The following is a summary of the talk given at the conclusion of the Perth National Walk for Values 2009.

Kerry opened by stating that participation in this event is an acknowledgement to ourselves and to mankind of our commitment to the highest of Human values.

He indicated that civilization is in crisis – that across the globe, in all societies, we have abused our planet and ourselves. He sees that this has been brought about by a lack of vision, of a higher purpose – by following a path of greed, arrogance, blame, hate.

He believes that we are here to evolve, not to become rich, educated or acquire possessions.

Kerry then spoke from his own experience in business. For the first ten years in his company, Jubilee Mines, the experience was one of dysfunction and lack of success. He then committed himself to a serious spiritual path and the second ten years were marked by incredible success – both human and financial. As he learned more and more he began practising higher values and the whole company took them on.

What were these values that contributed to the success of the company?

No complaining, no feeling a victim, no blame, no ego – but self-responsibility. Practising of respect, humility, of listening to each other, instead of talking. No greed, but sharing of one's self and the fruits. Holding to integrity, not seeking to be right but seeking the truth of a situation. Care and compassion, unconditional love – not just for one's own family, but for everyone.

Above all- faith in a higher power, in the sacred, in spirit. This meant that when it was time to move on, he was better placed to make an accurate decision out of truth, integrity and clarity. The company was sold at the perfect time.

These values much start individually, so how do you do this?

- Find a path that is real and practical – that opens your heart and increases your awareness
- Believe in a higher power- trust and have faith
- Meditate, pray – for truth, for connection
- There are many paths, which all lead to the same destination. There are many saints and teachers – Sai Baba, Eckhart Tolle, Yogananda, Jesus, Buddha, Meha Baba, Ramakrishna and his own teacher, Gourasana.

Kerry concluded by reading the following poem by Kabir:

Friend, hope for the Guest

*Friend, hope for the Guest while you are alive.
Jump into experience while you are alive!
Think...and think... while you are alive.*

*If you don't break your ropes while you're alive,
do you think
ghosts will do it after?*

*The idea that the soul will join with the ecstatic
just because the body is rotten —
that is all fantasy.*

*What is found now is found then.
If you find nothing now,
you will simply end up with an apartment in the City
of Death.*

*If you make love with the divine now, in the next life
you will have the face of satisfied desire.*

*So plunge into the truth, find out who the Teacher is,
Believe in the Great Sound!*

*Kabir says this: When the Guest is being searched for,
it is the intensity of the longing for the Guest that
does all the work.*

Look at me, and you will see a slave of that intensity.