

Testimonials to the Our Healing Journey Video

The following testimonials have been received by Cameron House or Healing Committee members through social media or direct email. If you would like to send your reflections, email them to info@cameronhouse.org.

Thank you thank you for sharing this, I am in the midst of writing about how dangerous faith communities are in terms of sexual abuse so this came to me at the exact RIGHT time. Wow, I am so grateful for your voice; healed people heal people!

I just watched the video relating to the victims of Dick Wichman. I did not go to Cameron House nor did I attend the church on Stockton St., but I do have a related story. I grew up in Chinatown. My parents had a sewing factory on Commercial St so I was there most of the time. One day in the early 70's while I was waiting for my food order in Frosty's, which you may remember was a snack shop next to the church on Stockton St., a young White priest (he wore a collar) came in with 3 or 4 young Chinese boys around the age of 10 or 11. There was another high school age Chinese boy already in Frosty's as well who all of a sudden, after a minute or so, started yelling at the priest. He was shouting out something about him molesting little boys. There was no physical altercation, but I was shocked because he was screaming at a priest, which I have never seen before. Also shocking was his accusation of molesting boys, which was never mentioned in those days. The priest did not respond. I just thought the older boy was crazy, until decades later when I would learn there was rampant molestation of boys by priests on the news. Then it all made sense to me what had happened. That boy was not crazy at all. Maybe he or his brother were victims. Now, even more decades later after watching your video, I think that was Dick Wichman I saw in Frosty's. Also, I wonder if that older boy yelling at him may be one of the men in your video? I just thought this story may interest you.

Thank you for your courage and voice. I found the video very powerful and poignant, and am so glad you've shared it. 🤝🙏

Thank you for sharing this. It seems like the way healing was promoted in this video could apply to all types of sexual abuse. Or abuse, period. Is Dick Wickman still alive? If so, does he have anything to say for himself? Did he ever apologize or try to make amends?

Comment from Healing Committee:

See pages 34-37 in our "Highlights of an Intentional Healing Journey" book, which you can find in this website. That section addresses the exact questions raised in this testimonial, specifically about whether Dick Wichman ever apologized for his actions.

You may not know that First Church, Redwood City, experienced clergy sexual abuse back in the early 1980's. I was not a member back then, but my parents were. It was an extremely difficult time for everyone. A book about our experience and the experiences of other churches was written in the late 80's and, though it is now out of print, is still referenced in trainings regarding handling abuse. I believe it was called "Betrayal of Trust". Our reaction was one of transparency and action and is often used as an example during these trainings. But, I believe that some of our people could learn from your upcoming presentation. I will share the link and your words of explanation with them.

Thank you for sharing this. Dick was such a popular and influential person. I was sickened when I heard about this and can't imagine what the survivors endured in such a close knit community with no one to turn to. Thank you all for this project. Kudos to the survivors for sharing their pain to help others.

When I see the video and skim through the *Highlights of an Intentional Healing Journey* book, I am deeply moved by the art, the poetry, the courage, and most of all, the great integrity that carries throughout. Body and soul, heart and mind, more fully integrated in participants than I had felt before. I hope I have evolved in that same way too. I fully intend to share these resources wherever I can.

Thank you Cameron House for the healing work.

I now watched the whole video. Powerful! It was good to hear they also formed a women's group to be a support for the mother, spouses, sisters (?). Sexual abuse, rape, sexual assault affects also the family, but there is nobody for them to deal with their pain, shock, helplessness, etc. It's wonderful that they are taking back their power and re-empowering themselves through this act! With that probably helping many other men heal.

My children and other children from my family went to Cameron House for the Summer programs from the time they were young until their teen years. I had heard some years ago of the abuse suffered by the boys (men). I was horrified that the accused did not receive apt punishment for what he did. I was also glad that none of my family members were affected, though Wickman often gave them hugs (whisker burns) ... I cannot watch the film - I'm sorry.

Thank you. I found this a profound and moving. God bless each one. 🤍🙏

This was a most powerful video to watch. I applaud the healing the Church and Cameron House did. It took courage by all to share, accept, then, come together for healing. Everyone now has a new respect for each other and for themselves.

Abuse, be it sexual or otherwise, is wrong. Period. No excuses.

Children trust adults, so the abuse is also a fundamental betrayal as well. Listening is a wonderful tool. Listening and hearing the victim validates them as a person, that they have worth and validates what they experienced. Sadly, abuse happens in churches, schools, politics, the workplace. And at no time is it ever okay or right. We place our trust in our leaders, therefore finding it hard to believe or accept they would be capable of such atrocity. Ignoring or denying is easier than accepting our guilt of disbelief. It takes commitment, hard work, compassion, caring, love, willingness to lay raw one's feelings and for everyone involved not to judge but establish and maintain a safe environment of sharing. This is courageous action.

I sometimes think giving an apology is easy. Words. I want the person to take responsibility for their actions, acknowledge what they did, and then apologize stating what they will do as part of the healing process -- for the victim and themselves as perpetrator. John (my husband) was Catholic and we often discussed how the Church had created the perfect storm; in attracting to the priesthood those individuals who were pedophiles/ abusers and how the church protected these individuals rather than acknowledging the wrong doing and preventing it.

This video also brought to mind an incident in a church where I was a member and on staff. I had a weird experience with a person interviewing for youth pastor. For whatever reasons, every time I was around this person, the hair on neck would stand up and I had the most uncomfortable feeling in my gut. I noted this to my pastor boss who said I was the only one on staff who was not giving this person a rave review. I thought it was me, but couldn't figure out why I had such an adverse reaction to this guy. Then a few weeks before the new youth pastor and his family moved to town, it came out he had been molesting teen girls in his youth groups. Needless to say, his offer was revoked and my boss said he would never doubt me again. Fundamentally, I believe we humans do like to

see the good in others. When our leaders, those we look up too let us down, it is devastating on so many levels.

Okay, I will get off my soapbox. This video is inspirational in the journey and the healing. As well as being very thought provoking.

What a powerful and emotional video. Such courage and braveness.

Thank you again for sharing this powerful work. Thank you for your risks and resolve in what you have done to provide opportunities for healing and reconciliation. You, the other members of the Healing Task Force are amazing "gifts".

A profound journey. My husband was an administrator in the Presbyterian organization and had heard of this transgression. Bless you for your help with this healing.

it simply touches the soul....

Thank you for helping to bring these stories to light. Grateful to all the courageous people who went public. I cringe when I think of those "whisker rubs" that Dick Wichman used to give out to the boys who were late at camp. So sad that man had other evil intentions.

Thank you for sharing the Our Healing Journey documentary. I was so moved by these courageous men's honesty, to tell their stories, it is a necessary step for them to come out of that dark place and see light, to be released from the painfulness that they endured for most of their lives. This is the most wonderful way to help the victims and the secondary victims, they no longer have anything to hide, it's a huge milestone as they, the professionals like yourself, have paved a way to prevent this from happening again as well as helping them "heal".

Bravo!👏👏

Having experienced sexual abuse in childhood with more than one family member I am deeply touched to finally see this beautiful and profound video and to allow the theme of listening to inform my own continuing healing journey. Thank you for posting the video here on Facebook so that I could see it without the stalling and loss of quite a bit of the video footage that occurred when I went to the website and attempted to see it originally. I hope that whatever is causing that will be rectified so that there will be more than one portal for viewing this available to as many people as possible. It is so valuable for not only those who experienced clergy abuse, but also for the epidemic of those who have experienced sexual abuse in their families, homes and communities. Many blessings to you!

... lovely video. Inspiring to see people coming together, listening and changing painful destructive patterns.

Oh my, I just finished this extraordinary video. It tells with clarity and truth of the profound experience of these victims being heard and witnessed over many years. I marvel at the courage you had to report this minister and to work to expose the secret in the church and in those who felt they must keep quiet. In the faces of these older men I could see the beautiful boys they were and I wept for them. Thank you my dear friend for sharing this wise and beautiful piece of work.

What a remarkable film- on so many levels- for the survivors/thrivers, and for all of the outer layers of people directly connected - on outward.

What an incredibly long journey out of the darkness to get to the revealing of the truth and the healing process for the victims and secondary victims and thus the future.

Thank you for sharing /this and your journey. No doubt the process and witness will offer all kinds of "openings" for others as well.

A painful (and liberating) but (unfortunately) much needed resource.

This is holy Healing work    Beautiful strength & courage 

I'm deeply moved by this film and so appreciate the courage of the survivors and the people who helped them heal and find closure. Bravo to those who helped finally -- after thirty years -- moved this terrible episode from light to darkness.

If the halls at Cameron House could speak...this video exemplifies that there is light after darkness as shown in the hallways. I was deeply touched by the courageous victims that came forth to tell their stories and to those who compassionately listened. The video was powerful in showing how a community learned from a tragic ordeal and modeled for other communities experiencing similar atrocities.
