

Reconciliation Statement of the International Delegation to the “Rwanda – A New History” Conference

Written by the international delegation and read by Gary Edmonds on Saturday, July 11, 2009 at the “Rwanda – A New History” Conference held in Gitarama, Rwanda.

As citizens from the Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States, and members of the Church of Jesus Christ,

We confess before you and Almighty God that we:

- Introduced the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade to Africa.
- Exported many Africans from the continent of Africa.
- Created the lie that white people are superior to others, a falsehood that deeply dehumanized African people and robbed you of your dignity.
- Have brought our church divisions to Africa and presented a corrupted picture of the Church of Jesus Christ.
- Failed to provide aid to Rwandan refugees in neighboring countries during the massacres of the 60’s and 70’s.
- Used our influence to block a meaningful intervention to prevent the conflict.
- Largely ignored Rwanda’s need when the genocide broke out and took little action as the genocide escalated.
- Failed to honor our commitments under the Geneva Convention to intervene in Rwanda’s genocide.
- Abandoned Rwanda in the time of her greatest need.
- Made no effort in the aftermath of the genocide to disarm the Interahamwe. Even worse, some members of the International Community sold munitions to resupply them.
- Are not cooperating in bringing responsible parties to justice; instead, we are giving them safe haven in our countries.

We wish to express our deepest sorrow and regret over these sins and humbly seek the mercy and forgiveness of God, the citizens of Rwanda and the members of the Church of Jesus Christ. We commit to praying for you, to supporting reconciliation and the restoration of this nation, and to encourage a wider awareness in the International Community of our failures.