

APPENDIX C

INTERVIEWS WITH DAVID2

FIRST INTERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The researcher introduced herself to the participant. She explained to the participant that she was doing her dissertation as partial fulfilment of the master's degree in clinical psychology. She also stipulated her boundaries as researcher to the participant. She briefly explained the focus and goals of her study to the participant as well as her methodology, and more specifically her method of data collection i.e. the interviews with the participants.

The researcher also explained her interest and motivation for doing research on the topic of the emotional experiences to incestuous fathers and reiterated her unconditional acceptance to whatever the participant would like to share with her. The researcher then discussed the letter of consent and the content thereof with the participant. The participant was allowed time to ask questions, to clarify any uncertainties or to voice any concerns.

After the participant had signed the letter of content, the researcher spent ample time on talking to the participant about less threatening subjects, such as his work, his hobbies etc. When the researcher sensed that the participant felt more at ease she carefully guided the participant into the topic of the research and asked if he would be comfortable if she started taping the session. The following conversation was then recorded.

Researcher: You must just tell me what your time limit is.

David2: I have to go at 12h15, so we've got enough time. Do you want to know more about how I experienced these things in the past or also about how things are going now?

Researcher: Just what you want to tell me.

David2: Okay, because Nick and myself have started to make contact again. I gave him a ticket the other day to go see the Pavarotti show with my friend. My friend told me that they had a great time. They had lots of fun. I talked to him and I think at this stage I have to consider him as well. He won't volunteer contact from his side, but that's okay. But then there are situations like when Nick bought a car and he showed it to me.

Researcher: It sounds like you enjoyed that.

David2: Yes, we used to enjoy car things together all the time. It was great. But I don't foresee a very close relationship between us. And it's good that we're not going to be very close.

Researcher: Hmm, one gets a too close as well hey?

David2: Exactly. So, I think I'm a family man. I love my family and I love doing family things. I don't know if you know, but we are divorced – my wife and I.

Researcher: No, I didn't know. I have no background information about you.

David2: Okay, yes, as a result of that, we are divorced now. We went through a rough patch, but I think, you know, it was her choice and maybe if I were in her position, I would have done the same thing.

You know, I think ever since Nick moved out of the house, I think he has the need to have contact with me – not too much. And obviously I make sure that we have healthy contact. Always in public places, always with somebody.

My friend and I went for coffee the other day. He joined us because he actually came to collect the cheque. And I bought him a hat when we went on holiday and he accepted the hat. If he was really angry with me, he wouldn't have taken it, you know.

There was, while he was still in the house, and I think it can still happen, a bit of manipulation going on. I call it manipulation where he for example told his younger sister that he doesn't want to talk to me. He doesn't want any contact with me. His younger sister is now 14. She also reached the point now where she is very angry with me, and she doesn't want to hang out with me. Purely in the light of everything because she knows exactly what's going on. I decided to be open with the girls. Nick is my stepson. When I met my ex wife, he was two years old. And we have two daughters together. The one is twenty; she got married in January, and then the fourteen year old.

Researcher: And how old is Nick now?

David2: Twenty-five

Researcher: So, you are actually the only father his ever known?

David2: I'm the only father his ever known, you know. You know, he introduced me as his stepfather at his work the other day. That is something he did for the first time. But you know, it didn't bother me. It's not important if it bothers me or not, but it's that he defines me now as his "stepfather" You know he could have introduced me as neutral, and that's okay, I mean there are stepfather's that also... It's still a role, a parental figure.

And I think the big thing that I really want to achieve in my relationship with Nick specifically, and then my relationship with my youngest daughter – in particular – is just to get the respect back.

Researcher: Respect?

David2: Their respect that I lost through all of this. And I knew when I told the girls that I would loose their respect.

I've always felt that it is wrong to tell Rose – she's the youngest – because she was too young to understand. She was only twelve years old. The group of psychologists didn't agree with me. I personally think that it caused damage to Rose. The panel said it's the right thing to do and that I have to be open with her.

You know, you reach a point where you want to be open about everything. You want to be open with everybody. The question Rose asks is: "why are we getting a divorce, why all these things? Why the therapy, why this, why that?" you know. On the one hand it was a good thing to tell her, but on the other it was a big risk. I think I experience it now that she doesn't want to have contact with me. I believe that she doesn't have much respect for me. You know, she's older now, she's aware of more things. Just look at the David² Jackson trial, that can create things in her that says, "My father is like David² Jackson and my friends at school doesn't like David² Jackson"

Researcher: So you have to absorb all these things and cope with everything?

David²: Totally. Now you are probably wondering what my coping mechanism is.

Researcher: Yes, because you cope with so many different levels of things.

David²: Yes, oh, uhm, you know what, uhm, I'm very open with Dr. B about it, and I talk very openly to her. I am very aware of the fact that people who were abusers, tend to hide behind religion.

Researcher: Tell me more.

David²: You know, people can use it as a tool to...You can just watch the news and see how many...in the Catholic Church, what they are going through, and the whole Church are protecting them. It's on record now, but that is exactly how I feel. You must also remember how the children are experiencing it is that the Church is protecting my father. I must make sure that I don't do it. The

church is not there to protect me. The Church is there to expose my sins and to help me deal with it in a Godly manner.

When I started my individual therapy, I told Dr. B: “Listen, my approach is going to be that I don’t have anything against psychology. I think psychology is fantastic especially to verbalize things. To take it out of File 13, put it on the table and look at it. But when it comes to solutions, I’m going to focus on the Bible”.

I’m also scared to say the Church, because the Church has got so many philosophies and starting points. There are churches where the preacher and his gay friend had some problems. In other words the preacher also doesn’t get it. You know.

Researcher: So at the end of the day it’s about religion and the Bible for you, it’s not about the Church.

David2: I see that you understand what I’m saying. What I want to ask you is please, if at any stage you think that I’m hiding behind religion, tell me, because that is the most dangerous thing to do. Satan would want me to be like that, you know. He will say: “use that scripture!” He did that with Jesus, in the desert. I don’t want to sound like a religious guy that only talks religion. For me, it’s about where I stand, because at the end of the day all the psychologists can talk to me, everybody can talk to me, Nick can talk to me, my ex wife can talk to me, my daughters can talk to me, but the one that I’m going to be accountable to is God. That’s ultimate!

So, you know, Dr. B asked me what my dreams are for Nick and myself for the future. I told her that both of us must go to heaven. She said: “and if Nick doesn’t like that you want him to go to heaven?” then I told her “then don’t ask me the question” because that is my hearts desire.

I know that if it is also his wish and my wish and everyone’s wish to go to heaven, we are going to forgive each other. We are going to reach a point where we are going to move forward in the right way. We are not going to do things because we feel guilty. You know, the world loves taking me back to “but look what you have done” and then I do things, purely out of guilt.

Researcher: Do things out of guilt?

David2: Yes. I feel very guilty about the things Nick went through. He lost a major part of his youth because of me. I do feel terrible about what I did. Especially when I see what it caused in all our lives. Then I start handing out money because I feel that I just want to keep them happy.

Researcher: That can be a very difficult balance to maintain.

David2: Absolutely, and that is what I want to say to you. If I don't trust God, and focus on God and use the Bible to lead me...because for all these things there are scriptures for. There is a scripture for everything. It's amazing. In our Church, we are very close.

My support in the Church is incredible. We have a very strong Spiritual Mentoring System in our Church. Every person has a "spiritual mentor" with whom you are very open. I have six people in the Church that know about everything, who I can talk to at anytime. They challenge me. The Bible says that we have to hold each other accountable. So they hold me accountable.

But I also hold them accountable for their stuff, you know. We imitate the Presbyterian Church. This is exactly the relationship that Paul and Timothy had. So you see, this is biblical. It's not something that the Church invented. It's fantastic. The one guy is a medical doctor, the other a big businessman etcetera, but there aren't different levels, we are all on the same level.

Researcher: It sounds like you experience a degree of unconditional acceptance and unconditional positive regard.

David2: Yes, yes.

Researcher: They accept you, regardless of everything and they are there for you.

David2: Yes, we pray for each other. We are in each other's lives and that's great. But let me not go into that too much.

Researcher: It's important because that is what is helping you to cope with everything because I think it can be very overwhelming.

David2: Look, my ex wife is very angry with me. And a lot of the things that happened... it's because she doesn't have it easy. You know, I can see that she doesn't have it easy, but I don't know what to do because I'm the last person that can help her. We haven't talked about the "issue" for over eighteen months and now she reached the point where we can discuss some of the things that bother her. I realized that we have a long road ahead of us. She is angry with me and it's about specific things. Some of them are not even relevant anymore, but she is still cross.

Like at my daughters wedding. I always make a point of it to include Nick in whatever I do because Dr. B and I discussed how I have to handle Nick. If he doesn't want to have contact with me, I have to respect it. But he can also do it to punish me, which is okay, but reverse abuse is a possibility and maybe it's normal for this situation.

On the other hand, I have to draw boundaries for him, where I tell him "that was wrong and I'm not going to continue allowing wrong things because what we did was wrong" But I have to be very sensitive in doing this.

Sometimes I'm in a situation for example the wedding, where I didn't want to leave him out of the speech. When he was still a little boy, I used to joke with him by saying "Nick, you're the best son that I have." And then he would say, "Dad, I'm the only son you have. We always made jokes about it. I mentioned this in my speech at the wedding.

My son in law and I are very close. We pray together and he also used to be a minister in the Church. He is one of the six people that form my "group" at Church. We call it discipleship. It's discipleship of one another. If you take the Bible and study all the "one another scriptures", then it's exactly what it is. The reason why my son in law is a member of my group is because he has to help my daughter when she stumbles.

Anyway, in my speech, I said two things. The one is where I told the joke about me always telling Nick that he is my best son, and everybody laughed and then I said that it's great because I now have two sons and they're both important to me. Because I wanted to include him. Gina, my ex wife

wasn't very impressed with it. She wanted to know why I told him that while he was still small. She thought that that was already part of the grooming.

Researcher: Grooming?

David2: The grooming process is basically where you introduce the child to the abuse relationship. Look, there is a definite grooming process. Every abuse situation has a grooming process before the abuse starts. Like, Nick that used to get into bed with me to watch TV. Even though it came from him, it was a grooming process because I allowed it.

We were already aware of what we were busy with. Anything, like taking him on vacation, is grooming. Or to buy him sweets or to ... I know he will be home for school holidays and I put in leave to spend time with him because I don't see him much. It's all about what my motive was.

But okay, what I told Nick in my speech at the wedding is one thing. I didn't prepare a speech because I decided to speak from my heart. I said that my son in law wasn't judgmental when I told him about my past and that I really appreciated that.

My ex wife confronted me about this; she asked me how Nick would feel when I said that my son in law didn't judge me. The next day (she didn't know because I don't want to tell her everything that Nick and I do) I went to Nick's work. I asked him how he felt about my speech. I gave him that sentence and he said: "I think it was a great speech". That is why I'm saying that there are a lot of things in the family dynamics at the moment, you know, and it's really very difficult.

I want to say something about the psychology process. I personally don't always agree with the part of confidentiality every individual has in therapy. That means that everything that is said in the session is confidential until the individual is ready to talk about it. In other words, the individual controls it and that control is not always good. Personally I don't think it's right because the Bible promotes openness. I challenged my ex wife on that.

According to the Bible, if there is an unresolved situation, you have to go to that person and deal with it. If you cannot resolve it, take someone with you and resolve it in a group.

Eighteen months have passed and all these things are closed. Cindy didn't even go for therapy. She felt that she wanted to do it in a Biblical way. She talked about it with the Church leader's wife because they know about everything. He is one of the six. I think the fact that she can discuss it openly with her husband is more than enough for her. Rose doesn't understand these things. Her therapy is very "closed" and it has to be respected etcetera. I accept that and she has the right to keep it confidential, but I feel there must be enough motivation to get some of these things out in the open.

Researcher: Okay

David2: I feel, and I want to be honest with you about it, that if we applied the Bible's way of doing things, my ex wife would have handled her situation much better up to now. She interprets things in a certain way and keeps it to herself and her therapist. My ex wife must work through her own things but if it comes to my daughter that doesn't want to hang out with me anymore, then it involves me and then I want to know what's going on.

I told her that I want to warn her that even though Rose is in therapy, I'm going to start putting pressure on her to be open with me. There are things that she is not open with me about because it's comfortable for her. I feel that even in the Church there is enough ways to get her to be open and enough people to support her.

Researcher: It sounds to me as if you feel that this is still a secret and that is exactly what you don't want.

David2: Absolutely and we just continue with it. I'm glad that you mention it like that because I told her that Rose is not open and that I hope that Rose will see that I'm open, and that she will apply the same. But then she is fourteen years old. I told my ex wife that we must help her to move there. I was open. I can't be more open than I already have been, because she knows exactly what I did with her brother.

Researcher: How did it feel to be open about it?

David2: It was a relief for me. It was tough as well. Obviously. It was tough for me because of the impact it was going to have on the children.

Researcher: So you were a bit anxious about how they were going to handle it.

David2: Yes, I think if I wasn't anxious about it, it would have been a little abnormal, but on the other hand I knew that it was the right thing to do. I feel that it's right towards Nick that the girls know what's going on. The danger of this is that Rose thinks her father made her brother gay. Who is helping her to deal with this? Maybe her therapist, I don't know. How does she do it? I don't know. I haven't got a clue. I don't get feedback, I'm not informed, I don't have a clue what's going on there. This is a critical thing that must be handled.

On the other hand I take a strong stand against homosexuality. Not because I'm trying to be self-righteous but because I know what damage it caused. I want Rose to see it in perspective. I don't know who's helping her with that. I don't think her mother can help her with that because her mother is still angry with me. There are two young women from the Church involved in her life but they are just building friendship with Rose. They keep her trust and they have fun together. I don't want them to become agents for our family situation. Except if Rose raises the issue and talks about it herself.

Researcher: So you say it's eighteen months now, eighteen months since everything came out?

David2: No, it's been longer since it came out.

Researcher: How long more or less?

David2: I spoke to them on the 13th of March 2003. I told them that is the reason why I'm moving out and a week later I moved out of the house.

Researcher: Okay, so it's been some time till now.

David2: Yes. But people heal at different times and in different ways. I'm very worried about the future influence it's going to have on Rose, but I know that I must give her to God. Rose and her sister are very close. Her sister handles everything in a very mature way. Rose will see it and remember it and her sister will help her at the right time.

Researcher: It sounds like you take a lot of responsibility for everyone's feelings and happiness.

David2: But I think a family type person does that. It's normal for an "Afrikaner". It's important to know why I'm doing it. You know, when my eldest daughter and I are together, we are very open and free about the whole thing. If the topic arises, we talk about it and it's not an issue. Her biggest worry is when Nick and I are in the same room. I visited them the one day when there was a knock at the door. She said that Nick was at the front door. She panicked and I asked her why she was panicking. She told me that she doesn't know how to handle it when the two of us are in the same room. I told her not to panic. I told her that we were going to react like normal people.

I told her that we went eating together and that we have been spending time together. We went out to eat because he had to come off of my medical aid. He is working now. We had a nice dinner the one night for about two hours. She knows about it. I think she hasn't experienced it yet.

Nick came in and he greeted me by hand and we chatted. He went to get dressed, came down and showed me his new car. I had to go, I had another appointment but he just continued talking. I think that it was good for her to see and experience that we could just sit in his new car and talk.

Researcher: It sounds like you are very aware of everyone's feelings. You take other's feelings into consideration the whole time and try to keep it okay. That must be very tiring.

David2: You know what, it is, but I'm like that at work as well, with my staff. I always know how they are doing and why they are not happy. I think that is

who I am. I'm sensitive, but not always. I slip up a lot. I'm very aware of other people's feelings and I'm very careful not to hurt their feelings.

Dr. B feels that I need to set more boundaries. In our next session, we are going to talk about that some more. About how to set more specific boundaries. I think I'm already doing it. The other day my ex wife e-mailed me about an outstanding account of Nick that I had to pay. They continued phoning Nick about it and he told his mom. I phoned him and told him that I think it's good if we talk about things like his finances and medical things directly. I told him not to involve his mom. I asked him if he feels comfortable if I say that, he said yes. I asked him if he feels comfortable discussing it with me directly and he said yes. I said that that is great then we don't have to work through his mother. I told him that it's simple, we will deal with it. He said that it was fine. I have to be careful though and take his personality into consideration because he is not a conflict type of person. So he will agree even if it doesn't suit him. All I can do is ask him and hope that he will be honest with me.

Researcher: So you have to be careful the whole time. It sounds like you are in a paradox. A paradox is a situation you are in and it doesn't matter which side you turn to, it's risky. Doesn't matter what side you turn to, you can't actually win.

David2: I am definitely there. It's always like that. I have got the same situation with my girlfriend. She told me the other day that she will go with me to Cindy and then if it's not going to make Gina – my ex wife – struggle. I said: "Good grief, where are we going?"

Researcher: It sounds like you put a lot of your feelings and needs second and the other people's first.

David2: Yes, sometimes I get the impression that they actually want it like that. That it's part of my punishment for what I have done.

There is another thing that I want to tell you about. I thought about it while we spoke now. All these things have an impact on my health. I really

struggle with psoriasis. I had little spots three years ago, but nothing to be worried about. At the moment my psoriasis is uncontrollable. I realize it's because something has to give. But, you know what, I just focus on God, because He will provide a way out of this. That is a promise He makes. I just trust that all the way.

I think Gina interprets it that I am going on with my life. She said before, in a session we had that it is so easy for me to just move on. Then I don't want to show her my psoriasis because then I am manipulating her. Maybe then she can turn around 360 degrees and say: "shame I'm so sorry that you are struggling so much" because she still has her own emotions she is struggling with. I don't know if she still loves me or what her situation is. I set a boundary for her when I told her that our relationship is over. I told her at the divorce court that when the divorce case is over, I'm going to move on. I didn't say that it was going to be easy. It's like a guy that gets out of jail, what must he do? He goes to his family and tells them that they might not like it, but he is going to move on. Take note. I think that is what I'm saying.

It's great what my eldest daughter Cindy told me. She said: "Dad, you know what? It helped me to see you move on". And I said: "great!" She also told me that it would help Nick one day. That's the one thing that helped Nick. I always stay positive and that's the way Nick remembers me. Even in his work, he's got some problems with his appointment. If I talk to him about it, I always tell him that it will work out. I think that's the best I can give him now. So that he always sees a positive thing in a situation. I want to return to the religion part. Again, I don't want to use it but every person has to understand what happened at the cross for him/her.

Researcher: And that is?

David2: You must take the implication of what happened at the cross and personalize it. Obviously I'm talking from a Christian's point of view. The implication is that through that I am washed clean from my sins. If I'm washed clean, and I believe it and I have the conviction but I take a magnifying glass and I go back and see spots, where God maybe "slipped up" and didn't forgive me, then I don't understand what happened at the Cross.

Researcher: You feel that you are totally forgiven.

David2: I told one of my colleagues the other day, one of my friends in the Church that is my direct mentor at the moment with whom I have weekly contact, actually daily, I told him that the thing that bothers me most at the moment is the fact that I feel guilty for not feeling guilty anymore. You know what he told me? He said: "you understand what happened at the cross". That was his answer.

I asked him to help me not to become insensitive because I am going to move on, I'm going to be jolly, I'm going to be happy. I'm just going to move on and my ex wife is going to see it as: "it's so easy to walk out of this, and you can just move on, what do I do? I've got the responsibility of the child. I am a divorced woman now as a result of your mess" and that's the words she uses. "You are the one that moves on and here I sit, lonely".

My ex took Chris to my daughter's wedding. Chris is my best friend at Church. He doesn't know about my past, but we are great friends. I was so happy about that. You see, my ex wife was unhappy because she didn't have anybody to take to the wedding with her. My daughter told me this and I told her that I would ask Chris. Apparently they had dinner and the little one asked her why she doesn't ask Chris. In the mean time, I spoke to Chris and I told him that she might ask him to go to the wedding with her. I told him that although we are best friends, I wanted him to go, I told him that I think it's great. He went. I decided not to take anyone, because I thought of my own family, they are a bit conservative. My girlfriend is colored.

Researcher: Wow, but you're putting your needs second all the time. It sounds to me like you still feel that you must take responsibility for other peoples' happiness.

David2: "Sure". I must take responsibility. But it is also my way of assisting her to take responsibility, because she thinks I don't take any responsibility. That's what she says. But on the other hand I must share a scripture with you. "Ephesians" 5, says "in the Kingdom one needs to serve one another out of reverence for Christ".

Now, I also need to remember, my ex-wife is still a disciple in the church and I am thankful for that. Even though she is enduring hardship and is struggling and she is open about it now – which I think is fantastic – because now someone can also help her spiritually. I only saw her as my “ex-wife” and not as a disciple.

So what I must do to help her to grow? She said, for example, that she was struggling to get over her feelings and stuff because of her seeing me at church. She asked me to go to another region. I used that specific scripture to say, okay, it is my way to serve her, because I don’t want to do something directly for her as she might read something into it. So I, and Dr. B helped a lot with this, wrote her a letter in which I said that I was sorry that I’ve only seen her as having been my ex-wife and not as a sister with spiritual needs. And since the day we got divorced, I have had closure on our relationship. I wanted her to understand that. It is a boundary.

I will try to give her some space so that she can recover emotionally and spiritually. But the trick is that now she will not control me. And that is why it made me angry when my girlfriend told me that she would rather not go to Gina’s house if Gina were uncomfortable with it. Because that meant that Gina was controlling our relationship already. And that is not ok.

Researcher: It sounds to me as if you have completely redefined your relationship with your ex wife.

David2: Oh, yes

Researcher: And is it also redefined from her side, or do you think that she is still struggling?

David2: I think she is still struggling. We all have the feeling that she is struggling with this. When she sees me, she still loves me. That makes it very difficult, you know. And that is why I think that it’s good for her to overcome this. That I’m out of her face, you know. At this stage, my girlfriend and I don’t go out to places we are not supposed to. I have to be sensitive. But, if my girlfriend and I walk in a shopping mall and we go to the movies and Gina walks

in, I'm not going to apologise to anyone. Then that's the situation. I give it to God. If God allows Gina to see me with my girlfriend, then that's what God wanted. And that is how I handle it. Every situation, I can only give to God.

When I started going out with the single girls in the Church, I took my two daughters out and I told them that I sit alone at home and I want to start going out. I spend time with my male friends but they are starting to become very boring. Both my daughters said that it was okay. Cindy said: "Dad, it helped me when you moved on. " Rose said: "No, cool, it's fine with me. I tried to get her to tell me if she was not fine with it and asked her again, she said: "Dad, I'm really fine with it". Obviously it's different if she starts seeing me go out with them. Sometimes she is a little nasty and unfriendly towards my girlfriend but I think it's also to protect her mother. She's only a teenager.

So, yes. I know I'm talking in circles, but the one thing I wanted to tell you... You told me during our telephonic conversation that your research is about how I experienced the abuse.

Researcher: Yes it is. However, your whole story is important to me. In the time we talked, you told me a lot about how you are feeling and how you felt.

David2: You know, I think just before the divorce, I told myself that I lost everything and that I've only got myself to blame. Something that came to light in my therapy at that stage and that Dr. B pointed out to me is that my mother abused me physically. Now, that's not an excuse for what I've done. What I have done was terrible and there is no way I want to even try and minimize it

Researcher: Were you abused physically like in sexually, or hitting?

David2: No, hitting. What I remember of my mother is how she always used to beat me. I mean, I wasn't an angel. I probably deserved every hiding, but coat hangers were broken on me. Blood flowed... and my father neglected me. He was very distant. I was very lonely because there was a huge age gap between myself and the rest of the children. We grew up on a farm. Very isolated. So I was very lonely. I think in my younger days, I wasn't taught those skills to interact with others in a normal way.

I was in boarding school as well where I learned a lot of unhealthy things. You know, I don't want to start feeling sorry for myself, and I don't want to blame my mother, and blame my father. You know, everyone has got circumstances. Every person on earth has got circumstances. It all depends on what you do with those circumstances. So I mean, you get stinking rich people whose children does the same thing. Why? Parents were there, everything was there – they had everything they wanted but there were other skills, life experience and stuff that they just didn't pick up.

My circumstances give me insight, because I obviously asked myself why I did what I did. And why I enjoyed it. And – look there are a lot of other things that Dr. B and I discussed, and that's great and it's no problem to be open about it.

When I was in standard five, my one cousin was about fifteen and the other one about seventeen. The two of them sexually abused me. And I was just before my puberty. So when I went through my puberty, it was a traumatic experience for me.

You know, there are certain traits about boys that I like that Dr. B pointed out for me. Like certain boys that went through puberty, wouldn't bother me, like some of my friend's children. But there are certain traits that I liked. It's those traits that Nick has. He is an artist. He is musical. He is not a, how will I say it, a physically active boy. He always looked for affection. Especially when he was 10,11,and 12. He always wanted physical contact. I think those things just contributed to what happened. And then also the things that came with the boarding school lifestyle and the army lifestyle. It's only a starting point and it just went on. And yes, it was totally unhealthy. Totally.

Researcher: It sounds to me that you have explored this to see how it fits with what happened. Tell me more about it.

David2: Yes, it gives me insight, and I think another thing is, to go back and look at my mother and father. They both passed away and I had to reach a point where I said: "I forgive you for neglecting me, and I don't blame you for what I've done, but concerning the neglect part, I also need closure for myself. Dr. B helped me to see it, because I never saw it.

My sister always asked me why I never go to my father or mother's graves. I always said that I've got no business there. After I spoke to Dr. B about it, I had the need to go to my mother's grave. It's funny how I wondered why I wanted to go. One thing I wanted to do was I wanted to make sure that the grave looked pretty. It was good for me to go. My sister and I went together, and since then she also doesn't want to go there anymore. She said that she felt she had closure. My sister also has experiences where she herself... My mother was a... she was small but trained! My mother was very controlling and we were all damaged because of that.

Researcher: It sounds like you experienced a level of relief by forgiving your parents and finding closure on this. I wonder what you still need closure on.

David2: When you told me that your research is about my emotional experience of the abuse... It's very difficult for me to verbalise my experiences with Nick, because it is traumatic for me. I don't want to think about it. I want to avoid it. But I think to summarise it, I knew that it was wrong. I enjoyed it the sexual part of it and having control, but I was thoroughly aware that it wasn't good. I just couldn't stop it.

I always battled to verbalize all these emotions that I have experienced. One day at Church a guy read me a scripture, it summarises what I felt when I abused Nick. Let me read it to you.

It's Romans 7 verses 14 to 25, a whole piece and then he says:

¹⁴ We know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin.

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good.

¹⁷ So then it is no longer I that do it, but sin, which dwells within me.

¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.

¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do."

You know, if you have to go back and say what he says... it's about being torn between what is right and wrong.

²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me.”

And that is where we reach the point that says: “Satan made me do it” And that's what – who's that guy? Is it David2 Jackson that said that Satan made him do it?

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inmost self,

²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin which dwells in my members.

²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I of myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.”

Okay, so he says that the only way he overcame this, is in God's way and there is no other way.

Researcher: It sounds like you experienced a tremendous amount of ambivalence.

David2: Yes, and that summarises really how I felt when I was abusing Nick. I focused only on myself and blocked my own feelings, because at the same time there were a lot of guilt feelings.

I think I want to tell you that I'm very sensitive, because when I was religious, an elderly in the Church, but I abused my son, I was... I was hiding behind the Church, just like the other's I spoke about, the monks etc. I mean, it's just that, I can't even point a finger at them. My solution is in the Bible. David2 Jackson can become a Bible talk leader.

I told the one guy in my Church the one day, that if I move away from the Bible, they must lock me up because I'm a risk to society. And there's no other

way, but only that. I don't have the conviction to please anyone but God, not Nick, not my ex wife or my daughters. Because I'm the one that was held accountable before God, and that is part of taking responsibility. I told Dr. B that I would talk to you, but you have to know that this is where I'm coming from.

Researcher: I appreciate it that you are sharing your convictions with me and it's important for me to hear and understand them.

David2: Okay, because I think it's the solution for my ex wife and for Nick. Nick was a disciple. He was baptized in February 2000, but two years after that he decided to go back to his old life. For me it's important to know that he knows what it means to be free from that sinful life. That is if he sees it as a sinful life. But that is his choice.

Let me tell you more about when Nick was little. I told you that I married his mother when he was still small. Now, his grandmother, my ex wife's mother, sometimes told Nick things like, "He (me) is going to take you away from me" She also told Nick stuff about me like, "He (that's now me) is naughty, he is going to take you away from me" And I remember how he used to run down the corridor if I sat in the living room, then he'd look at me and say: "Naughty!" and then he ran away. He wasn't even two years old.

I remember our first week back from our honeymoon. He got a hell of a hiding from me. We drove to the shop one day and I heard wind at the back door of the car. I realized he had opened the back door. I stopped and put the baby locks on, and then it became a game because you can hear when the handle clicks, you know, then I would say to him "leave the handle" because I don't know if he does it in other cars as well, you know. And then I told him, I said: "You don't do it, you never touch those things. You never open it."

And I remember the onetime when Gina and myself were traveling on the highway. I looked in my rearview mirror because I heard the "click" of the door handle. He looked me in the eye, in the mirror and pulled the handle. When I asked him if he is pulling the door handle, he said: "No". So, he did it again and I'm looking at him while he is doing it. So I stopped the car. I told

Gina, I said: “this is what I’m going to do here, because this is not acceptable” And I gave him a good spanking.

You know, here I sit and I haven’t been through the experience of his birth. Here I am with a two year old boy who’s already a rebel. And I sit with a mother that controlled me, so now I want to control him. I think from my side there was a lot of control already in that early stage. And that developed, I’m a control freak. I think what is also amazing is how things just worked out great. I kept the house and now some of the young guys from the Church stay in the house with me. They teach me a lot about control.

Researcher: Oh, okay. Tell me more.

David2: You see, I can’t control them. And I learn a lot about myself because I’m very specific about how things must go. And I’m not flexible. If it’s within limits, it’s okay, but if it’s too much, it becomes bad.

Just like the thing between Gina and I. I talk to her minimal. And I think it’s good. But when it comes to Rose, I’m very specific when talking to her. You know, this whole thing about Gina wanting to talk to me about the 27 things that bothers her... three quarters of that are small issues that I can sort out immediately.

This whole thing was about me going to another region. Nobody asked me how I felt about it so I volunteered my feelings. I thought that is important for her to know how I feel. I told her that I would go to another region because I have closure about our relationship. But what I also told her – and it’s important – I told her that in her healing, me moving out is not really the solution, it’s about 20 percent. So 80% is the fact that she putts that stuff on the table so we can talk about it. And that, ah, that was brilliant. I wrote the things down that she said. I talked with Dr. B about it and I took the things that I could handle, like to go to Nick immediately to talk to him about Gina’s perception of my speech at the wedding. I went to sort that out immediately.

The next session I’m just going to tell her, I’m going to say: “Oh, I checked with Nick and he is fine. If he lied to me, I can’t help it, but he said that he was fine with it. What more can I do?” But I also understand that it’s important for Gina to get these things out. And she has a lot of questions

concerning the things of the past. That I'm going to answer. She might not like the answer but I'm going to answer it. If Gina gets closure, she might be able to move on. The other reason why I really want to help Gina with the closure is because it will help Rose. So that she doesn't feel that she is between us. So, if Gina is mad at me and she doesn't even greet me at Church... it's not okay, because Rose sees it. That's unhealthy, and I'm not going to allow it.

Maybe it's my personality, but like with Cindy's wedding, I went to Gina immediately and I told her that I'm going to enjoy the wedding. No conflict, no nothing. I asked her that she must help Nick and encourage him because I didn't have contact with him at that stage. She has to encourage Nick to talk to his therapist, but from my side – no tension, no nothing. I told her that I'm going to act normally and that if her family was going to be there, I would greet them. I wanted to define before hand how it was going to be handled. And I made the mistake by telling her that those who are not going to apply to that shouldn't attend the wedding.

Researcher: Okay, you said how you wanted the context to be and how you were going to handle the situation.

David2: Yes, my son in law and Cindy, at that stage unaware of what I told Gina, went to Nick and told him that if he has tension, he shouldn't attend the wedding. They told him that if he was going to bring his boyfriend, he shouldn't come. And the wedding was wonderful. Even the family photos.

The photographer directed everybody where to stand. For example, there is a photo of the children and I, and Nick standing there looks happy on the photo. I think it was good. And I think it was good for everybody and also for Rose. You know, Rose struggles with this issue, because she doesn't know where Nick and I stand with each other. I think it's good for her to know that Nick and I have slowly but surely begun to reconstruct. Or is it better if she sees us separate? But it's interesting, because I've got a wedding photo of Cindy and her husband on my phone. Then Rose asked: "where is my photo?" So, I took a photo and saved it and loaded it as a screensaver and then she said: "but you need one of Nick as well". Then I said: "you know what, if he's happy with that I will do that. I will check with him.

Researcher: It sounds like there is progress in your relationships with Rose and Nick.

David2: Absolutely, and I think I show my excitement easily. So, if there is progress between Nick and I, then I show it in front of him. Gina's therapist said: "how must your ex wife feel that her son was your lover and now you can tell her how you looked at his car and this and that". I got extremely angry with her and said: "whatever". We are all disciples here, I was hoping that everybody will be happy that I can get into Nick's car and that he is happy to tell me about his new car. And that was that.

We didn't make an appointment to go back to my house together or anything like that. But you know, that shows where Gina is at. I blame her therapist that her therapist doesn't challenge her and say: "Isn't that wrong? Aren't you over reacting? Shouldn't you see this in a different light?" But again, her therapy is "closed" so I don't know what they deal with.

We each had our own therapist – they worked together as a team up until the point of divorce. Then everybody went individually. And I told Gina's therapist: "You know Dr. B. If you are unsure about matters, you have my permission to phone her. I don't even have to be there. I trust Dr. B, she will tell you". I think that there are things that Gina thought she had overheard. And that makes me angry, because her therapist jumps to conclusions and counsels Gina. And that is dangerous.

Gina and myself had a meeting with the Church leaders and it was great. And they don't know yet, that I said: "Great, I want to meet again to talk about these things." Gina's therapist can join as an observer only and she can support Gina. She can call "time out" anytime. She and Gina can sit one side and cry and talk everything out. Because, I think it will give her insight and will also help her, and if Gina becomes emotional and wants to cry, then she has support.

Or if she wants to "check" something, she can call "time out" anytime to seek advise from the Church leaders to handle the situation according to the Bible. Sometimes they make me angry and I can say and do the wrong things, and make the wrong choices. I am constantly aware that I don't want Gina to control me. So, on the other hand they have the freedom to take time out and

come back and express how they feel. Then we talk about it. The more we talk about it, the better. I believe it will help. We had the first session but now the ball is in Gina's court to call the next session. But I have a demanding personality, so, if this takes a bit too long, if two months passes and we still haven't had another session, then I would rather type my response to the questions and send it to her via her therapist. Or obviously through the Church leaders or Dr. B.

I will also get their insight, or I will say that it's time that we start talking again. And I have a need to talk now. Gina and Nick avoid conflict and I actually think one must just keep the thing on the table.

Researcher: I can hear that you have got a very strong urge to talk to them about everything and try and sort it out.

David2: I have. My principal need is not for me personally, but my biggest need is that Gina finds closure about this and moves on so that Rose can also move on. For me it is important that the relationship between Rose and I are restored. That she trusts me, that she has respect for me again, and that she can enjoy hanging out with me. And I feel that I can also put things on the table to discuss at the right time. The Church Leader will help with that. He is very smart, him and his wife. They will probably ask me at some stage if I have things that I want to add.

Researcher: Because you also have needs and questions.

David2: Yes, and I have specific things that I want to add to the list, but it's completely different from where she is, it's on a different level. I want to move in a different direction.

You know, she blames me because Nick is Bipolar. She says I'm the reason that he is Bipolar and she blames me for that. And I told her over the phone one day, a while back, I said: "You blame me for anything from now on, I admit that I have made a terrible mistake, but I can't every time I speak to you get the blaming message, because we get nowhere." That was before the

divorce and I said: “if you phone me to blame me, I’m not going to talk to you. That’s how it is.”

You know, when we started with the settlement agreement, she said that she is taking the house, the furniture and all three the cars. Everything! I asked her “Where must I stay, in a little room?” and her reaction was “All you care about is yourself!” And I said to her “if I keep the house, I can rent out the rooms, I can help you financially to buy your own place.” Okay, she doesn’t see it like that. She thinks that I just don’t want to go stay in a little room. I think the fact that I grew up very controlled made me very straightforward. And that’s not something to be proud off, but I just told her at that stage “if that’s your game you want to play, a normal lawyer is not good enough. I’m going to get an advocate. We’re going to fight this one.”

Now, two disciples don’t fight about this stuff but how do two Christians divorce in a loving way? And that’s the sad part. Because the Church leaders told me to look after her, care for her, to be sure she gets what she deserves, but that I also have to take care of myself. They advised me to get a lawyer to make sure that it is fair. She phoned me the other day to tell me she put security gates up at her house and that I have to pay for it. Now, my first reaction was, we’ve got cell phones. How about a phone call? She could have just told me that Rose is scared and asked me if I could help. I would have probably told her to have it put up and I will pay for it. I sent her an e-mail saying that I will pay half of it and if she sells the house, I want my half of the money back. I just think that it will always be there, and my future wife will have to stand very strong with these things.

Researcher: I can hear that it is a very difficult process that you are going through. To set new boundaries and to redefine relationships.

David2: Yes, well, you know, it’s tough. If I just look at my body and how my psoriasis exploded, then I know that I can’t hide it. And you know, my friends also know. And it made me angry when Gina said to me that it’s so easy for me to just move on and that she has to sit with all the problems. I wanted to pull my sock up and show her my psoriasis. And I thought to myself “don’t do that because then you are just manipulating her again.

I tried to keep things simple because the day after the divorce she wanted to know if she could ask me a personal question. And I know via a friend of hers that she is wondering if I will ever go back. Her car broke down and she asked me if I could pick her up and give her a lift home. While driving, she wanted to know if she could ask me a personal question. I told her that if she asked for advice from her sisters at the Church, then she could ask me. Then she said: “okay, just leave it.”

I think that she is just confused, I mean the first day we spoke about the settlement, she said to me – we sat in the Wimpy – and it was actually so funny, because here I am, we are going to talk about the settlement now... and I don't have a clue, she comes with these suggestions. It just shows the depth of her anger, and I accept it because she is very angry with me. I also accept that Nick is very angry with me. The girls are very angry with me. Whoever, family, whoever. But now we are sitting there, and then she says before talking about the settlement, she wants to ask me if we can try again. I asked her if she's asked seventeen times already.

The Bible speaks of total forgiveness. Even if that means that we stay separate for the next five years so that we can be totally healed so that we can get back together again. “Great, I am willing to do that.” She said “great” she wants to give it a chance now. Cindy and her husband were sitting across the street from the place where we sat. They were on a date and saw us leave together. Gina was very excited in telling Cindy that we are going to try again. Cindy said that she saw us leave together and she said to her mother “Mom, you know what? I can actually see you guys getting together.” The next morning at seven, my phone rang. She just said that she is e-mailing me the settlement suggestions and that she would wait for my response. But you know what, that night she told me that I thought to myself “it might be different in the morning.”

Before the divorce I told her that my prayer is that the moment the hammer hits the wooden block, anything prior to that, even if it's just a split second, if it doesn't happen then it's God's will. And if she screams out a split second before the hammer hits the wooden block and she says: “Stop, I don't want to do it” then it's fine. I will bring my side. And that was my prayer. I told

God that whether the divorce goes through or not, it's His will. I have peace if it's His will.

Researcher: It sounds like you felt you had no control. Except giving it over to God.

David2: That's all I could do, and that's the right thing to do.

Researcher: You know David2, we had such a nice chat, that I only realise now how late it is.

David2: Wow, yes it's late.

Researcher: Shall we end on this note for today then?

David2: Yes, it's fine.

Researcher: Is there anything you want to ask me?

David2: No, you know, it actually helps to voice all these things. There are some things that I'm going to think about now.

Researcher: I'm glad. Thank you very much for sharing all of this with me. I realise that it isn't always easy for you. You will contact Dr. B if there is anything that bothers you after this interview, right?

David2: Yes, for sure. I trust her and we have been working together for a long time.

Researcher: I look forward to the next time we chat again. Thank you again for your time and willingness to share your story with me. I really learn a lot from this.

END OF RECORDING

SECOND INTERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

David2 and the researcher greet each other and talk about general topics such as traffic, work etc. David2 starts talking about the researcher's dissertation.

David2: How far are you with your research?

Researcher: I'm about half way, but there is still plenty to do.

David2: You've got interviews with other fathers as well?

Researcher: Yes I've have interviews with one more father.

David2: Is his situation very different from mine?

Researcher: Yes. You will see when I send you a copy of my thesis. He is also in another phase of the whole process. He is still busy with the court proceedings and still has to be sentenced etc.

David2: I have a lot of empathy and feel sorry for him. I think the most important thing is that he looks at the lessons he can learn out of this for himself and that there are also consequences. What he is going through now is part of the consequences. I hope he doesn't go to jail. The community says, "Make an example of them and make sure that justice is done". It's one thing for the world to want to have justice served, but I personally think for a person like him, jail isn't always a solution. It will cause him great suffering. It also depends on how much remorse he has for what he's done. God also wants order and that is part of having order. I think, you know, if he takes full responsibility, and he admits and is open about what he has done, then it is "great". You know, it was a very "humbling experience" for myself. My case was scheduled, I had a psychologist that came with me, that testified for me,

and I think the most victimizing was, was the court procedures. At that stage I didn't understand the court procedures.

Researcher: Tell me more.

David2: Well, it's cold, impersonal and basically you sit there and eventually get to go in. You are on a waiting list. I didn't want to listen to other people's cases, because I had to concentrate on my own. And found it overwhelming. At that stage, I really was not interested in the other people's cases. Although, I did attend the case prior to mine, and maybe it was a good thing, to familiarize myself with the environment.

Mmm, I don't remember much apart from walking in and out, because it was very overwhelming. The psychologist did most of the talking on my behalf, and that person from my previous Church where I was in therapy. Their testimonies indicated where I was at that point in time and where I was heading. You know, in terms of my therapy and healing. It was pastoral therapy, and at that stage it was as if the Church wanted to bail me out in the sense that... I don't think that they really helped me, as my attitude was wrong. My attitude was that I would use the Church to justify myself. I didn't want to go to jail.

Researcher: You must have felt very desperate and anxious at that stage.

David2: Extremely. And it was difficult for me when they read Nick's testimony. He reported the abuse at school. They got somebody in and then the government laid a complaint against me. Then the government presented the complaint and obviously it was what Nick said. I think what was great for me, was that he mentioned certain things in his testimony – I'm not sure if he felt sorry for me or just wanted to put things into perspective, but he also told the judge this happened.

There were a lot of "grooming" but also the circumstances considering the fact that he went to school in a different province. So we had less physical contact and it didn't happen often. I'm scared to even think how it would have been if he lived in the house. Then it could have been a daily story, because I

wasn't able to stop myself. So, I think it decreased the intensity in terms of frequency.

I can't remember much of what happened in court or what was said. I can't even remember the conclusion. The judge sentenced me five years of which two years was a suspended sentence. This means that if I do this again within the next two years, I will be sentenced for five years without a hearing. The disadvantage is that you wait for the two years to pass. After two years the child is older and is a young man. I mean Nick and I eventually resumed a homosexual relationship. Well, that is why my wife divorced me. I saw him as an adult, and I am an adult and that is "fine" and that is "okay" and "whatever". It was just so ridiculous!

Researcher: Can you tell me more about how you experienced it at that time? About your emotions, feelings and needs.

David2: Obviously I never understood it. I think that is where Dr. B helped me a lot in understanding this. But I think in the abuse was the element of control over the child for me. I had control over Nick. And I think it's about the satisfaction I got out of it.

Researcher: Satisfaction?

David2: Well in terms of you feeling powerful. That is what the control is about. It made me feel powerful. And that I can do to him whatever I want. It's that "power position" I have over him. And there is a big element of self-satisfaction in that already – over and above the sexual act. And I think I've always known that it's wrong. To me it was all about control, to be in control in that relationship.

On the other hand I also felt guilty and realized I have to stop these activities but then felt powerless in doing so. But then, not wanting to stop it because I enjoyed feeling powerful. I also felt powerful because I could do all this and get away with it.

Researcher: It sounds as if you experienced a lot of ambivalence during the abuse.

David2: Yes. During the act I felt guilty but on the other hand, I also enjoyed the physical part of it including the special attention I got from Nick. It really made me feel powerful.

And I think I was totally in two. On the one hand I could handle myself normally and on the other hand too. In my own definition of normal. It's like totally living a double life. On the one hand my relationship with Nick and the abuse and on the other hand the rest of my family life.

Researcher: Okay, so it's almost like two different worlds you lived in?

David2: Absolutely. And I mean, I am the father, and I think I'm a good father to my family. I'm a good husband to my wife. I meet all the criteria of society – you know, I'm an elderly in the Church. I'm a Churchman. I can remember, someone someday told me that if they look at my family, they see a beautiful family. And you've got both feet on the ground. And I mean, at that stage I'm busy with the most horrible things with Nick. And for me it was acceptable, it was okay.

Researcher: How did you think Nick was experiencing the abuse?

David2: I thought it was acceptable for him too, but it was obviously not. Otherwise he wouldn't have reported me. It started when he was thirteen and he reported me when he was fourteen. You know, I always got the idea that he is enjoying it. I remember if we were on holiday, we always lied on the bed and watched television. Then he would get in on my side and watch television with me.

I've always experienced affection from him. And even for my ex wife it wasn't strange and she was okay with it. Nick and I had a very close and affectionate relationship. I really thought that is was also what he wanted.

You know, what bothered me was this homosexual thing. I have always had this inner struggle about is. There was a lot of conflict within me about

that. It's always been there. I mean, even in High School, I always wondered what I really am. I had girlfriends in University, but I also had homosexual relationships.

Something I didn't mention last time, something that also came to light, was the dynamics between my parents and me. My parents were faithful Christians. I always knew that sleeping with a girl was out. And I'm talking about my High School days now, because remember my cousins abused me when I was in standard five. I started developing after that. I then went to High School, and I went to boarding school. So I was in boarding school from standard six to matric. Homosexuality in boarding school was always there, everybody does it, and in the circle of friends I was in, it was almost acceptable.

Researcher: More acceptable than sex with a girl?

David2: Yes, I didn't sleep with a girl, because I didn't want to disappoint my parents. And that's why it was okay. I defined it for myself as okay. And that is why it was easy for me to go back to the same pattern when Nick grew up and I realized that he was also looking for affection. So I went back into a homosexual relationship with him. I also had a normal relationship with my wife, because now it is acceptable, since I'm married to my wife. But in my school days and even in my army days, homosexuality wasn't considered an issue.

Researcher: I just want to make sure that I understand correctly. Part of your sentence was that if you abuse again within two years, you would go to jail for five years. Did you just wait for your two years to pass before you started your relationship with Nick again?

David2: No, it was much longer than that. I mean, when Nick and I went to court, Nick was in standard seven. We started a homosexual relationship again when he was in matric. We went on vacation together and we were invited to a hunting vacation. I think, you know, we were just aware of each other the whole time. My wife didn't know about the second time when Nick and I went into a homosexual relationship again.

Researcher: Oh, okay. Tell me more.

David2: I experienced a lot of inner conflict, because I realized that it was wrong, but I still wanted it. I then ended my relationship with Nick, the sexual side. But he was in a lot of other homosexual relationships and I challenged him about it, which sounds stupid.

I think part of that conflict was when Gina said: “look what Dad did in the past and he changed!” and then Nick said: “but he hasn’t changed!” It was very challenging in the end. One of the consequences of my lies and my deceitfulness is the fact that she divorced me.

Cindy and Rose always knew there was something going on. I decided to be open with them because we were a family with lots of secrets. We made a decision to be more open. We decided that there was not going to be any secrets in the family anymore. And it has to start with me. It’s hard and it’s difficult. Look, you don’t know what’s going to help them emotionally. I think the best is, not to have any secrets. In the long run it’s going to help everyone.

Researcher: Okay, and that’s why you decided to be open with them about it.

David2: Yes, but I’m worried about Rose because she told me last night that it’s okay to be gay and that there is nothing wrong with it. She says that people are born that way and that it’s totally acceptable. I told her that we have to talk about it. Because I don’t know what the therapist is telling her.

There is a school of thought, even among the psychologists, that says it’s right to be gay. That is a very humanistic approach. All I can do is what I’ve been doing, and that’s to share where I come from. I just said: “my child, you know all I can say is, that I love God too much and I can’t be in that live and stand in front of God. That’s my choice.” It’s been accepted at the schools as well. She had a lesson about homosexuality and abortion and that you make your own choices.

But now I have to be careful. I think one of the big things with the children is that they don’t get contradicting messages from me. I mean, I’m single and my daughters know my background. If I hang around at Church with

someone that is obviously daintily it's going to convey the wrong message. So, I have to think about how, when and where I sit and stand. And that is challenging! But I have to take it into consideration.

Dr. B also told me that she looked at everything and I'm more heterosexual than homosexual. And my attraction to women is completely normal. You know, I'm not like a piece of wood when it comes to women. (David laughs). I think I had to hear it. I think it's something that came from my High School days. You know, that inner conflict.

Researcher: I can hear that you get a lot from your therapy with Dr. B, and it sounds to me like you were relieved to hear that you are more heterosexual than homosexual.

David2: Yes, I was. I trust Dr. B. My therapy was a condition for my suspended sentence. It said that I have to continue with my therapy until the therapist feels that I no longer need it.

The Judge told me that I have to look after my family. The Judge first said that what I did was wrong etc. But he also said that I obviously worked with them from the start and that the sessions, from a sexual point of view, was not that intense. Most of the abuse was just fondling. There weren't full on masturbation of each other. Nick also said that in his statement. I didn't even hear the verdict. It was total self-protection. I walked out and I just asked the therapist that was there with me "Am I going to jail now, or what?" So, I just wanted to know the bottom line. It was very hard.

Researcher: I can hear that it was traumatic for you.

David2: Yes. And I was so ashamed of what I had done. Especially when it came out and people reacted. On the other hand, now, because I'm open about it and are not judged by my friends in church, I really feel better. I can put it aside and move forward. Also because Nick and I have a healthy relationship and good contact now, as well as great support from my daughters.

Researcher: It sounds as if you really moved on emotionally.

David2: It's God. It's nothing else. It's not me. If I walk away from God, shoot me or something. But it's difficult. There are things you have to accept. The other father you are talking to will maybe have to accept that his child doesn't want to build a relationship with him again. But you know God gives opportunities.

Nick hasn't got a permanent work yet, so he hasn't got medical aid. I phoned him the other day and told him that he is missing therapy. I told him that I would pay for it. It's very difficult. He is twenty-five, he has to take responsibility for his own life. So, if he gets sick, I'm not going to bail him out of everything, because then I'm in control again and I don't want to control him again. I want him to stand free from me. I told him that when it comes to therapy, if he has the need to see one of his therapists, then I would pay. And I think it's right.

I took him a cheque because he works nearby. He made me coffee and so on. When we greeted at the car, he asked me if we could hang out with me the following Sunday. He said: "I don't have any winter clothes. If you could just buy me a pair of things". I made a joke with him and said: "Do you want to hang out with me, or do you want clothes?" He said: "Hmm, maybe both, but I need clothes" also in a joke. Now, that is very positive. His mother doesn't want to hear it because she can't deal with it, so I don't tell her about it. But I think it is important that Rose knows about it. And it will help her to know that I still care for Nick even though his lifestyle is still unacceptable to me. I'm scared to tell her that I still love him. So what I say is: "I do care for Nick."

Researcher: You have to think about everything you say and do.

David2: Well, I mean, this has been going on for years. It's been going on for 12 years. Then you think you are tuned into this stuff. I think a lot of this takes me back to my first experiences.

Our hunting vacation I see as a total disaster. We maybe had lots of fun, but it was a total disaster. Because it was unhealthy. I now have a need for a

healthy friendship. And that results in us hanging out together about twice a year.

Researcher: And you have a great need for contact with him.

David2: Yes. Look when the divorce started, or when it went into that direction, I made a very definite choice to be loyal to his mother and he broke all ties with me. He told me that he didn't want to see me. I referred to me as "him."

Another thing I thought about the other day, is when I stopped the sexual contact with him, the rejection was overwhelming for him. Dr. B says that that is why he was so challenging at home about his homosexual lifestyle. I threw him and his friend out of the house. I threw him out with books and that was bad. He was so challenging because he was cross with me. But each person has got his or her own interpretation.

My ex wife's interpretation was that I stopped the relationship with Nick because I didn't find him attractive anymore. That is her interpretation. Now, hopefully her psychologist will deal with it, because I told her that that is the last thing.

But Nick was also cross with me for what I did as a father. Respect and everything is down the drain. I think one of the things that are starting to happen is that Nick is also realizing that he has a need, because I'm the only father he knows. He borrowed money from me, and I e-mailed him a statement. He answered me immediately to say thanks. If he was really still angry with me, he wouldn't have borrowed money from me in the first place. So, there definitely is the need and I believe God is using it to help Rose as well to understand that we can still care for each other, but in a healthy way.

Researcher: You've been through a lot of emotions in a long process.

David2: The divorce was also a bad experience for me. The court proceedings went quick but the divorce was a long process. Lots of emotions. Very, very challenging. I lost a lot. It was very difficult to see my ex wife that angry.

Something a Christian must work very hard on is your motive for doing things. I think one of the important things is to accept that when your wife is angry with you, she has the right to be angry. She had the right to be angry about what I did to her son and to her. And because she is very emotional by nature, it's very difficult for her to get to a point of total forgiveness.

Researcher: It sounds to me she wasn't so angry with you during the court case as she was afterwards.

David2: The first time, with the court case, I told her that I made a mistake. I told her that it was wrong and both of us went for rehabilitation therapy. She was very supportive. She was very mixed up between Nick and me. I mean, she loved me a lot and wanted to support me. I think she felt very sorry for me. That is what I experienced.

During the court case, she went with me to every hearing. Afterwards, I wondered how Nick felt about the fact that she was supporting me. I don't think he knows that she went with me to court. If he knew that, it would have surely caused a lot of conflict in him. Whether he knows that she went to court with me or not, at the end of the day, she stayed with me. She remained incredibly supportive.

Researcher: I can hear that her support meant a lot to you and that it was very bad for you when she divorced you.

David2: It was. You know, divorce is always this thing about, can we save it, and can't we do something? There can be a lot of manipulation in this. This is something that the abuser has to work on because every abuser has a control problem.

Researcher: Control Problem?

David2: Look, you have control... "He controlled his child." And I controlled Nick. And together with the control, there is always manipulation. I have to be very aware that I don't do anything out of a "control motive." Sometimes it's

complex, because there are ten ways to handle something and all ten of them has got a possible measure of control in it, which one is the best then? Sometimes, if I do nothing, it's also controlling. And sometimes it's very difficult. I'm very aware of my motives. If I want to do something out of guilt, I don't do it.

Researcher: I can hear that you've learned a lot about yourself from this whole situation.

David2: But I thank God for that because he not only helped me with the abuse situation, but he also helped me with my own confusing teenage years. And he gave me a fantastic support structure at my Church.

The people at Church are very mature and very sensitive, and they accept what you tell them and also what you don't tell them. I told many of my friends what happened, but sometimes I feel that it's not going to be good for my relationship with that particular friend to share the details with them. And then I just say: "I am not going to tell you why I am divorced. The basics are obvious, but it will not be good for us." One of my best friends told me the other day that he doesn't want to know, that it is fine with him.

You get people that are immature. I received anonymous sms's from people in the Church. We are busy tracing them now with the networks. The Church told me not to do it but they told me that it's my choice. Then I said: "Guys, the only reason why I want to do this is that somebody needs to be helped." And ten to one the person that was willing to send me an sms anonymously has a problem himself. And if I can help the guy, it's fine. So we are tracing them at the moment. It's costing me some money, but I'm doing it. It's not about who it is. It's not about that. I can be someone very close to me. It can be one of my friends. I will give the name to the Church Leaders, I will be friendly with the guy and not hold it against him because I'm going to see it in the light of where he comes from. Then the Church Leaders can work through it with him. That is what it is about. Because obviously if he has anger, he has to overcome his anger. We don't know what the other person's motive is it can be self-righteousness. It's a big thing to work on, especially if you are healed.

The other father must know if he reached that point of healing and he has peace in his heart before God, he shouldn't become arrogant about it. And to talk about it a lot like here with you is good.

Researcher: Do you feel that it helps you in a way to talk to me about all these things?

David2: Yes it's good to go over it again. I wouldn't want to do it everyday, but I have to face the situations of the past and take responsibility for it. And I have to be humble about it because as soon as one becomes arrogant about it and think, "I overcame it, now I am okay. I am fine and look how great I am" then you are in danger zones, totally. You must be humble about it because it's only God's grace, nothing else. It's like a guy that overcame smoking or alcoholism, if you are arrogant about it... you've lost it. During the court case I was a fake Christian.

Researcher: "Fake"?

David2: Yes. After I started studying the bible, one of my colleagues that died of cancer last year, invited me to church after Nick and I had some conflict. I went to him after I kicked Nick and his boyfriend out of the house, and told him that I have problems at home and that my ex-wife is angry with me etc. etc. My first reaction was...why? I'm happy. I'm okay. Then he invited me to a group bible talk, and wow, what a nice group. So free.

Then I went, and the guys asked me, why don't we study the bible. My first reaction was, "what for?" I as a "deacon" in the church! "Scary hey? " Anyway, then he told me, "obviously these problems with your son and your wife and this and that...it's not them, it's you". You need the Bible study, because if you change, they will change. I told him "but I don't need to change". Then he said, " Well that is point number one; Pride "

But the guys at church are very careful of Psychology. It took me a while to get to the point where I said, " Okay, I want to go for therapy, because there are some things I can't verbalise, and some things that I'm not even aware of". You know, I told you the last time how I went to Dr. B and told her "Here's the

deal, you help me to see the stuff, put it on the table". I take it and Biblically I will have to repent from that.

Then my church leader accompanied me to Dr. B and after introducing them I said, " You're going to help me see things, you're going to help me repent. Dr. B just mustn't come with a humanistic approach and say: "Write your mom a letter and..." That I will do. But that's not important, what's important is that the Church Leader helps me come to a point of forgiveness towards my mother.

I never realized that I was angry with my mother. What child wants to be angry with his mother? I always knew my mother hit me, beat me. Broke rulers on me, but a child doesn't get angry with his mother. Then Dr. B asked me: "Do you realise that your mother abused you physically, do you realise that it was abuse?" I told her that I never realised it was abuse.

So what did I do? I went back to my mentor, who at that stage was another guy. I said to him: "You know what, my mother's passed on and I told you the last time that I went to her grave, not that it meant anything, but just to – that's the best or the only way I could make some contact." And I told her: "You know what, it was wrong. I did wrong things. You did wrong things and I forgive you." I think it helped me to move on because I needed that. But actually I've already told you this and our time is up again.

Researcher: Yes, the time goes by so fast. How do you feel now that you've more or less told me your whole story, David?

David2: On the one hand it's not nice to think back on all the things I've done, but on the other hand it feels good to talk about it. Especially with someone like you that doesn't judge me. It helps me to sort out the things in my head and to think about things that I still need to work on. It was actually therapeutic for me to have it in my face again.

Researcher: Then I'm glad if our conversations meant something to you. It was very valuable for me and I've learned an incredible amount from it. I have a lot of respect for you for being willing to share these sensitive things with me. I will also handle it with respect when I use it for my thesis.

David2: You will send me a copy of your thesis, hey? You can e-mail it to me.

Researcher: I will do that. I'm not sure when I will be finished but I will send you a copy.

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