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'XXX Sunday' scheduled at Rancho Cucamonga church

Josh Dulaney, Staff Writer

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RANCHO CUCAMONGA - It won't be a G-rated sermon at North Hills Community Church on Sunday.

Donny Pauling, a 36-year-old former pornography producer who became a born-again Christian, will speak about his nine-year career in the industry.

"When people ask am I still attracted to porn, (I say) what is appealing about a girl in the fetal position with her finger in her mouth, with her mind just blown because of what she's done?" Pauling said by phone this week.

Pauling said he produced more than 2 million photos and hundreds of hours of video that circulated on the Internet.

His easy manner - and the easy money he offered - persuaded strangers to take it all off.

The first woman made \$300. The second one was paid \$1,200. Eventually he would pay women \$500 a day plus money for referrals.

The cash caused women to do whatever he wanted, he said.

"There's nothing at all real about it," he said. "If you see a girl on screen having a good time, she's pretending to have a good time. You watch the lights go out in their eyes over time, and you justify it, saying they are adults making adult decisions."

The prodigal son

Pauling grew up in a religious home in Northern California. His father was a pastor.

"What fueled me (in pornography), besides the money, was hatred for the church," he said.

Year after year he would recruit freshman women at Chico State, he said. He preferred girl-next-door

types. And preachers' daughters.

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It got easier to recruit as pornography became more mainstream.

But Pauling said for every Ron Jeremy or Jenna Jameson, there are thousands whose careers are short-lived and whose lives are ruined because the content is online forever.

He rattled off story after story. One person got kicked out of the Police Academy. Another, with a college degree, was fired from Hewlett-Packard. One got her start with Pauling and ended up making \$10,000 a month. She was recognized everywhere she went. Pauling said she eventually was impregnated while passed out at a party.

"I never once had a person come back and say thanks for getting me into porn," he said.

The elephant in the pew

Jim Mann, lead pastor at North Hills Community Church, said this isn't the first time in his ministry that he has confronted pornography.

"The big thing is the popularity of pornography in our culture and the fact that it's so prevalent and so many people are dealing with addiction to it," Mann said.

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Mann said he's watched porn addiction ruin lives and wreck marriages.

Indeed, professional therapists say addiction to pornography can be just as powerful and destructive as alcoholism.

"Quite frankly, I don't have to convince somebody that they're an addict," said Rebecca Deighan, a licensed marriage and family therapist who runs a recovery program for LifeSTAR Inland Empire, a comprehensive therapy program for the treatment of pornography and other sexual addictions.

She said signs of addiction include isolation from family and friends, obsession with pornography, chronic masturbation, emotional problems, an unproductive work life and an empty spiritual life.

Deighan said addiction to pornography is somewhat different than drug abuse and alcoholism, in that it's more of a secretive problem.

"People have a hard time coming for help because they're embarrassed," she said.

The XXX church

Craig Gross was a youth pastor who had a simple vision for helping teenagers kick the porn habit.

"Kids are being hit with this stuff online and they're not going to go to something Tuesday night at church (for help), so let's do something online," he said.

That was the genesis of www.xxxchurch.com, a ministry begun in 2002 that is reaching out to youth and adults who want to stop viewing pornography.

Gross said it took about three years after the ministry started before churches were comfortable with the idea of bringing in speakers who chatted so candidly about sex.

The Las Vegas-based ministry also ministers to strippers, prostitutes and the porn industry veterans who gather in that city for conventions.

Pauling was among them.

"I couldn't justify what I was doing anymore," Pauling said. "They were genuinely loving them. It was a lot different than the Christianity I was raised around."

From porn sites to pulpits

Pauling committed his life to Jesus Christ in 2006. He doesn't like to preach at people.

"I'm just kind of raw and open with the things I did and the things I saw," he said. "People are smart enough to take what they need from it."

Pauling said forgiveness is what he needed because of the guilt he felt over the lives he destroyed. He said he forgives himself because God has forgiven him.

Pauling isn't for legislating against pornography, but he is bent on telling what he says is the true and tragic story of the industry.

"It doesn't matter if you're the producer like me or the consumer. It takes all of us to destroy the lives that we destroy."

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If you go

Former pornography producer Donny Pauling will speak at the 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday services at North Hills Community Church, , Rancho Cucamonga. 10601 Church St., #118 Information: www.northhills.us or 909-945-5440

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