

2x2 Church Updates

⚠️ TRIGGER WARNING: suicide

In a sermon at Emo, Ontario convention this morning, Merlin Affleck (overseer of British Columbia) quoted someone as saying "if you don't know your place or purpose in life, you should put a gun to your head."

We don't know whether he was using the quote to support his message, as people in attendance have said that the message was unclear. However, there were statements of exclusivity in the story, which led some to believe that he at least agreed with the sentiment of not being worthy of life if we are not "dying to self" and staying in our "place" (meetings).

We DO know that the message severely affected the emotional health of some in the audience. We're also acutely aware of the presence of many young children listening to those words.

This language, used from the platform, regardless of message (and especially if that message is unclear) is spiritually abusive and should be loudly condemned. Many people are struggling to feel mentally and emotionally secure and supported, and topics like this from a spiritual authority can have devastating effects.

We encourage everyone to use their voice and their feet to remove support from abusive environments - as well as to give support to safe environments.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, please call a Suicide & Crisis Lifeline immediately. You are worthy of love and joy, and you are never alone.

In the US or Canada, call or text 988, or visit

https://988lifeline.org/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=web...

In other countries, find your local lifeline here:

<https://findahelpline.com/>