

Alexandra's second interview

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3 **Interviewer:** Alexandra, thank you for agreeing to be interviewed again. In
4 your journal – remember there were four parts and you wrote
5 three parts. The fourth part was about your future and as you
6 would like it to be. If you're feeling particularly creative at the
7 moment, and if you projected into the future, what would you see
8 yourself doing?

9 **Alexandra:** I would see myself buying my dream car. (*laughs*) Um – what
10 else? Um – getting my degree and (*short pause*) maybe even
11 going further into – um – something like honours, or something
12 like that. That would be really good. Um – an' then, I guess,
13 finding a job that I enjoy.

14 **Interviewer:** Okay. What sort of degree?

15 **Alexandra:** Um – I wanna do something on law an' business. That'll be
16 good. But – um – since we do need units to get our degree, I'll
17 like to do something in psychology as well, so that'll be good.
18 An', I don' know, it depends on how that goes where it will end
19 up taking me.

20 **Interviewer:** Would you like to be a lawyer?

21 **Alexandra:** Yeah.

22 **Interviewer:** Okay. So if this was a chapter in your memoirs, what would be
23 the theme of it?

24 **Alexandra:** Of – like now?

25 **Interviewer:** Yes. If you're looking forward into the future, and you are able to
26 write the chapter, what would be it's theme?

27 **Alexandra:** Um – I guess "Realisation of my dreams" or hopes, I guess, as
28 well.

29 **Interviewer:** And if you gave it a title?

30 **Alexandra:** (*short laugh*) I guess (*pause*) Um – maybe *Beyond the Horizon*,
31 or something like that.

32 **Interviewer:** Can you remember when you wrote in the journal, you said
33 you'd divide your life into six chapters. So was that the sixth
34 chapter?

35 **Alexandra:** No, that was – um – I'm not too sure what was the last chapter,
36 but it was, I think, – um – something about dreams I would think
37 it was.

38 **Interviewer:** Okay. How would you like your relationship with God to be in the
39 future?

40 **Alexandra:** Um – strong, positive, definitely.

41 **Interviewer:** What is there in your life at present, or your present relationship
42 with God, that tells you that such a future is possible?

- 43 **Alexandra:** I guess everyday things, like – um – he’s helping me get through
 44 – um – I guess – studies. He’s really helping ‘cause I can just
 45 say, “Can you help me?” an’ try to do that.
- 46 **Interviewer:** And does that happen?
- 47 **Alexandra:** Yeah. It makes you feel – um – like you can fall back as well, or
 48 you have something there to support you.
- 49 **Interviewer:** Okay. Could you explain that a bit more?
- 50 **Alexandra:** Um – yeah, like – um – I see God as “support”. Yeah.
- 51 **Interviewer:** So if you fall back, God won’t let you fall?
- 52 **Alexandra:** No.
- 53 **Interviewer:** So has that been your experience up to now?
- 54 **Alexandra:** Yeah, pretty much.
- 55 **Interviewer:** Good. Let’s leave that for the moment and let’s revisit the first
 56 interview. In the first interview, you reflected on how your faith
 57 has changed as you grew up. Can you recall the sorts of things
 58 you said?
- 59 **Alexandra:** Um – was it – I think I said – um – that it became stronger as I
 60 got older.
- 61 **Interviewer:** Yes, you did. Would you like to talk a bit more about that?
- 62 **Alexandra:** Um – yes, ‘cause – um – I guess, as a little kid – um – I’ve been
 63 growin’ up with Christian – Christ- – Cath- Catholicism an’ all
 64 that, so as I grew up, I – my parents com- – um – guess grew up
 65 with the knowledge that all the – getting told that God is there
 66 an’ all that.
- 67 **Interviewer:** And you went to a Catholic primary school?
- 68 **Alexandra:** Yep. I went to – um – St Paul’s.
- 69 **Interviewer:** Okay. So you spent all your schooling in Catholic schools?
- 70 **Alexandra:** Yeah.
- 71 **Interviewer:** You can recall your Mum and your Dad telling you about God
 72 when you were little?
- 73 **Alexandra:** Not too much, (laughs a little) but the school did that mostly.
- 74 **Interviewer:** So how did your parents help that?
- 75 **Alexandra:** I think my Mum helped it more – yeah – when – um – I dunno,
 76 jus’ like with little things in life she will play.
- 77 **Interviewer:** Can you recall any of those little things?
- 78 **Alexandra:** Not really – um – no – she would just say like little things like –
 79 or “If you need help” an’ all that.
- 80 **Interviewer:** If you need help?
- 81 **Alexandra:** Yeah. On a spiritual level to – ah – I guess I could depend on
 82 God an’ the faith.

- 83 **Interviewer:** Did your Mum ever teach you prayers?
- 84 **Alexandra:** No.
- 85 **Interviewer:** Did she ever listen to you say prayers when you were little?
- 86 **Alexandra:** Yeah. When I was little, yeah.
- 87 **Interviewer:** Okay. Like when you were going to sleep at night?
- 88 **Alexandra:** Yep.
- 89 **Interviewer:** So can you picture any of that?
- 90 **Alexandra:** Not now. (*laughs*) It feels so long ago. Yeah.
- 91 **Interviewer:** Okay. Is there anything further you'd want to say about that faith
92 growing stronger as you got older?
- 93 **Alexandra:** Not really. I've said most of it.
- 94 **Interviewer:** In the interview, you connected God with your parents and your
95 friends. And so your relationship with your parents and your
96 relationship with your friends reflected your relationship with
97 God. Do you still see it that way?
- 98 **Alexandra:** Yeah, definitely. Coz like my friends are really supportive and so
99 are my parents. So I still link that – those things together.
- 100 **Interviewer:** So is that an image of God for you? You know, the supporting
101 parents, supporting friends?
- 102 **Alexandra:** Yep.
- 103 **Interviewer:** Now, what about your image of God? In the first interview, when
104 I asked you about that, you said that you didn't have a full
105 image, that he's like in everything alive, like in plants and
106 animals, in creation and then you talked about the relationship
107 with God as being a friendly one.
- 108 **Alexandra:** Yeah.
- 109 **Interviewer:** Would you like to add anything to that? Do you have any stories
110 that show for you that that's true?
- 111 **Alexandra:** Mmm, (*pause*) I guess – mmm – like when I say "creation" I look
112 at like plants an' all that an' see how they live coz they – I see
113 them as living – um – breathing things. An' I guess I still see
114 God in creation coz everything around us is created like that an'
115 is alive an' I see it in – in that manner.
- 116 **Interviewer:** Okay. What about friends?
- 117 **Alexandra:** Friends as – um – like I said, a support system would – they
118 really – um – help for me whenever I need it.
- 119 **Interviewer:** Do you have any stories about how that support is made real for
120 you, like for instance, take university, you're doing a bridging
121 course now. How did you get into the bridging course?
- 122 **Alexandra:** Um – Coz my friend told me about it. (*laughs*) An' she did it
123 herself, so – an' – an' she said it was really good an' she passed

124 it, so she's doing well. An' she told me great stories about the
 125 people that – um – taught her. So it really influenced me 'coz I
 126 wanted to go to uni an' – but – um – it really helped me coz I
 127 know her well. An' she goes, "Aw, Alex, if you can do it, I – um –
 128 I mean if I can pass it, then you can definitely pass it, so – an'
 129 she still continues to like – we maintain contact an' she's like
 130 "How's y' course going? An' if y' need any help, tell me an' –"
 131 She's definitely help.

132 **Interviewer:** Okay. So how is your relationship with God like that? What are
 133 some of the things that tell you that your relationship with God is
 134 like that relationship with your friend?

135 **Alexandra:** Um, I guess coz I know that God is always there when I call for
 136 him there.

137 **Interviewer:** So when you call God, how do you do that?

138 **Alexandra:** Um, basically by prayer, or going to Church.

139 **Interviewer:** In the first interview, you spoke about praying in your room.
 140 What sort of prayers do you say when you pray in your room?

141 **Alexandra:** They're mostly like *Hail Mary's* an' *Our Father* an' prayers like
 142 that.

143 **Interviewer:** Set prayers?

144 **Alexandra:** Set prayers.

145 **Interviewer:** As you have grown older, has that changed, or has it stayed the
 146 same?

147 **Alexandra:** It's stayed kind of the same, but sometimes I do – um – ask –
 148 um – to like protect my family, stuff –

149 **Interviewer:** Get you into uni?

150 **Alexandra:** (laughs) Yeah.

151 **Interviewer:** What about when you have assignments due?

152 **Alexandra:** I – I do the assignments an' I do pray that I pass them, or that
 153 I've understood everything (*pause*) yeah, but they're pretty – um
 154 – they're the set prayers, like *Our Father*.

155 **Interviewer:** So, to get God's help for passing it or doing well in an essay,
 156 you'd say an *Our Father*.

157 **Alexandra:** Yeah.

158 **Interviewer:** So for you, there's been no real change in the way you imagine
 159 God to be.

160 **Alexandra:** Not too much.

161 **Interviewer:** And in this year, having left school, there's nothing that's
 162 happened to change that at all for you?

163 **Alexandra:** Not re- – my sister got ma- – got engaged, so I was happy about
 164 that (*laughs*) but nothing much. I was pretty – like little things,

165 like getting into the univers- – university bridging course, an' in
 166 doing the TAFE – um – certificate, but I was pretty excited about
 167 that as well.

168 **Interviewer:** When you get excited about things like that, when does God
 169 enter into the picture? Or does he?

170 **Alexandra:** Yeah, he does – um – just like I work really hard in the courses
 171 to do well an' I guess that would be like a “Thankyou, God”

172 **Interviewer:** When would that be? At night?

173 **Alexandra:** Yeah, at night normally. That's when I have time.

174 **Interviewer:** Is there anything further that you would like to say about the
 175 people, such as your parents, brothers and sisters, friends,
 176 others – and events – that have influenced your relationship with
 177 God?

178 **Alexandra:** Um – I guess (*short pause*) my (*short pause*) best friend coz –
 179 um – she's really gone through – over – bad times an' – um –
 180 yeah, it's – I see it as God tryin' to help her but nothing else –

181 **Interviewer:** Have you ever had that sort of experience yourself?

182 **Alexandra:** No.

183 **Interviewer:** All right. What about the relationship between God and Jesus. I
 184 asked you about that in the first interview and whether you saw
 185 any difference between God and Jesus.

186 **Alexandra:** Yeah, I still continue that – um – I see Jesus as – um – a
 187 messenger – a messenger and God as an independent – um – I
 188 guess – being. Um – yeah – apart from – so I do separate Jesus
 189 and God.

190 **Interviewer:** Do you find that now that you've left school that you would think
 191 less about Jesus, or more about Jesus?

192 **Alexandra:** Less coz there's more things to do outside of school an' you do
 193 tend to get really – focused on work an' study an' if you don't
 194 belong to a Catholic or religious school you do tend to stray from
 195 the praying or –

196 **Interviewer:** So God still remains important, but Jesus has become less
 197 important?

198 **Alexandra:** No, they're both are very important. I don't – um – I remain the
 199 same – um – importance, I guess, but it's just a little bit more
 200 hard to foc- I – focus on religion when there's so much going
 201 around, you know, work an' all that.

202 **Interviewer:** So when it comes to prayer, your prayer would be more to God
 203 than to Jesus?

204 **Alexandra:** I tend to do it more to Jesus, I guess, coz I guess I see him as
 205 another link to God. But I do like to think I'm praying directly to
 206 God.

- 207 **Interviewer:** How does that work for you? So if you see Jesus as a link, but
208 praying directly to God?
- 209 **Alexandra:** It's – yeah – hard kind of coz (*short pause*) I try to pray to Jesus
210 coz I do see him as an important figure when linked to God and I
211 guess God – um – I see as he can – he sees everything
212 anyway, so he – um – will listen, I guess, even if I am praying to
213 Jesus.
- 214 **Interviewer:** Did your time at school ever support you in thinking this way?
- 215 **Alexandra:** Um – not like that. Not – not like in – um – thinking Jesus and
216 God as a – as the same or different people. It didn't really –
- 217 **Interviewer:** So the school really had no effect?
- 218 **Alexandra:** Mightn't in that way.
- 219 **Interviewer:** So if you had gone to a state school?
- 220 **Alexandra:** I would not have believed in God or Jesus, in the first place.
- 221 **Interviewer:** Suppose you had gone to primary school and your parents said,
222 "We'll put you into Kwinana High." What would have been
223 different for you?
- 224 **Alexandra:** I guess I would have been less religious an' like I would've
225 strayed away completely.
- 226 **Interviewer:** So what did the school do for you?
- 227 **Alexandra:** It maintained my faith – um – in both Jesus an' God.
- 228 **Interviewer:** How did it do that?
- 229 **Alexandra:** By just – um – continuing teaching us new – um – just morals
230 an' values.
- 231 **Interviewer:** And you think that wouldn't be taught in a state school?
- 232 **Alexandra:** Not really.
- 233 **Interviewer:** Okay. What about the Holy Spirit?
- 234 **Alexandra:** (*laughs*) No.
- 235 **Interviewer:** In the first interview, you said "it's being like Jesus at the same
236 time. It's all Jesus, God rolled into one." Can you remember
237 that?
- 238 **Alexandra:** Yeah, kinda.
- 239 **Interviewer:** And then you said, "It's like a more simpler form." Do you have
240 anything further to add to that?
- 241 **Alexandra:** Not really coz it is hard to think of what to say.
- 242 **Interviewer:** All right. Is there anything else you would like to add about
243 prayer?
- 244 **Alexandra:** Um – not really.
- 245 **Interviewer:** Let's come back to the school thing just to finish that off: your
246 experience of school, RE classes and your teachers and your

247 peers. Is there anything that comes to mind that you would like
248 to add now that you've moved away from school?

249 **Alexandra:** Um, I guess it's hard to s- – like – um – (pause) believe when
250 you see so many disasters in the world. I think that's it, pretty
251 much.

252 **Interviewer:** So, in relation to that, did the school provide you with support
253 when you had to deal with those sorts of things yourself?

254 **Alexandra:** Yeah, I guess so.

255 **Interviewer:** Okay. I think we have covered everything. Is there anything that
256 you would like to add that I haven't asked?

257 **Alexandra:** Not really.

258 **Interviewer:** Okay. Thank you, Alexandra for agreeing to be interviewed
259 again.