

**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**

**Interdependence**

**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.**



