

Tell me more about Ps Hil...



Hilary was born into a Christian family in Sri Lanka and came to Australia when he was 15. He made his own personal commitment to follow Jesus at the age of 12 at a Ranger campfire in Sri Lanka. In 1983, his family moved to Australia after the outbreak of civil war and started attending Petersham AOG in October that year. Hilary finished high school and went on to study a BA in Communications at the University of Technology Sydney. His first job was doing Community Relations for a public high school in South Granville.

His next job was working as a Youth Worker at the Auburn Youth Centre for nearly five years. Throughout this time Hilary was involved in the youth ministry and Ranger program at his church and was feeling a growing burden and call to reach young people with the good news about Jesus. God used his work at the youth centre to open his eyes to see how much young people needed Jesus.

The next major step in his ministry journey came when he was approached by Youth for Christ (YFC) Sydney to apply for a position as an Auslife Facilitator. This ministry gave him extensive experience in speaking to and running seminars with young people in high schools all over the State. While it was challenging and faith building at times, he had lots of fun and learnt a lot in a very short period of time.

While working at YFC, Ps Barry asked Hilary and his wife Dharsh to take over running the Youth Ministry at Petersham AOG. They did this on a volunteer basis at first until Hilary came to work for the church one day a week while continuing to work at YFC and then came on full time staff as the Youth Pastor in August 1998. In 1998, Hilary began theological study, undertaking first a BMin and then an MA (Theol) at Sydney Missionary and Bible College (SMBC). He continued to study part time, completing his Bachelors in 2004 and his Masters in 2008.

Hilary was responsible for the various youth ministries of this church until 2006 when he handed over the running of One 80 to Peter and Amy Saggin. At present, Hilary preaches at the Sunday service about once a month and oversees Ignite - the young adults ministry of this church. He oversees the various teaching ministries such as the Certificate 4 course that is run in conjunction with Alphacrucis (formerly Southern Cross College affiliated with AOG-ACC) and the Living with Purpose, Living to Influence and Living with Significance courses. He is also involved with leadership training and planning and running the Sunday services. Outside of Petersham, Hilary often preaches at various churches, youth meetings and camps.

Hilary's passion in ministry is teaching people the Bible whether it's in the context of preaching at a church, teaching a class, discussing it in a small group or chatting about it over a coffee. He loves explaining what the Bible says in simple ways that people not only understand, but can apply effectively in their lives.

He has been married to his best friend Dharsh since 1994, and they have two amazing and wonderful kids – Micah who joined their family in 1999 and Ebonie who bounced into their lives in 2000. One of his favourite pastimes is watching DVD's or movies with the family. Hilary loves movies and especially loves to use them as illustrations in his sermons. He enjoys a good curry, playing basketball, camping and most outdoor activities.

His pet topics are theology, preaching and teaching the Bible, marriage and family and trends in faith and church practice, so he tends to read a lot on these topics. Some books that he has recently read, thoroughly enjoyed and found very stimulating are: "The Shack" by William P. Young, "Searching for God Knows What" by Donald Miller, "Everybody Wins" by Gary Chapman and "Surprised by the Power of the Spirit" by Jack Deere. Books that he plans on reading, hopefully sometime soon, are: "Love and Respect" by Dr Emerson Eggerichs, "A Search for What is Real: Finding Faith" by Brian McLaren, "Sex God" by Rob Bell and "The Church Beyond the Congregation" by James Thwaites.

