

Safe as Churches III
Session 2
Bishop Geoffrey Robinson

The Search for Meaning
Spiritual Harm
Spiritual Healing
Forgiveness

Spirituality:

That which links all the different facets of life into one whole, and gives a sense of meaning to that whole.

Love gives:

Meaning

Energy

Identity

Object of love:

Persons

Objects

Activities

Ideas

**Our sense of meaning
comes from the sum total
of the loves of our life.**

Sexual abuse is a bulldozer gouging a road through the fragile ecosystem of love and meaning a person has been painfully constructing.

Response to:

Abuser

God

Community

Interdependenc

e

God

Others

Self

Agent of healing:

- **To help to find a new world of meaning,**
- **new people, objects, activities and ideas to love.**

Two needs for the person who has been abused:

- **“Sorry” in strong sense;**
- **Abuse will not happen again.**

Confusion over meaning:

- No direct control of feelings;
- Some control of actions;
- Gradual control of thoughts.

Two parts to forgiveness

a) Aphiemi: To leave behind, to let be – for yourself.

b) Forgive = “Give for” - Change and growth of the other person.

